

## How can I be a responsible pet owner

- Have your pet vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian annually. Rabies vaccinations are required by state law and county ordinance. Other vaccines are not required, but are recommended for the health of your pet.
- Purchase your Hernando County Animal License annually and have your pet wear the license so that you may be notified if he is lost.
- Make sure your pet always has access to wholesome food, clean water, proper shelter and veterinary care.
- Keep your pet at home, where he is safe from cars, poisons, hostilities of neighbors and other hazards.
- Do not allow your pet to become a nuisance to your neighbors. Correct behavioral problems (running loose, barking, chasing cars etc.) immediately.
- Give your pet lots of love and attention. Do not neglect him.

## What you need to know:

Hernando County Animal Services holds animals for five (5) days from the day they are picked up. Don't wait more than four days to look for your lost animal.

The shelter at Hernando County Animal Services is open:

Monday through Friday  
10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

All fees must be paid in cash, check or money order.

**QUESTIONS????**  
**CALL ANIMAL SERVICES at 796-5062**

# What should I do if ....

**My pet was picked up.  
I received a warning.  
I received a citation.**



# Hernando County Animal Services

19450 Oliver Street  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
(352) 796-5062

Fax (352) 796-3746

E-mail: [ac@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:ac@co.hernando.fl.us)

<http://www.co.hernando.fl.us>

## **What if my pet is picked up by Animal Services?**

If your pet is picked up by Animal Services you may claim your pet through the following steps:

1. Go to Hernando County Animal Services during shelter hours.
2. Show identification. (Driver's License or State Identification Card)
3. Show proof of a current rabies vaccination. (If you are unable to do this a warning or notice of violation will be issued)
4. Show proof of a current Hernando County Animal License. (If you are unable to do this a warning or notice of violation will be issued)
5. Sign and receive any citations for violations that your pet may have been involved in. Fines may be reduced or eliminated if your pet is sterilized and has a current Animal License. (Call for complete details)
6. Pay all fees for impound and board of your pet.

## **What do I do if a warning is issued to me?**

Warnings may be issued for lack of rabies vaccinations, county animal licenses, proper shelter, and/or proper veterinary care. Your animal does NOT have to be picked up in order for you to be issued a warning.

If you receive a warning for any of the above violations, you have to correct the violation and present satisfactory proof to Hernando County Animal Services within the time specified.

If you exceed the time specified without presenting proof of compliance to Hernando County Animal Services, then the warning automatically turns into a citation. You will then have two options:

1. Pay the assessed fine within 30 days from the original date the warning was issued, or
2. Contest the fine by appearing in county court on the date and time listed.

If you do not do one of the above options, a warrant will be issued for your arrest.

## **What do I do if I receive a citation for a violation that my pet was involved in:**

If a mandatory court appearance is listed on the citation instead of a fine amount, then you are required to appear in county court on the date and time listed.

If a fine amount is assessed, then you have two options:

1. Pay the assessed fine within 30 days from the original date the citation was issued, or
2. Contest the fine by appearing in county court on the date and time listed.

If you do not do one of the above options, a warrant will be issued for your arrest.

*Refusing to sign and accept a citation is a second-degree misdemeanor and you may have to pay a fine of \$500.00 or spend 60 days in jail. Signing a citation is NOT an admission of guilt and you still have the option of contesting the citation in county court as stated above.*