

## CHAPTER 434

(House Bill 1045)

AN ACT concerning

### Cecil County – Regulation of Domestic Animals

FOR the purpose of altering the number of persons required to make a sworn complaint in the District Court alleging that a domestic animal disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area ~~of~~, or is vicious and has bitten any person, in Cecil County in order for a summons to be issued to the owner or keeper of the animal; altering a certain penalty; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to the regulation of domestic animals in Cecil County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions  
Section 11–504(1)(5)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

#### **Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions**

11–504.

(1) (5) It is unlawful in Cecil County for any person to own or keep a domestic animal which disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area, or which is vicious and bites any person. Upon the sworn complaint in the District Court sitting in Cecil County of any [two or more persons of different households] **PERSON** alleging that a domestic animal disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area of Cecil County, or upon the sworn complaint of any [one or more persons] **PERSON** that a domestic animal is vicious and has bitten any person, a summons shall issue to the owner or keeper of such domestic animal to appear in the District Court sitting in Cecil County. Upon proof that the domestic animal disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area, or is vicious and has bitten any person, the owner or keeper may be required to deliver up the offending domestic animal to be killed in the most humane manner possible unless he removes the domestic animal permanently from the neighborhood. If the owner or keeper is required to deliver up the domestic animal to be killed or to remove it as aforesaid, and he refuses or fails to do so, then it is the duty of any police officer or any duly empowered agent on behalf of the county to seize the domestic animal wherever it

may be found and to cause it to be killed in the most humane manner possible. The court may order the domestic animal restrained or enter such other appropriate order as the case may require. Any owner failing to comply with the provisions of this paragraph or a court order entered thereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of not more than [twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)] **\$500** for each offense. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, the barking of hunting dogs in pursuit of game [shall] **MAY** not be considered a disturbance of the public peace for the purposes hereof.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

**Approved by the Governor, May 7, 2009.**