

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 12

Resolution No. 188 -2026

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Department of Police – Adoption rates for the adoption of cats or dogs

Title: A RESOLUTION providing a maximum adoption rate for the adoption of dogs and cats from Howard County Animal Control.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2026.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2026.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted____, Adopted with amendments____, Failed____, Withdrawn____, by the County Council on _____, 2026.

Certified By _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

WHEREAS, Section 17.301 of the Howard County Code requires the County Council to adopt a resolution setting fees for animal control services; and

WHEREAS, the Code provides that fees may be reduced for senior citizens and may be waived if special circumstances exist; and

WHEREAS, animal control fees were last adopted in Council Resolution No. 85-2026 and the Department of Police currently charges a potential adopter for necessary veterinary costs incurred as part of a dog or cat's adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Police would like to institute a cap on the animal adoption fee for dogs and cats in order to incentivize and hopefully increase adoptions; and

WHEREAS, a cap on dog and cat adoption fees will make adoption accessible for more families and will have the ultimate impact of reducing the animal population at the Animal Control facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this ____ day of _____, 2026 that Animal Control Fees are amended as shown in the attached Exhibit A.

ANIMAL CONTROL FEES

These fees are set pursuant to Section 17.301 of the Howard County Code, which provides that the County Council shall approve a schedule of fees for animal control services.

SERVICE	FEE*
Impoundment	
First occurrence	\$30
Subsequent occurrences	\$80
Daily Board	
Small animal (1-20 lbs)	\$17
Medium animal (21-50 lbs)	\$20
Large animal (over 50 lbs)	\$23
Special care	\$23
Distemper Vaccination	\$14
Rabies Vaccination	\$20
Flea Treatment	\$15
Trap Deposit	
Small animal	\$45
Large animal	\$45
Small animal carrier	\$8
Euthanasia	\$20
Disposal of remains	\$30
Trapped wildlife	\$15
Spay/Neuter Deposit	
Male dog	\$165
Female dog	\$210
Male cat	\$92
Female cat	\$130
Heartworm test	\$12
Feline Leukemia/FIV test	\$25
Fecal check	\$35
Bath	\$45
MAXIMUM ADOPTION FEES FOR DOGS AND CATS¹	
DOG UP TO AGE 5	\$60
DOG AGE 5 OR OLDER	\$50
CAT UP TO AGE 5	\$50
CAT AGE 5 OR OLDER	\$40

* Fee depends on vendor prices. For these services, the Animal Control Division may charge additional fees up to the cost of providing the service.

¹ ADOPTION FEES FOR DOGS AND CATS SHALL BE WAIVED FOR:

- (1) ADULTS AGE 65 AND OVER; OR
- (2) VETERANS.