

**LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE
PROPOSED COUNTY ORDINANCE**

NAME OF ORDINANCE: Lee County Animal Abuser Registry Ordinance

I. SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

A. Statement of Purpose

The proposed Ordinance is designed to protect animals in Lee County from animal abuse crimes. By creating the Registry, sellers of pets and animal shelters can easily identify individuals who have been convicted of animal abuse crimes or have been enjoined from animal possession by court order, and who cannot purchase or adopt animals by virtue of court order or by being listed on the Registry.

B. Narrative Summary of Ordinance

People who have abused animals in the past are likely to do so in the future and studies show that there is a near 100% recidivism rate for certain types of abuse crimes. The Ordinance creates a Registry for individuals convicted of animal abuse crimes and prohibits their contact with animals for a period of time, depending upon the crime(s). The Registry also lists individuals who are prohibited from contact with animals by virtue of a court order. Registrants are required to pay the Sheriff's Office a registration fee and keep information on the Registry updated. Pets sellers and animal shelters are required to check the Registry before selling or adopting animals to confirm that buyers and adopters are not on the Registry.

II. BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE

- A. Estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur if the ordinance is enacted: **Pet Sellers must check the online Registry to ensure potential buyers are not listed animal abusers. There are no identifiable costs associated.**
- B. Identification of any new charge or fee on businesses subject to the proposed ordinance or for which businesses will be financially responsible: **No charge or fee will be incurred by businesses by the adoption of the ordinance.**
- C. Estimate of the county's regulatory costs, including estimate of revenues from any new charges or fees that will be imposed on businesses to cover such costs: **No increase in the county's regulatory costs is expected to administer the Ordinance. The Sheriff's Office is presently staffed with sufficient personnel to implement the ordinance. The Sheriff's Office calculated the amount of time it will likely take to register and update the registration for animal abusers based on registration time and resource requirements the Sheriff's Office currently has for registering sex offenders. This cost is accounted for in the small fee charged to those required to register, re-register, or update their registration with the Sheriff's Office Animal Abuser Registry.**

- D. Estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the ordinance: **It is estimated that there are approximately 25 for profit pet sellers/vendors in Unincorporated Lee County. However, there are no identifiable costs to these businesses associated with compliance.**