

Clerk's Note: renumbering the letters for each paragraph between lines 15-37.

Bill No. 37-21
Concerning: Animal Control – Animal Services Advisory Committee - Established
Revised: 2-7-22 Draft No. 5
Introduced: October 19, 2021
Enacted: February 15, 2022
Executive: February 25, 2022
Effective: May 26, 2022
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. 4, Laws of Mont. Co. 2022

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council Vice President Albornoz
Co-Sponsors: Councilmember Navarro, Council President Hucker, Councilmembers Katz, Jawando, Rice, Riemer, and Glass

AN ACT to:

- (1) establish an Animal Services Advisory Committee;
- (2) establish guidelines for the appointment of members by the Executive;
- (3) assign duties for the Committee; and
- (4) generally amend the law governing animal services in the County.

By adding
Montgomery County Code
Chapter 5, Animal Control
Section 5-105

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Sec. 1. Section 5-105 is added as follows:

5-105. Animal Services Advisory Committee.

(a) Definitions. In this Section the follow words have the meanings indicated:

Animal means as defined in Section 5-101.

Committee means the Animal Services Advisory Committee.

Office means the Office of Animal Services.

(b) Established. There is an Animal Services Advisory Committee. The Executive must appoint the members of the Committee subject to confirmation by the Council.

(c) Composition and terms of members.

(1) The ~~[[Commission]]~~ Committee has 11 voting members and 3 *ex officio* non-voting members.

(2) The Executive should appoint:

(A) 1 licensed veterinarian with pet and wildlife experience;

~~[[C]]~~ (B) 1 person with expertise in animal or pet behavior;

~~[[D]]~~ (C) 1 person with experience in recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers;

~~[[E]]~~ (D) 1 person designated by the Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being (MCPAW) or a similar organization operating in the County if MCPAW is no longer operating in the County;

~~[[F]]~~ (E) 1 person designated by the Second Chance Wildlife Center or a similar organization operating in the County if Second Chance Wildlife Center is no longer operating in the County;

~~[[G]]~~ (F) 1 person representing a non-profit organization that provides animal fostering services in the County;

28 ~~[(H)]~~ (G) 1 person representing the Montgomery County Cat
 29 Coalition or a similar [[an]] organization for feral cats if the
 30 Montgomery County Cat Coalition is no longer operating in
 31 the County;

32 ~~[(I)]~~ (H) 1 person representing Friends of Montgomery
 33 County Animals (FMCA) or a similar organization
 34 operating in the County;

35 ~~[(J)]~~ (I) 1 person representing an animal rescue organization
 36 operating in the County; and

37 ~~[(K)]~~ (J) 2 public members who live or work in the County.

38 (3) Ex officio non-voting members. The Executive must appoint the
 39 following ex officio members:

40 (A) the Director of the Office or the Director's designee;

41 (B) the lead veterinarian for the Office; and

42 (C) the budget operations manager for the Office.

43 (4) The term of each member is 3 years. After an appointment to fill
 44 a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of
 45 the unexpired term.

46 (d) Voting, officers, meetings, and compensation.

47 (1) Except the ex officio members, all members of the Committee are
 48 voting members.

49 (2) The Committee must elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its
 50 voting members.

51 (3) The Committee meets at the call of the Chair. The Committee
 52 must meet as often as necessary to perform its duties, but not less
 53 than 6 times each year.

54 (4) A member must serve without compensation. However, a member
 55 may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs
 56 at rates established by the County.

57 (e) Duties. The [[Commission]] Committee must work with the Office to
 58 advise the Executive and the Council on issues and recommendations for:

- 59 (1) animal care and welfare;
- 60 (2) animal rescue;
- 61 (3) animal fostering and adoption;
- 62 (4) control of the animal population;
- 63 (5) animal bite prevention;
- 64 (6) zoonotic disease transmission;
- 65 (7) educating the public on safely coexisting with wildlife;
- 66 (8) best practices for animal shelters;
- 67 (9) recruiting volunteers for the County animal shelter; and
- 68 (10) the operation of the Office.

69 (f) Requests for information. The Office must respond to Committee
 70 requests for information within 30 days after the Office receives the
 71 request.

72 (g) Annual Report. By July 1 each year, the Committee must submit to the
 73 Executive and the Council an annual report on its functions, activities,
 74 accomplishments, plans, and objectives.

75 (h) Advocacy. The Committee must not engage in any advocacy activity at
 76 the State or federal levels unless that [[activities]] activity is approved by
 77 the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

78 (i) Staff. The Director of the Office must provide appropriate staff to the
 79 Committee.

80 **Sec. 2. Transition.**

81 Notwithstanding paragraph (d)(2), the Executive must designate the Chair and
82 Vice-Chair until the Committee elects the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Executive must
83 stagger the initial terms of the voting members so that the terms of approximately
84 one-third of the members expires each year.

