



## MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 6, 2020

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee  
From: Lisa Radov, President & Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.  
Re: Criminal Law – Humane Society and Animal Control Officers – Education and Training Requirements - HB 1537 - SUPPORT

Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony with you today. My name is Lisa Radov. As the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc., I respectfully ask that the Environment and Transportation Committee support Criminal Law – Humane Society and Animal Control Officers – Education and Training Requirements - HB 1537.

This bill would add training and continuing education requirements for animal control and humane society officers. Currently, there is no training requirement in Maryland. While most agencies that handle animal control offer training for their animal control officers, it is not mandatory.

The Professional Animal Workers of Maryland (PAWS) requested this legislation in order to ensure that all animal control officers have training that is approved by their county. This will benefit the public as animal control officers, while not empowered to make arrests, do have the ability to seize animals and issue citations. They are enforcing the animal laws of their court, and of the State of Maryland.

As the owner of Gebco Insurance Associates and a licensed Maryland insurance agent for over 30 years, my agents and I had to pass a test to be licensed property and casualty and life and health agents in the State of Maryland. Every two years, we were required to complete 24 hours of state-approved continuing education. In short, I think that most Marylanders would say that having a trained animal control officer who knows what to do in a dangerous dog situation is, if not more important, is at least as important as getting a binder number from your insurance agent so that you can drive your new car off the lot.

I would like to thank Delegate Chang for his sponsorship and ask for a favorable report on HB 1537.

*Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane*

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