



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

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

**HB 102- Real Property - Actions for Possession - Pet Protections
Maryland House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee**

January 27, 2023

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

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on HB 102. As the agencies often tasked with removing and/or accepting animals which are victims of eviction, we see daily the toll this takes on citizens, animals and our agencies. Animals have been left in dwellings for weeks, left on curbsides with household items, and have been taken to shelters with no information for the agency to contact the owner, nor information for the owner to find their pet.

This bill will put into place very basic safeguards which will protect animals and pet owners:

- The Department of Agriculture must create a fact sheet with resources for pet owners facing evictions, such as options for caring for your pets and how to contact your local shelter; that fact sheet must be provided to tenants who have pets and to all tenants who are facing eviction.
- After eviction, the property must be immediately checked for pets and those pets should be either reunited with the owner or taken to the local shelter.
- Should a pet be taken to a shelter, the shelter must be provided the name and contact information of the owner and the owner should be given the information for the shelter.
- No pets are to be left with property on the curb after eviction.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland believes the passing of this bill is one more tool to reunite pets with owners and protect the wellbeing of animals and citizens in Maryland. We respectfully ask for a favorable report on this bill.

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

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, CAWA

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

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland