

## HB 53: Written Testimony Regarding a Zebra Welfare Investigation in Maryland

My name is DeEtte Hillman. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity, informed by my professional experience in equine rescue and animal welfare.

In late 2021, I was contacted by the Chief of Prince George's County Animal Control regarding an active welfare investigation involving privately owned zebras in the State of Maryland. During that call, I was asked whether Days End Farm Horse Rescue had the ability to assist with transporting the zebras, providing temporary housing at our facility, and coordinating appropriate veterinary care.

This experience demonstrates that, when zebra welfare concerns arise in Maryland, county animal law enforcement agencies may need to seek assistance outside their normal operational scope, including from nonprofit organizations not specifically intended to manage such species. The call reflected a real-world situation in which local authorities required additional resources and expertise to respond to a zebra welfare concern.

I am submitting this testimony to document that such a situation occurred and that a Maryland county animal control agency sought external assistance in connection with the welfare of privately owned zebras.

Respectfully submitted,

DeEtte Hillman  
Woodbine, Maryland

*The views expressed in this testimony are my own and do not represent the official position of my employer.*