



**Maryland's Association of Animal Care and
Control Agencies and Humane Societies**

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

**HB1537 Humane Society and Animal Control Officers- Education and Training
Requirements
Maryland House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee
Friday March 6, 2020**

Dear Honorable Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously stands in unanimous support of HB1537. We believe this bill is long overdue and in the best interest of public safety.

There currently are no educational requirements for those entering the role of Animal Control Officer in Maryland. While numerous agencies have internal requirements for training, there are those enforcing state and local laws with little to no formal training. This bill, while requiring 80 hours of initial training within the first 12 months of employment in the position of Animal Control Officer, and 6 hours annually of continuing education, allows for the details of the training to be determined by the agencies.

HB1537 will raise the professionalism of the field of Animal Control and support our continuing efforts for public safety and best practices in the field.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland respectfully requests a favorable vote on HB1537 Humane Society and Animal Control Officers- Education and Training.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland