



# MARTIN COUNTY

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD • STUART, FL 34996

<b>DOUG SMITH</b>	Commissioner, District 1	<b>TARYN KRYZDA, CPM</b>	County Administrator
<b>STACEY HETHERINGTON</b>	Commissioner, District 2	<b>SARAH W. WOODS</b>	County Attorney
<b>HAROLD E. JENKINS II</b>	Commissioner, District 3		
<b>SARAH HEARD</b>	Commissioner, District 4	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	(772) 288-5400
<b>EDWARD V. CIAMPI</b>	Commissioner, District 5	<b>WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://www.martin.fl.us">www.martin.fl.us</a>

This document may be reproduced upon request in an alternative format by contacting the County ADA Coordinator (772) 320-3131, the County Administration Office (772) 288-5400, Florida Relay 711, or by completing our accessibility feedback form at [www.martin.fl.us/accessibility-feedback](http://www.martin.fl.us/accessibility-feedback).

June 29, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Following the unanimous vote of Martin County's Animal Care and Control Oversight Board, an ordinance prohibiting the retail sale of rabbits, dogs and cats in Martin County was recommended for approval by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners. On June 7, 2022, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance Number 1181, which added the following provision to the County's existing Animal Control provisions.

**Animal Services Unit means the Animal Services Unit within the Martin County Sheriff's Department.**

**Animal shelter or private nonprofit organization means a nonprofit organization that is in the business of sheltering and adopting domestic companion animals and is maintained by or under contract with a state, county, or municipality or that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.**

**19.a. Pet stores shall not sell or offer for sale rabbits, dogs or cats. This subsection shall not prohibit pet stores from collaborating with animal shelters or private nonprofit organizations as defined in Section 9.1 of this chapter to offer space for such entities to showcase adoptable rabbits, dogs and cats provided the pet store shall not have any ownership interest in the animals offered for adoption and shall not receive a fee for providing space for the adoption of these animals.**

**b. *Amortization period.* Any existing pet store that is lawfully operating on or before June 30, 2022, shall be permitted to continue the retail sale of rabbits, dogs and/or cats until December 31, 2022.**

**1. As a condition of continued operation during the amortization period, a pet store shall not increase or enlarge its floor space.**

**2. An existing pet store shall provide proof of its retail sales existing as of June 30, 2022 to the Animal Services Unit through sales receipts, franchise agreements, leases or other documentation readily authenticated as true and accurate documents. Proof of its retail sales existing as June 30, 2022 shall be provided to the Animal Services Unit within thirty (30) days after June 30, 2022. Failure to provide required documentation will result in the loss of nonconforming status.**

**3. Any existing pet store that voluntarily abandons the retail sale for a period of more than thirty (30) days, or ceases retail sale as a result of destruction by fire or other peril shall lose its nonconforming status.**

If you are a pet store currently selling rabbits, dogs or cats and would like to continue such sale until December 31, 2022, please contact the Martin County Sheriff's Animal Services Unit to arrange for submission of a request to continue operations during the Amortization Period described above.

The Animal Services Unit contact information is as follows:

Martin County Animal Services Unit

772-463-2817.

These changes shall take effect immediately. If you require any additional information or have questions, please contact George Stokus at [gstokus@martin.fl.us](mailto:gstokus@martin.fl.us).

Sincerely,

George Stokus

Assistant County Administrator

Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Cc: Michael Mortell, City Attorney

Glen Torcivia, Town Attorney

Wade Vose, Village Attorney