

HOUSE BILL 626

M4

7lr1390

By: **Delegates Gilchrist, Miele, Barkley, Bromwell, Buckel, Carr, Chang, Folden, Fraser-Hidalgo, Frush, Healey, Hettleman, Hornberger, Kaiser, Kipke, Kramer, Lam, Long, Luedtke, McComas, McMillan, Metzgar, Morhaim, Patterson, Robinson, Rose, Saab, Vogt, Waldstreicher, K. Young, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture – Animal Shelters – Protocol Implementation and Enforcement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an animal shelter to follow a certain written veterinary care
4 protocol for dogs and cats and a certain written protocol for reclaiming animals;
5 requiring the Department of Agriculture to adopt certain regulations on or before a
6 certain date; and generally relating to animal shelters.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Agriculture

9 Section 2–1701

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2016 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Agriculture

14 Section 2–1703 and 2–1704

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2016 Replacement Volume)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Agriculture

19 Section 2–1706

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2016 Replacement Volume)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Agriculture

1

2 2–1701.

3 In this subtitle, “animal shelter” means:

4 (1) A county or municipal animal control facility;

5 (2) An organization that contracts with a county or municipality for animal
6 control; or7 (3) An organization that shelters animals and has received a grant from
8 the Spay/Neuter Fund under Subtitle 16 of this title during the previous year.

9 2–1703.

10 (a) On or before January 1, 2017, an animal shelter shall establish a written
11 veterinary care protocol for dogs and cats that is consistent with guidelines set forth in the
12 most recent Association of Shelter Veterinarians’ Guidelines for Standards of Care in
13 Animal Shelters with respect to:

14 (1) Basic care;

15 (2) Sanitation;

16 (3) Population management;

17 (4) Disease control and prevention;

18 (5) Behavioral health and mental well-being; and

19 (6) Euthanasia.

20 (b) The written veterinary care protocol shall include:

21 (1) Standards that are necessary to protect sheltered dogs’ and cats’ health,
22 safety, and well-being; and

23 (2) A plan for:

24 (i) Quality of life enrichment;

25 (ii) Veterinary care;

26 (iii) Prevention and control of contagious and other diseases; and

1 (iv) Any other health and environmental factors that materially
2 affect sheltered dogs' and cats' health, safety, and well-being.

3 (c) **(1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN ANIMAL**
4 **SHELTER SHALL FOLLOW ITS WRITTEN VETERINARY CARE PROTOCOL FOR DOGS**
5 **AND CATS.**

6 **(2)** An animal shelter may disregard its written veterinary care protocol
7 for a dog or cat that is deemed to be too vicious or dangerous to permit safe handling.

8 (d) An animal shelter shall update its written veterinary care protocol as
9 necessary to reasonably accommodate any subsequent updates to the Association of Shelter
10 Veterinarians' Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters.

11 (e) On request, an animal shelter shall make its written veterinary care protocol
12 available to the public and the Department.

13 2-1704.

14 **(A)** On or before January 1, 2017, an animal shelter shall establish and make
15 available to the public on the animal shelter's Web site or in a conspicuous location within
16 the animal shelter's facility:

17 (1) A written protocol for reclaiming animals from the animal shelter that
18 includes:

19 (i) The minimum holding period for stray animals;

20 (ii) The hours of operation during which an animal may be reclaimed
21 by the animal's owner or caregiver;

22 (iii) The fees associated with reclaiming an animal; and

23 (iv) Any identification or documentation that must be provided to the
24 animal shelter before an animal may be reclaimed; and

25 (2) An annual summary of intake and disposition data reported to the
26 Department in accordance with § 2-1602 of this title.

27 **(B) AN ANIMAL SHELTER SHALL FOLLOW ITS WRITTEN PROTOCOL FOR**
28 **RECLAIMING ANIMALS.**

29 **2-1706.**

30 **ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT**
31 **REGULATIONS TO ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
2 1, 2017.