

## Animal hoarding cases in Florida (2017-2007)

This list includes over 150 separate cases of animal hoarding, from 43 of Florida's 67 counties.

This list includes only those case that were reported by news media, and is not intended to be comprehensive. Hoarding cases do not always attract media attention.

This list also does not include many incidents in which breeders, pet dealers or animal rescue organizations were closed down by authorities due to animal cruelty or neglect, but did not meet the definition of hoarding.

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- October 2017:** 65 neglected dogs were removed from the home of an elderly couple in Homosassa Springs; three of the dogs were euthanized due to poor health.
- September 2017:** Code enforcement and animal control officers responded to complaints of a disturbing stench coming from a home in Lantana. 35 cats were found inside the home; the homeowner is being investigated on animal cruelty charges.
- August 2017:** 16 dogs and 15 cats were removed from a home in Santa Rosa County that had become unlivable.
- August 2017** Pasco County Animal Services removed 26 cats from a home in Spring Hill.
- June 2017** 53 dogs were rescued from a property in Golden Gates Estates. Authorities said the animals were being kept in "heinous conditions" inside sweltering wood kennels. Many of the dogs were suffering from burns on their stomachs and feet as a result of the urine-soaked enclosures. It was unclear if the owner had been breeding and selling dogs.
- June 2017** Over 70 dogs were found in unsanitary conditions inside a home in Washington County. The owner, who recently passed away, had been unable to properly care for the dogs. The dogs were infested with fleas, many had injuries and none had been spayed or neutered.
- June 2017** 36 dogs were seized from an Inverness home after the animals were found living in filth. A Citrus County Sheriff's Office representative described it as "one of the most horrific cases we've worked."
- June 2017** The Lake County Animal Shelter was inundated with cats from two hoarding cases: 24 cats were found abandoned at a home in Paisley; the shelter also worked to find homes for another 50 cats who were living inside a home in Eustis.
- May 2017** 55 animals—including dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits, and a guinea pig—were removed from two properties in Bristol (Liberty County). The animals were living in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, and were suffering from fleas, open wounds and other untreated medical issues.

- February 2017** Nine dogs were seized from a filthy Deltona home after animal control investigators determined the animals needed medical attention. The homeowner has a history of animal hoarding; in 2005 she was arrested after nearly 70 dogs and cats were discovered at her home.
- January 2017** The mummified remains of 16 cats were found inside a Mary Esther home that was described as "a sea of filth." Another 16 cats, alive but underweight and dehydrated, were rescued from the home.
- January 2017** 45 cats, four dogs, two raccoons and a macaw died in a Merritt Island house fire. An additional 14 dogs and one cat were rescued from the home. Fire officials said the excessive number of animals inside the home hampered efforts to put out the fire. "The inhumane conditions these animals were being kept and the amount of suffering they endured is unimaginable," said Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey.
- January 2017** 20 cats and 16 dogs were surrendered to Clay County Animal Care and Control by a woman in Middleburg who could no longer care for the animals.
- January 2017** Animal control officers discovered 142 cats and one dog inside an animal excrement-filled home in Port Orange. The cats were in such poor condition that all were later euthanized.
- December 2016** Clay County Animal Control officers discovered 22 cat corpses inside a home filled with cat urine and feces. The homeowner was arrested for abandoning the cats.
- December 2016** 63 flea-infested dogs living in unhealthy conditions were rescued from a home in Lakeland.
- November 2016** Animal Services removed four dogs and 17 cats from a home in Spring Hill. An animal services officer said of the homeowner, "She loves animals and she got overwhelmed."
- October 2016** Conditions were so bad at a home in Fort Myers that animal control workers were forced to wear hazmat suits to remove numerous cats. In a disturbing case in 2010, the homeowner was discovered to be living with her mother's corpse in the trash-filled home. At the time, the woman denied being a hoarder and promised, "It won't happen again."
- September 2016** Leon County Humane Society responded to a complaint from a concerned citizen and rescued 34 Chihuahuas from a home. The dogs were suffering from eye conditions and skin infections.
- September 2016** 56 cats and eight dogs in poor health were removed from a home in Lighthouse Point. 12 dead cats were also found. Because of the large amount of animal feces and urine inside the house, police detectives had to wear hazmat suits to safely enter. "Conditions are as bad as I've ever seen in a home," said the Lighthouse Point Police Chief. The homeowner has a history of animal hoarding.
- August 2016** Animal control officers investigating a tip about animal neglect rescued nine dogs from a home in Boca Raton that was filled with trash and rodents. An additional seven dead dogs were found. The homeowner has a history of animal hoarding. In 2008, 23 dogs were seized from the home.

24 dogs were removed from a home in Port St. John that was filled with dog feces, trash and bugs. The Department of Children and Families also removed two children from the home.

**June 2016**

A North Port man was arrested after officers found 26 sick cats and the remains of nine deceased cats inside his home.

**April 2016**

Animal control officers removed 46 cats and 41 dogs from a home in New Port Richey.

**March 2016**

Eight malnourished dogs, three cats and a pot-bellied pig were removed from a home in Floral City (Citrus County). The remains of more than a dozen animals were also found on the property. The homeowner was arrested on a charge of cruelty to animals.

**February 2016**

47 dogs, four cats and a horse living in horrible conditions were removed from a home in Bell (Gilchrist County). A dead horse was found in the home's front yard.

48 cats and 16 dogs were discovered in a decrepit assisted living facility in Homestead. The carcasses of 12 cats were also found in a freezer. City officials condemned the home.

**January 2016**

16 cats were rescued from a home in Lake Alfred (Polk County) that was overloaded with trash and feces. Two dead cats were also found inside the home. The owner had been barred from owning animals in 2007 because of previous animal cruelty cases.

**November 2015**

Firefighters rescued 13 cats, five dogs, two prairie dogs and 30 birds from a burning home in Edgewater (Volusia County). The animals made it difficult to fight the blaze.

**October 2015**

43 cats were found living in a filthy home in Hernando. According to the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, none of the cats had received rabies vaccines or seen a veterinarian. Two dead cats were also found. A woman and her brother living in the home were arrested and charged with animal cruelty.

More than 100 cats were discovered inside a West Melbourne home.

**September 2015**

Lee County Animal Services removed 136 cats and three dogs from a filthy home in Bonita Springs. Nine dead cats were found inside a freezer. Conditions inside the home were so bad that the home was condemned. The homeowner ran an animal rescue organization (New Life Animal Sanctuary) out of the home.

**August 2015**

A woman was charged with animal cruelty after 23 cats were found in deplorable conditions inside a Merritt Island storage unit.

Authorities seized 99 animals (dogs, cats, guinea pigs and birds) from a home in Loxahatchee (Palm Beach County). Many of the animals were in need of medical attention. Several cats had to be euthanized.

- July 2015** Putnam County Animal Control removed 54 dogs, four birds and a horse from a property in San Mateo. One puppy was found dead. The home lacked air conditioning and the floors were covered with animal waste. The home was condemned.
- Marion County Animal Services removed 102 neglected cats from a home in Summerfield. The cats were sick with upper-respiratory infections, ear mites, hookworms and roundworms. 61 of the cats had to be euthanized due to illness. The property owners have a history of hoarding. In August 2009, 75 cats were removed from the property.
- June 2015** 88 cats were found caged in a Fort Lauderdale storage unit. The building was not air conditioned, and the animals did not have enough food or water. The cats' owner was charged with animal cruelty and with violating municipal ordinances.
- 114 cats were seized from a home in Deltona. Most of the cats were later euthanized because they were found to be infected with feline leukemia and other diseases. The homeowner was charged with animal cruelty.
- May 2015** 14 dogs and 27 cats living in deplorable conditions were seized from a home in West Palm Beach.
- March 2015** Animal control officers removed 37 dogs, 14 cats, a rabbit, five raccoons, ducks, other birds and an opossum from dirty cages at a home in St. Petersburg. The animals were found without food or drinkable water. The homeowner ran an animal rescue organization (All Creatures Great and Small Wildlife Inc.).
- 83 dogs were seized from a home in Jacksonville that was supposedly used as a rescue organization (Dogs Deserve Life Rescue).
- January 2015** Animal control officers responding to a complaint of foul odors found 58 malnourished and sick cats inside a home in Port Charlotte.
- December 2014** Several hundred "pet" rats were discovered at a home in St. Petersburg. In an interview with local TV news, the homeowner described how the situation began, "I started off with five pets and they kept breeding and breeding."
- A Fort Pierce woman was arrested on child neglect charges after sheriff's office investigators found her children living in a home filled with feces, roaches and as many as 40 animals. The woman had been arrested in 2012 when similar conditions were found at her home.
- November 2014** A man and a woman were arrested on charges of cruelty to animals after as many as 100 cats were found living in deplorable conditions inside a home in Floral City (Citrus County). When animal control officers first arrived at the home, ammonia levels were so high that it was not safe to go inside without gas masks.
- October 2014** 80 dogs were rescued from a hoarder in Jefferson County.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services removed 13 cats living in unsanitary conditions at a home in Fort Myers.

**September 2014** Animal control confiscated 50 dogs and 11 cats from a small home in Jacksonville.

**June 2014** Sheriff's deputies responding to a complaint regarding barking dogs at a home in Spring Hill (Hernando County) found 47 dogs and three cats living in terrible conditions. Dogs were found inside metal crates stacked on top of one another; the crates were not large enough for the dogs had not been cleaned in months.

Hernando County Animal Services removed 21 underweight, sick dogs from a home in Spring Hill. Many of the dogs were kept inside rusting metal cages. One very sick dog was immediately euthanized.

**May 2014** 48 cats and three dogs were removed from a home in Deltona overflowing with animal feces and flies. The homeowners were charged with cruelty to animals, as well as child neglect and neglect of an elderly person.

Animal control officers, wearing protective hazardous material suits due to high levels of ammonia, removed more than 80 cats and five dogs from a home in Tallahassee.

**April 2014** 56 dogs, three cats, two hedgehogs, a parrot, a pig and a goat were confiscated from deplorable conditions in a home in Loxahatchee (Palm Beach County). The owner claimed that she was operating a rescue organization.

Animal Control workers found 92 cats, two dogs and a pig at a home in Winter Haven. Conditions inside the home were horrendous. About 30 of the cats were euthanized.

As many as 200 animals were discovered inside a small warehouse in Hialeah. A 40-year-old woman who operated an unregistered pet rescue organization (Gigi's Rescue) out of the warehouse was arrested and charged with felony animal cruelty. "Inside, there were dogs and cats everywhere," wrote a Hialeah police detective in an arrest warrant. "Some were in cages, but most were not and feces and urine was on the floor all throughout the building." Police found an additional 60 diseased and skinny dogs at the woman's home in unincorporated Miami-Dade County.

Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control removed 32 cats and a dozen dogs from the West Palm Beach home of a woman with a history of hoarding.

25 cats were found inside a cluttered home in Lake Worth, as well as skeletal remains of cats. "No animal deserves to live in conditions like this," the director of Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control told local media.

**March 2014** 72 cats were discovered living in filth at a home in Fort Myers Shores. The house was deemed unlivable.

22 cats were removed from a home in Cape Coral. In an interview with local TV news, the homeowner explained, "You reach a point where you start to get overwhelmed and you really don't know what's the next step to do or how to fix the problem once it becomes such a problem to you."

140 birds and other animals were seized from a home in Loxahatchee. The birds were crowded inside cages without clean water. More than half had to be euthanized.

**February 2014** 36 dogs, two cats, two turtles and a parrot were removed from two neighboring homes in Dunnellon. A Citrus County animal control officer told a local newspaper, "I have been doing this for 11 years and I have never seen such conditions of filth and total disregard for animals." The homeowners were charged with animal cruelty. The two houses were condemned by code enforcement and torn down.

The Manatee County Sheriff's Office raided a "sanctuary" (Napier Log Cabin Horse and Animal Sanctuary) near Bradenton. More than 200 dogs, several dozen cats, as well as horses, goats and pigs were found in deplorable conditions: animals covered in feces, flea and worm infestations and malnourished animals. The owners were later convicted of animal cruelty and fraud and sent to prison.

Police executing a search warrant for drugs found 21 severely malnourished dogs, a parrot and a dead rabbit at a house in Port Charlotte.

A woman who kept as many as 65 cats inside a feces-covered mobile home in High Point (Hernando County) was issued dozens of citations by authorities desperate to resolve the situation. The home was deemed a public health nuisance.

44 dogs were found abandoned at a Fort Lauderdale home. The woman who had been renting the home has a long history of crimes involving animal neglect.

**December 2013** More than 50 dogs were found living in horrible conditions in a Spring Hill home.

**October 2013** Responding to complaints by neighbors, animal control officers removed 37 cats from a home filled with trash and feces in Miami-Dade County.

**September 2013** Police found 81 dogs living in squalor at a property in Miami-Dade County.

Pinellas County Animal Services confiscated 127 cats from a home in St. Petersburg. Many of the cats were suffering from diseases. 37 were euthanized immediately.

**August 2013** More than 75 dogs were found inside a home in Altamonte Springs. Conditions inside the home were so bad that the homeowner was living in the garage. Animal control employees and Seminole County firefighters who removed the dogs from the home had to wear hazardous materials suits and protective gear for breathing. The home was condemned.

42 dogs were abandoned in filthy conditions at a home in Marianna (Jackson County). Some of the dogs had starved to death. The owners were later arrested on animal cruelty charges.

Six horses and 97 dogs were seized from a property in Freeport (Walton County). The animals were severely malnourished.

**July 2013**

Following numerous neighbor complaints, sheriff's deputies searched a home in Milton (Santa Rosa County) and discovered 225 cats living in unsanitary conditions. The property owners claimed to be operating an animal rescue organization. 103 of the cats who tested positive for feline leukemia were euthanized.

34 cats were found sick and living in squalid conditions at a home in Neptune Beach (Duval County).

**June 2013**

82 cats were seized from a mobile home in Riverview (Hillsborough County). Neighbors had complained for years about a nauseating stench coming from the home. Code enforcement condemned the home as unfit for human habitation.

A woman was arrested on animal neglect charges after sheriff's deputies found 27 cats and 18 dogs at a home in Sebring that was filled with animal urine and feces. The animals were suffering from malnutrition and dehydration.

17 dogs and two cats were found in deplorable conditions at a home in Orange County. The home was condemned.

**May 2013**

In addition to 32 sick cats found at a home in Tampa, authorities discovered 22 dead cats in a freezer.

Polk County deputies found 47 dogs living in deplorable conditions at a home in Auburndale. The dogs were confined in cages stacked atop each other, with no food or water. Many of the dogs were suffering from malnutrition, skin conditions and fleas. The animals were seized and the property owners charged with animal cruelty.

50 cats and three dogs were discovered in the back of a U-Haul truck parked at a shopping center in Spring Hill. The animals belonged to a woman who had hoped to hide the animals from code enforcement officials visiting her home.

40 animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, a snake and a lizard) were abandoned at a home in Holiday (Pasco County).

**February 2013**

Seven dogs and 25 cats were found crowded inside a home in Englewood. Living conditions for the animals were horrible.

Animal control removed 50 cats from a West Palm Beach home.

**December 2012**

Animal control officers discovered a house in Lake Worth filled with more than 140 cats. Officials described conditions inside the home as "overwhelmingly deplorable." Most of the cats were so sick that they were euthanized.

- August 2012** Over 60 sick, injured, starving, flea-ridden dogs and cats were removed from a Hialeah townhouse.
- May 2012** 263 dogs were seized after they were found in poor health, stuffed into wire cages, at a property in Venice. The dogs were infested with fleas, and many had matted fur and open sores.
- April 2012** Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control took custody of more than 30 cats from a Lake Worth woman they described as a hoarder. Many of the cats had respiratory and skin conditions from living in such poor conditions.
- March 2012** 9 dead cats, and three living cats, were found inside a filthy home in Tallahassee.
- Hillsborough County Animal Services rescued 48 dogs living in filth at a home in Thonotosassa. The dogs were suffering from serious skin, eye and teeth problems.
- 45 cats were removed from a home in Greenacres that was filled with garbage. A Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control officer described the home's condition as "very, very deplorable." City officials condemned the home.
- 8 dogs living in unsanitary conditions were removed from a home in West Palm Beach.
- February 2012** 22 dogs, some suffering from serious injuries, were found confined without food or water at a home in Town 'N Country. In recent years, Hillsborough County Animal Services had seized more than 80 animals from the homeowner.
- January 2012** Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control removed more than 50 cats from a home in Delray Beach.
- December 2011** 69 cats living in poor conditions at a home in San Carlos Park (Lee County) were surrendered to animal services. The homeowner's young son was removed from the home by the Florida Department of Children and Families.
- September 2011** A woman surrendered more than 100 cats to Miami-Dade Animal Services. The cats, many of whom were sick, were living inside an apartment in West Hialeah.
- Animal control officials seized 47 dogs, 20 cats, three rabbits, three ferrets, 10 fish and one frog from a home in Lake Wales (Polk County). All of the animals were suffering from a lack of food and water.
- July 2011** 28 parrots were freed from a filthy and unventilated enclosure on a property in Sebring (Highlands County). The remains of another 50 dead parrots were also found. The owner was arrested and charged with cruelty to animals.
- June 2011** Orange County Animal Services euthanized 40 malnourished and sick cats after they were removed from a filthy home near College Park.



697 cats were seized from the Haven Acres Cat Sanctuary in High Springs (Alachua County), making it one of the largest cat hoarding cases ever in the United States. Many of the cats were in need of medical attention. 60 of the cats had to be euthanized.

**April 2011** More than 150 dogs and 35 cats were found living in a feces-and-urine infested "sanctuary" (Sanctuary Animal Refuge) in Port St. Lucie. The animals were malnourished and suffering from numerous health problems. 17 of the dogs had to be euthanized.

**March 2011** More than 150 cats hoarded by a couple were removed from two homes in Jacksonville and another property in Clay County. 68 of the cats were euthanized due to illness.

Polk County Animal Control removed 184 dogs and two cats from a Lakeland couple's filth-covered home. The dogs suffered from a lack of care. The couple have a history of animal neglect. In 2008, they were cited for having 109 dogs who were not vaccinated against rabies.

**February 2011** A code enforcement officer responding to a junk and litter complaint discovered 29 cats living in crates stacked on top of each other outside a home in Citra (Marion County). The cats, in addition to three dogs and two cats from inside the home, were taken to animal control for treatment. Nine of the cats had to be euthanized due to poor health.

Animal Services removed 35 cats living in poor conditions at a home in Silver Springs Shores (Marion County). The homeowner was found guilty of animal cruelty after a large number of animals were found in similar conditions at her home in 2006.

**January 2011** Animal control officers removed 12 dogs and 71 cats from a home filled with feces and urine in Deltona. The homeowners were arrested and charged with child abuse because their child was living in the home.

17 cats and a dog were rescued from a fire inside an apartment in Hollywood. Another 14 cats perished in the fire. Three firefighters at the scene were treated for bites.

**December 2010** Animal control officers found 127 cats in an apparently vacant Lehigh Acres home. None of the cats had been spayed or neutered.

62 cats, many very sick and emaciated, were removed from two homes in Ocoee (Orange County). The owner of both properties was arrested on charges of animal neglect.

**November 2010** 40 cats were rescued from a mobile home in Tampa that officials described as, "a litter box without litter."

56 dogs and a bird were seized from a home in Weirsdale (Marion County) after Animal Services determined that the animals were not receiving proper care.

82 cats, including 10 dead cats, and others suffering from untreated medical conditions, were removed from a Cape Coral home. Code enforcement declared the home uninhabitable.

- July 2010** A man was arrested on animal cruelty charges after police found 74 cats in filthy conditions at a property in Jacksonville.
- 59 cats suffering from fleas and respiratory problems were removed from a house near Orange City (Volusia County). In a similar incident in 2001, several dozen cats and dogs were confiscated from the homeowner.
- June 2010** A man was arrested after animal control authorities discovered 62 dogs in poor condition at a property in Haines City (Polk County). The dogs were infested with fleas and suffering from dermatitis, matted fur and ear infections.
- May 2010** Sheriff's deputies and animal control workers seized 261 dogs, many of them puppies, from a couple who claimed to operate an animal rescue operation (Mid-Florida Retriever Rescue) out of their home in Polk City. The home was filled with urine and feces, and there was little food or water for the dogs. The couple was arrested on animal cruelty charges.
- April 2010** Animal control officials took 49 sick and skinny cats and two dogs from a home in Port St. Lucie. Six cats in very poor health were euthanized.
- Marion County Animal Services removed 375 live animals (dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, sheep, cows and horses) and discovered 348 dead animals at a property in Reddick. Officials said it was one of the worst hoarding situations they had ever seen. "Some of the animals were living in cages with dead animal carcasses next to them," an Animal Services representative reported. Marion County Fire Rescue declared several buildings on the property unsafe to enter without a respirator. The property owner was taken for a mental evaluation under Florida's Baker Act.
- March 2010** A Palm Bay man arrested after police found 17 snakes and another 100 dead snakes in a house that the man had abandoned.
- 161 cats were removed from a home in Pensacola. In addition, eight dead cats were discovered in a freezer. The homeowner was arrested on animal cruelty charges. The cats were euthanized after they were diagnosed with diseases and parasites.
- February 2010** A Department of Children and Families worker alerted police after finding 23 cats, two dogs and bird living in a filthy home in Tampa. The animals were removed and an 8-year-old boy was taken into DCF custody.
- November 2009** 79 dogs living in deplorable conditions inside a mobile home in Summerfield (Marion County) were removed by animal control. Sadly, all of the dogs had been exposed to the highly contagious canine parvovirus and were euthanized.
- October 2009** Nearly 100 cats, 40 dogs, 50 birds, five horses and a donkey were removed from a property in Brooksville (Hernando County). Many of the animals were malnourished and suffering from untreated wounds and diseases. The owners had operated an animal rescue organization (Our Animal Haus) at the property.

- September 2009** Authorities seized 25 cats, and found one dead kitten, inside an apartment in Indian Rocks Beach (Pinellas County). The city declared the apartment uninhabitable.
- August 2009** 432 animals-- including dogs, cats, goats, snakes, turtles, geese, chickens and quail-- were discovered living in filthy conditions at a property in Citra (Marion County). 15 dead animals were also found. Animal control called the case the worst incident of animal hoarding they had ever seen.
- July 2009** Two children were put into temporary protective custody after investigators found them living in filthy conditions in an apartment in Kissimmee along with as many as 40 cats, eight dogs, as well as rabbits and chinchillas.
- June 2009** St. Lucie County Sheriff's Deputies arrested a woman on animal cruelty charges after finding a home full of sick and malnourished animals, including dogs, birds, rabbits and ferrets. Three dead dogs were also found in a locked kennel.
- Animal control officers seized 92 animals (dogs, cats, a bird and a turtle) from a home in Gainesville. Most of the animals were underweight. The remains of 16 dead animals were also found.
- 28 cats were removed from a home in Brandon (Hillsborough County). An Animal Services spokesperson described the cats as, "horribly diseased, disfigured, missing eyes, bleeding from the mouth, fur stained all the way up their paws from feces and urine, parasites, no strength, unable to stand." Most of the cats were euthanized. The homeowner was charged with 28 counts of animal cruelty.
- February 2009** Firefighters checking on the welfare of an elderly woman in St. Johns County discovered as many as 50 cats inside the home, animal feces covering the floors, and toxic levels of ammonia. Authorities had removed cats from the woman in a previous case.
- January 2009** Animal control officers removed 156 neglected rabbits and three cats from a house in Temple Terrace (Hillsborough County). Two rabbits had to be euthanized.
- November 2008** State workers removed an elderly woman from a home in New Smyrna Beach after she was found living among 50 cats, 20 ducks, 15 turkeys and a dog. Conditions inside the home were horrible.
- An estimated 450 pigs, many of them severely malnourished, were discovered at a "sanctuary" (Pig Tails Sanctuary) in Bunnell (Flagler County). Several suffering pigs were quickly euthanized.
- September 2008** 53 dogs and 28 cats were seized from a home in Buckingham (Lee County), where sheriff's deputies found dogs and cats without food and water and in filthy conditions. The homeowner claimed to operate an animal rescue organization (My Best Friends, Inc.).

**June 2008**

Police seized 58 dogs and 20 cats from a home in North Miami and arrested the owner on animal cruelty charges. Almost all the animals were euthanized due to poor health. North Miami's Mayor described what he saw at the home as, "one of the worst animal abuse cases I've ever seen in my life." The house was condemned by the city.

**May 2008**

17 dogs, infested with fleas and intestinal parasites, were confiscated from a home in Largo. According to the SPCA, the homeowner has a history of animal hoarding.

Sheriff's deputies discovered 13 dogs living in a trash-filled home in Palm Harbor.

Firefighters were able to save 15 cats from a fire at a duplex on Hutchinson Island; sadly, another 50 cats inside the unit died in the fire.

**April 2008**

Lee County Animal Services confiscated 37 dogs living in extremely unsanitary conditions at a home in Fort Myers Shores. The homeowner claimed to be operating an animal rescue organization. Authorities had seized dogs from the man's home twice before. [In January 2007, 39 dogs were seized, and in 2003 the man was charged with animal cruelty after a houseful of dogs was discovered.]

**March 2008**

Animal control workers seized 28 cats from a waste-covered mobile home in Paisley (Lake County). 25 of the cats were later euthanized after being diagnosed with upper respiratory infections, ringworm, feline leukemia and other ailments.

Animal control officers removed 75 cats living in deplorable conditions from a home in Port St. Lucie.

**February 2008**

Sheriff's deputies removed 17 dogs from a dirty and dilapidated home in Largo.

Animal control officers seized 27 neglected animals (six dogs, four puppies, four cats, 10 chickens, a rabbit, a turkey and one snake) from a Lake Helen (Volusia County) home.

Manatee County Animal Services removed 27 cats and 101 hamsters from a filthy condominium in Bradenton. The animals were in such poor health that they were euthanized.

Hernando County Animal Services removed 22 dogs, three cats and a snake from deplorable conditions inside a home in Brooksville. According to an article in the St. Petersburg Times, "The pair of 10-year-old Pekingese dogs had mange and bald spots, and their matted fur was caked with feces and urine. A black cat was missing its right eye and several teeth. And a pit bull was so weakened by fleas and worms that it had to be euthanized."

A woman and her adult daughter with a history of hoarding were arrested at a home in Fort Lauderdale. 16 dogs and one bird at the home were sent to animal control for evaluation. A few days prior to their arrest, the women had abandoned 46 dogs and three cats at a home they had been renting in Oakland Park. That home was covered in excrement and fleas. The Broward Sheriff's Office described conditions inside the home as "beyond belief."

Animal control confiscated 70 cats from a home in Port Orange. The cats were suffering from soiled fur and ear infections.

16 emaciated dogs and three cats were removed from a home in Town 'N Country (Hillsborough County).

233 animals-- including rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, quail, pigeons, mice, gerbils, iguanas, dogs, cats, hamsters, pigs, fish, tortoises, tree squirrels, turtles, ducks and geese-- were seized from a filthy home in Vero Beach.

**January 2008** 81 cats, 37 dogs, two horses, three ferrets and a gopher tortoise were removed from a couple's home in Coleman (Sumter County). All the cats tested positive for the feline leukemia virus and were euthanized.

**December 2007** 46 dogs were found neglected and living in deplorable conditions at a home in Port Charlotte.

Paramedics responding to a 911 call found more than 50 cats inside a home in St. Johns County. Animal control officers who removed the cats had to wear hazardous-material suits due to dangerous ammonia levels from animal waste inside the home.

Animal control removed 97 cats from a house in Tarpon Springs (Pinellas County). Police described conditions inside the home as "unimaginable." The city's building department condemned the house.

**November 2007** 22 dogs and one cat living in unsanitary conditions at a home in Boynton Beach were seized by animal control. The seizure was the third time since 2000 that animal control has removed dogs from the home.

Pasco County sheriff's deputies found 43 dogs living in their own filth inside a home in Hudson.

**August 2007** Several malnourished cats, two dogs, a ferret and a pot-bellied pig were removed from a filthy house in Palm Bay.

**June 2007** Animal control officers seized 32 cats and 22 dogs from an elderly woman's home in Seffner. Hillsborough County code enforcement declared the house unfit for human habitation. All of the cats and two of the dogs were euthanized due to poor health.

**April 2007** A man was arrested on animal cruelty charges after approx. 300 cats were found inside a home full of animal waste in Ocala. Marion County Fire Rescue had to break windows to ventilate the home before animal control officers could safely enter. County officials described the horrible scene inside the house, "We had cats inside eating dead cats." Numerous dead cats were found in and around the home.

City officials seized 79 dogs from a home in Deltona.

80 cats and 17 dogs were confiscated from a property in Buckingham. Lee County Animal Services said the animals were in unsafe and unclean conditions.