

Chapter 227

(Senate Bill 159)

AN ACT concerning

~~Criminal Law~~ Local Government – Humane Society and Animal Control Officers
– Education and Training Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring a certain officer of a humane society and a certain animal control officer to receive certain training within a certain period of time of employment; requiring an officer of a humane society and an animal control officer to complete certain continuing education at a certain time; requiring certain training and continuing education to include certain instruction; and generally relating to education and training requirements for humane society and animal control officers.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
~~Article – Criminal Law~~
~~Section 10-609~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

BY adding to
Article – Local Government
Section 13-110 1-1314
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – ~~Criminal Law~~ Local Government

~~10-609.~~

~~(a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, if an officer of a humane society sees a person committing a misdemeanor that involves cruelty to an animal, the officer shall arrest and bring before the District Court the person committing the misdemeanor.~~

~~(b) In Calvert County, if an officer of a humane society or an animal control officer appointed by the County Commissioners or the County Commissioners' designee sees a person committing a misdemeanor that involves cruelty to an animal, the officer shall arrest and bring before the District Court the person committing the misdemeanor.~~

~~(c) In Baltimore County, the Baltimore County Department of Health, Division of Animal Control shall enforce this section.~~

~~(D)~~

~~13-110 1-1314.~~

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.

(B) (1) WITHIN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT, A NEW OFFICER OF A HUMANE SOCIETY OR ANIMAL CONTROL SHALL SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE AT LEAST 80 HOURS OF TRAINING FOR ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL PROFESSIONALS THAT IS APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE UNIT OF A COUNTY OR ~~MUNICIPAL CORPORATION~~ MUNICIPALITY.

(2) THE TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON:

(I) ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS;

(II) THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND THE ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED IN § 4-701 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE;

(III) THE USE OF LEGAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, ~~THE CODE~~ THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AND COUNTY CODES;

(IV) LAWFUL SEARCHES AND SEIZURES;

(V) PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICAL STANDARDS;

(VI) EVIDENCE COLLECTION AND THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY;

(VII) PREPARATION FOR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING BASIC TRIAL PRINCIPLES AND DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS;

(VIII) CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND OFFICER SAFETY, INCLUDING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH; AND

(IX) ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOONOSIS.

(3) THE UNIT OF THE COUNTY OR ~~MUNICIPAL CORPORATION~~ MUNICIPALITY MAY REQUIRE OTHER TRAINING IN ADDITION TO THE TRAINING SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

~~(2) (B) (C)~~ **(1)** AN OFFICER OF A HUMANE SOCIETY OR ANIMAL CONTROL SHALL SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE AT LEAST 6 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE UNIT OF A COUNTY OR ~~MUNICIPAL CORPORATION~~ MUNICIPALITY EVERY YEAR.

(2) THE CONTINUING EDUCATION SHALL INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON THE CURRENT LAWS APPLICABLE TO OFFICERS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.