

RIGHT TO CANCEL

Florida consumers have certain rights under section 828.29, Florida Statutes. You have the right to: 1) return the animal; 2) exchange the animal; and 3) receive reimbursement for certain veterinary expenses under certain circumstances. Please have your new pet seen by a veterinarian immediately. A copy of this law is attached to this notice.

It is the consumer's right, pursuant to section 828.29, Florida Statutes, to receive a certificate of veterinary inspection with each animal purchased from a pet dealer. Such certificate shall list all vaccines and deworming medications administered to the animal and list any medical diagnosis and treatments. In the event that the consumer purchases the animal and finds it to have been unfit for purchase as provided in section 828.29(5), Florida Statutes, the consumer must notify the pet dealer within 7 days after the veterinarian's determination that the animal was unfit. The consumer has the right to retain, return, or exchange the animal and receive reimbursement for certain related veterinary services rendered to the animal, subject to the right of the dealer to have the animal examined by another veterinarian.

(Signature of Animal owner or Lessee, or Owner's or Lessee's Authorized Person)

Date: _____

2026 Florida Statutes - Section 828.29

Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale; health requirements; consumer guarantee; disclosures.

828.29 Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale; health requirements; consumer guarantee; disclosures.-

(1)(a) For each dog transported into the state for sale, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian, licensed by the state of origin and accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics must be administered no more than 30 days and no less than 14 days before the dog's entry into the state. The official certificate of veterinary inspection certifying compliance with this section must accompany each dog transported into the state for sale.

(b) For each dog offered for sale within the state, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian, licensed by the state and accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics must be administered before the dog is offered for sale in the state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to inoculate or deworm the dog is not in the best medical interest of the dog, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be administered to that particular dog. Each dog must receive vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and internal parasites:

1. Canine distemper.
2. Leptospirosis.
3. Bordetella (by intranasal inoculation or by an alternative method of administration if deemed necessary by the attending veterinarian and noted on the health certificate, which must be administered in this state once before sale).
4. Parainfluenza.
5. Hepatitis.
6. Canine parvo.
7. Rabies, provided the dog is over 3 months of age and the inoculation is administered as provided in s. 828.30.
8. Roundworms.
9. Hookworms.

If the dog is under 4 months of age, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered no more than 21 days before sale within the state. If the dog is 4 months of age or older, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered at or after 3 months of age, but no more than 1 year before sale within the state.

(2)(a) For each cat transported into the state for sale, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian, licensed by the state of origin and accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics must be administered no more than 30 days and no less than 14 days before the cat's entry into the state. The official certificate of veterinary inspection certifying compliance with this section must accompany each cat transported into the state for sale.

(b) For each cat offered for sale within the state, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian, licensed by the state and accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics must be administered before the cat is offered for sale in the state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to inoculate or deworm the cat is not in the best medical interest of the cat, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be administered to that particular cat. Each cat must receive vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and internal parasites:

1. Panleukopenia.
2. Feline viral rhinotracheitis.
3. Calicivirus.
4. Rabies, if the cat is over 3 months of age and the inoculation is administered as provided in s. 828.30.
5. Hookworms.
6. Roundworms.

If the cat is under 4 months of age, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered no more than 21 days before sale within the state. If the cat is 4 months of age or older, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered at or after 3 months of age, but no more than 1 year before sale within the state.

(3)(a) Each dog or cat subject to subsection (1) or subsection (2) must be accompanied by a current official certificate of veterinary inspection at all times while being offered for sale within the state. The examining veterinarian must retain one copy of the official certificate of veterinary inspection on file for at least 1 year after the date of examination. At the time of sale of the animal, one copy of the official certificate of veterinary inspection must be given to the buyer. The seller must retain one copy of the official certificate of veterinary inspection on record for at least 1 year after the date of sale.

(b) The term "official certificate of veterinary inspection" means a legible certificate of veterinary inspection signed by the examining veterinarian licensed by the state of origin and accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, that shows the age, sex,

breed, color, and health record of the dog or cat, the printed or typed names and addresses of the person or business from whom the animal was obtained, the consignor or seller, the consignee or purchaser, and the examining veterinarian, and the veterinarian's license number. The official certificate of veterinary inspection must list all vaccines and deworming medications administered to the dog or cat, including the manufacturer, vaccine, type, lot number, expiration date, and the dates of administration thereof, and must state that the examining veterinarian warrants that, to the best of his or her knowledge, the animal has no sign of contagious or infectious diseases and has no evidence of internal or external parasites, including coccidiosis and ear mites, but excluding fleas and ticks. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall supply the official intrastate certificate of veterinary inspection required by this section at cost.

(c) The examination of each dog and cat by a veterinarian must take place no more than 30 days before the sale within the state. The examination must include, but not be limited to, a fecal test to determine if the dog or cat is free of internal parasites, including hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, and whipworms. If the examination warrants, the dog or cat must be treated with a specific anthelmintic. In the absence of a definitive parasitic diagnosis, each dog or cat must be given a broad spectrum anthelmintic. Each dog over 6 months of age must also be tested for heartworms. Each cat must also be tested for feline leukemia before being offered for sale in the state. All of these tests must be performed by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, and the results of the tests must be listed on the official certificate of veterinary inspection.

(d) All dogs and cats offered for sale and copies of certificates held by the seller and veterinarian are subject to inspection by any agent of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, any agent of the United States Department of Agriculture, any law enforcement officer, or any agent appointed under s. 828.03.

(4) A person may not transport into the state for sale or offer for sale within the state any dog or cat that is less than 8 weeks of age.

(5) If, within 30 days after the sale by a pet dealer of an animal subject to this section, a licensed veterinarian of the consumer's choosing certifies that, at the time of the sale, the animal was unfit for purchase due to illness or disease, the presence of symptoms of a contagious or infectious disease, or the presence of internal or external parasites, excluding fleas and ticks; or if, within 1 year after the sale of an animal subject to this section, a licensed veterinarian of the consumer's choosing certifies such animal to be unfit for purchase due to a congenital or hereditary disorder which adversely affects the health of the animal; or if, within 1 year after the sale of an animal subject to this section, the breed, sex, or health of such animal is found to have been misrepresented to the consumer, the pet dealer shall afford the consumer the right to choose one of the following options:

(a) The right to return the animal and receive a refund of the purchase price, including any interest accrued and sales tax or fees paid or due from the purchaser, and reimbursement for reasonable veterinary costs directly related to the veterinarian's examination and certification that the animal is unfit for purchase pursuant to this section or directly related to necessary emergency services and treatment undertaken to relieve the suffering of such animal. If the consumer financed the animal pursuant to a financing agreement with the pet dealer, the pet dealer must ensure that the financing agreement is terminated without penalty to the consumer;

(b) The right to return the animal and receive an exchange animal of the consumer's choice of equivalent value, and reimbursement for reasonable veterinary costs directly related to the veterinarian's examination and certification that the animal is unfit for purchase pursuant to this section or directly related to necessary emergency services and treatment undertaken to relieve the suffering of such animal; or

(c) The right to retain the animal and receive reimbursement for reasonable veterinary costs for necessary services and treatment related to the attempt to cure or curing of the animal, or necessary emergency services or treatment undertaken to relieve the suffering of such animal received within 1 year after purchase. The cost of veterinary services is reasonable if comparable to the cost of similar services rendered by other licensed veterinarians in proximity to the treating veterinarian and the services rendered are appropriate for the certification by the veterinarian.

(6) All financing terms must be disclosed by the pet dealer to the consumer before the sale of the animal.

(7) Before the sale of an animal, a pet dealer must provide to the consumer copies of records of all medical examinations or tests that were conducted on the animal or any medication given before the purchase of the animal. A pet dealer may specifically state at the time of sale, in writing to the consumer, the presence of specific congenital or hereditary disorders, in which case the consumer has no right to any refund or exchange for those identified disorders, if such consumer signs a notification that indicates that the animal has been examined by a veterinarian who determined that the animal has the identified congenital or hereditary disorder.

(8) The refund or exchange required by subsection (5) must be made by the pet dealer not later than 10 business days after receipt of a signed veterinary certification as required in subsection (5). The consumer must notify the pet dealer within 7 business days after receipt of the veterinarian's determination that the animal is unfit. The written certification of unfitness must be presented to the pet dealer not later than 3 business days following receipt thereof by the consumer.

(9) An animal may not be determined unfit for sale on account of an injury sustained or illness contracted after the consumer takes possession of the animal. A veterinary finding of intestinal or external parasites is not grounds for declaring a dog or cat unfit for sale unless the animal is clinically ill because of that condition.

(10) If a pet dealer wishes to contest a demand for veterinary expenses, refund, or exchange made by a consumer under this section, the dealer may require the consumer to produce the animal for examination by a licensed veterinarian designated by the dealer. Upon such examination, if the consumer and the dealer are unable to reach an agreement that constitutes one of the options set forth in

subsection (5) within 10 business days after receipt of the animal for such examination, the consumer may initiate an action in a court of competent jurisdiction, or the county court small claims court division, in the county where the animal owner resides, to recover or obtain reimbursement of veterinary expenses and a refund, or exchange, as set forth in subsection (5), and may collect punitive damages in an amount not less than \$2,500 at the discretion of the court.

(11) This section does not in any way limit the rights or remedies that are otherwise available to a consumer under any other law.

(12) Every pet dealer who sells an animal to a consumer must provide the consumer at the time of sale with a printed, written notice in 14-point boldface type to be signed by the consumer which is separate from the contract and reads as follows:

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(13) For the purposes of this section, the term "pet dealer" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other association which, in the ordinary course of business, engages in the sale of more than three litters, or 30 dogs or cats, per year, whichever is greater, to the public. This definition includes breeders of animals who sell such animals directly to a consumer. This definition does not include not-for-profit entities that do not purchase dogs or cats from a breeder or broker.

(14) The state attorney may bring an action to enjoin any violator of this section or s. 828.12 or s. 828.13 from being a pet dealer.

(15) County-operated or city-operated animal control agencies and registered nonprofit humane organizations are exempt from this section.

(16) A pet dealer may not knowingly misrepresent the breed, sex, or health of any dog or cat offered for sale within the state.

(17) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person who violates this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(18) Any record provided to a consumer pursuant to the sale of an animal under this section must be maintained by the pet dealer for a period of at least 7 years after the sale.

(19) A pet dealer who violates this section commits an unfair method of competition or an unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of part II of chapter 501 and is subject to the penalties and remedies provided for such violations.

History.-s. 1, ch. 81-234; s. 1, ch. 90-154; s. 23, ch. 90-321; s. 9, ch. 91-294; s. 8, ch. 93-13; s. 1290, ch. 97-102; s. 2, ch. 2002-51; s. 4, ch. 2024-258; s. 2, ch. 2026-76.

Note.-Former s. 585.195; s. 828.31; s. 585.95.

Prepared from the 2026 Florida Statutes, section 828.29, as published by the Florida Senate. Effective changes from Chapter 2026-76 took effect July 1, 2026. This packet is provided for convenience and is not legal advice. Verify the current statute before use.