

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair }  
Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair } A  
Dr. Steve Gallon III } D  
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas } D

**SUBJECT: HUMANE ANIMAL CONTROL PRACTICES** } REVISED

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: SAFE HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

In Miami-Dade County, there is a law that prohibits dogs from roaming free. The Miami-Dade Animal Services Department enforces this law by picking up stray dogs. However, since there is no such law for cats, Animal Services does not pick up stray cats.

R  
E  
V  
I  
S  
E  
D

Community members together with Miami-Dade County Animal Services have been applying the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program as a form of animal control since 2012. In a TNR program community cats are humanely trapped, brought to a veterinarian to be fixed (spayed or neutered), ear-tipped (the universal sign that a cat is fixed), and then returned to their outdoor home.

Despite the efforts of Miami-Dade County Animal Services and their volunteers, our office has been made aware of alleged instances where a private animal control agency has treated cats inhumanely, using loopholes to remove and dispose of cats despite federal and state laws.

R  
E  
V  
I  
S  
E  
D

Since Miami-Dade County Animal Services is the primary agency responsible for animal control they should be the entity contacted to remove cats from any Miami-Dade Public Schools (M-DCPS) facility. Consequently, private vendors must not be used for removal of feral or stray cats.

R  
E  
V  
I  
S  
E  
D

This item has been reviewed and approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the School Board Attorney.

**Revised  
H-12**

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. Review current procedures regarding stray animals on M-DCPS property and ensure that Miami-Dade County Animal Services is the primary agency contacted for the removal of cats, when necessary;
2. Ensure principals and site administrators are advised of proper procedures for removal of animals from District properties; and
3. Report back to the Board by the December 11, 2019 School Board Meeting.

R  
E  
V  
I  
S  
E  
D