

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 97-1

AN ACT CONCERNING amendments to Bill No. 97-1 presently pending before the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County;

FOR the purpose of amending TITLE 9. ANIMAL CONTROL of the proposed Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, 1996 Edition, being Article 18 of the Code of Public Laws of Maryland;

BY amending Title 9 of the proposed Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County,
Section 9-101 (y)
Section 9-301 (d)
Section 9-311 (a) by adding a new subparagraph (4)
Section 9-312 (d)
Section 9-313 (b) (1), (c) (d) and (e)
Section 9-315 (a) (1), (b) (2) and (c) (11)
Section 9-316 (c) and (d)
Section 9-402 (b) (1)
Deleting former Section 9-403 and adding new Section 9-403

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY that Bill No. 97-1 be amended as reflected on the attached.

Introduced By: M. L. Zimmer

February 18, 1997, Hearing Date

Vote: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 4, 1997

DIVISION 3. LOCAL REGULATION

TITLE 9. ANIMAL CONTROL

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9.101. Definitions.

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(y) Farm animal.

"Farm animal" means an animal kept or raised on a farm for use and profit, including livestock and fowl. ("Farm" has the meaning given in Title 18 of the Queen Anne's County Code).

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9.301. Dog Licensing.

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(d) Rabies certificate.

Before a license shall be issued, the owner or custodian shall produce a valid rabies certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian proving that the dog is currently vaccinated against rabies.

...

9.311. Public nuisance animal.

(a) Defined terms.

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(4) For the purposes of this section, public nuisance does not include any activity resulting from a farm operation, including but not limited to: production of livestock, pasturing, raising of poultry and fowl, production of eggs, production of milk, and production of bees and honey.

...

9.312. Vicious or dangerous animal.

...

(d) Failure to comply with Commission requirements.

If the owner or custodian of a vicious or dangerous animal is in violation of any requirements that the Animal Control Commission establishes under section 9-313 of this subtitle, an animal control officer may order the violation immediately corrected and cite the owner or custodian for the violation.

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9.313. Same - Requirement by Commission.

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(b) Confinement.

(1) The Animal Control Commission may require an owner or custodian of a dangerous or vicious animal who maintains the animal outside to enclose a portion of his or her property with a perimeter or area fence.

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(c) Same - Outside of enclosure.

The Animal Control Commission may require that a vicious or dangerous animal shall be controlled and restrained a secure collar, muzzle, and leash of sufficient strength to prevent escape whenever outside of its enclosure, but on the owner's or custodian's property.

(d) Warning sign.

The Animal Control Commission may require an owner or custodian of a vicious or dangerous animal to display in a prominent place on the premises, and at each entrance and exit to the area where the animal is confined, a sign easily readable by the public using the words "Dangerous" followed by the type of animal deemed dangerous.

(e) Restraint when off premises.

The Animal Control Commission may require that, except when being transported in a vehicle, a vicious or dangerous animal shall be permitted off the property of its owner or custodian only if it is controlled, humanely restrained by a secure collar and leash, and humanely muzzled by any means sufficient to prevent biting another person or domestic animal. The leash may not exceed six feet in length and shall be of sufficient strength to prevent escape.

...

9.315. Rabies prevention.

(a) Vaccination required.

(1) Every resident of the County owning a dog, cat or ferret four months old or older shall have the dog, cat or ferret vaccinated with an antirabies vaccine approved by the Direction of Public Health.

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(b) Rabies certificate.

...

(2) The owner or custodian of the dog, cat or ferret shall promptly exhibit the rabies certificate upon request for inspection by an animal control officer, health officer, or any law enforcement officer, and shall also exhibit the certificate to the Animal Control Center staff when redeeming the animal at the Center.

...

(c) Exposure to rabies.

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(11) If the animal is not vaccinated, the owner or custodian shall take the animal to a licensed veterinarian for a physical rabies exam and vaccination within five days of the end of quarantine.

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9.316. Impoundment, redemption, and adoption.

(c) Redemption.

An owner or custodian reclaiming an impounded animal shall:

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(d) Abandoned animal.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, an animal impounded and not redeemed by its owner or custodian within three working days shall be deemed abandoned and become the property of the Animal Control Center.

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9.402. Civil penalties.

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(b) Payment of fines.

(1) All fines imposed under this title shall be payable to the Queen Anne's County Finance Department at 107 N Liberty Street, Centreville, Maryland 21617.

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9.403. Duty of local officials. For purposes of this Title:

(a) The Director of the Department of Animal Control or an animal control officer designated by the Director of the Department of Animal Control has the authority to issue an original citation and deliver it to a person believed to be committing a civil violation and is hereby declared to be the Animal Control Officer with the duty of enforcing this Title for that purpose. A copy of each original citation shall be given to the Finance Director.

(b) The Finance Director is hereby declared to be the official with the duty of enforcing this Ordinance, with respect to receiving and filing a copy of each original citation and any fines or notices of intention to stand trial; mailing formal notices of the violation to persons who do not give notice of intention to stand trial or pay the established fine within the time set forth in the citation; and notifying the District Court of any notice of intention to stand trial or any request for adjudication when a fine is not paid after formal notice thereof has been given.

(c) County Attorney. The County Attorney is authorized to prosecute any civil violation under this Title.