

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

CATEGORY: Administration	CODE NUMBER: AC-1-11
TITLE: Lee County Low Cost Pet Sterilization Program	ADOPTED: 05/23/06
	AMENDED: 11/30/10
	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Animal Services/County Attorney

PURPOSE/SCOPE:

To set program guidelines for the Lee County low cost sterilization program funded in part or whole by revenue from the sale of Lee County pet registration licenses.

The intent of this program is to provide assistance to certain qualifying residents of Lee County in order to reduce the pet population and the needless euthanasia of adoptable pets in the county.

PROGRAM FUNDING SOURCES

The Board of County Commissioners designates that revenue from the sale of pet licenses will be used to fund the Lee County Low Cost Pet Sterilization Program and other programs promoting sterilization, responsible pet ownership, and education of the public regarding pet overpopulation and unwanted/homeless animals.

Administrative costs of the pet licensing program and any other costs for related incentive programs may also be paid from pet license revenues.

Notwithstanding the above, revenues generated from pet licensing may also be used to fund other recognized programs related to the health, safety and welfare of pets in Lee County.

The Board of County Commissioners authorizes the Department of Domestic Animal Services to accept donations from the general public, private entities, businesses, corporations and other sources that are specifically designated for use in Lee County's Low Cost Pet Sterilization Program without further action by the Board under Lee County Administrative Code 3-12. Acceptance of donations will otherwise be processed in accord with applicable County procedures, including budget amendments related to expenditures etc.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS/CRITERIA

The Lee County Low Cost Pet Sterilization Program will be administered by the Director of Lee County Domestic Animal Services as follows:

1. The program will be available only to qualifying County residents, as determined by the Lee County Animal Services Director. The decision of the Director is final and not subject to appeal.
2. Qualifying resident must be a current recipient of financial assistance from one or more of the following programs: food stamps, WIC, state unemployment compensation, social security disability; or, the resident must be able to document qualification as a low income recipient. For purposes of this provision "low-income" eligibility means a person whose income is equal to or below 150% of the then current federal poverty guidelines prescribed for the size household of the person seeking assistance by the US Department of Health and Human Services.
3. The pet to be sterilized under this program must be vaccinated against rabies at the time of the application.
4. The pet must be registered with Lee County and micro-chipped. The license/registration must be valid at the time the services are provided.
5. Sterilization must be performed by a Florida Licensed Veterinarian that is either employed by Lee County Domestic Animal Services or under contract with Lee County to provide sterilization services. The veterinarian performing the procedure will be determined in the sole discretion of Lee County Domestic Animal Services.
6. The pet owner must sign an affidavit granting Lee County permission to perform the pet sterilization procedure and releasing Lee County from any and all liability related to provision of the sterilization procedure.
7. There must be sufficient funds remaining available from the pet license revenues to cover the costs of the sterilization procedure. If sufficient funds are not available, the Director of Animal Services may deny the request for assistance.