

Introduced	<u>1-4-2021</u>
Public Hearing	<u>1-19-2021</u>
Council Action	<u>4-5-2021</u>
Executive Action	<u>4-6-2021</u>
Effective Date	<u>6-6-2021</u>

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 1

Bill No. 1 -2021

Introduced by the Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT requiring a license for private animal shelters; defining certain terms; authorizing the adoption of certain regulations; providing for certain exemptions; requiring that a license application contain certain information; requiring an application fee; requiring that certain fees be adopted by Resolution of the County Council; providing for inspections; providing that a denied application can be resubmitted under certain conditions; providing for a license term; providing the conditions under which the license can be suspended or revoked; providing for appeals and license renewals; requiring certain records; providing standards of care for private animal shelters; providing for certain penalties; adding to the duties of the Animal Matters Hearing Board; and generally relating to private animal shelters in Howard County.

Introduced and read first time January 4, 2021. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.
 By order Michele Howard
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on January 19, 2021.
 By order Michele Howard
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on April 5, 2021 and Passed , Passed with amendments , Failed .
 By order Michele Howard
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 6 day of April, 2021 at 3⁰⁰ a.m. (P.M.)
 By order Michele Howard
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Approved Vetoed by the County Executive April 6, 2021
Calvin Ball
 Calvin Ball, County Executive

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.

Tabled 2/3/2021
3/1/2021 Removed, extended, Tabled
4/5/2021 Removed, Passed w/Am

1 **Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the
2 Howard County Code is amended as follows:

3 By amending:

4 Title 17. - Public Protection Services.

5 Subtitle 3. – Animals.

6 17.310(a)

7 17.318(g)

8 17.320

9 17.321(a)

10
11 By adding:

12 Title 17. - Public Protection Services.

13 Subtitle 3. – Animals.

14 Section 17.322. Private Animal Shelter License; Standards
15 of Care for Private Animal Shelters.

16
17 **Title 17. Public Protection Services.**

18 **Subtitle 3. Animals.**

19
20 **Section 17.310. - Impoundment and redemption.**

21 **(a) Impoundment.**

22 **(1) The Administrator may impound:**

23 **(i) A dog, cat, or ferret whose owner has failed to have the animal vaccinated**
24 **against rabies within seven days after being notified to do so;**

25 **(ii) An animal whose owner has failed to comply with control, and confinement**
26 **measures ordered by the Administrator within the time specified by the order;**

27 **(iii) An animal that has been declared a nuisance by the Administrator, or an**
28 **animal whose owner receives three citations for disturbing the public peace**
29 **in a 24-month period, if the citations have not been appealed or have been**
30 **upheld on appeal;**

31 **(iv) An animal at large;**

- 1 (v) An animal declared dangerous or potentially dangerous by the Administrator
 2 or by another jurisdiction;
 3 (vi) An animal declared a threat to public safety and welfare;
 4 (vii) An animal whose health or safety is endangered through its owner's cruelty
 5 or neglect;
 6 (viii) A wild or exotic animal kept in violation of this subtitle;
 7 (ix) An animal adopted from the County shelter but which has not been spayed or
 8 neutered within the period required by the Administrator; and
 9 (x) An animal adopted from the County shelter whose owner has not complied
 10 with the terms of the adoption agreement.
 11 (xi) AN ANIMAL FROM A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER OPERATING WITHOUT A
 12 LICENSE OR WITH A LICENSE THAT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED OR REVOKED IN
 13 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 17.322(I) OF THIS TITLE.

14
 15 **Section 17.318. - Civil penalties for violations.**

16 (g) *Fines for Violations of Certain Sections.* The amount of the civil penalty for a violation of
 17 this subtitle is:

Code Section Violated	Amount of Fine	
17.301 and 17.306	First Offense	\$25.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	50.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	100.00
	Subsequent Offenses	250.00
17.302	First Offense	50.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	100.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	200.00
	Subsequent Offenses	200.00
17.303	\$250.00 to \$500.00; Board may waive fine if owner agrees to destruction of animal	
17.304 and 17.305	First Offense	100.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	150.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	300.00
	Subsequent Offenses	500.00

17.305A, 17.305B, and 17.306	First Offense	100.00
	Second Offense in a 24-Month period	150.00
	Third Offense in a 24-Month period	300.00
	Subsequent Offenses	500.00
17.307	First Offense	100.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	150.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	300.00
	Subsequent Offenses	500.00
17.311(d)(2)		100.00
17.315	First Offense	100.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	150.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	300.00
	Subsequent Offenses	500.00
17.316	First Offense	25.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	50.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	100.00
	Subsequent Offenses	200.00
17.317		300.00
17.322 (OPERATING WITHOUT A LICENSE)	PER DAY	\$250.00
17.322 (STANDARDS OF CARE)	FIRST OFFENSE IN 24-MONTH PERIOD	\$200.00
	SECOND VIOLATION IN 24-MONTH PERIOD	\$400.00
	THIRD VIOLATION IN 24-MONTH PERIOD	\$600.00
	SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS	\$800.00

1

2 **Section 17.320. Animal Matters Hearing Board.**

3 (a) *Membership:*

4 (1) *General provisions.* General provisions applicable to the Board are set forth in
5 subtitle 3, "Boards and Commissions" of title 6, "County Executive and the
6 Executive Branch," of the Howard County Code.

7 (2) *Number of members.* There is an Animal Matters Hearing Board consisting of
8 seven members.

9 (3) *Qualifications:*

10 (i) All members of the Board shall be residents of Howard County.

- 1 (ii) One of the members shall be a veterinarian licensed to practice in
2 Howard County.
- 3 (iii) Three of the remaining members shall have some experience in animal
4 matters.
- 5 (iv) Not more than two members shall be residents of the same council
6 district.
- 7 (4) *Executive Secretary.* The Animal Control Administrator or the Administrator's
8 designee shall serve as Executive Secretary to the Board and shall attend all
9 meetings of the Board.
- 10 (5) *Meetings.* The Board shall meet at least once each month and, if necessary to
11 fulfill its duties and responsibilities, more frequently at the call of the
12 Chairperson.
- 13 (b) *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Board shall:
- 14 (1) Subject to section 22.1000 of the County Code, submit an annual report to the
15 Chief of Police, the County Executive, and the County Council concerning its
16 responsibilities, including recommendations pertaining to legislation, regulations,
17 and fiscal planning;
- 18 (2) Recommend standards for the operation and maintenance of County animal
19 control facilities;
- 20 (3) Recommend standards and procedures for the control, collection, custody, and
21 disposal of animals;
- 22 (4) Review the annual budget for the operation of the animal control facility and
23 make recommendations to the Chief of Police;
- 24 (5) Advise the Chief of Police, the County Executive, and the County Council on
25 animal control regulations and legislation;
- 26 (6) Hold hearings under this subtitle;
- 27 (7) Review and affirm, reverse, or modify actions and decisions of the Animal
28 Control Administrator pursuant to this subtitle;
- 29 (8) Issue written decisions and orders; [[and]]
- 30 (9) HEAR APPEALS RELATED TO A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE PURSUANT
31 TO SECTION 17.322(J) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND
- 32 ([[9]])10 Carry out any other duties mandated by law.
- 33 (c) *Notice of Board Hearings:*

- 1 (1) When the Board schedules a hearing, it shall give at least 14 days' written notice
2 of the date, time, location, and subject of the hearing to:
- 3 (i) A. The owner of the animal; and
4 ~~[[ii]]~~ B. Any person who filed a sworn statement regarding the
5 animal~~[[.]]~~ OR
6 (II) A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE LICENSEE OR AN APPLICANT FOR
7 A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE.
- 8 (2) The notice shall include a copy of any citation issued and sworn statement filed
9 in connection with the subject of the hearing.
- 10 (3) The Board shall notify a person of a Board hearing by mailing a notice to the
11 person's usual or last-known address, except that it shall notify a person charged
12 with a violation of this subtitle by:
- 13 (i) Delivering the notice directly to the person;
14 (ii) Mailing the notice first-class mail, return receipt requested; or
15 (iii) Posting the notification at the person's usual or last-known address.
- 16

17 **Section 17.321. Appeals.**

18 (a) *Appeal to Board.* A person may appeal to the Board any of the following actions of the
19 Administrator within seven days after the Administrator's action:

- 20 (1) A declaration that the person's animal, residence, or facility is a nuisance;
21 (2) A declaration that the person's animal is dangerous or potentially dangerous;
22 (3) A declaration that the person's animal is a threat to public safety;
23 (4) An order requiring the institution of control and confinement measures for the
24 person's animal, but only if the animal has been impounded in connection with
25 the order;
26 (5) Impoundment of the person's animal;
27 (6) Permanent impoundment of the person's animal; ~~[[and]]~~
28 (7) A declaration that the person is not eligible to adopt an animal~~[[.]]~~; AND
29 (8) A DECISION OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR TO GRANT, DENY, OR
30 IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE PURSUANT TO
31 SECTION 17.322 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 32

33 **SECTION 17.322. PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE; STANDARDS OF CARE FOR**
34 **PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTERS.**

1 (A) *ESTABLISHED; PURPOSE; AUTHORITY TO ADOPT REGULATIONS; APPLICABILITY.*

2 (1) THERE IS A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE IN HOWARD COUNTY.

3 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE LICENSE IS TO ENSURE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE
4 FOR ANIMALS KEPT IN PRIVATE SHELTERS.

5 (3) AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 17.312(E), THE ANIMAL CONTROL
6 ADMINISTRATOR MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO SET STANDARDS TO
7 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

8 (4) THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES TO A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER THAT:

9 (I) HOUSES, IN ONE LOCATION, MORE THAN THE FOLLOWING NUMBER
10 AND TYPE OF DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT LIVESTOCK AND
11 POULTRY:

12 A. FOR DOGS AND CATS:

13 I. 4 AGE 4 MONTHS OR OLDER; AND

14 II. 15 UNDER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS; AND

15 B. FOR OTHER DOMESTICATED ANIMALS:

16 I. 10 AGE 4 MONTHS OR OLDER; AND

17 II. 15 UNDER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS; AND

18 (II) RE-HOMES, REHABILITATES, OR PROVIDES PERMANENT HOUSING TO
19 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT FOR LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY.

20 (5) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO:

21 (I) A RETAIL PET STORE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-701 OF THE
22 BUSINESS REGULATIONS ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF
23 MARYLAND;

24 (II) DOG OR CAT FANCIERS WHO HAVE A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER
25 SECTION 17.301 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

26 (III) UNLESS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(I) IS MET AS TO
27 THE NUMBER OF DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
28 MAY FOSTER FOR A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER;

29 (IV) A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER THAT IS LICENSED UNDER STATE OR
30 FEDERAL LAW; OR

1 (V) THE HOUSING, RE-HOMING, REHABILITATION OR PERMANENT
2 HOUSING OF LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY.

3 (B) *DEFINITIONS.* IN ADDITION TO THE DEFINITIONS SET FORTH IN SECTION 17.300 OF THIS
4 SUBTITLE, FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE
5 MEANINGS SET FORTH.

6 (1) *DROP BOX* MEANS AN UNATTENDED RECEPTACLE WHERE LIVE ANIMALS CAN
7 BE PLACED BY THE PUBLIC FOR LATER SHELTER INTAKE.

8 (2) *LICENSE* SHALL MEAN THE PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE
9 AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION.

10 (3) *PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURE* MEANS ANY STRUCTURE USED CONSISTENTLY
11 TO CONTAIN AN ANIMAL SUCH AS A ROOM, CAGE, KENNEL, OR PEN.

12 (4) *PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER* MEANS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL SHELTER FOR
13 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY, FOR THE
14 PURPOSE OF RE-HOMING, REHABILITATION, OR PERMANENT ~~SANCTUARY~~
15 HOUSING. ~~A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL NOT INCLUDE THE HOUSING~~
16 ~~OF 4 OR LESS ADULT ANIMALS (4 MONTHS OR OLDER) OR 15 OR LESS~~
17 ~~ANIMALS UNDER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS.~~

18 (5) *RESPONSIBLE PARTY* MEANS ANY PERSON IN CONTROL OF OR MANAGING A
19 PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER AND INCLUDES, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE
20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OWNER, AND
21 MANAGERS OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER.

22 (6) *STANDARD OF CARE* MEANS THOSE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION
23 (N) OF THIS SECTION THAT INDICATE WHETHER ANIMALS ARE IN A GOOD
24 STATE OF WELFARE

25 (7) *TRANSPORT CARRIER* MEANS A PORTABLE ENCLOSURE DESIGNED TO
26 TEMPORARILY CONTAIN AN ANIMAL THAT IS BEING TRANSPORTED FROM
27 ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER.

28 (8) *VETERINARIAN* MEANS A VETERINARIAN WHO IS CURRENTLY LICENSED AND
29 IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
30 EXAMINERS.

1 (C) *LICENSE REQUIREMENT.* THE OPERATOR OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL OBTAIN
2 AN ANNUAL PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE TO OPERATE.

3 (D) *LICENSE APPLICATION.* AN APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE SHALL:

4 (1) PAY THE APPLICATION FEE;

5 (2) PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON A FORM CREATED BY THE
6 ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR:

7 (i) THE PHYSICAL LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING(S) IN
8 WHICH ANIMALS WILL BE HOUSED;

9 (ii) THE NAME AND RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF ALL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
10 AND ANY CHANGE IN THE IDENTITY OR RESIDENCE OF ANY
11 RESPONSIBLE PARTY SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL
12 ADMINISTRATOR WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE CHANGE;

13 (iii) A STATEMENT THAT NO RESPONSIBLE PARTY HAS EVER BEEN
14 CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING ANIMAL
15 CRUELTY OR NEGLIGENCE EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY;

16 (iv) A STATEMENT THAT THE ORGANIZATION WILL COMPLY WITH
17 FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY LAWS AND THE STANDARDS OF
18 CARE TO RECEIVE AND MAINTAIN THEIR LICENSE TO OPERATE;

19 (v) A STATEMENT THAT THE BUILDING(S) IN WHICH THE ANIMALS WILL
20 BE HOUSED HAS ADEQUATE WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO COMPLY
21 WITH THE STANDARDS OF CARE;

22 (vi) A STATEMENT THAT THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY WILL COMPLY WITH
23 ALL HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOISE REGULATIONS; AND

24 (vii) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED AGENT.

25 (E) *INSPECTIONS.* THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL COMPLETE AN
26 INSPECTION OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER:

27 (1) WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE INITIAL APPLICATION;

28 (2) YEARLY THEREAFTER WITH EACH RENEWAL OF A LICENSE;

29 (3) MORE FREQUENTLY AT THE DISCRETION OF ADMINISTRATOR.

30 (F) *APPLICATIONS; RESUBMISSIONS OF DENIED APPLICATIONS.*

1 (1) THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATION
2 AND GRANT THE APPLICATION AND ISSUE THE LICENSE UNLESS:

3 (I) THE LICENSE IS INCOMPLETE;

4 (II) THE ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES THE APPLICANT CANNOT MEET
5 THE STANDARDS OF CARE;

6 (III) THE APPLICANT HAS WITHHELD OR FALSIFIED INFORMATION ON THE
7 APPLICATION; OR

8 (IV) ANY RESPONSIBLE PARTY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR
9 MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLECT WITHIN
10 OR OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY.

11 (2) RESUBMISSION OF DENIED APPLICATION: IF THE ADMINISTRATOR
12 DETERMINES THERE IS A DEFICIENCY IN AN APPLICATION, THE APPLICANT
13 MAY CORRECT THE DEFICIENCY AS FOLLOWS:

14 (I) THE APPLICANT MAY CORRECT A DEFICIENCY RELATED TO
15 PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OR (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND RE-APPLY
16 ONE TIME WITHIN A 365 DAY PERIOD.

17 (II) THE APPLICANT MAY NOT CORRECT A DEFICIENCY RELATED TO
18 PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OR (1)(IV) OF THIS SUBSECTION. IN THIS
19 INSTANCE, THE APPLICANT MAY NOT RE-APPLY FOR A LICENSE AND
20 THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL PERMANENTLY BAR THE APPLICANT
21 FROM APPLYING FOR A SUBSEQUENT LICENSE.

22 (G) *LICENSE TERM.* A LICENSE SHALL BE VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE.

23 (H) *FEEES.*

24 (1) *APPLICATION FEE.* THE COUNTY SHALL CHARGE AN APPLICATION FEE THAT
25 IS ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL THAT IS:

26 (1) NONREFUNDABLE; AND

27 (2) DUE UPON APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE;

28 (2) *LICENSE FEE.* THE COUNTY SHALL CHARGE A LICENSE FEE THAT IS ADOPTED
29 BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER
30 THIS SUBTITLE.

1 (i) *LICENSE – SUSPENSION, REVOCATION AND CONDITIONS.* THE ANIMAL CONTROL

2 ADMINISTRATOR MAY:

3 (1) SUSPEND A LICENSE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME FOR ANY CAUSE WHICH IN THE
4 JUDGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY
5 AND HEALTH OF ANIMALS;

6 (2) REVOKE A LICENSE BASED UPON, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY OF THE
7 FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

8 (i) AN INSPECTION BY ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR IS REFUSED;

9 (ii) A RESPONSIBLE PARTY IS CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR
10 MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLECT;

11 (iii) A FALSE STATEMENT WAS MADE ON THE LICENSE APPLICATION; OR

12 (iv) THE SHELTER IS FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE STANDARDS OF
13 CARE;

14 (3) IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON A LICENSE BASED UPON AN INSPECTION PERFORMED
15 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; OR

16 (4) IN THE INSTANCE OF A SUSPENDED OR REVOKED LICENSE, IMPOUND AN
17 ANIMAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.310 OF THIS CODE.

18 (j) *APPEALS.*

19 (1) *WHO MAY APPEAL.* A PERSON MAY APPEAL TO THE BOARD, A DECISION
20 MADE BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE, REVOKE OR
21 APPLY ANY CONDITIONS TO A LICENSE.

22 (2) *ACTIONS BY THE BOARD.* THE BOARD MAY UPHOLD, REVERSE, OR MODIFY
23 THE DECISION MADE BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR.

24 (3) *SCOPE OF APPEAL:* THE ACTION OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR
25 SHALL BE PRESUMED TO BE PROPER AND TO BEST SERVE THE PUBLIC
26 INTEREST. THE BURDEN OF PROOF SHALL BE UPON THE PETITIONER TO SHOW
27 THAT THE DECISION WAS IMPROPERLY RENDERED.

28 (k) *LICENSE RENEWAL:* THE LICENSE APPLICATION AND INSPECTION PROCESS SHALL BE
29 COMPLETED ANNUALLY FOR LICENSE RENEWAL.

30 (l) *APPLICATIONS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF A LICENSE.* AN ANNUAL APPLICATION MUST
31 BE RECEIVED AT LEAST THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF A LICENSE.

1 (M) *RECORDS*: THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF
2 THE LICENSE.

3 (N) *STANDARDS OF CARE FOR PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTERS*. THE OPERATOR OF A PRIVATE
4 ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

5 (1) **BUILDINGS**: THE SHELTER SHALL BE A SAFE, STRUCTURALLY SOUND, AND
6 SANITARY BUILDING THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

7 (I) THE BUILDING SHALL BE FREE FROM ANY STRUCTURAL DEFECTS
8 THAT COULD CAUSE INJURY TO ANIMALS;

9 (II) SURFACES IN ANIMAL AREAS SUCH AS FLOORS, JUNCTIONS, WALLS,
10 DOORS, SHALL BE MADE OF NONPOROUS MATERIAL THAT CAN BE
11 EASILY DISINFECTED;

12 (III) CEILINGS SHALL BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND WITHOUT LEAKS;

13 (IV) ALL AREAS WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT SHALL HAVE ADEQUATE
14 VENTILATION;

15 (V) ALL AREAS WHERE ANIMALS ARE HOUSED INDOORS SHALL BE KEPT;
16 BETWEEN 60-80 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.;

17 A. FOR CATS AND DOGS, BETWEEN 60-80 DEGREES
18 FAHRENHEIT; OR

19 B. FOR ALL OTHER SPECIES, AT THE APPROPRIATE
20 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION FOR THE SPECIES BEING
21 HOUSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN VETERINARY
22 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OR STANDARDS THAT THE
23 ADMINISTRATOR FINDS EQUIVALENT;

24 (VI) THERE SHALL BE WRITTEN POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS IN PLACE TO
25 MAINTAIN ADEQUATE CAPACITY AND PREVENT OVERCROWDING;

26 (VII) THERE SHALL BE ADEQUATE LIGHTING IN THE ANIMAL AREAS.

27 (2) **PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES**: THE SHELTER WILL HAVE PRIMARY
28 ANIMAL ENCLOSURES THAT ARE SAFE AND STRUCTURALLY SOUND AND
29 ENABLE ANIMALS TO REMAIN DRY, CLEAN, AND MAINTAIN PROPER BODY
30 TEMPERATURE AND MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- 1 (I) THE ENCLOSURE SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SPACE TO ALLOW AN
- 2 ANIMAL, REGARDLESS OF SIZE, TO HOLD THEIR TAIL ERECT AND
- 3 HEAD HIGH WHEN IN A NORMAL STANDING POSITION;
- 4 (II) THE ANIMAL SHALL BE ABLE TO TURN FREELY AND EASILY STAND,
- 5 SIT, STRETCH, AND MOVE THEIR HEAD WITHOUT CONTACTING THE
- 6 TOP OF THE ENCLOSURE;
- 7 (III) THE ANIMAL SHALL BE ABLE TO LIE IN A RESTING POSITION WITH
- 8 LIMBS EXTENDED;
- 9 (IV) THE ANIMAL SHALL BE ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT AND ASSUME A
- 10 COMFORTABLE POSTURE FOR FEEDING, DRINKING, URINATING, OR
- 11 DEFECATING;
- 12 (V) FOOD AND WATER BOWLS OR OTHER ITEMS IN THE PRIMARY
- 13 ENCLOSURE SHALL NOT IMPEDE THE ANIMAL'S ABILITY TO STRETCH
- 14 OUT;
- 15 (VI) THE ANIMAL SHALL BE ABLE TO SIT, SLEEP, AND EAT AWAY FROM
- 16 AREAS OF ITS ENCLOSURE WHERE IT MAY URINATE OR DEFECATE;
- 17 (VII) THE ENCLOSURE SHALL BE KEPT FREE FROM BUILDUP OF URINE AND
- 18 FECES;
- 19 (VIII) TRANSPORT CARRIERS MAY NOT BE USED AS PRIMARY ENCLOSURES;
- 20 (IX) ANIMALS ARE TO BE PLACED IN A MANNER AND PROXIMITY TO LIMIT
- 21 BARRIER STRESS;
- 22 (X) LATCHES OR OTHER CLOSING DEVICES MUST BE SECURE ENOUGH TO
- 23 KEEP THE ANIMAL IN THE ENCLOSURE, KEEP OTHER ANIMALS OUT OF
- 24 THE ENCLOSURE, AND PREVENT INJURY; AND
- 25 (XI) DROP BOXES ARE NOT PERMITTED.
- 26 (3) **COMMUNAL ENCLOSURES:**
- 27 (I) DOGS OVER THE AGE OF 5 MONTHS MAY NOT BE KEPT COMMUNALLY
- 28 UNLESS THE DOGS PREVIOUSLY LIVED TOGETHER AND ARE SPAYED
- 29 OR NEUTERED;
- 30 (II) CATS OVER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS WHO ARE HOUSED COMMUNALLY
- 31 SHALL BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED; AND

1 (III) ANIMALS WHO ARE HOUSED COMMUNALLY AND WHO ARE
2 OBSERVED FIGHTING OR TO HAVE INJURIES CONSISTENT WITH
3 FIGHTING SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED AND PROVIDED A
4 SINGLE ENCLOSURE.

5 (4) **DISEASE PREVENTION AND SANITATION PRACTICES:** THE SHELTER
6 SHALL ENSURE THAT THE BUILDING, PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES, AND
7 ALL OTHER AREAS WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT ARE CLEANED AT LEAST
8 DAILY TO REDUCE DISEASE TRANSMISSION AMONG ANIMALS, PROTECT
9 HUMAN PUBLIC HEALTH, INCREASE ANIMAL COMFORT, AND MEET THE
10 FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

11 (I) ~~ALL PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES;~~ TO MAINTAIN SANITARY
12 CONDITIONS, ALL FOOD BOWLS; AND WATER BOWLS SHALL BE
13 CLEANED DAILY AND PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES:

14 A. FOR DOGS AND CATS, SHALL BE CLEANED DAILY; AND

15 B. FOR ALL OTHER SPECIES, SHALL BE SPOT CLEANED DAILY TO
16 REMOVE URINE AND FECES, AND FULLY CLEANED AS
17 NECESSARY;

18 (II) ALL PRIMARY ENCLOSURES, FOOD BOWLS, WATER BOWLS, AND
19 BEDDING SHALL BE DISINFECTED BEFORE GIVEN TO A NEW ANIMAL;

20 (III) FLOORS, JUNCTIONS, WALLS, DOORS, AND DRAINS SHALL BE
21 IMMEDIATELY CLEANED AND DISINFECTED AFTER COMING INTO
22 CONTACT WITH FECES, URINE, VOMIT, OR AN ANIMAL KNOWN OR
23 SUSPECTED OF HAVING AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE;

24 (IV) ONLY CLEANING PRODUCTS THAT ARE SAFE FOR ANIMALS AND WITH
25 PROVEN EFFICACY FOR DISINFECTION OF ANIMAL DISEASE SHALL BE
26 USED TO CLEAN ANY AREAS WHERE ANIMALS WILL BE PRESENT;

27 (V) WATER AND FOOD BOWLS SHALL NOT BE LEFT IN THE ENCLOSURE
28 WHILE CLEANING;

29 (VI) ANIMALS ARE REMOVED FROM THE CAGE DURING CLEANING;

30 ~~(VII) THE BUILDING WILL BE KEPT FREE OF FLEAS, FLIES, MOSQUITOES;~~
31 ~~RATS, MICE AND OTHER DISEASE VECTORS OR NUISANCE SPECIES;~~

- 1 (VII) PROPER PROTOCOLS SHALL BE PUT INTO PLACE TO PROTECT
2 AGAINST PESTS AND OTHER DISEASE VECTORS OR NUISANCES;
3 (VIII) TRASH SHALL BE CONTAINED IN CONTAINERS WITH LIDS; AND
4 (IX) SHELTER STAFF, WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID, SHALL BE TRAINED IN
5 SANITATION PROTOCOLS AND A WRITTEN RECORD OF THAT
6 TRAINING KEPT ONSITE AND AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.
- 7 (5) **FOOD AND WATER:**
- 8 (I) FOOD MUST BE SPECIES AND AGE APPROPRIATE AND IN SUFFICIENT
9 QUANTITY TO MAINTAIN PROPER BODY WEIGHT AND CONDITION
10 BASED ON THE BREED OF ANIMAL;
- 11 (II) FOOD SHALL BE FREE FROM WORMS, MOTHS, MOLD, OR OTHER
12 CONTAMINATION AND MUST NOT BE MORE THAN 6 MONTHS PAST
13 THE "SELL BY" DATE;
- 14 (III) OPEN FOOD SHALL BE STORED IN A FOOD-SAFE CONTAINER WITH
15 LID; AND
- 16 (IV) WATER MUST BE CLEAN AND POTABLE AND KEPT IN A SPILL-
17 RESISTANT CONTAINER TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE ANIMAL AT ALL
18 TIMES.
- 19 (6) **MEDICAL STANDARDS:** THE SHELTER SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL ANIMALS
20 ARE MONITORED, ASSESSED, EXAMINED, AND TREATED FOR MEDICAL
21 CONDITIONS UPON ENTRANCE AND DURING THEIR STAY AS FOLLOWS:
- 22 ~~(I) A VETERINARIAN SHALL SUPERVISE THE MEDICAL CARE AND~~
23 ~~TREATMENT OF ANIMALS;~~
- 24 (I) A RESPONSIBLE PARTY SHALL CONSULT WITH A VETERINARIAN FOR
25 THE MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT OF A SICK OR INJURED ANIMAL;
- 26 (II) ALL ANIMALS WITH PARASITES SHALL BE TREATED IMMEDIATELY
27 UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN;
- 28 (III) ANIMALS SHALL BE OBSERVED DAILY FOR SIGNS OF ILLNESS OR
29 INJURY AND NECESSARY VETERINARY TREATMENT SHALL BE
30 OBTAINED;

- 1 (IV) AN ANIMAL APPEARING TO BE EXPERIENCING PAIN, SUFFERING
- 2 DISTRESS, RAPIDLY DETERIORATING HEALTH, LIFE-THREATENING
- 3 PROBLEMS, OR SUSPECTED ZONOTIC DISEASE SHALL BE ASSESSED
- 4 BY A VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY;
- 5 (V) AN ANIMAL WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COMMUNICABLE
- 6 DISEASE TO OTHER ANIMALS OR HUMANS SHALL BE ISOLATED TO
- 7 LIMIT EXPOSURE TO OTHER ANIMALS AND PEOPLE AND SHALL BE
- 8 ASSESSED BY A VETERINARIAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;
- 9 (VI) AN ANIMAL THAT IS OBSERVED TO BE EXPERIENCING MENTAL
- 10 SUFFERING, DISTRESS, OR BEHAVIORAL DETERIORATION SHALL BE
- 11 ASSESSED AND TREATED BY A VETERINARIAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;
- 12 (VII) ALL ANIMALS SHALL BE PROVIDED ON A DAILY BASIS SOME FORM OF
- 13 LIFE ENRICHMENT SUCH AS ACCESS TO TOYS, TREATS, PLAY,
- 14 EXERCISE, AND PETTING;
- 15 (VIII) MEDICATIONS SHALL BE STORED IN A SECURE CONTAINER NOT IN A
- 16 PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURE;
- 17 (IX) DOGS, CATS, AND FERRETS OVER 4 MONTHS OF AGE SHALL HAVE A
- 18 CURRENT RABIES VACCINE AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION UNLESS
- 19 OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY A VETERINARIAN; AND
- 20 (7) **SPAYING OR NEUTERING.** THE PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL REQUIRE
- 21 THAT ANY PERSON WHO ADOPTS AN ANIMAL FROM THE SHELTER SHALL:
- 22 (I) AGREE TO SPAY OR NEUTER THE ANIMAL WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF
- 23 ADOPTION; AND
- 24 (II) SUBMIT RECORDS OF THE PROCEDURE TO THE SHELTER TO BE
- 25 RETAINED ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH (9) OF THIS SUBSECTION.
- 26 (8) **STRAY ANIMALS:** PRIVATE SHELTERS MAY NOT ACCEPT STRAY ANIMALS
- 27 UNLESS THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:
- 28 (I) A FOUND REPORT IS FILED WITH THE ANIMAL CONTROL
- 29 ADMINISTRATOR ON A FORM CREATED BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL
- 30 ADMINISTRATOR;

- 1 (II) THE ANIMAL MUST BE SCANNED FOR A MICROCHIP WITHIN 24 HOURS
- 2 OF ADMISSION; AND
- 3 (III) ~~THE~~ IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 17.310(I)(5) OF THIS CODE,
- 4 THE ANIMAL MUST BE DEEMED ABANDONED AND HELD FOR 30 DAYS
- 5 FROM FILING A FOUND REPORT WITH THE ANIMAL CONTROL
- 6 ADMINISTRATOR BEFORE THE ANIMAL CAN BE RELEASED FOR
- 7 ADOPTION OR OTHER DISPOSITION, ~~UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED~~
- 8 ~~IN WRITING BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR.~~

9 (9) **RECORD KEEPING:** THE FOLLOWING RECORDS SHALL BE KEPT FOR EACH
10 ANIMAL ENTERING THE SHELTER FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS:

- 11 (I) UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, SPECIES, BREED, GENDER, COLOR,
- 12 AGE, WEIGHT;
- 13 (II) WHETHER THE ANIMAL IS INTACT OR STERILIZED;
- 14 (III) DATE OF ENTRY;
- 15 (IV) WHERE THE ANIMAL ORIGINATED FROM;
- 16 (V) A HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR ANIMALS ENTERING FROM OUT-OF-
- 17 STATE, AS REQUIRED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
- 18 AGRICULTURE;
- 19 (VI) DATE AND EXPLANATION OF ALL TREATMENTS AND MEDICAL
- 20 EXAMINATIONS AND PROCEDURES;
- 21 (VII) FINAL DISPOSITION INCLUDING DATE AND TYPE; AND
- 22 (VIII) SPAY OR NEUTER RECORDS.

23 (O) *ENFORCEMENT:* ALTERNATIVELY, OR IN ADDITION TO AND CONCURRENT WITH ALL
24 OTHER REMEDIES, THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR MAY ISSUE A CITATION UNDER
25 SECTION 17.318 OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR OPERATING A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER IN
26 VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING OPERATING A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER
27 WITHOUT A LICENSE OR FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS OF CARE, AND A
28 RECORD OF VIOLATIONS SHALL BE KEPT BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR.

29 (P) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENGAGE IN AN EDUCATIONAL
30 AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

31

1 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that
2 fees authorized by 17.322(h) are waived for one year after the effective date of this Act. Any
3 application for a license submitted more than one year after the effective date of Act is subject to
4 an application fee and a license fee.

5

6 Section 2-3. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,
7 that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.

Amendment 2 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day 5
Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 2

(This amendment makes the following changes in the standards of care:

- 1. Clarifies indoor temperature requirements;*
- 2. Clarifies when primary animal enclosures shall be cleaned;*
- 3. Clarifies language related to pests which may cause disease or nuisance;*
- 4. Clarifies which staff members shall have training as to sanitation protocols;*
- 5. Clarifies the requirement to consult with a veterinarian;*
- 6. Clarifies that the requirement to hold an animal for 30 days is consistent with laws governing the abandonment of animals; and*
- 7. Clarifies that the requirement to obtain a health certificate is a State requirement.)*

1 On page 9, in line 25, after “KEPT” insert a colon.

2

3 On page 9, strike line 26 and substitute:

- 4 “A. FOR CATS AND DOGS, BETWEEN 60-80 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT; OR
- 5 B. FOR ALL OTHER SPECIES, AT THE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION FOR
- 6 THE SPECIES BEING HOUSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN VETERINARY
- 7 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OR STANDARDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR FINDS
- 8 EQUIVALENT;”.

9

10 On page 11, in line 13, strike “ALL PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES,” and substitute “TO
11 MAINTAIN SANITARY CONDITIONS, ALL” and strike the comma after “FOOD BOWLS”.

12

13 On page 11, in line 14, after “DAILY” insert:

- 14 “AND PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES:
- 15 A. FOR DOGS AND CATS, SHALL BE CLEANED DAILY; AND
- 16 B. FOR ALL OTHER SPECIES, SHALL BE SPOT CLEANED DAILY TO REMOVE URINE AND FECES, AND
- 17 FULLY CLEANED AS NECESSARY”.

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On page 11, strike lines 27 and 28, inclusive and in their entirety and substitute:

“(VII) PROPER PROTOCOLS SHALL BE PUT INTO PLACE TO PROTECT AGAINST PESTS AND OTHER DISEASE VECTORS OR NUISANCES;”.

On page 12, in line 1, after “STAFF” insert “, WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID,”.

On page 12, strike lines 19 and 20, inclusive and in their entirety and substitute:

“(I) A RESPONSIBLE PARTY SHALL CONSULT WITH A VETERINARIAN FOR THE MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT OF A SICK OR INJURED ANIMAL;”.

On page 13, in line 27 strike “THE” and substitute “IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 17.310(I)(5) OF THIS CODE, THE” and, in the same line, after “MUST BE” insert “DEEMED ABANDONED AND”.

On page 13, strike beginning with the comma in line 29 down through and including “ADMINISTRATOR” in line 31.

On page 14, in line 9, after “STATE” insert “, AS REQUIRED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE”.

I certify this is a true copy of
Amendment 2 to CBI -2021
passed on April 5, 2021
Michelle Howard
Council Administrator

Amendment 3 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day 5
Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 3

(This amendment requires that the Department conduct an education and outreach campaign about the new license and waives the fees for one year after the effective date of the Act.)

1 On page 14, after line 19, insert:

2 “(P) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENGAGE IN AN EDUCATIONAL AND
3 OUTREACH CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

4

5 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that fees
6 authorized by 17.322(h) are waived for one year after the effective date of this Act. Any application for a
7 license submitted more than one year after the effective date of Act is subject to an application fee and a
8 license fee.”.

I certify this is a true copy of
Amendment 3 to CBI-2021
passed on April 5, 2021
Michelle Anderson
Council Administrator

Amendment 4 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day 6
Date: April 5, 2021

Amendment No. 4

(This amendment clarifies that the Animal Control Administrator may impound animals from private animal shelters that are operating without a license.)

1 On page 1, after line 5, insert:

2 "17.310(a)".

3

4 On page 1, in line 18, insert:

5 "**Section 17.310. - Impoundment and redemption.**

6 (a) Impoundment.

7 (1) The Administrator may impound:

8 (i) A dog, cat, or ferret whose owner has failed to have the animal vaccinated against
9 rabies within seven days after being notified to do so;

10 (ii) An animal whose owner has failed to comply with control, and confinement
11 measures ordered by the Administrator within the time specified by the order;

12 (iii) An animal that has been declared a nuisance by the Administrator, or an animal
13 whose owner receives three citations for disturbing the public peace in a 24-month
14 period, if the citations have not been appealed or have been upheld on appeal;

15 (iv) An animal at large;

16 (v) An animal declared dangerous or potentially dangerous by the Administrator or by
17 another jurisdiction;

18 (vi) An animal declared a threat to public safety and welfare;

19 (vii) An animal whose health or safety is endangered through its owner's cruelty or
20 neglect;

21 (viii) A wild or exotic animal kept in violation of this subtitle;

22 (ix) An animal adopted from the County shelter but which has not been spayed or
23 neutered within the period required by the Administrator; and

1 (x) An animal adopted from the County shelter whose owner has not complied with the
2 terms of the adoption agreement.

3 (XI) AN ANIMAL FROM A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER OPERATING WITHOUT A LICENSE OR
4 WITH A LICENSE THAT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED OR REVOKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
5 SECTION 17.322(i) OF THIS TITLE.”.

6
7 On page 8, in line 24, strike the period after “CARE” and insert a semi-colon.

8
9 On page 8, in line 26, strike the period after “SUBTITLE” and substitute “; OR”.

10
11 On page 8, after line 26, insert:

12 “(4) IN THE INSTANCE OF A SUSPENDED OR REVOKED LICENSE, IMPOUND AN ANIMAL
13 PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.310 OF THIS CODE.”.

I certify this is a true copy of
Amendment 4 to CB1-2021
passed on April 5, 2021
Muhammad Harrood
Council Administrator

Amendment 5 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day 6
Date: April 5, 2021

Amendment No. 5

(This amendment adds an applicability section to the Bill and amends the definition of "private animal shelter" accordingly.

This amendment also makes a clarifying change to the definition of responsible party.)

1 On page 5, in line 8, after "REGULATIONS" insert "APPLICABILITY".

2

3 On page 5, after line 14, insert:

4 "(4) THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES TO A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER THAT:

5 (I) HOUSES, IN ONE LOCATION, MORE THAN THE FOLLOWING NUMBER AND
6 TYPE OF DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY:

7 A. FOR DOGS AND CATS:

8 I. 4 AGE 4 MONTHS OR OLDER; AND

9 II. 15 UNDER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS; AND

10 B. FOR OTHER DOMESTICATED ANIMALS:

11 I. 10 AGE 4 MONTHS OR OLDER; AND

12 II. 15 UNDER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS; AND

13 (II) RE-HOMES, RE REHABILITATES, OR PROVIDES PERMANENT HOUSING TO
14 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT FOR LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY

15 (5) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO:

16 (I) A RETAIL PET STORE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-701 OF THE BUSINESS
17 REGULATIONS ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND;

18 (II) DOG OR CAT FANCIERS WHO HAVE A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER SECTION
19 17.301 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

20 (III) UNLESS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(I) IS MET AS TO THE
21 NUMBER OF ANIMALS, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY FOSTER FOR A PRIVATE
22 ANIMAL SHELTER; OR

1 (IV) A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER THAT IS LICENSED UNDER STATE OR FEDERAL
2 LAW; OR

3 (V) THE HOUSING, RE-HOMING, REHABILITATION OR PERMANENT HOUSING OF
4 LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY.”.

5
6 On page 5, in line 25, after “ANIMALS” insert “, EXCEPT LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY,”.

7
8 On page 5, in line 26, strike “SANCTUARY” and substitute “HOUSING”.

9
10 On page 5, strike beginning with “A PRIVATE ANIMAL” in line 26 down through and including
11 “MONTHS.” in line 29.

12
13 On page 5, in line 31, after “INCLUDES” insert “, WITHOUT LIMITATION,”.

I certify this is a true copy of
Amendment 5 to CB 1-2021
passed on April 5, 2021
Michelle Crossed
Council Administrator

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Council Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. _____

Bill No. 1 -2021

Introduced by the Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT requiring a license for private animal shelters; defining certain terms; authorizing the adoption of certain regulations; providing for certain exemptions; requiring that a license application contain certain information; requiring an application fee; requiring that certain fees be adopted by Resolution of the County Council; providing for inspections; providing that a denied application can be resubmitted under certain conditions; providing for a license term; providing the conditions under which the license can be suspended or revoked; providing for appeals and license renewals; requiring certain records; providing standards of care for private animal shelters; providing for certain penalties; adding to the duties of the Animal Matters Hearing Board; and generally relating to private animal shelters in Howard County.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2021. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2021.

By order _____
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2021 and Passed _____, Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order _____
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this _____ day of _____, 2021 at _____ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive _____, 2021

Calvin Ball, County Executive

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.

1 **Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the
2 Howard County Code is amended as follows:

3 *By amending:*

4 *Title 17. - Public Protection Services.*

5 *Subtitle 3. - Animals.*

6 *17.318(g).*

7 *17.320*

8 *17.321(a)*

9
10 *By adding:*

11 *Title 17. - Public Protection Services.*

12 *Subtitle 3. - Animals.*

13 *Section 17.322. Private Animal Shelter License; Standards*
14 *of Care for Private Animal Shelters.*

15
16 **Title 17. Public Protection Services.**

17 **Subtitle 3. Animals.**

18
19 **Section 17.318. - Civil penalties for violations.**

20 (g) *Fines for Violations of Certain Sections.* The amount of the civil penalty for a violation of
21 this subtitle is:

Code Section Violated	Amount of Fine	
17.301 and 17.306	First Offense	\$25.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	50.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	100.00
	Subsequent Offenses	250.00
17.302	First Offense	50.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	100.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	200.00
	Subsequent Offenses	200.00

17.303	\$250.00 to \$500.00; Board may waive fine if owner agrees to destruction of animal	
17.304 and 17.305	First Offense	100.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	150.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	300.00
	Subsequent Offenses	500.00
17.305A, 17.305B, and 17.306	First Offense	100.00
	Second Offense in a 24-Month period	150.00
	Third Offense in a 24-Month period	300.00
	Subsequent Offenses	500.00
17.307	First Offense	100.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	150.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	300.00
	Subsequent Offenses	500.00
17.311(d)(2)		100.00
17.315	First Offense	100.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	150.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	300.00
	Subsequent Offenses	500.00
17.316	First Offense	25.00
	Second Offense in 24-Month Period	50.00
	Third Offense in 24-Month Period	100.00
	Subsequent Offenses	200.00
17.317		300.00
17.322 (OPERATING WITHOUT A LICENSE)	PER DAY	\$250.00
17.322 (STANDARDS OF CARE)	FIRST OFFENSE IN 24-MONTH PERIOD	\$200.00
	SECOND VIOLATION IN 24-MONTH PERIOD	\$400.00
	THIRD VIOLATION IN 24-MONTH PERIOD	\$600.00
	SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS	\$800.00

1

2 **Section 17.320. Animal Matters Hearing Board.**

3 (a) *Membership:*

- 1 (1) *General provisions.* General provisions applicable to the Board are set forth in
2 subtitle 3, "Boards and Commissions" of title 6, "County Executive and the
3 Executive Branch," of the Howard County Code.
- 4 (2) *Number of members.* There is an Animal Matters Hearing Board consisting of
5 seven members.
- 6 (3) *Qualifications:*
- 7 (i) All members of the Board shall be residents of Howard County.
- 8 (ii) One of the members shall be a veterinarian licensed to practice in
9 Howard County.
- 10 (iii) Three of the remaining members shall have some experience in animal
11 matters.
- 12 (iv) Not more than two members shall be residents of the same council
13 district.
- 14 (4) *Executive Secretary.* The Animal Control Administrator or the Administrator's
15 designee shall serve as Executive Secretary to the Board and shall attend all
16 meetings of the Board.
- 17 (5) *Meetings.* The Board shall meet at least once each month and, if necessary to
18 fulfill its duties and responsibilities, more frequently at the call of the
19 Chairperson.
- 20 (b) *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Board shall:
- 21 (1) Subject to section 22.1000 of the County Code, submit an annual report to the
22 Chief of Police, the County Executive, and the County Council concerning its
23 responsibilities, including recommendations pertaining to legislation, regulations,
24 and fiscal planning;
- 25 (2) Recommend standards for the operation and maintenance of County animal
26 control facilities;
- 27 (3) Recommend standards and procedures for the control, collection, custody, and
28 disposal of animals;
- 29 (4) Review the annual budget for the operation of the animal control facility and
30 make recommendations to the Chief of Police;
- 31 (5) Advise the Chief of Police, the County Executive, and the County Council on
32 animal control regulations and legislation;
- 33 (6) Hold hearings under this subtitle;

- 1 (7) Review and affirm, reverse, or modify actions and decisions of the Animal
2 Control Administrator pursuant to this subtitle;
3 (8) Issue written decisions and orders; [[and]]
4 (9) HEAR APPEALS RELATED TO A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE PURSUANT
5 TO SECTION 17.322(J) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND
6 ([[9]]10) Carry out any other duties mandated by law.

7 (c) *Notice of Board Hearings:*

- 8 (1) When the Board schedules a hearing, it shall give at least 14 days' written notice
9 of the date, time, location, and subject of the hearing to:
10 (i) A. The owner of the animal; and
11 [[(ii)] B. Any person who filed a sworn statement regarding the
12 animal[.] OR
13 (II) A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE LICENSEE OR AN APPLICANT FOR
14 A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE.
15 (2) The notice shall include a copy of any citation issued and sworn statement filed
16 in connection with the subject of the hearing.
17 (3) The Board shall notify a person of a Board hearing by mailing a notice to the
18 person's usual or last-known address, except that it shall notify a person charged
19 with a violation of this subtitle by:
20 (i) Delivering the notice directly to the person;
21 (ii) Mailing the notice first-class mail, return receipt requested; or
22 (iii) Posting the notification at the person's usual or last-known address.
23

24 **Section 17.321. Appeals.**

- 25 (a) *Appeal to Board.* A person may appeal to the Board any of the following actions of the
26 Administrator within seven days after the Administrator's action:
27 (1) A declaration that the person's animal, residence, or facility is a nuisance;
28 (2) A declaration that the person's animal is dangerous or potentially dangerous;
29 (3) A declaration that the person's animal is a threat to public safety;
30 (4) An order requiring the institution of control and confinement measures for the
31 person's animal, but only if the animal has been impounded in connection with
32 the order;
33 (5) Impoundment of the person's animal;
34 (6) Permanent impoundment of the person's animal; [[and]]

- 1 (7) A declaration that the person is not eligible to adopt an animal[[]]; AND
2 (8) A DECISION OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR TO GRANT, DENY, OR
3 IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE PURSUANT TO
4 SECTION 17.322 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5
6 **SECTION 17.322. PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE; STANDARDS OF CARE FOR**
7 **PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTERS.**

8 (A) *ESTABLISHED; PURPOSE; AUTHORITY TO ADOPT REGULATIONS.*

- 9 (1) THERE IS A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE IN HOWARD COUNTY.
10 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE LICENSE IS TO ENSURE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE
11 FOR ANIMALS KEPT IN PRIVATE SHELTERS.
12 (3) AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 17.312(E), THE ANIMAL CONTROL
13 ADMINISTRATOR MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO SET STANDARDS TO
14 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

15 (B) *DEFINITIONS.* IN ADDITION TO THE DEFINITIONS SET FORTH IN SECTION 17.300 OF THIS
16 SUBTITLE, FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE
17 MEANINGS SET FORTH.

- 18 (1) *DROP BOX* MEANS AN UNATTENDED RECEPTACLE WHERE LIVE ANIMALS CAN
19 BE PLACED BY THE PUBLIC FOR LATER SHELTER INTAKE.
20 (2) *LICENSE* SHALL MEAN THE PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE
21 AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION.
22 (3) *PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURE* MEANS ANY STRUCTURE USED CONSISTENTLY
23 TO CONTAIN AN ANIMAL SUCH AS A ROOM, CAGE, KENNEL, OR PEN.
24 (4) *PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER* MEANS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL SHELTER FOR
25 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RE-HOMING,
26 REHABILITATION, OR PERMANENT SANCTUARY. A PRIVATE ANIMAL
27 SHELTER SHALL NOT INCLUDE THE HOUSING OF 4 OR LESS ADULT ANIMALS
28 (4 MONTHS OR OLDER) OR 15 OR LESS ANIMALS UNDER THE AGE OF 4
29 MONTHS.
30 (5) *RESPONSIBLE PARTY* MEANS ANY PERSON IN CONTROL OF OR MANAGING A
31 PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER AND INCLUDES THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OWNER, AND MANAGERS OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER.

(6) *STANDARD OF CARE* MEANS THOSE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (N) OF THIS SECTION THAT INDICATE WHETHER ANIMALS ARE IN A GOOD STATE OF WELFARE

(7) *TRANSPORT CARRIER* MEANS A PORTABLE ENCLOSURE DESIGNED TO TEMPORARILY CONTAIN AN ANIMAL THAT IS BEING TRANSPORTED FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER.

(8) *VETERINARIAN* MEANS A VETERINARIAN WHO IS CURRENTLY LICENSED AND IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS.

(C) *LICENSE REQUIREMENT.* THE OPERATOR OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL OBTAIN AN ANNUAL PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE TO OPERATE.

(D) *LICENSE APPLICATION.* AN APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE SHALL:

(1) PAY THE APPLICATION FEE;

(2) PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON A FORM CREATED BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR:

(i) THE PHYSICAL LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING(S) IN WHICH ANIMALS WILL BE HOUSED;

(ii) THE NAME AND RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF ALL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AND ANY CHANGE IN THE IDENTITY OR RESIDENCE OF ANY RESPONSIBLE PARTY SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE CHANGE;

(iii) A STATEMENT THAT NO RESPONSIBLE PARTY HAS EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLECT EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY;

(iv) A STATEMENT THAT THE ORGANIZATION WILL COMPLY WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY LAWS AND THE STANDARDS OF CARE TO RECEIVE AND MAINTAIN THEIR LICENSE TO OPERATE;

- 1 (v) A STATEMENT THAT THE BUILDING(S) IN WHICH THE ANIMALS WILL
- 2 BE HOUSED HAS ADEQUATE WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO COMPLY
- 3 WITH THE STANDARDS OF CARE;
- 4 (vi) A STATEMENT THAT THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY WILL COMPLY WITH
- 5 ALL HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOISE REGULATIONS; AND
- 6 (vii) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED AGENT.

7 (E) *INSPECTIONS.* THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL COMPLETE AN
8 INSPECTION OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER:

- 9 (1) WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE INITIAL APPLICATION;
- 10 (2) YEARLY THEREAFTER WITH EACH RENEWAL OF A LICENSE;
- 11 (3) MORE FREQUENTLY AT THE DISCRETION OF ADMINISTRATOR.

12 (F) *APPLICATIONS; RESUBMISSIONS OF DENIED APPLICATIONS.*

13 (1) THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATION
14 AND GRANT THE APPLICATION AND ISSUE THE LICENSE UNLESS:

- 15 (i) THE LICENSE IS INCOMPLETE;
- 16 (ii) THE ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES THE APPLICANT CANNOT MEET
- 17 THE STANDARDS OF CARE;
- 18 (iii) THE APPLICANT HAS WITHHELD OR FALSIFIED INFORMATION ON THE
- 19 APPLICATION; OR
- 20 (iv) ANY RESPONSIBLE PARTY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR
- 21 MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLECT WITHIN
- 22 OR OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY.

23 (2) RESUBMISSION OF DENIED APPLICATION: IF THE ADMINISTRATOR
24 DETERMINES THERE IS A DEFICIENCY IN AN APPLICATION, THE APPLICANT
25 MAY CORRECT THE DEFICIENCY AS FOLLOWS:

- 26 (i) THE APPLICANT MAY CORRECT A DEFICIENCY RELATED TO
- 27 PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OR (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND RE-APPLY
- 28 ONE TIME WITHIN A 365 DAY PERIOD.
- 29 (ii) THE APPLICANT MAY NOT CORRECT A DEFICIENCY RELATED TO
- 30 PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OR (1)(IV) OF THIS SUBSECTION. IN THIS
- 31 INSTANCE, THE APPLICANT MAY NOT RE-APPLY FOR A LICENSE AND

1 THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL PERMANENTLY BAR THE APPLICANT
2 FROM APPLYING FOR A SUBSEQUENT LICENSE.

3 (G) *LICENSE TERM.* A LICENSE SHALL BE VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE.

4 (H) *FEES.*

5 (1) *APPLICATION FEE.* THE COUNTY SHALL CHARGE AN APPLICATION FEE THAT
6 IS ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL THAT IS:

7 (1) NONREFUNDABLE; AND

8 (2) DUE UPON APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE;

9 (2) *LICENSE FEE.* THE COUNTY SHALL CHARGE A LICENSE FEE THAT IS ADOPTED
10 BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER
11 THIS SUBTITLE.

12 (I) *LICENSE—SUSPENSION, REVOCATION AND CONDITIONS.* THE ANIMAL CONTROL
13 ADMINISTRATOR MAY:

14 (1) SUSPEND A LICENSE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME FOR ANY CAUSE WHICH IN THE
15 JUDGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY
16 AND HEALTH OF ANIMALS;

17 (2) REVOKE A LICENSE BASED UPON, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY OF THE
18 FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

19 (I) AN INSPECTION BY ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR IS REFUSED;

20 (II) A RESPONSIBLE PARTY IS CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR
21 MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLECT;

22 (III) A FALSE STATEMENT WAS MADE ON THE LICENSE APPLICATION; OR

23 (IV) THE SHELTER IS FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE STANDARDS OF
24 CARE.

25 (3) IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON A LICENSE BASED UPON AN INSPECTION PERFORMED
26 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

27 (J) *APPEALS.*

28 (1) *WHO MAY APPEAL.* A PERSON MAY APPEAL TO THE BOARD, A DECISION
29 MADE BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE, REVOKE OR
30 APPLY ANY CONDITIONS TO A LICENSE.

1 (2) *ACTIONS BY THE BOARD.* THE BOARD MAY UPHOLD, REVERSE, OR MODIFY
2 THE DECISION MADE BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR.

3 (3) *SCOPE OF APPEAL:* THE ACTION OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR
4 SHALL BE PRESUMED TO BE PROPER AND TO BEST SERVE THE PUBLIC
5 INTEREST. THE BURDEN OF PROOF SHALL BE UPON THE PETITIONER TO SHOW
6 THAT THE DECISION WAS IMPROPERLY RENDERED.

7 (K) *LICENSE RENEWAL:* THE LICENSE APPLICATION AND INSPECTION PROCESS SHALL BE
8 COMPLETED ANNUALLY FOR LICENSE RENEWAL.

9 (L) *APPLICATIONS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF A LICENSE.* AN ANNUAL APPLICATION MUST
10 BE RECEIVED AT LEAST THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF A LICENSE.

11 (M) *RECORDS:* THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF
12 THE LICENSE.

13 (N) *STANDARDS OF CARE FOR PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTERS.* THE OPERATOR OF A PRIVATE
14 ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

15 (1) **BUILDINGS:** THE SHELTER SHALL BE A SAFE, STRUCTURALLY SOUND, AND
16 SANITARY BUILDING THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

17 (I) THE BUILDING SHALL BE FREE FROM ANY STRUCTURAL DEFECTS
18 THAT COULD CAUSE INJURY TO ANIMALS;

19 (II) SURFACES IN ANIMAL AREAS SUCH AS FLOORS, JUNCTIONS, WALLS,
20 DOORS, SHALL BE MADE OF NONPOROUS MATERIAL THAT CAN BE
21 EASILY DISINFECTED;

22 (III) CEILINGS SHALL BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND WITHOUT LEAKS;

23 (IV) ALL AREAS WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT SHALL HAVE ADEQUATE
24 VENTILATION;

25 (V) ALL AREAS WHERE ANIMALS ARE HOUSED INDOORS SHALL BE KEPT
26 BETWEEN 60-80 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT;

27 (VI) THERE SHALL BE WRITTEN POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS IN PLACE TO
28 MAINTAIN ADEQUATE CAPACITY AND PREVENT OVERCROWDING;

29 (VII) THERE SHALL BE ADEQUATE LIGHTING IN THE ANIMAL AREAS.

30 (2) **PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES:** THE SHELTER WILL HAVE PRIMARY
31 ANIMAL ENCLOSURES THAT ARE SAFE AND STRUCTURALLY SOUND AND

1 ENABLE ANIMALS TO REMAIN DRY, CLEAN, AND MAINTAIN PROPER BODY
2 TEMPERATURE AND MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- 3 (I) THE ENCLOSURE SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SPACE TO ALLOW AN
4 ANIMAL, REGARDLESS OF SIZE, TO HOLD THEIR TAIL ERECT AND
5 HEAD HIGH WHEN IN A NORMAL STANDING POSITION;
- 6 (II) THE ANIMAL SHALL BE ABLE TO TURN FREELY AND EASILY STAND,
7 SIT, STRETCH, AND MOVE THEIR HEAD WITHOUT CONTACTING THE
8 TOP OF THE ENCLOSURE;
- 9 (III) THE ANIMAL SHALL BE ABLE TO LIE IN A RESTING POSITION WITH
10 LIMBS EXTENDED;
- 11 (IV) THE ANIMAL SHALL BE ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT AND ASSUME A
12 COMFORTABLE POSTURE FOR FEEDING, DRINKING, URINATING, OR
13 DEFECATING;
- 14 (V) FOOD AND WATER BOWLS OR OTHER ITEMS IN THE PRIMARY
15 ENCLOSURE SHALL NOT IMPEDE THE ANIMAL'S ABILITY TO STRETCH
16 OUT;
- 17 (VI) THE ANIMAL SHALL BE ABLE TO SIT, SLEEP, AND EAT AWAY FROM
18 AREAS OF ITS ENCLOSURE WHERE IT MAY URINATE OR DEFECATE;
- 19 (VII) THE ENCLOSURE SHALL BE KEPT FREE FROM BUILDUP OF URINE AND
20 FECES;
- 21 (VIII) TRANSPORT CARRIERS MAY NOT BE USED AS PRIMARY ENCLOSURES;
- 22 (IX) ANIMALS ARE TO BE PLACED IN A MANNER AND PROXIMITY TO LIMIT
23 BARRIER STRESS;
- 24 (X) LATCHES OR OTHER CLOSING DEVICES MUST BE SECURE ENOUGH TO
25 KEEP THE ANIMAL IN THE ENCLOSURE, KEEP OTHER ANIMALS OUT OF
26 THE ENCLOSURE, AND PREVENT INJURY; AND
- 27 (XI) DROP BOXES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

28 (3) **COMMUNAL ENCLOSURES:**

- 29 (1) DOGS OVER THE AGE OF 5 MONTHS MAY NOT BE KEPT COMMUNALLY
30 UNLESS THE DOGS PREVIOUSLY LIVED TOGETHER AND ARE SPAYED
31 OR NEUTERED;

1 (II) CATS OVER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS WHO ARE HOUSED COMMUNALLY
2 SHALL BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED; AND

3 (III) ANIMALS WHO ARE HOUSED COMMUNALLY AND WHO ARE
4 OBSERVED FIGHTING OR TO HAVE INJURIES CONSISTENT WITH
5 FIGHTING SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED AND PROVIDED A
6 SINGLE ENCLOSURE.

7 (4) **DISEASE PREVENTION AND SANITATION PRACTICES:** THE SHELTER
8 SHALL ENSURE THAT THE BUILDING, PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES, AND
9 ALL OTHER AREAS WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT ARE CLEANED AT LEAST
10 DAILY TO REDUCE DISEASE TRANSMISSION AMONG ANIMALS, PROTECT
11 HUMAN PUBLIC HEALTH, INCREASE ANIMAL COMFORT, AND MEET THE
12 FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

13 (I) ALL PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES, FOOD BOWLS, AND WATER
14 BOWLS SHALL BE CLEANED DAILY;

15 (II) ALL PRIMARY ENCLOSURES, FOOD BOWLS, WATER BOWLS, AND
16 BEDDING SHALL BE DISINFECTED BEFORE GIVEN TO A NEW ANIMAL;

17 (III) FLOORS, JUNCTIONS, WALLS, DOORS, AND DRAINS SHALL BE
18 IMMEDIATELY CLEANED AND DISINFECTED AFTER COMING INTO
19 CONTACT WITH FECES, URINE, VOMIT, OR AN ANIMAL KNOWN OR
20 SUSPECTED OF HAVING AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE;

21 (IV) ONLY CLEANING PRODUCTS THAT ARE SAFE FOR ANIMALS AND WITH
22 PROVEN EFFICACY FOR DISINFECTION OF ANIMAL DISEASE SHALL BE
23 USED TO CLEAN ANY AREAS WHERE ANIMALS WILL BE PRESENT;

24 (V) WATER AND FOOD BOWLS SHALL NOT BE LEFT IN THE ENCLOSURE
25 WHILE CLEANING;

26 (VI) ANIMALS ARE REMOVED FROM THE CAGE DURING CLEANING;

27 (VII) THE BUILDING WILL BE KEPT FREE OF FLEAS, FLIES, MOSQUITOES,
28 RATS, MICE AND OTHER DISEASE VECTORS OR NUISANCE SPECIES;

29 (VIII) TRASH SHALL BE CONTAINED IN CONTAINERS WITH LIDS; AND

1 (IX) SHELTER STAFF SHALL BE TRAINED IN SANITATION PROTOCOLS AND
2 A WRITTEN RECORD OF THAT TRAINING KEPT ONSITE AND
3 AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

4 (5) **FOOD AND WATER:**

5 (I) FOOD MUST BE SPECIES AND AGE APPROPRIATE AND IN SUFFICIENT
6 QUANTITY TO MAINTAIN PROPER BODY WEIGHT AND CONDITION
7 BASED ON THE BREED OF ANIMAL;

8 (II) FOOD SHALL BE FREE FROM WORMS, MOTHS, MOLD, OR OTHER
9 CONTAMINATION AND MUST NOT BE MORE THAN 6 MONTHS PAST
10 THE "SELL BY" DATE;

11 (III) OPEN FOOD SHALL BE STORED IN A FOOD-SAFE CONTAINER WITH
12 LID; AND

13 (IV) WATER MUST BE CLEAN AND POTABLE AND KEPT IN A SPILL-
14 RESISTANT CONTAINER TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE ANIMAL AT ALL
15 TIMES.

16 (6) **MEDICAL STANDARDS:** THE SHELTER SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL ANIMALS
17 ARE MONITORED, ASSESSED, EXAMINED, AND TREATED FOR MEDICAL
18 CONDITIONS UPON ENTRANCE AND DURING THEIR STAY AS FOLLOWS:

19 (I) A VETERINARIAN SHALL SUPERVISE THE MEDICAL CARE AND
20 TREATMENT OF ANIMALS;

21 (II) ALL ANIMALS WITH PARASITES SHALL BE TREATED IMMEDIATELY
22 UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN;

23 (III) ANIMALS SHALL BE OBSERVED DAILY FOR SIGNS OF ILLNESS OR
24 INJURY AND NECESSARY VETERINARY TREATMENT SHALL BE
25 OBTAINED;

26 (IV) AN ANIMAL APPEARING TO BE EXPERIENCING PAIN, SUFFERING
27 DISTRESS, RAPIDLY DETERIORATING HEALTH, LIFE-THREATENING
28 PROBLEMS, OR SUSPECTED ZOO NOTIC DISEASE SHALL BE ASSESSED
29 BY A VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY;

30 (V) AN ANIMAL WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COMMUNICABLE
31 DISEASE TO OTHER ANIMALS OR HUMANS SHALL BE ISOLATED TO

- 1 LIMIT EXPOSURE TO OTHER ANIMALS AND PEOPLE AND SHALL BE
2 ASSESSED BY A VETERINARIAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;
- 3 (VI) AN ANIMAL THAT IS OBSERVED TO BE EXPERIENCING MENTAL
4 SUFFERING, DISTRESS, OR BEHAVIORAL DETERIORATION SHALL BE
5 ASSESSED AND TREATED BY A VETERINARIAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;
- 6 (VII) ALL ANIMALS SHALL BE PROVIDED ON A DAILY BASIS SOME FORM OF
7 LIFE ENRICHMENT SUCH AS ACCESS TO TOYS, TREATS, PLAY,
8 EXERCISE, AND PETTING;
- 9 (VIII) MEDICATIONS SHALL BE STORED IN A SECURE CONTAINER NOT IN A
10 PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURE;
- 11 (IX) DOGS, CATS, AND FERRETS OVER 4 MONTHS OF AGE SHALL HAVE A
12 CURRENT RABIES VACCINE AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION UNLESS
13 OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY A VETERINARIAN; AND
- 14 (7) **SPAYING OR NEUTERING.** THE PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL REQUIRE
15 THAT ANY PERSON WHO ADOPTS AN ANIMAL FROM THE SHELTER SHALL:
- 16 (i) AGREE TO SPAY OR NEUTER THE ANIMAL WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF
17 ADOPTION; AND
- 18 (ii) SUBMIT RECORDS OF THE PROCEDURE TO THE SHELTER TO BE
19 RETAINED ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH (9) OF THIS SUBSECTION.
- 20 (8) **STRAY ANIMALS:** PRIVATE SHELTERS MAY NOT ACCEPT STRAY ANIMALS
21 UNLESS THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:
- 22 (i) A FOUND REPORT IS FILED WITH THE ANIMAL CONTROL
23 ADMINISTRATOR ON A FORM CREATED BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL
24 ADMINISTRATOR;
- 25 (ii) THE ANIMAL MUST BE SCANNED FOR A MICROCHIP WITHIN 24 HOURS
26 OF ADMISSION; AND
- 27 (iii) THE ANIMAL MUST BE HELD FOR 30 DAYS FROM FILING A FOUND
28 REPORT WITH THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR BEFORE THE
29 ANIMAL CAN BE RELEASED FOR ADOPTION OR OTHER DISPOSITION,
30 UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED IN WRITING BY THE ANIMAL
31 CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR.

1 (9) **RECORD KEEPING:** THE FOLLOWING RECORDS SHALL BE KEPT FOR EACH
2 ANIMAL ENTERING THE SHELTER FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS:

3 (I) UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, SPECIES, BREED, GENDER, COLOR,
4 AGE, WEIGHT;

5 (II) WHETHER THE ANIMAL IS INTACT OR STERILIZED;

6 (III) DATE OF ENTRY;

7 (IV) WHERE THE ANIMAL ORIGINATED FROM;

8 (V) A HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR ANIMALS ENTERING FROM OUT-OF-
9 STATE;

10 (VI) DATE AND EXPLANATION OF ALL TREATMENTS AND MEDICAL
11 EXAMINATIONS AND PROCEDURES;

12 (VII) FINAL DISPOSITION INCLUDING DATE AND TYPE; AND

13 (VIII) SPAY OR NEUTER RECORDS.

14 (O) *ENFORCEMENT:* ALTERNATIVELY, OR IN ADDITION TO AND CONCURRENT WITH ALL
15 OTHER REMEDIES, THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR MAY ISSUE A CITATION UNDER
16 SECTION 17.318 OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR OPERATING A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER IN
17 VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING OPERATING A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER
18 WITHOUT A LICENSE OR FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS OF CARE, AND A
19 RECORD OF VIOLATIONS SHALL BE KEPT BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR.

20
21 *Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that*
22 *this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on April 6, 2021.

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2021.

Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2021.

Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2021.

Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2021.

Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2021.

Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

CB1-2021

CALVIN BALL
County Executive



LISA D. MYERS
Chief of Police

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

DATE: December 15, 2020

FROM: Lisa Myers, Chief of Police *APM*

TO: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Testimony and Fiscal Analysis on Legislation Authorizing the License Inspection of Private Animal Shelters

This legislation authorizes the inspection and licensing of privately run animal shelters within Howard County. It sets forth specific criteria for the housing and care of animals. It allows for our Animal Control Division to be proactive, working closely with private organizations that house a large number of domestic animals.

Currently our Animal Control Division can only inspect these types of organizations when, and if, they receive citizen complaints. Often these complaints are only received after conditions within a facility has deteriorated to extremely cruel situations.

Situations such as this have resulted in a large and sudden impound of animals in poor physical and mental condition. These large impoundments exhaust the resources of Animal Control. The costs to the County are in the thousands of dollars. You may recall the January 2020 complaint on Pinky's Playhouse, a cat welfare organization, which resulted in multiple cruelty violations where the animals were living in unsanitary conditions without any heat source. Most people are familiar with the May 2019 search warrant executed at the Animal Welfare Society of Howard County, which resulted in the impoundment of 165 animals who were kept in deplorable conditions.

The criteria set forth in this bill mirrors language in a similar Maryland state bill passed in 2017 that requires the licensing and inspection of municipally operated animal control facilities. The State bill set an annual licensing fee of \$100 with inspections completed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture/Board of Veterinarian Medical Examiners.

In a separate fee resolution, we are recommending a nonrefundable \$50 application fee and a \$50 license fee. We anticipate waiving the application and license fees in the first year to foster a spirit of partnership with the existing private shelters. The forgone fee revenue in the first year is about \$1,000. We expect the license fee in subsequent years to generate about \$500 annually. We anticipate handling inspection services with existing personnel.

By legislating minimum standards and County-based inspections as a condition of operation, this bill will help us prevent animal suffering, avoid costly impounds and promote the health and care of domestic animals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Amendment 1 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

**BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive**

**Legislative Day 5
Date: March 1, 2021**

Amendment No. 1

(This amendment adds an applicability section to the Bill and amends the definition of "private animal shelter" accordingly.)

This amendment also makes a clarifying change to the definition of responsible party.)

1 On page 5, in line 8, after "REGULATIONS" insert "; *APPLICABILITY*".

2

3 On page 5, after line 14, insert:

4 "(4) THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES TO A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER THAT:

5 (i) HOUSES, IN ONE LOCATION, MORE THAN THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF

6 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY:

7 A. 4 ADULTS AGE 4 MONTHS OR OLDER; AND

8 B. 15 UNDER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS; AND

9 (ii) RE-HOMES, REHABILITATES, OR PROVIDES PERMANENT HOUSING TO

10 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT FOR LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY.

11 (5) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO:

12 (i) A RETAIL PET STORE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-701 OF THE BUSINESS

13 REGULATIONS ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND;

14 (ii) DOG OR CAT FANCIERS WHO HAVE A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER SECTION

15 17.301 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

16 (iii) UNLESS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(i) IS MET AS TO THE

17 NUMBER OF DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY FOSTER

18 FOR A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER; OR

19 (iv) A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER THAT IS LICENSED UNDER STATE OR FEDERAL

20 LAW."

21

- 1 On page 5, in line 25, after "ANIMALS" insert ", EXCEPT LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY,".
- 2
- 3 On page 5, in line 26, strike "SANCTUARY" and substitute "HOUSING".
- 4
- 5 On page 5, strike beginning with "A PRIVATE ANIMAL" in line 26 down through and including
- 6 "MONTHS." in line 29.
- 7
- 8 On page 5, in line 31, after "INCLUDES" insert ", WITHOUT LIMITATION,".

Amendment 2 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day 5
Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 2

(This amendment makes the following changes in the standards of care:

- 1. Clarifies indoor temperature requirements;*
- 2. Clarifies when primary animal enclosures shall be cleaned;*
- 3. Clarifies language related to pests which may be cause disease or nuisance;*
- 4. Clarifies which staff members shall have training as to sanitation protocols;*
- 5. Clarifies the requirement to consult with a veterinarian;*
- 6. Clarifies that the requirement to hold an animal for 30 days is consistent with laws governing the abandonment of animals; and*
- 7. Clarifies that the requirement to obtain a health certificate is a State requirement.)*

1 On page 9, in line 25, after “KEPT” insert a colon.

2

3 On page 9, strike line 26 and substitute:

- 4 “A. FOR CATS AND DOGS, BETWEEN 60-80 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT; OR
5 B. FOR ALL OTHER SPECIES, AT THE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION FOR
6 THE SPECIES BEING HOUSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN VETERINARY
7 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OR STANDARDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR FINDS
8 EQUIVALENT;”.

9

10 On page 11, in line 13, strike “ALL PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES,” and substitute “TO
11 MAINTAIN SANITARY CONDITIONS, ALL” and strike the comma after “FOOD BOWLS”.

12

13 On page 11, in line 14, after “DAILY” insert:

- 14 “AND PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES:
15 A. FOR DOGS AND CATS, SHALL BE CLEANED DAILY; AND
16 B. FOR ALL OTHER SPECIES, SHALL BE SPOT CLEANED DAILY TO REMOVE URINE AND FECES, AND
17 FULLY CLEANED AS NECESSARY”.

1

2 On page 11, strike lines 27 and 28, inclusive and in their entirety and substitute:

3 “(VII) PROPER PROTOCOLS SHALL BE PUT INTO PLACE TO PROTECT AGAINST PESTS AND OTHER
4 DISEASE VECTORS OR NUISANCES;”.

5

6 On page 12, in line 1, after “STAFF” insert “, WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID,”.

7

8 On page 12, strike lines 19 and 20, inclusive and in their entirety and substitute:

9 “(1) A RESPONSIBLE PARTY SHALL CONSULT WITH A VETERINARIAN FOR THE MEDICAL
10 CARE AND TREATMENT OF A SICK OR INJURED ANIMAL;”.

11

12 On page 13, in line 27 strike “THE” and substitute “IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 17.310(I)(5)
13 OF THIS CODE, THE” and, in the same line, after “MUST BE” insert “DEEMED ABANDONED AND”.

14

15 On page 13, strike beginning with the comma in line 29 down through and including
16 “ADMINISTRATOR” in line 31.

17

18 On page 14, in line 9, after “STATE” insert “, AS REQUIRED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
19 AGRICULTURE”.

Amendment 3 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

**BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive**

**Legislative Day 5
Date: March 1, 2021**

Amendment No. 3

(This amendment requires that the Department conduct an education and outreach campaign about the new license and waives the fees for one year after the effective date of the Act.)

1 On page 14, after line 19, insert:

2 “(P) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENGAGE IN AN EDUCATIONAL AND
3 OUTREACH CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

4

5 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that fees
6 authorized by 17.322(h) are waived for one year after the effective date of this Act. Any application for a
7 license submitted more than one year after the effective date of Act is subject to an application fee and a
8 license fee.”.

Amendment 4 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day 6
Date: April 5, 2021

Amendment No. 4

(This amendment clarifies that the Animal Control Administrator may impound animals from private animal shelters that are operating without a license.)

1 On page 1, after line 5, insert:

2 "17.310(a)".

3

4 On page 1, in line 18, insert:

5 "Section 17.310. - Impoundment and redemption.

6 (a) Impoundment.

7 (1) The Administrator may impound:

8 (i) A dog, cat, or ferret whose owner has failed to have the animal vaccinated against
9 rabies within seven days after being notified to do so;

10 (ii) An animal whose owner has failed to comply with control, and confinement
11 measures ordered by the Administrator within the time specified by the order;

12 (iii) An animal that has been declared a nuisance by the Administrator, or an animal
13 whose owner receives three citations for disturbing the public peace in a 24-month
14 period, if the citations have not been appealed or have been upheld on appeal;

15 (iv) An animal at large;

16 (v) An animal declared dangerous or potentially dangerous by the Administrator or by
17 another jurisdiction;

18 (vi) An animal declared a threat to public safety and welfare;

19 (vii) An animal whose health or safety is endangered through its owner's cruelty or
20 neglect;

21 (viii) A wild or exotic animal kept in violation of this subtitle;

22 (ix) An animal adopted from the County shelter but which has not been spayed or
23 neutered within the period required by the Administrator; and

1 (x) An animal adopted from the County shelter whose owner has not complied with the
2 terms of the adoption agreement.

3 (XI) AN ANIMAL FROM A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER OPERATING WITHOUT A LICENSE OR
4 WITH A LICENSE THAT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED OR REVOKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
5 SECTION 17.322(I) OF THIS TITLE.”.

6
7 On page 8, in line 24, strike the period after “CARE” and insert a semi-colon.

8
9 On page 8, in line 26, strike the period after “SUBTITLE” and substiute “; OR”.

10
11 On page 8, after line 26, insert:

12 “(4) IN THE INSTANCE OF A SUSPENDED OR REVOKED LICENSE, IMPOUND AN ANIMAL
13 PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.310 OF THIS CODE.”.

Amendment 5 to Council Bill No. 1-2021

BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day 6
Date: April 5, 2021

Amendment No. 5

(This amendment adds an applicability section to the Bill and amends the definition of "private animal shelter" accordingly.

(This amendment also makes a clarifying change to the definition of responsible party.)

1 On page 5, in line 8, after "REGULATIONS" insert "APPLICABILITY".

2

3 On page 5, after line 14, insert:

4 "(4) THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES TO A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER THAT:

5 (I) HOUSES, IN ONE LOCATION, MORE THAN THE FOLLOWING NUMBER AND
6 TYPE OF DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY:

7 A. FOR DOGS AND CATS:

8 I. 4 AGE 4 MONTHS OR OLDER; AND

9 II. 15 UNDER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS; AND

10 B. FOR OTHER DOMESTICATED ANIMALS:

11 I. 10 AGE 4 MONTHS OR OLDER; AND

12 II. 15 UNDER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS; AND

13 (II) RE-HOMES, RE REHABILITATES, OR PROVIDES PERMANENT HOUSING TO
14 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, EXCEPT FOR LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY

15 (5) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO:

16 (I) A RETAIL PET STORE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-701 OF THE BUSINESS
17 REGULATIONS ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND;

18 (II) DOG OR CAT FANCIERS WHO HAVE A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER SECTION
19 17.301 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

20 (III) UNLESS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(I) IS MET AS TO THE
21 NUMBER OF ANIMALS, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY FOSTER FOR A PRIVATE
22 ANIMAL SHELTER; OR

1 (IV) A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER THAT IS LICENSED UNDER STATE OR FEDERAL
2 LAW; OR

3 (V) THE HOUSING, RE-HOMING, REHABILITATION OR PERMANENT HOUSING OF
4 LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY.”.

5
6 On page 5, in line 25, after “ANIMALS” insert “, EXCEPT LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY,”.

7
8 On page 5, in line 26, strike “SANCTUARY” and substitute “HOUSING”.

9
10 On page 5, strike beginning with “A PRIVATE ANIMAL” in line 26 down through and including
11 “MONTHS.” in line 29.

12
13 On page 5, in line 31, after “INCLUDES” insert “, WITHOUT LIMITATION,”.

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis - REVISED

Council Bill No. 1- 2021

Introduced: January 4, 2021

Auditor: Maya Cameron

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation is an increase in fee revenues of \$800 annually beginning the second year of enactment. This is based upon the Administration's intent to waive fees for the first year, as well as the collection of \$100 annually for license and application fees from eight private animal shelters in subsequent years.

According to the Administration, regulating private animal shelters could result in the County avoiding costs in excess of \$250,000 for impounds. This is based on the historical costs of impounds from nonregulated shelters. Costs would include expenses for processing animals into a facility, medical care, and daily care and does not include staffing and overtime expenses.

NOTE: The Auditor's office was not provided documentation of this historical cost and cannot validate the savings.

Council Bill 1- 2021 indicates that the license application process shall be completed annually (page 9, lines 7 and 8) and that the fees collected are the application fee and license fee (page 8, lines 3 through 11). This is inconsistent with the Administration's testimony, in which it indicated it would waive the first year of fees and that only the license fee would be collected in subsequent years.

We have asked for clarification from the Office of Law regarding whether the non-refundable application fee and/or license fee can be waived in the first year without making that notation in the bill or resolution.

The Administration assumes full compliance and therefore does not project revenue collection of civil penalties. (See **Exhibit 1** below for a list of shelters.)

Inspection fees will be included in the licensing fee at no additional charge. Inspections will be completed using current existing personnel and resources.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to amend the Howard County Code (Title 17 - Public Protection Services, Subtitle 3. – Animals) to include requirements for private animal shelters. It establishes standards of care which include guidelines for buildings; animal enclosures; disease prevention;

sanitation practices; and food, water, and medical provisions. Additionally, it establishes the civil penalties noted in **Exhibit 2** below.

Other Comments:

This is a companion legislation to CR11-2021 (which establishes a license fee of \$50 and an application fee of \$50).

Should an applicant who was initially denied decide to re-submit their application within 365 days, the applicant will not be required to re-submit the application fee.

Per the administration, the “Howard County Animal Control (HCAC) Standards of Care December 2016” is being updated to reflect the proposed changes. **A draft revision of this policy has been requested and will be made available to Council upon request.**

Exhibit 1 – Howard County Private Shelters

There are approximately 10 private shelters in Howard County. Per the Administration, this legislation would not apply to two private shelters based on legislative definitions:

<u>Rescue Shelters</u>	<u>Sanctuaries</u>	<u>Not Applicable to Legislation</u>
Small Miracles	Burleigh Manor	Frisky’s Wildlife Sanctuary
Animal Welfare Society	Bentle Friends	Days End Horse Farm Rescue
Lions Den		
K9 Humane		
Kitties & Pitties		
Darby's Cat Rescue		

Exhibit 2 – The Civil Penalties

The civil penalties for violating the requirements of this legislation are as follows:

Code	Penalty	Frequency	Fee
17.322	Operating Without a License	Per Day	\$250.00
17.322	Standards of Care	First Offense in 24-mo. period	\$200.00
	Standards of Care	Second violation in 24-mo. period	\$400.00
	Standards of Care	Third violation in 24-mo. period	\$600.00
	Standards of Care	Subsequent Violations	\$800.00

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 1- 2021

Introduced: January 4, 2021

Auditor: Maya Cameron

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation is an increase in fee revenues between \$400 and \$800 annually beginning the second year of enactment. This is based upon collection of \$50 to \$100 annually for license and application fees from private animal shelters.

Council Bill 1- 2021 indicates that the license application process shall be completed annually (page 9, lines 7 and 8) and that the fees collected are the application fee and license fee (page 8, lines 3 through 11). It is unclear if this is consistent with the intent noted in Council Resolution 11-2021, which seems to indicate a one-time application fee and annual license fee.

We have asked for clarification from the Office of Law regarding whether the non-refundable application fee is collected annually.

In the first year of implementation, the Administration has indicated fees proposed in CR11-2021 will be waived to promote partnership and compliance. The Administration assumes full compliance and therefore does not project revenue collection of civil penalties. (See **Exhibit 1** below for a list of shelters.)

Inspection fees will be included in the licensing fee at no additional charge. Inspections will be completed using current existing personnel and resources.

The following are outstanding questions submitted to the Administration. The Office of the County Auditor requested:

- **Clarification regarding annual renewal fees. Based on CR11-2021, it appears that \$100 in fees are collected annually. However, testimony indicates only the \$50 license fee is collected.**
- **Historical data supporting the savings to the County as a result of shelter compliance based on the Administration's testimony regarding costly impounds.**

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to amend the Howard County Code (Title 17 - Public Protection Services, Subtitle 3. – Animals) to include requirements for private animal shelters. It establishes standards of care which include guidelines for buildings; animal enclosures; disease prevention;

sanitation practices; and food, water, and medical standards. Additionally, it establishes the civil penalties noted in **Exhibit 2** below.

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	Standards of Care	Third violation in 24-mo. period	\$600.00
	Standards of Care	Subsequent Violations	\$800.00

Sayers, Margery

From: Mara Hurwitt & Sam Cox <kabukibun@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 9:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Wimberly, Theo; Sayers, Margery
Subject: Comments on CB 1-2021
Attachments: CB 1-2021 Testimony, Hurwitt.pdf; written comments on Howard County CB 1-2021.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon,

Attached please find a copy of my public testimony on behalf of Friends of Rabbits concerning CB 1-202 from the January 19 County Council meeting and also additional written comments on the proposed legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mara Hurwitt
Vice President, Friends of Rabbits

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
January 19, 2021

Testimony Regarding CB 1-2021
Mara C. Hurwitt, Vice President, Friends of Rabbits

Good evening. I'm Mara Hurwitt, Vice President of Friends of Rabbits, a domestic rabbit rescue headquartered in Columbia and operating in the greater Washington DC metro area.

We share your concerns regarding unregulated private animal shelters, and concur with the intent behind this bill. We take in many rabbits seized in neglect cases, including one from a private shelter in Howard County that required thousands of dollars of veterinary care due to an untreated infection that had abscessed. Her eye was saved only thanks to the outstanding skill of one of the top exotics vets in the region, Dr. Scott Stahl.

Overall, we support the proposed bill. We have no objections to the application procedures, annual license fee, or inspections.

We do, however, have concerns with a few of the provisions, which were clearly drafted with dogs and cats in mind. These particular provisions are either inappropriate or excessively burdensome for an animal rescue such as ours.

(N) STANDARDS OF CARE FOR PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTERS.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND SANITATION PRACTICES.

Paragraph (4) requires that all animal enclosures and bowls be cleaned daily. Our rabbits are kept in large intake cages then moved to puppy exercise pens. We clean the enclosures, litter boxes, bowls, etc. three times a week – which is more often than most rabbit owners. Daily cleaning is unnecessary and we simply do not have the manpower. We ask for appropriate flexibility for shelters caring for animals other than dogs and cats.

MEDICAL STANDARDS.

Paragraph (6) requires that a veterinarian supervise the medical care and treatment of animals. We believe this needs clarification.

We examine all rabbits upon arrival. Any rabbit that exhibits signs of illness or injury at intake or at any other time is taken to a qualified exotics vet for evaluation and treatment. However, as a small foster-based rescue, we do not have a vet on site to assess each animal at intake. Such a requirement is unnecessarily burdensome and would be financially unsustainable for most rescue groups.

STRAY ANIMALS.

Paragraph (8) Stray rabbits are very different from stray dogs. The overwhelming majority of them are intentionally abandoned by their owners and have been living as strays for weeks or months. Very few are microchipped. Therefore, the scanning and 30-day hold provisions are

inappropriate and costly for rabbits. We have no objection to reporting stray animals to the Howard County shelter. Most importantly, this provision should be amended to make clear that it applies only to stray animals caught within Howard County.

RECORD KEEPING.

Paragraph (9) requires a health certificate for animals entering from out of state. As a regional organization, we regularly move rabbits between Maryland, Virginia, and DC. We ask that this requirement be revised to exclude animals coming from Virginia and DC.

We support the bill with these reservations, and request revisions to provide the necessary flexibility for rescues such as ours.

In addition to working with the Howard County Shelter, we routinely pull rabbits from several animal shelters in Maryland and Virginia. By relieving shelter overcrowding and having all our rabbits spayed and neutered – which many of the region’s shelters do not – we play an important role in promoting adopt don’t shop and reducing the number of shelter animals that are euthanized. We ask the Council to make the requested amendments to help us continue our work supporting the regions shelters and the community.

Thank you.

WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING CB 1-2021,
AN ACT TO REGULATE PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTERS IN HOWARD COUNTY, MD

Submitted on behalf of Friends of Rabbits, Inc., a 501(c)(3) animal rescue

Friends of Rabbits supports the County Council's efforts to regulate private animal shelters in order to combat animal neglect and ensure that shelters comply with basic standards for animal care. However, we strongly recommend that the proposed legislation be returned to a drafting committee for revision, and that the committee include representatives of several of the organizations that would be subject to the Act.

Our main concerns were presented in the public testimony presented by our Vice President Mara C. Hurwitt at the January 19 Council hearing on CB 1-2021. (A copy of that testimony will be submitted along with these comments.) However, due to the 3-minute limit on testimony, we were not able to present all our comments and recommendations at the hearing.

The Act takes a "one size fits all" approach that is unsuitable for the different types of private entities it seeks to regulate. It is unclear whether foster-based animal rescues such as ours will even be subject to the Act. We maintain a headquarters at a private residence in Columbia, Maryland, where we intake and quarantine a small number of rabbits at a time and also house some of our rabbits available for adoption; however, most of our foster rabbits are cared for in individual private homes in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Does the presence of our headquarters in Howard County bring us under the Act, or does the fact that we keep most of our rabbits in foster homes outside of the County exempt us?

The Act was clearly drafted with dogs and cats in mind, and some of the provisions are either inappropriate or unnecessarily burdensome for small mammal, avian, or reptile rescues/shelters. These include some of the housing and cleaning requirements, as well as provisions for dealing with stray animals. These concerns were largely addressed in Ms. Hurwitt's testimony, but we wish to reiterate that those portions of the Act need to be revised either to exclude "exotics" (i.e., animals other than dogs and cats) or to create separate, species-appropriate provisions.

The requirements for dealing with stray animals should be revised to explicitly state that the provisions apply only to strays caught within Howard County. Many of the small animal and breed-specific rescues (which may or may not fall under the Act) operating in Howard County are regional and accept animals not only from outside the County, but from outside of Maryland. While it is appropriate for the County to impose animal care requirements on any animal housed within the County, requirements for reporting and holding strays brought from outside the County should be reserved to the jurisdiction where each animal is caught. For species other than dogs and cats that are caught as strays within Howard County, a

requirement to report the possession of the animal to Howard County Animal Control should be sufficient.

Requiring microchip scanning and 30-day hold periods for stray rabbits would be both unnecessary and excessively expensive for a small rescue. As mentioned in Ms. Hurwitt's testimony, "stray" rabbits are almost always intentionally abandoned by their owners. Pet rabbits do not escape by running out the front door like dogs or cats. Rabbits housed (inappropriately) in outdoor hutches sometimes do escape, but if their owners care to have them back, they will ask neighbors, distribute lost pet flyers, post on electronic bulletin boards like Next Door, and/or call the local shelter. Those rabbits are quickly reunited with their owners. The stray rabbits that end up in shelters and rescues have been living "feral" for weeks or months, managing to elude predators and cars (many, sadly, do not) before they are caught by Good Samaritans. No one is waiting anxiously for their return.

Based on our concerns as well as the testimony of other individuals, we believe that the best course of action would be to withdraw CB 1-2021 from consideration at this time and return it to committee for revision. Involving the entities you propose to regulate in the drafting of the Act will result in better legislation that creates more effective and equitable regulations while achieving our shared goal – better care for animals in private shelters without imposing undue burdens that might force reputable animal shelters and rescues to close their doors. We would be happy to participate in such an effort.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors, Friends of Rabbits

www.friendsofrabbits.org
10706 Vista Road, Columbia, MD 21044
P.O. Box 1112, Alexandria, VA 22313-1112

info@friendsofrabbits.org

Sayers, Margery

From: S VanWey <svanwey444@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:13 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Opposition to CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member,

I oppose HC Council Bill CB1-2021 for many reasons. First, this bill is an over reach of Howard County (HC) government to control private animal shelters. HC already has Animal Control and Animal Advocates following the rules and regulations of this bill, it should not impose these on private shelters who have a right to exist and operate within the context of "Private Animal Shelters". Private animal shelters have been operating for many, many years providing care for animals, finding homes, and reuniting pets with owners out of an abundance of love and financial support. Their love and care has been there long before others.

Second, HC should preserve private animal shelters as an adjunct to caring for animals in the county instead of "controlling" every aspect of their operation. Too many animals are euthanized in HC due to lack of shelter space and quick adoptions. Too many rules and regulations on private animal shelters can add to more animals being euthanized because the shelter may not be able to pay CB-1's fees, added employees, and a veterinarian on staff (One has to wonder if HC needs to collect money to offset bad financial decisions on past projects. The fees alone will take away money from the animals for food). In addition, the excessive rules and regulations of CB-1 (15 pages) could run a private shelter out of business and give more and more animals less to no chance of getting adopted.

Third, where's the "civility" in harming a private animal shelter? Why isn't HC looking for ways to help instead of punish? HC government should be asking "How can we help you?" and then do so on behalf of the many homeless animals.

Finally, society does not impose fees and excess rules and regulations on homeless people, why is it ok to do this to animals?

Lastly, for all the stated reasons given above, I oppose CB1-21. I believe HC government should honor and support private animal shelters and their employees and help them educationally and monetarily rather than punish them. It's "civility" in action!

Regards,

W. Susanne VanWey

Sayers, Margery

From: Ralph VanWey <rwvanwey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Opposition to CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member,

I am opposed to CB1-2021 as it imposes too many burdensome controls, rules, regulations, and fees which will close many, if not all, private animal shelters. This will create a major void for places where homeless and helpless animals have a chance to be cared for and then hopefully adopted. Without these private animal shelters, huge numbers of animals will have no temporary home until they are adopted and will end up being euthanized by the county.

A troubling point that came out of the last council meeting, was that "no" input was obtained from the current HC animal shelters in creating CB1.

It makes no sense for the county to be the only organization housing and helping homeless and defenseless animals until they get adopted.

In summary, I oppose CB1-21 as being a major over reach of the county in controlling and regulating private animal shelters.

Regards,

Ralph VanWey

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Opposition to CB1-2021

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 3:14 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: FW: Opposition to CB1-2021

From: S VanWey <svanwey444@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:13 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Opposition to CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member,

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Second, HC should preserve private animal shelters as an adjunct to caring for animals in the county instead of "controlling" every aspect of their operation. Too many animals are euthanized in HC due to lack of shelter space and quick adoptions. Too many rules and regulations on private animal shelters can add to more animals being euthanized because the shelter may not be able to pay CB-1's fees, added employees, and a veterinarian on staff (One has to wonder if HC needs to collect money to offset bad financial decisions on past projects. The fees alone will take away

money from the animals for food). In addition, the excessive rules and regulations of CB-1 (15 pages) could run a private shelter out of business and give more and more animals less to no chance of getting adopted.

Third, where's the "civility" in harming a private animal shelter? Why isn't HC looking for ways to help instead of punish? HC government should be asking "How can we help you?" and then do so on behalf of the many homeless animals.

Finally, society does not impose fees and excess rules and regulations on homeless people, why is it ok to do this to animals?

Lastly, for all the stated reasons given above, I oppose CB1-21. I believe HC government should honor and support private animal shelters and their employees and help them educationally and monetarily rather than punish them. It's "civility" in action!

Regards,

W. Susanne VanWey

CB1-2021

Sayers, Margery

From: Betty Jones <brandt.betty@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:37 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please support CB1 Elizabeth L. Jones 5400 Vantage Point Road Columbia 21044 410-992-1123 Thank you

Sayers, Margery

From: Tabitha Drum <tabitha.drum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony from Public Hearing 1/19/21 on CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Tabitha Drum and I have been volunteering regularly with animal rescues in Howard County since I was stationed at Ft. Meade 7 years ago. I am pleased to see legislation furthering the welfare of animals in HoCo, but as it is currently written, I have 3 points to present in opposition to this legislation. These are the pattern of inadequate response by Animal Control to inhumane shelters that this bill perpetuates, the lack of a plan for communication and expectations between private shelters and Animal Control [AC], and the ongoing legislative silence on how to humanely manage feral or "community" cats.

One of the shelters referenced in the Fee Resolution from HoCo Chief of Police, Animal Welfare Society, became obviously unfit to care for animals in 2015. Myself and several other volunteers spent a year reporting to AC dozens of violations of standards of care and management perpetrated by the Director, resulting in citations and fines for neglect and abuse, as well as appearances before the Animal Matters Hearing Board; but Animal Control constantly claimed they could not shut down AWS, and the Director continued to make the lives of the animals at this shelter miserable. Dozens were killed needlessly and volunteers such as myself who had done everything we could to put a stop to the animal abuse were banned by the Director.

My first point is that in shelters such as these, CB1 as currently written would not provide adequate response to unfit shelters. It appears that CB1's goal is to drive out inhumane shelters by charging a \$250/day fine for operating without a license. However this does not address the problem of shelters such as AWS that continued to operate despite numerous residents' complaints and citations & fines from AC. This bill would penalize all private shelters operating on thin margins (which most are) while shelters with money to pay citation fees continue to endanger and kill animals. The shut-down point for AWS came many years and many dead animals later than it should have, seemingly due to the lack of a limit on tolerated violations, or unwillingness of AC to impound the large number of animals that AWS was permitted to hoard. A more equitable solution would be to require the suspension of inhumane shelters after a certain number of citations have been issued or when any animal is faced with death due to negligence of shelter staff. Any accountability for Animal Control for consistent enforcement would further strengthen this bill.

My second point is that this bill as stated in the fee resolution would require a \$50 application fee and \$50 license fee from shelters, along with penalization fines for those who do not apply and become licensed. Most shelters are operating on the tightest of budgets, and they provide services to the community that Animal Control does not provide. For example, the current policies concerning feral or "community" cats is unclear and leads to many cats falling through the cracks of humane services. However, private shelters and rescues in HoCo have been managing feral cats very proactively, preventing the needless killing of innocent animals. I strongly oppose HoCo draining financial resources from organizations that are providing this type of support to the public.

My third point is this bill also fails to explain how animal shelters will be notified of the new licensing process and requirement, and how long they will have to become licensed before financial penalties are levied against them. The Fee Resolution states that no new personnel need to be hired to carry out the new inspections and licensing, which means these fees are designed to force a profit for the county out of the community welfare service of private shelters. Since shelter inspections and the ability to shut down inhumane shelters are of great importance, I would instead suggest a partnership between AC and private shelters in which regular

inspections are mandated without a fee and violations that are repeated or not remedied are punished by suspension of operation instead of financial punishment.

These are just some of the conditions of the bill which would bring undue stress to private animal shelters and which warrant reconsideration and further editing before the bill is proposed for approval.

Thank you!

Tabitha Drum

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
January 19, 2021

Testimony Regarding CB 1-2021
Mara C. Hurwitt, Vice President, Friends of Rabbits

Good evening. I'm Mara Hurwitt, Vice President of Friends of Rabbits, a domestic rabbit rescue headquartered in Columbia and operating in the greater Washington DC metro area.

We share your concerns regarding unregulated private animal shelters, and concur with the intent behind this bill. We take in many rabbits seized in neglect cases, including one from a private shelter in Howard County that required thousands of dollars of veterinary care due to an untreated infection that had abscessed. Her eye was saved only thanks to the outstanding skill of one of the top exotics vets in the region, Dr. Scott Stahl.

Overall, we support the proposed bill. We have no objections to the application procedures, annual license fee, or inspections.

We do, however, have concerns with a few of the provisions, which were clearly drafted with dogs and cats in mind. These particular provisions are either inappropriate or excessively burdensome for an animal rescue such as ours.

(N) STANDARDS OF CARE FOR PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTERS.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND SANITATION PRACTICES.

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MEDICAL STANDARDS.

Paragraph (6) requires that a veterinarian supervise the medical care and treatment of animals. We believe this needs clarification.

We examine all rabbits upon arrival. Any rabbit that exhibits signs of illness or injury at intake or at any other time is taken to a qualified exotics vet for evaluation and treatment. However, as a small foster-based rescue, we do not have a vet on site to assess each animal at intake. Such a requirement is unnecessarily burdensome and would be financially unsustainable for most rescue groups.

STRAY ANIMALS.

Paragraph (8) Stray rabbits are very different from stray dogs. The overwhelming majority of them are intentionally abandoned by their owners and have been living as strays for weeks or months. Very few are microchipped. Therefore, the scanning and 30-day hold provisions are

inappropriate and costly for rabbits. We have no objection to reporting stray animals to the Howard County shelter. Most importantly, this provision should be amended to make clear that it applies only to stray animals caught within Howard County.

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We support the bill with these reservations, and request revisions to provide the necessary flexibility for rescues such as ours.

In addition to working with the Howard County Shelter, we routinely pull rabbits from several animal shelters in Maryland and Virginia. By relieving shelter overcrowding and having all our rabbits spayed and neutered – which many of the region’s shelters do not – we play an important role in promoting adopt don’t shop and reducing the number of shelter animals that are euthanized. We ask the Council to make the requested amendments to help us continue our work supporting the regions shelters and the community.

Thank you.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Mara C Hurwitt, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Friends of Rabbits to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

CB 1-2021
County Council regarding _____ to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Mara C Hurwitt

Signature: *Mara C Hurwitt*

Date: 01/18/2021

Organization: Friends of Rabbits

10706 Vista Road, Columbia MD 21044
Organization Address: _____

Number of Members: 250

Pam Hurley, President
Name of Chair/President: _____

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support for County Bill 1-2021

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Liz Larson <ealarson1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:15 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; 'Liz Larson' <ealarson1@verizon.net>; 'Lew's Mail' <lewlion@verizon.net>
Subject: Support for County Bill 1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council Members –

We are writing in support of CB1-2021, which establishes licensing requirements and standards of care for animal shelters in Howard County, and further provides for fines for violations thereto. Given the increasing human population in Howard County, and subsequent increase in the number of unwanted animals, this legislation is long-overdue. Sadly, there have been several cases in recent years in which private “shelters” claiming to rescue, care for, and adopt out animals have been proven to have kept animals in egregious and inhumane conditions. Animals kept under human care deserve the best we can offer, not a life of misery. We as a society need to do better, and this bill would put Howard County on the right path to doing so. By introducing the bill, our County Executive has initiated the process. Please support, and pass, CB1-2021. Thank you.

Elisabeth and Lewis Larson
9774 Polished Stone
Columbia, MD
21046

(301) 604-1737

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Vote For CB1-2021

From: Bill <wjsios@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:46 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Vote For CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Deb Jung,
CB1-2021 is being voted on this Tuesday and I am asking you to support it AS IS (i.e., no watering it down).

Our County Executive introduced this much needed and important legislation to stop the many recent animal abuse and cruelty cases in our county. These cases will continue to occur unless there are operating standards and guidelines - with enforcement - for those "rescue" organizations that claim to provide a safe haven for homeless dogs and cats but which in fact are for-profit perpetrators of animal cruelty and abuse.

Any responsible, reputable rescue organization (called "shelters" in the bill) with the welfare of their animals as their primary mission, will have no objection to anything in this bill, because it is based on basic and common sense guidelines and practices. CB1-2021 is good for the animals, good for the rescue/shelter organizations, good for the public who adopt animals from these organizations, and it is good for our county because it stops the cruelty and abuse cases that have become all too commonplace.

Thank you for voting FOR this important bill.

**Bill Serelis
7299 Meadow Wood Way
Clarksville, MD 21029**

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: In Favor of CB-1

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Robyn Evans <evansrobyn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: In Favor of CB-1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member Jung,

I'm writing to you to express my opinion in favor of Council Bill 1, which would require a license to operate a private animal shelter in Howard County. This bill is long overdue. Allowing private individuals to operate animal shelters without oversight has resulted in animal abuse and bad publicity repeatedly over the years in Howard County. A standard of care for all animal sheltering activities is only common sense.

Thank you,

Robyn Evans
10030 The Mending Wall
Wilde Lake
Columbia MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please support CB-1 Private Shelter Legislation

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Ann Selnick <annselnick@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:50 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please support CB-1 Private Shelter Legislation

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am Ann Selnick, a resident of Ellicott City for 31 years. For 26 years I have been an active member of Animal Advocates of Howard County (13 years as president) as well as a volunteer with the Howard County Animal Control and Adoption Center. I mention my background and qualifications to indicate my credibility on the subject and to urge support for CB-1.

Most people are not aware that anyone in Howard County can open a private shelter! There are no guidelines or licensing requirements currently for private shelters in the County. There is NO oversight of private shelters in Howard County. CB-1 addresses these issues.

Private shelters usually accept only highly adoptable animals that they can (theoretically) rehome quickly. Sometimes their pet population becomes unmanageable and the shelter finds itself in serious trouble. One such example of this took place in 2019 when the County took in 165 animals from the Animal Welfare Society. There have been other similar disturbing cases as well.

With uncontrollable numbers the shelter lacks the room to properly house the animals humanly and, in many cases, find themselves unable to finance the needed medical care.

CB-1 is long overdue. This bill spells out minimum standards for private shelters. Howard County unfortunately has experienced the necessity of having to intervene in cases of abuse and neglect where oversight would have helped. CB-1 will provide the means to address concerns with the way animals are housed and treated. The fact that these kinds of private shelters have been allowed to operate unimpeded hurts not only the animals in their care, but risks eroding the public trust in all shelters, even the ethical ones.

CB-1 is a good and necessary bill. I am counting on your support for this important piece of animal welfare legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ann
Selnick**

**Former President-Animal Advocates of
HoCo
Gaither Farm Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042**

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support for CB1

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Bill Groves <billgroves830@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support for CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To me, this is a non-partisan issue. While some of us lead with our hearts and some with our heads, each of us usually has some measure of both feelings and intellect. Both aspects of one's makeup come to bear on this proposed bill.

Animals that are either abandoned or run away from intolerable conditions become lost souls so to speak. They have no one to shelter and feed them and are subject to the freezing cold and oppressive heat. Ultimately, they can also contract and spread disease.

Fortunately, some can be taken in by reputable shelters and adoption facilities and go on to provide love and companionship to us humans. But as we unfortunately know, some of these facilities fall far short in the standards of care they should maintain.

If you have or have ever enjoyed the companionship of a good pet, just imagine that pet being in one of those badly run and even criminally negligent facilities.

I urge each of you to support CB1 tomorrow and thank you in advance for doing so.

Current and former adopter of a pet.

William C. Groves

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support on Bill CB1-2021

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Rita Campbell <rita@allanhomes.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support on Bill CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to ask your support on Bill CB1-2021 by taking positive action to enact this worthy Bill. This Bill creates requirements regarding licensing, inspections of animal shelters, providing standards of care, and required record keeping among other points relating to private animal shelters in Howard County.

I have witnessed first-hand the outcome of an animal shelter that had no regulations or requirements. This led to unhealthy, over-crowded animals barely living in unspeakable conditions and deprived of any life enrichments.

I currently own one of those animals and it has been an on-going effort to renew his health. He was rescued from his rescuers in May of 2019 from Animal Welfare Society, a private shelter that has been closed by Howard County Police and Howard County Animal Control.

This Bill is long overdue and no reputable organization would have a problem with it as it within minimum standards and is in line with the State municipal shelter standards. Only those seeking profit from selling animals and/or hoarders would have issues with a Bill that protects animals.

I have owned pets all my life, am a Howard County resident and business owner since 1999, and also have a ten year tender with Howard County Recreation and Parks working at the Worthington Dog Park.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and please support this Bill so animals have a fighting chance for a fur-ever home.

Respectfully,

Rita Campbell
8566 Autumn Harvest
Ellicott City, MD. 21043
410-977-5702
rita@allanhomes.com

 **Please consider the environment before printing this email**

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Support CB1-2021

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Paula Schultz <pmschul@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please Support CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Madame Councilwoman,

I strongly urge you to support CB1-2021 and vote in favor of it, as written.

Paula Schultz
42-year resident of Howard County
Member of the Animal Matters Hearing Board
Board Member of Animal Advocates of Howard County
10-year Volunteer at the Howard County Animal Control and Adoption Facility

Paula
Animal Advocates of Howard County
www.animal-advocates.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Council Bill CB1-2021

From: Karen Brewer <karen.brewer@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:21 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Council Bill CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Jung,

I am asking for your support in passing CB1-2021 into law. CB1-2021 provides for the licensing, periodic inspections and most importantly a standard of care for the animals in private animal shelters.

Animal Control has had no leverage to remove animals from private shelters or better their conditions following public complaints. Finally media coverage of the confiscation of over 100 animals from Animal Welfare Society in May 2019 let the public see how out of control a private shelter can become without legal oversight.

I would appreciate your support. Thank you.

Karen Brewer
3714 Valley Rd
Ellicott City 21042
karen.brewer@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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-----Original Message-----

From: Claudia Eckstrom <claudiaeckstrom@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilwoman Jung,

I hope you are voting to support CB1. Howard County has seen the need for these overdue guidelines for rescue organizations.

Reputable rescue support these guidelines. Thank you for your support.

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

From: Kirsten Emery <kirsten4780@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fwd: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council and County Executive,

Please pass Bill CB1.

Bill CB1 is long overdue! I can't imagine a reputable animal rescue organization would not be in favor. The bill spells out minimum standards and is in line with the State municipal shelter standards. Howard County unfortunately has seen the necessity and the bill will provide a legitimate means to address concerns with the way animals are housed and treated. The fact that neglectful rescue groups are allowed to operate unimpeded, hurts not only the animals in their care, but risks eroding the public trust in all shelters, even the ethical ones. It's a win for everybody except the bad guys.

Thank You,
Kirsten K. Emery
Howard County Animal
Control & Adoption Center
Volunteer for over 20 years.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Council Bill CB1-2021

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Judy Ammer <judyammer@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Council Bill CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council Member Deb Jung,

I am asking for your support in favor of passing CB1-2021 into law. As a volunteer at Howard County Animal Control (HCAC) for 20 years, I am distressed that some private animal shelters continue to operate despite ongoing inhumane treatment and unsafe conditions. This must stop.

Through the years, I have seen many victims of abuse by private animal "rescue" organizations be brought to HCAC for protective custody. In 2019 alone, there were three major impoundments, including 165 animals confiscated from the Animal Welfare Society (AWS) in May. This was not the first time AWS was charged with cruelty and neglect, yet they've continued to operate because there are no laws in Howard County to shut them down.

AWS is not the only private shelter that has mistreated animals. Tragically, many helpless animals die before HCAC can be alerted and save them. Clearly, an organization's stated goal of caring for animals does not ensure they will follow through with appropriate actions.

Please vote for CB1-2021 and thereby require private animal shelters be licensed, with periodic inspections verifying adherence to proper standards of care.

Thank you.

Judy Ammer
7678 Blueberry Hill Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-796-4529

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Supporting CB1- establish care standards for private animal shelters

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Dr. Martha Gagnon <martgagnon@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Supporting CB1- establish care standards for private animal shelters

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon, Councilwoman Jung,
This letter is in support for CB1. We wholeheartedly support establishing basic standards for private animal shelters that care of pets.
My husband, Bob and I have adopted several wonderful dogs from Howard County Animal Control Facility and worked, as volunteers at that county shelter. We witnessed, first-hand, how a well-run animal adoption center is run. Not every animal welfare agency is so well run, unfortunately. We are very aware that numerous private animal "shelters" are not what they appear to be. In fact, several we have some knowledge of house animals in absolutely horrific conditions. We do not believe it is intrusive to expect all animal adoption and rescue facilities to adhere to basic standards to keep innocent animals safe from harm and insidious neglect.

We understand that some people might think authorities are "picking on" the little guys, those who run private animals shelters, but that belief may come from a lack of inside information about all the abuses going on in these places. If they actually saw, first-hand, what happens to so many animals in quite a few private shelters, they would be disgusted and would agree that there is a need for some oversight. We have seen certain places that do not provide decent food, water or clean shelter to animals in their care. Animals are often housed in filthy, overcrowded, unhealthy conditions. Some have even been known to euthanize some of their animals using out-dated and barbaric, painful methods and pharmaceuticals. it's absolutely shameful. Our county can do better and we must.

It's crazy that such legislation is needed, but it seems that it definitely is, given so many cases of abuse.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help protect animals.

Martha E. Gagnon, Ph.D. Cooksville, MD
Robert M. Gagnon, P.E. Cooksville, MD
14516 Old Frederick Rd.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support for CB1

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: bbice1@verizon.net <bbice1@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <oJones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support for CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmember Jung,

I write to support CB1 which adds provisions governing the creation and operation of private animal shelters in the County to the current Code. Animals in some such "shelters" have been abused and these operations must be regulated. The proposed regulations are reasonable and necessary.

I am a long-time dog owner, past-president of HoCoDOG, Inc., current secretary of the Northern Virginia Brittany Club, and financial supporter of Days End Farm Horse Rescue and American Brittany Rescue.

I hope you will support CB1. Thank you.

Barbara J. Bice
5029 Green Mountain Circle Unit 2
Columbia MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: support of Bill CB1

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Lisa Schoenbrodt <lschoenbrodtslp@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: support of Bill CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Jung,

I am writing to ask your support of Bill CB1. As a resident of Howard County, dog owner and advocate for animals, I believe it is critical that a license be required for private animal shelters that further allows for inspections to be sure that animals are receiving the care that they need and are not residing in inhumane conditions. Thank you for your support of Bill CB1 that acknowledges and enforces procedures for the welfare of animals in Howard County.

Sincerely,

Lisa Schoenbrodt
3702 Ligon Rd
Ellicott City MD 21042

--

Lisa Schoenbrodt, Ed.D, CCC-SLP
Leadabililty LLC
ASHA Certified Speech Language Pathologist
Distinguished Scholar & Fellow, National Academies of Practice

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Debbie Weaver <dcweaver23@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 6:01 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As a Howard County resident for over forty years, as a Howard County employee for over twenty years, and as a Howard County Animal Control volunteer for over ten years, I urge you to support CB1. I have witnessed firsthand the dangers that exist when private animal shelters/rescue groups are allowed to operate in our county without any standards or regulations. Not only do dangers exist for the innocent and inhumanely treated animals, but there are also community environmental dangers such as noise, pollution, and odors. In addition, when Howard County Animal Control officers are repeatedly called upon to investigate complaints, there is an ongoing cost of staff time and taxpayer dollars. Any reputable animal shelter or rescue group should welcome the standards and guidelines that CB1 will provide, and CB1 will reduce the likelihood that unregulated private animal shelters/rescue groups will continue to operate in our county, at the cost of animals' lives, as well as taxpayer dollars.

Many thanks for supporting this essential bill!

Debbie Weaver
13909 Wayside Drive
Clarksville, MD 21029
dcweaver23@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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-----Original Message-----

From: Joyce Barnes <joykbarnes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please support CB1
Thank you Joyce Barnes

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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-----Original Message-----

From: Betty Jones <brandt.betty@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 4:53 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please support bill CB1 Elizabeth L. Jones. 5400 Vantage Point Road 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Marbury <tmarbs44@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

We fully endorse Bill CB1 to establish some basic standards for care of animals who have been placed in the shelter. Please vote in favor.

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1-2021
Attachments: CB1-2021 County Council.doc

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: GOODY ROGERS <grogers2530@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Thank you, Councilwoman Jung. I appreciate your time and consideration for reading the attached letter.

Sincerely,
Goody Rogers

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support of CB1

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Pat Quinn <pjquinn25@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support of CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Jung,

I am in support of CB1 and request you vote to pass as written with no rewrites.

Pat Quinn
4805 South Haven Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043



Virus-free. www.avast.com

January 15, 2021

Dear Councilwoman Jung,

Please support and pass CB1-2021, regarding the licensing, regulation, and oversight of animal rescues in Howard County.

Currently, there are NO regulations and anyone can open a rescue. Some people do this as a moneymaking opportunity with little regard for the well being of the animals. Others, although seemingly well intentioned, are ignorant of the needs of the animals.

As a volunteer at Howard County Animal Control and Adoption Center, I have witnessed first hand the horrific impact that many of these rescues have had on the animals for whom they are supposed to be caring. It tears at one's soul.

I hope that you will see the importance of CB1-2021 and ensure that all animals in Howard County shelters and rescues are protected. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Goody Rogers

2530 Kensington Garden #306

Ellicott City, MD 21043

grogers2530@comcast.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1-2021

Thanks for contacting me. I support the bill.

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: ronnie kinsley <ronniekinsley@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Ms. Jung,

As a Howard County resident since 1970 I'm sending you this message to express my support for CB1-2021. I'm asking you to approve this bill without modification. This bill implements practical and effective practices for the treatment of animals by rescue/shelter organizations.

Thank you,

Ronnie Kinsley
10228 Berkshire Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB 1

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Lane Page <thesecondpage@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 3:06 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>;
LWalsh@howardcountymd.gov; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana
<crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB 1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I have learned that County Executive Ball has introduced a bill, CB1, which would provide oversight for all private shelters and rescues within Howard County. After all the horrors discovered during the recent past at such places, including the County-based Animal Welfare Society, it's about time! I have long wondered why this lapse ever existed.

I cannot imagine any right-minded individual opposing the effort to extend the same protection to all animals in the need of shelter and care. In addition to expressing my support for the bill, I request yours as well.

It is my understanding that other nearby jurisdictions in the state have measures similar to the one proposed by Mr. Ball, while our county, with its reputation for progressive attitudes, fails in caring for beings with whom we share our homes and this earth. What is wrong with this picture of us?

We can't change the world but we can certainly make Howard County a better place for our animal friends.

Thank you very much for your time and your vote,

Lane Page

10361 Sixpence Cir.

Columbia MD 21044

4510-992-5407

thesecondpage@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1 Bill

-----Original Message-----

From: MICHAEL MARION <jmarion619@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:49 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1 Bill

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Jung,

Please support this Bill. Animal abuse in any form must be stopped. Shelters need to give animals in their care the best treatment possible.

Thank you,
Jacqueline Marion

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Bill CB1

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Jeanne Osborne <ojeanneosborne@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 6:37 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Bill CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Jung,

Please vote in favor of CB1, the private shelter bill that includes standards for proper space, food, water, cleanliness, and enrichment such as toys, petting, exercise. All animals deserve this.

Jeanne Osborne
6025 Snow Crystal
Columbia, 21044

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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-----Original Message-----

From: STEVEN WALTERS <sjwalt@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 6:24 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please support this bill.

Steve Walters
Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Bill CB1- Animal Shelters

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: KEN KAPLAN <kp315@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Bill CB1- Animal Shelters

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

----- Original Message -----

From: KEN KAPLAN <kp315@comcast.net>
To: "dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov" <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Date: 01/15/2021 6:12 PM
Subject: Fwd: Bill CB1- Animal Shelters

----- Original Message -----

From: KEN KAPLAN <kp315@comcast.net>
To: "crigby@howardcountymd.gov" <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Date: 01/15/2021 10:14 AM
Subject: Fwd: Bill CB1- Animal Shelters

----- Original Message -----

From: KEN KAPLAN <kp315@comcast.net>
To: "ojones@howardcountymd.gov" <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Date: 01/15/2021 10:13 AM

Subject: Fwd: Bill CB1- Animal Shelters

----- Original Message -----

From: KEN KAPLAN <kp315@comcast.net>

To: "ojones@howardcountygov.org"

<ojones@howardcountygov.org>

Date: 01/15/2021 10:12 AM

Subject: Fwd: Bill CB1- Animal Shelters

----- Original Message -----

From: KEN KAPLAN

<kp315@comcast.net>

To: "ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov"

<ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>

Date: 01/15/2021 10:12 AM

Subject: Bill CB1- Animal Shelters

I am writing to urge you to support this Bill to protect Shelter animals- thank you

Ken Kaplan
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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-----Original Message-----

From: JULIE PRYOR <jpstanley@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:50 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I reside in your district and sincerely hope that you will support the humane treatment of animals in shelters by supporting CB1.

Thank you!

Julie Pryor

5829 Wyndham circle #104

Columbia, Md. 21044

404-512-5051

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:19 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1-2021

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Melissa Major <mlmajor.1968@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:38 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello Councilwoman Jung,

I ask that you support the upcoming vote on CB1-2021 which puts into place a system of standards for private shelters that house animals for adoption.

Thank you,
Melissa Major

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:19 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please support CB-1

Thanks for reaching out. I appreciate your perspective and support the bill.

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Locke Joanne <joanelocke@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:57 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please support CB-1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilwoman Jung,

I was delighted to see that this bill, CB-1, is coming up for a vote. and that it is number #1 - indicating how important it is.

I have been urging for something like this ever since the summer of 2019 when more than 100 animal were confiscated and brought to the Howard County Animal Control and Adoption Center, where I am a volunteer. The animal were in such bad shape it was literally a crime. I wish you could have seen them for yourself. I hope it never happens again in our county.

The bill is long overdue and I fully support it. We can't imagine a reputable organization would not be. The bill spells out minimum standards and is in line with the State municipal shelter standards. Howard County unfortunately has seen the necessity of having oversight (see below) and the bill will provide a legitimate means to address concerns with the way animals are housed and treated. The fact that these kinds of shelters have been allowed to operate unimpeded hurts not only the animals in their care, but risks eroding the public trust in all shelters, even the ethical ones. It's a win for everybody except the bad guys.

<https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2019/07/02/animal-welfare-society-board-members-charged-with-50-counts-of-animal-cruelty-in-columbia/>

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/howard/ph-ho-cf-animal-jail-0809-story.html>

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/baltimore-sun/20100927/281612416741487>

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/laurel/ph-ho-cf-animal-cruelty-0906-20120830-story.html>

This last one no longer operates as a shelter openly, but has dozens of animals impounded in another Animal Control case that has been going on for 18 months; the County taxpayers bear the cost.

Howard County Couple On Trial For Animal Cruelty Charges

Please vote for CB-1. The animals deserve our care and quick action - both now and in the future.

Joanne and Tom Locke

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please VOTE FOR CB1-2021

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Joanne Serelis <jtsgiza@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: 'Joanne Serelis' <jtsgiza@aol.com>
Subject: Please VOTE FOR CB1-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Deb Jung,

CB1-2021 is being voted on this Tuesday and I am asking you to support it AS IS (i.e., no watering it down).

Our County Executive introduced this much needed and important legislation to stop the many recent animal abuse and cruelty cases in our county. These cases will continue to occur unless there are operating standards and guidelines - with enforcement - for those "rescue" organizations that claim to provide a safe haven for homeless dogs and cats but which in fact are for-profit perpetrators of animal cruelty and abuse.

Any responsible, reputable rescue organization (called "shelters" in the bill) with the welfare of their animals as their primary mission, will have no objection to anything in this bill, because it is based on basic and common sense guidelines and practices. CB1-2021 is good for the animals, good for the rescue/shelter organizations, good for the public who adopt animals from these organizations, and it is good for our county because it stops the cruelty and abuse cases that have become all too commonplace.

Thank you for voting FOR this important bill.

**Joanne Serelis
7299 Meadow Wood Way
Clarksville, MD 21029**

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB1

Thank you for sharing your support of the bill. I appreciate your perspective.

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Kathy Osborne <kathyosborne1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin B <cball@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I support CB1. Please vote in favor of CB1, the private shelter bill that includes standards for proper space, food, water, cleanliness, and enrichment such as toys, petting, exercise. All animals deserve this.

Thank you,
Kathy Osborne
HoCo resident and pet adopter

Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Selnick <annselnick@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony in support of CB-1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am Ann Selnick, a resident of Ellicott City for 31 years. For 26 years I have been an active member of Animal Advocates of Howard County (13 years as president) as well as a volunteer with the Howard County Animal Control and Adoption Center. I mention my background and qualifications to indicate my credibility on the subject and to urge support for CB-1.

Most people are not aware that anyone in Howard County can open a private shelter! There are no guidelines or licensing requirements currently for private shelters in the County. There is NO oversight of private shelters in Howard County. CB-1 addresses these issues.

Private shelters usually accept only highly adoptable animals that they can (theoretically) rehome quickly. Sometimes their pet population becomes unmanageable and the shelter finds itself in serious trouble. One such example of this took place in 2019 when the County took in 165 animals from the Animal Welfare Society. There have been other disturbing similar cases as well.

With uncontrollable numbers the shelter lacks the room to properly house the animals humanly and, in many cases, find themselves lacking the finances to provide needed medical care.

CB-1 is long overdue. This bill spells out minimum standards for private shelters. Howard County unfortunately has experienced the necessity of having to intervene in cases of abuse and neglect where oversight would have helped. CB-1 will provide the means to address concerns with the way animals are housed and treated. The fact that these kinds of private shelters have been allowed to operate unimpeded hurts not only the animals in their care, but risks eroding the public trust in all shelters, even the ethical ones.

CB-1 is a good and necessary bill. I am counting on your support for this important piece of animal welfare legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann
Selnick

Former President-Animal Advocates of
HoCo
Gaither Farm Road,
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Knight, Karen
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FW: Comments and Suggestion for CB-1
Attachments: HC CB-1 PSC Comments.pdf

From: pscatha@aol.com <pscatha@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:04 AM
To: Knight, Karen <kknight@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: pscatha@aol.com
Subject: Comments and Suggestion for CB-1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Karen,

I went on the Howard County website regarding hearings. I am sending the attachment to you as it appears I would have had to send and sign up for testimony. I am making these comments and suggestions for the Council members and authors of CB-1 as I apparently have too much time on my hands and like things to be done well. I have no plans to testify, I just want to be helpful by providing this information. I am not representing any group. These are comments from me as a Howard County resident. If this can just be emailed to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov tomorrow without having to sign up to testify, please let me know or please forward. Please feel free to advise if I can help in any other way.

Stay Safe and Best Regards,

Peggy Stover-Catha
2123 Mount View Road,
Marriottsville, MD 21104
pscatha@aol.com

Attachment: CB-1 Comments and Suggestions by Peggy Stover-Catha

Introduced _____
 Public Hearing _____
 Council Action _____
 Executive Action _____
 Effective Date _____

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 1

Bill No. 1 -2021

Introduced by the Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

DRAFT COMMENTS-SUGGESTIONS BY PEGGY STOVER-CATHA (HOWARD COUNTY RESIDENT) SEE BOLD AND ITALICIZED SECTIONS.

My comments focus mainly on the definitions in Title 17, Subtitle 3 (17.300) and the new definitions in this proposed CB1 Bill. It is always important to assure readers and potential users of the Bill have a clear understanding or correct meaning to avoid confusion and conflict. A reliance on common sense understandings is not always effective or accurate. My review, to find the possible best terms and definitions for this Bill, included the review of Howard County Zoning definitions (Zoning Section 103), Title 17 Subtitle 3 definition (Animals), various Federal Regulation definitions and public animal welfare groups literature dealing with the protection of animals. I have also printed and scanned for your reference some of the relevant definitions for review and consideration. It seems the most important need is to revise or enhance the definition of "PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER" AND TERMS INCLUDED WITHIN THE DEFINITION. See Section 17.322 A and B for suggested changes. Additional consideration should be given to how residential versus commercial properties are covered or included where activities to be covered could take place. For certain private facilities having a large number of animals or some designated number of domesticated animals in their care, custody and control relevant to the intent of this proposed Bill, consider the addition of a section for the need for "Emergency Plans, Activity Contingency Plans, (written procedures or protocols) and the need for twenty-four-hour coverage. Only the pages/section with comments are being provided with the scanned items at the end.

AN ACT requiring a license for private animal shelters; defining certain terms; authorizing the adoption of certain regulations; providing for certain exemptions; requiring that a license application contain certain information; requiring an application fee; requiring that certain fees be adopted by Resolution of the County Council; providing for inspections; providing that a denied application can be resubmitted under certain conditions; providing for a license term; providing the conditions under which the license can be suspended or revoked; providing for appeals and license renewals; requiring certain records; providing standards of care for private animal shelters; providing for certain penalties; adding to the duties of the Animal Matters Hearing Board; and generally relating to private animal shelters in Howard County.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2021. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2021.

- 1 (7) A declaration that the person is not eligible to adopt an animal[.]; AND
2 (8) A DECISION OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR TO GRANT, DENY, OR
3 IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE PURSUANT TO
4 SECTION 17.322 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
5

6 **SECTION 17.322. PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE; STANDARDS OF CARE FOR**
7 **PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTERS.**

8 (A) *ESTABLISHED; PURPOSE; AUTHORITY TO ADOPT REGULATIONS.*

- 9 (1) THERE IS A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE IN HOWARD COUNTY.
10 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE LICENSE IS TO ENSURE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE
11 *FOR ANIMALS KEPT IN PRIVATE SHELTERS. See comments on "Animal"*
and Domesticated Animal definitions. The clarity of "What Animals" is
key as well as by "Who".
12 (3) AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 17.312(E), THE ANIMAL CONTROL
13 ADMINISTRATOR MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO SET STANDARDS TO
14 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

15 (B) *DEFINITIONS.* IN ADDITION TO THE DEFINITIONS SET FORTH IN SECTION 17.300 OF THIS
16 SUBTITLE, FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE
17 MEANINGS SET FORTH.

- 18 (1) *DROP BOX* MEANS AN UNATTENDED RECEPTACLE WHERE LIVE ANIMALS CAN
19 BE PLACED BY THE PUBLIC FOR LATER SHELTER INTAKE.
20 (2) *LICENSE* SHALL MEAN THE PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE
21 AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION.
22 (3) *PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURE* MEANS ANY STRUCTURE (See Zoning definitions
Section 103. "Building"- A structure with exterior walls and a roof which combine to
form a structure used for occupancy or activities of persons, for the shelter of animals
or..... Also see Zoning definitions Section 103. "Structure" – Anything constructed or
built. See use of "Building" also in section N. (1) page 9 of this Bill.
USED CONSISTENTLY
23 *TO CONTAIN AN ANIMAL SUCH AS A ROOM, CAGE, KENNEL, (See Zoning*
definitions Section 103. "Kennel" – Any establishment for the overnight boarding,
breeding or training of dogs or cats for which a fee is charged.....) OR PEN.
(Given the broad definition of "domesticated animal" other terms
should be considered for addressing the intent of providing proper
protection, care, space, etc.) For example- the "Animal" definition is not
limited to dogs and cats either in the existing "Animal" and
"Domesticated Animal" definitions, it also includes livestock and
poultry and ferrets, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, and so on – see
definitions scanned and added for review). Consider edits. One example

may be – “Primary enclosure means any structure or device used to restrict an animal or animals to a limited or specific amount of space, such as a room, pen, run, cage, compartment Also, consider adding, or modify – “Housing facility- means any land, premises, shed barn, building, trailer or other structure or area housing intended to house animals.”

24
25
26

- (4) **PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER MEANS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL SHELTER FOR DOMESTICATED ANIMALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RE-HOMING, REHABILITATION, OR PERMANENT SANCTUARY. This is the most important section for the entire document to be clear as to “Who” this applies to. As written, it provides the opportunity for a misunderstanding as to who and what and terms used are unclear when comparing to other Howard County definitions noted (Section 17, Subtitle 300, and Zoning Definitions, Section 103.). Should it be “Shelter” or “Facility” or another term – see existing definition of shelter in Section 17, Subtitle 300, “y”. Also See (r) – Facility. See other scanned internet search definitions and referenced web site for other examples for consideration. One suggested option is:**

PRIVATE ANIMAL FACILITY (need to determine to include residences that may conduct such activities covered as 17.300 facility definition excludes residences)– MEANS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL FACILITY IN WHICH DOMESTICATED ANIMALS ARE MAINTAINED IN A BUILDING, OR PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

WHAT-

- A. **Re-homing (to find another home for an animal, place with another owner.**
- B. **Rehabilitation (generally needs defining some – for example; to provide care and therapy to restore health and to improve the animals overall condition)**
- C. **Permanent Sanctuary - Note: The term “Sanctuary” is not defined in the Animal Control Rules for Domesticated Animals. It should be as follows as an example:
“or Permanent Sanctuary” providing a safe place, refuge and care for the domesticated animal for life.**

Note: As written the use of the term “Domesticated Animal” is defined by the existing animal control rules Title 17, Subtitle 300 Definitions.,

Refer to definitions (b) Animal and (p) Domesticated animal. Scanned and included in this submittal. The Domesticated Animal definition includes a list (but not limited to) – livestock and poultry

and pets such as dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, mice, rats, canaries, parrots, parakeets and mynah birds. Livestock is defined in Title 17, Subtitle 3 Definitions in (u) – Livestock means domesticated animals usually kept on a farm, including but not limited to poultry, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, ponies

The assumption is CB1 applies to all such “example” domesticated animals listed.

Note: Also see zoning definitions Section 103.0 Definitions regarding Farm, Animal Unit, Farming (item C), and Livestock.

As an additional note – Zoning rules allow a number (eight or fewer hens) of poultry to be kept on a Residential Lot. See Chicken Keeping-Residential. Is there a potential conflict with CB1?

Suggested addition: Facilities already authorized by Howard County or licensed by State or Federal Agencies and meeting the intent of this Bill are exempt.

A PRIVATE ANIMAL

27 *SHELTER SHALL NOT INCLUDE THE HOUSING OF 4 OR LESS ADULT ANIMALS*
28 *(4 MONTHS OR OLDER) OR 15 OR LESS ANIMALS UNDER THE AGE OF 4*
29 *MONTHS. Assume this includes all the types of Domesticated Animals*
noted above? If so, other parts of the Bill need to reflect appropriate care
and housing.

30 (5) *RESPONSIBLE PARTY MEANS ANY PERSON IN CONTROL OF OR MANAGING A*
31 *PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER AND INCLUDES THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,*

OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OWNER, AND MANAGERS OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER. *Note: See also existing definitions of "Owner" in Title 17.300 definitions and does this definition include their oversight and control whether a commercial or charitable organization?*

(6) *STANDARD OF CARE* MEANS THOSE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (N) OF THIS SECTION THAT INDICATE WHETHER ANIMALS ARE IN A GOOD STATE OF WELFARE

(7) *TRANSPORT CARRIER* MEANS A PORTABLE ENCLOSURE DESIGNED TO TEMPORARILY CONTAIN AN ANIMAL THAT IS BEING TRANSPORTED FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER.

(8) *VETERINARIAN* MEANS A VETERINARIAN WHO IS CURRENTLY LICENSED AND IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS.

(C) *LICENSE REQUIREMENT.* THE OPERATOR OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL OBTAIN AN ANNUAL PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER LICENSE TO OPERATE.

(D) *LICENSE APPLICATION.* AN APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE SHALL:

(1) PAY THE APPLICATION FEE;

(2) PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON A FORM CREATED BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR:

(i) THE PHYSICAL LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING(S) IN WHICH ANIMALS WILL BE HOUSED;

(ii) THE NAME AND RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF ALL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AND ANY CHANGE IN THE IDENTITY OR RESIDENCE OF ANY RESPONSIBLE PARTY SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE CHANGE;

(iii) A STATEMENT THAT NO RESPONSIBLE PARTY HAS EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLIGENCE EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY;

(iv) A STATEMENT THAT THE ORGANIZATION WILL COMPLY WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY LAWS AND THE STANDARDS OF CARE TO RECEIVE AND MAINTAIN THEIR LICENSE TO OPERATE;

- 1 (V) A STATEMENT THAT THE BUILDING(S) IN WHICH THE ANIMALS WILL
- 2 BE HOUSED HAS ADEQUATE WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO COMPLY
- 3 WITH THE STANDARDS OF CARE;
- 4 (VI) A STATEMENT THAT THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY WILL COMPLY WITH
- 5 ALL HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOISE REGULATIONS; AND
- 6 (VII) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED AGENT.

7 (E) *INSPECTIONS.* THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL COMPLETE AN
8 INSPECTION OF A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER:

- 9 (1) WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE INITIAL APPLICATION;
- 10 (2) **YEARLY** (*is this 12 months/rolling 12 month*) THEREAFTER WITH EACH RENEWAL
OF A LICENSE;
- 11 (3) MORE FREQUENTLY AT THE DISCRETION OF ADMINISTRATOR.

12 (F) *APPLICATIONS; RESUBMISSIONS OF DENIED APPLICATIONS.*

- 13 (1) THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATION
14 AND GRANT THE APPLICATION AND ISSUE THE LICENSE UNLESS:
 - 15 (I) THE LICENSE IS INCOMPLETE;
 - 16 (II) THE ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES THE APPLICANT CANNOT MEET
17 THE STANDARDS OF CARE;
 - 18 (III) THE APPLICANT HAS WITHHELD OR FALSIFIED INFORMATION ON THE
19 APPLICATION; OR
 - 20 (IV) ANY RESPONSIBLE PARTY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR
21 MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLECT WITHIN
22 OR OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY.
- 23 (2) RESUBMISSION OF DENIED APPLICATION: IF THE ADMINISTRATOR
24 DETERMINES THERE IS A DEFICIENCY IN AN APPLICATION, THE APPLICANT
25 MAY CORRECT THE DEFICIENCY AS FOLLOWS:
 - 26 (I) THE APPLICANT MAY CORRECT A DEFICIENCY RELATED TO
27 PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OR (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND RE-APPLY
28 ONE TIME WITHIN A 365 DAY PERIOD.
 - 29 (II) THE APPLICANT MAY NOT CORRECT A DEFICIENCY RELATED TO
30 PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OR (1)(IV) OF THIS SUBSECTION. IN THIS
31 INSTANCE, THE APPLICANT MAY NOT RE-APPLY FOR A LICENSE AND

- 1 (II) CATS OVER THE AGE OF 4 MONTHS WHO ARE HOUSED COMMUNALLY
- 2 SHALL BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED; AND
- 3 (III) ANIMALS WHO ARE HOUSED COMMUNALLY AND WHO ARE
- 4 OBSERVED FIGHTING OR TO HAVE INJURIES CONSISTENT WITH
- 5 FIGHTING SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED AND PROVIDED A
- 6 SINGLE ENCLOSURE.
- 7 (4) **DISEASE PREVENTION AND SANITATION PRACTICES:** THE SHELTER
- 8 SHALL ENSURE THAT THE BUILDING, PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES, AND
- 9 ALL OTHER AREAS WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT ARE CLEANED AT LEAST
- 10 DAILY TO REDUCE DISEASE TRANSMISSION AMONG ANIMALS, PROTECT
- 11 HUMAN PUBLIC HEALTH, INCREASE ANIMAL COMFORT, AND MEET THE
- 12 FOLLOWING STANDARDS:
- 13 (I) ALL PRIMARY ANIMAL ENCLOSURES, FOOD BOWLS, AND WATER
- 14 BOWLS SHALL BE CLEANED DAILY;
- 15 (II) ALL PRIMARY ENCLOSURES, FOOD BOWLS, WATER BOWLS, AND
- 16 BEDDING SHALL BE DISINFECTED BEFORE GIVEN TO A NEW ANIMAL;
- 17 (III) FLOORS, JUNCTIONS, WALLS, DOORS, AND DRAINS SHALL BE
- 18 IMMEDIATELY CLEANED AND DISINFECTED AFTER COMING INTO
- 19 CONTACT WITH FECES, URINE, VOMIT, OR AN ANIMAL KNOWN OR
- 20 SUSPECTED OF HAVING AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE;
- 21 (IV) ONLY CLEANING PRODUCTS THAT ARE SAFE FOR ANIMALS AND WITH
- 22 PROVEN EFFICACY FOR DISINFECTION OF ANIMAL DISEASE SHALL BE
- 23 USED TO CLEAN ANY AREAS WHERE ANIMALS WILL BE PRESENT;
- 24 (V) WATER AND FOOD BOWLS SHALL NOT BE LEFT IN THE ENCLOSURE
- 25 WHILE CLEANING;
- 26 (VI) ANIMALS ARE REMOVED FROM THE CAGE DURING CLEANING;
- 27 (VII) THE BUILDING WILL BE KEPT FREE OF FLEAS, FLIES, MOSQUITOES,
- 28 RATS, MICE AND OTHER DISEASE VECTORS OR NUISANCE SPECIES;
*(NOTE: IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE TOTLALY "FREE" OF
THE LISTED PESTS ETC. THIS SHOULD BE RESTATED
TO ADDRESS HAVING PROCEDURES, PROTOCOLS AND
DEVICES AND/OR CONTROLS IN PLACE TO REDUCE TO
THE MOST EFFECTIVE LEVELS..... OR SOMETHING
LIKE THIS APPROACH.....)*
- 29 (VIII) TRASH SHALL BE CONTAINED IN CONTAINERS WITH LIDS; AND

- 1 (9) **RECORD KEEPING:** THE FOLLOWING RECORDS SHALL BE KEPT FOR EACH
2 ANIMAL ENTERING THE SHELTER FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS:
- 3 (i) UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, SPECIES, BREED, GENDER, COLOR,
4 AGE, WEIGHT;
 - 5 (ii) WHETHER THE ANIMAL IS INTACT OR STERILIZED;
 - 6 (iii) DATE OF ENTRY;
 - 7 (iv) WHERE THE ANIMAL ORIGINATED FROM;
 - 8 (v) A HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR ANIMALS ENTERING FROM OUT-OF-
9 STATE;
 - 10 (vi) DATE AND EXPLANATION OF ALL TREATMENTS AND MEDICAL
11 EXAMINATIONS AND PROCEDURES;
 - 12 (vii) FINAL DISPOSITION INCLUDING DATE AND TYPE; AND
 - 13 (viii) SPAY OR NEUTER RECORDS.
- 14 (o) *ENFORCEMENT:* ALTERNATIVELY, OR IN ADDITION TO AND CONCURRENT WITH ALL
15 OTHER REMEDIES, THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR MAY ISSUE A CITATION UNDER
16 SECTION 17.318 OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR OPERATING A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER IN
17 VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING OPERATING A PRIVATE ANIMAL SHELTER
18 WITHOUT A LICENSE OR FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS OF CARE, AND A
19 RECORD OF VIOLATIONS SHALL BE KEPT BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR.
20
- 21 *Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that*
22 *this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*

SCANNED DEFINITIONS FROM INDEPENDENT REVIEW BY PEGGY STOVER-CATHA ADDED BELOW. FROM HOWARD COUNTY TITLE 17.300 ANIMALS AND ZONING SECTION 103.0 DEFINITIONS. ALSO SEE SCANNED INTERNET SEARCH FOR VARIOUS DEFINITIONS FOR INFORMATION AND YOUR CONSIDERATION AND THE NOTED WEBSITE FOR YOUR INFORMATION-SEARCH FOR OTHER TERMS. PEGGY STOVER-CATHA, MARRIOTTSVILLE, MD PSCATHA2@AOL.COM

1/16/2021

SUBTITLE 3. - ANIMALS | Code of Ordinances | Howard County, MD | Municode Library

- b) *Animal* means every nonhuman vertebrate species, including but not limited to dogs, cats, livestock, and fowl. *Animal* includes every living creature sold or exchanged as a commercial item.
-

https://library.municode.com/md/howard_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=HOCOCO_TIT17PUPRSE_SUBTITLE_3AN

1/1

1/16/2021

SUBTITLE 3. - ANIMALS | Code of Ordinances | Howard County, MD | Municode Library

- (p) *Domesticated animal* means an animal of a species that normally is bred, raised, and accustomed to live in or about human habitation, and normally is dependent on humans for food or shelter. Domesticated animals include but are not limited to livestock and poultry and pets such as dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, mice, rats, canaries, parrots, parakeets, and mynah birds.
-

1/16/2021

SUBTITLE 3. - ANIMALS | Code of Ordinances | Howard County, MD | Municode Library

- (u) *Livestock* means domesticated animals usually kept on a farm, including but not limited to poultry, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, and llamas.
-

1/16/2021

SUBTITLE 3. - ANIMALS | Code of Ordinances | Howard County, MD | Municode Library

- r) *Facility* means a building or property, other than a private residence, in which animals are maintained.
-

1/16/2021

SUBTITLE 3. - ANIMALS | Code of Ordinances | Howard County, MD | Municode Library

- y) *Shelter* means a structure of adequate size, construction and design to protect an animal from all types of inclement weather, provide adequate ventilation, and allow an animal to maintain normal internal body temperature.
-

1/16/2021

SUBTITLE 3. - ANIMALS | Code of Ordinances | Howard County, MD | Municode Library

- w) *Owner* means a person who keeps, possesses, harbors, has custody of, exercises control over, or has a property right in any animal, residence, or facility. If the person is a minor, the parent or legal guardian of the minor shall be considered the owner. *Owner* does not include a veterinary hospital or a commercial boarding or grooming facility caring for the pets of others.
-

Building: A structure with exterior walls and a roof which combine to form a structure used for the occupancy or activities of persons, for the shelter of animals, or for the storage or protection of objects, including but not limited to apartments, barns, dwellings, garages, hotels, offices, restaurants and stores. Signs are not to be considered a building, or part of a building, and are regulated by the Howard County Code.

Structure: Anything constructed or built. The following shall not be considered structures for bulk regulation purposes:

- a. Accessory electric vehicle charging stations, awnings, bus shelters, exterior lighting fixtures, fire hydrants, mail boxes, telephone, electrical or cable equipment boxes, heating and air conditioning units, newspaper boxes and survey monuments;
- b. Gardens, driveways, walks, patios, and parking surfaces;
- c. Ground level decks, limited to decks elevated 18 inches or less above average grade and having no railing, walls or roofing;
- d. Outdoor barbecues and firepits if 18 inches or less high above average grade.
- e. Noise barriers or noise walls;
- f. Signs are not considered to be a structure or part of a structure, and are regulated by the Howard County Code.
- g. Stormwater management facilities;
- h. All structures exempt from setback compliance in Section 128.0.A.
- i. Outdoor riding rings, wet weather pads, and run-in sheds or similar farm structures with a maximum of three walls and a maximum footprint of 500 square feet.
- j. Similar minor structures as determined by the Department of Planning and Zoning on a case-by-case basis.

Basketball hoops, fences, swimming pools and their ancillary equipment, above ground fuel tanks, vending machines, generators, compressors and play equipment that is permanently attached to the ground are considered to be structures.

Kennel: Any establishment for the overnight boarding, breeding or training of dogs or cats for which a fee is charged. Such establishments may include incidental grooming or sale of pet supplies. The ownership of dogs or cats which are part of a household or are owned by the residents of the property and are kept for hunting, or for exhibiting in dog or cat shows or field or obedience trials, and the sale of not more than one litter per year shall not constitute the operation of a kennel.

Livestock: Animals typically kept for farming purposes, such as, but not limited to, cows, goats, horses and other equus, poultry and other fowl, sheep, or swine. Fish and other aquatic animals raised by aquafarming are considered to be livestock. Cats, dogs, rabbits and other similar small animals often kept as pets are not considered to be livestock. Bees are not considered to be livestock.

Farm: A lot or parcel of land used for farming that is 3.0 acres or larger.

Animal Unit: A unit of measurement used to regulate the number of livestock on a residential lot or parcel that is not used as a farm. One Animal Unit equals the following:

- a. One horse, mule or cow
- b. Two ponies, miniature horses, donkeys or pigs.
- c. Four llamas, alpacas or emus.
- d. Ten sheep or goats.

Animal unit ratio requirements for other livestock or immature animals or fowl shall be made on a case by case basis using generally available information on animal unit equivalencies and the generally accepted ratio that one animal unit approximately equals 1,000 pounds of live animal weight. Fish and other aquatic animals in aquafarming facilities are not subject to animal unit requirements.

Farming: The use of land for agricultural purposes, including:

- a. Crop production, apiaries, horticulture, orchards, agricultural nurseries, viticulture, silviculture, aquaculture, and animal and poultry husbandry;
- b. The growing, harvesting and primary processing of agricultural products;
- c. The breeding, raising, training, boarding and general care of livestock for uses other than food, such as sport or show purposes, as pets or for recreation;
- d. The operation of agricultural machinery and equipment that is an accessory use to a principal farming function. Agricultural machinery and equipment may be used on farms that are not the farm on which the machinery and equipment is normally stored;
- e. The construction and maintenance of barns, silos and other similar structures subject to compliance with any applicable bulk regulations;
- f. The transportation, storage, handling and application of fertilizer, soil amendments, pesticides and manure, subject to all Federal, State and Local laws;
- g. The temporary, onsite processing of chickens or rabbits on a farm in accordance with the Agriculture Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and
- h. Other uses directly related to, or as an accessory use of, the premises for agricultural purposes including special farm uses permitted under Section 128.0.I.

Chicken Keeping, Residential: The care and raising of eight or fewer hens, on a residential parcel or lot improved with a single-family detached dwelling. This term does not apply to any other fowl animal, including but not limited to, ducks, geese, peafowl and turkeys. Roosters are not permitted.

Use:

- a. Any purpose for which a structure or a tract of land may be designed, arranged, intended, maintained or occupied; or
- b. Any activity, occupation, business or operation carried on, or intended to be carried on, in a structure, or on a tract of land; except that, wells, septic systems and storm water management systems are not considered uses for purposes of these Zoning Regulations.
- c. The term "permitted use" or its equivalent shall not be deemed to include any nonconforming use.
- d. See Section 128.0.A for uses which are exempt from setback compliance.

Commercial Use: Any use involving in part or in whole the sale or rental of merchandise, materials or services, but not including home occupations as defined in this section.

Lot or Parcel: A piece of land described on a Final Plat or in a deed and recorded in the Land Records of Howard County in accordance with the laws and regulations in effect at the time of recordation.

Charitable or Philanthropic Institution: A private, nonprofit organization whose primary function is to provide health, social, environmental conservation, religious or benevolent services. This term does not include any commercial operation, or any organization whose purpose is to operate a trade or business or to promote the economic advancement of its members, such as a professional or trade association or a labor union. In addition, this term does not include any use category defined or listed in these Zoning Regulations, such as a child day care center, day treatment or care facility, residential care facility, nursing home, private club or lodge, private school, retreat center, museum or hospital.

af) *Private property* means property not owned or controlled by Federal, State, or County Government.

- (h) *Commercial private property* means:
- (1) Property not owned by the State or County Government, that is a shopping center, business location, public or private school, or other property on which a commercial activity takes place.
 - (2) Does not include property used exclusively as a private dwelling.
 - (3) Includes common parking areas of apartment, condominium, and townhome developments.

Internet Search of various animal definitions (cut and paste). Also google search - www.animallaw.info for General Definitions of "Types of Animal Organizations Under State Law.

Animal Rescue: An animal rescue group or organization is one that is dedicated to animal adoption. They take in stray, lost, abandoned and surrendered animals. Most rescue groups are run by volunteers that rely on donations for funding. Some rescue groups have an adoption facility, and others care for animals in their own homes.

Animal Adoption: (often referred to as pet rescue) The act of obtaining (adopting) a pet from an animal shelter or animal rescue organization.

Foster: A volunteer that works with shelters or rescues caring for adoptable animals in their own home until the animal can be placed in a permanent home.

Animal Sanctuaries are typically long-term or permanent housing solution for homeless or unadoptable animals that are privately run and funded.

- **Brick and Mortar Shelter:** an organization with a physical facility used to house animals.
- **Foster-Based:** typically an organization that does not have a facility and whose animals are housed in volunteer homes.
- **Foster Care:** temporary placement for animals while in the custody of an organization. Animals are housed outside of a shelter facility in a home environment.
- **Foster centric shelter:** a shelter that believes foster care is the most humane method of housing homeless pets and that works to find foster homes for all viable animals in their care.

Shelter Types:

- **Municipal:** an organization that provides the animal care services of a city, county, or counties.
- **Municipal Contract:** a private organization that provides contracted services for the animal care of a city, county, or counties.
- **Rescue without a Municipal Contract:** a private organization that has no affiliation to the city or county animal services.
- **Foster based rescue without shelter:** an organization who houses all animals in their custody in foster homes.
- **Rescue**
A program or organization that takes in homeless, stray, surrendered, neglected and/or abused pets, provides the necessary care and works to find them permanent homes.
- **Shelter-** A facility that houses stray and/or surrendered pets for adoption.

Re-homing- the act of re-homing an animal.

Re-home - To find another home for (an animal); place with another owner.

Pet adoption is the process of taking responsibility for a pet that a previous owner has abandoned or released to a shelter or rescue organization. Common sources for adoptable pets are animal shelters and rescue groups

Companion Animal (or 'Pet'): Any domesticated animal socialized and commonly kept, cared for, or possessed by humans within the sphere of the household for companionship, pleasure, protection or personal assistance.

Keeper: Any person who is responsible for the animal, its health and well-being either on a permanent or on a temporary basis or has an animal in (his/her) care or under (his/her) supervision/control.

Sayers, Margery

From: Rita Campbell <rita@allanhomes.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB1-2021 Public written testimony
Attachments: Hello Councilmembers -- 1.17.2021.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

January 17, 2021

Hello Councilmembers,

My name is Rita Campbell and I am a Howard County resident and business owner. *I also own a dog that was saved from a private animal rescue here in Howard County.*

I am writing in support of CB1-2021, the Bill that establishes provisions governing the operation of private animal shelters in Howard County.

On May 10, 2019, 165 animals were removed from the Animal Welfare Society of Howard County by the Howard County Police Department, Howard County Animal Control and Animal Advocates of Howard County due to the unacceptable and in-humane conditions there.

Before I met him, Animal Control took my dog to the veterinarian, where he spent several weeks. His veterinarian report reads that he had pressure sores on both elbows and both hind legs, his coat had a greasy foul odor, and he had significant discharge and inflammation of both his ears. He had old/healing scars over his muzzle and fractured and missing teeth with the enamel missing. I presume the damaged teeth were from frantic attempts to free himself from the crate he lived in. I was told it was half his size.

He had liquid diarrhea and his body weight was approximately half of what it should be.

Since that "shelter" had NO RECORDS on him his age was thought to be 6 years old.

On June 3, I went to pick him up at Howard County Animal Control. He was skin and bones; I could even see his chest plate. He was missing a lot of fur and his skin on his underside was bare and wrinkly like an elephant's. His head looked humongous because his body was so wasted away. And all he did and continued to do for a number of weeks was spin in a circle. Again I have to presume that was because it was the only movement he was used to, living in a basement in a small crate for heaven knows how long.

Once home I began healing him. There were many vet visits for his weight, skin and teeth. He was now eating 9 cups per day of Veterinary prescription food with a slow weight gain. He was placed on the prescription drug Apoquel which is an oral medication that treats and controls itching, irritation and inflammation from various causes such as flea allergies, food allergies and atopic dermatitis, which he remains on today. His ears are being treated with an antibiotic lotion.

I could not kennel him as he would try to bite his way out of the kennel. He would become so anxious he would hyper salivate filling the bottom tray of the kennel completely.

He was being bathed weekly with a medicated shampoo to help the skin. After being on prednisone for 6 weeks we finally got in to see a dermatologist who confirmed he had chronic lichenified dermatitis and a severe Malassezia yeast infection. Lichenified skin has markings giving an elephant skin like appearance. Lichenification is associated with **chronic** inflammation and trauma.

His back legs are getting stronger but still over a year later they are not normal, whether from malnutrition or confinement, we may never know.

The veterinarian thinks he is closer to 3 years old but appeared older due to the condition he was in.

In conclusion, if my dog had received proper care he would not have been in the condition in which he was found. The 60 pound dog is now at his ideal weight, which is 110 pounds.

If his skin issues would have been addressed with veterinary care they would not have escalated as badly as they did. Over a year later with veterinarian care, medications and baths his skin issues are starting to come under control.

If he had been in a properly sized kennel with proper exercise and mental stimulation, he would have not spent his first months of freedom spinning in circles.

And there would have been vet records so I would know what the shelter had already tried.

My boy is extremely smart, very gentle, trustworthy and loyal. He is a good dog who was treated poorly by a place that was supposed to be caring for him as he was waiting for a real home. I find it both admirable and amazing that he is able to trust a human again, after all he has been through.

I stand behind CB1 as it is long overdue and no reputable organization would have a problem with it as it sets minimum standards for the care of animals.

The word shelter means a place which is made to protect people/animals from bad weather or danger. Let's make sure Howard County takes the path to put the meaning back into the word shelter and spare our pets from danger.

Thank you for the opportunity to let me present my experience on why I feel so strongly about CB1.



Photo taken day he was removed from Animal Welfare Society



Tigger - a much healthy, happy dog. August 2020

Respectfully,
Rita Campbell
8566 Autumn Harvest
Ellicott City, MD 21043
rita@allanhomes.com

January 17, 2021

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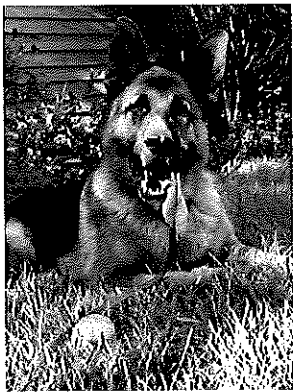
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Photo taken day he was removed from Animal Welfare Society



Tigger - a much healthy, happy dog. August 2020

Respectfully,

Rita Campbell
8566 Autumn Harvest
Ellicott City, MD 21043
rita@allanhomes.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Paula Schultz <pmschul@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Sanders, Barry; Edelman, Debra; Baracco, Deborah
Subject: AMHB Written Testimony in Support of CB1-2021
Attachments: AMHB Statement Supporting CB1-2021.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please find the attached written testimony from the Howard County Animal Matters Hearing Board in support of CB1-2021.

Paula Schultz
Vice Chairperson, Howard County Animal Matters Hearing Board

To: Howard County Council
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of CB1-2021

The Howard County Animal Matters Hearing Board (AMHB) firmly supports CB1-2021 and strongly urges the council to pass the legislation as written.

CB1-2021 requires, for the first time in county history, the licensing of private animal shelters, establishes minimum standards for care of those animals, and authorizes the Howard County Animal Control Administrator to issue and revoke licenses, to inspect, and to issue citations and levy fines for failure to adhere to the requirements of this legislation.

We believe this legislation is long overdue. As a board, we have heard multiple appeals cases over the years from "shelter" operators who have committed egregious acts of cruelty and neglect while swearing they love the animals in their "care".

We questioned why the County Animal Control Administrator did not shut these shelters down. S/he had no authority to do so under current County Code. Even more frustrating was the knowledge that hundreds of animals suffered needlessly while disreputable shelters continued to operate.

We quote, and concur with, the press statement from Animal Advocates of Howard County, a well-respected county non-profit animal advocacy group.

"The bill is long overdue and we're fully in support. We can't imagine a reputable organization would not be. The bill spells out minimum standards and is in line with the State municipal shelter standards. Howard County unfortunately has seen the necessity of having oversight and the bill will provide a legitimate means to address concerns with the way animals are housed and treated. The fact that these kinds of shelters have been allowed to operate unimpeded hurts not only the animals in their care, but risks eroding the public trust in all shelters, even the ethical ones. It's a win for everybody except the bad guys."

We fully understand that the bill requires the AMHB hear appeals related to Private Animal Shelter Licensees or Private Animal Shelter License Applicants, and we welcome the opportunity to participate in the effort to enforce the standards required by this legislation.

Sincerely,

The Howard County Animal Matters Hearing Board
Connie Molter, Chairperson
Paula Schultz, Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Flavia Delmastro, DVM
Nicholas Orechwa
Elaine Ritchey
Dorothy Ruck
LaRee Siddiqui

Sayers, Margery

From: Debbie Weaver <dcweaver23@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Public Testimony in support of CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As a Howard County resident for over forty years, as a Howard County employee for over twenty years, and as a Howard County Animal Control volunteer for over ten years, I strongly support the passage of CB1. I have witnessed firsthand the dangers that exist when private animal shelters/rescue groups are allowed to operate in our county without any standards or regulations. I was volunteering at HCAC during multiple large-scale animal confiscations from private shelters, most notably the private, unregulated Animal Welfare Society on Davis Road. The sight of over 100 dogs and cats: starved, covered in feces, wounded, infected, with many near death and some already dead, has left a lasting impression on all the staff and volunteers at HCAC. The fact that such a situation could so easily exist, undetected and unregulated, almost in the HCAC's backyard is shocking. Even more shocking, however, is the fact that these large scale confiscations from private shelters continue to happen in our county and elsewhere in our state. The establishment of standards and regulations, such as those outlined in CB1, could greatly reduce the chances of these tragedies happening again. Any reputable animal shelter or rescue group should welcome the standards and guidelines that CB1 will provide, and CB1 will reduce the likelihood that unregulated private animal shelters/rescue groups will continue to operate in our county, at the cost of animals' lives, as well as taxpayer dollars.

Many thanks for supporting this essential bill!

Debbie Weaver
13909 Wayside Drive
Clarksville, MD 21029
dcweaver23@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: MAKBLK <circle5064@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support CB1

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As an animal advocate and a long time volunteer at the Howard County Animal Shelter I ask that you please support CB1.

I attended a hoarding hearing in 2020 right before the stay at home order was called and time stopped even more for the dogs cats and birds that are still at the shelter waiting for deserved good homes where they can be loved and give love to families.

There's no excuse for these wonderful animals to be kept in cages for almost two years through no fault of their own because we don't have laws to protect them.

Special thanks to County Executive Ball.

Maria Alvarez
Columbia, MD