

Chapter 226

(House Bill 281)

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 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.**