

- Home
- Senate
- House
- Citator
- Statutes, Constitution, & Laws of Florida
- Florida Statutes
- Search Statutes
- Search Tips
- Florida Constitution
- Laws of Florida
- Legislative & Executive Branch Lobbyists
- Information Center
- Joint Legislative Committees & Other Entities
- Historical Committees
- Florida Government Efficiency Task Force
- Legislative Employment
- Legistore
- Links

Interpreter Services for the Hearing Impaired



The 2016 Florida Statutes

[Title XLVI](#)
CRIMES

[Chapter 843](#)
OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

[View Entire Chapter](#)

843.19 Offenses against police dogs, fire dogs, SAR dogs, or police horses.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Police dog” means any dog, and “police horse” means any horse, that is owned, or the service of which is employed, by a law enforcement agency for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders.

(b) “Fire dog” means any dog that is owned, or the service of which is employed, by a fire department, a special fire district, or the State Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of flammable materials or the investigation of fires.

(c) “SAR dog” means any search and rescue dog that is owned, or the service of which is utilized, by a fire department, a law enforcement agency, a special fire district, or the State Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of missing persons, including, but not limited to, persons who are lost, who are trapped under debris as the result of a natural, manmade, or technological disaster, or who are drowning victims.

(2) Any person who intentionally and knowingly, without lawful cause or justification, causes great bodily harm, permanent disability, or death to, or uses a deadly weapon upon, a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(3) Any person who actually and intentionally maliciously touches, strikes, or causes bodily harm to a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#).

(4) Any person who intentionally or knowingly maliciously harasses, teases, interferes with, or attempts to interfere with a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse while the animal is in the performance of its duties commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#).

(5) A person convicted of an offense under this section shall make restitution for injuries caused to the police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse and shall pay the replacement cost of the animal if, as a result of the offense, the animal can no longer perform its duties.

History.—s. 1, ch. 81-43; s. 1, ch. 84-187; s. 2, ch. 93-20; s. 2, ch. 97-61; s. 1, ch. 2005-139.