



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
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February 2, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Local Government – Animal Control Facilities – Adoption Fee Waiver for Veterans (Pets for Vets Act of 2021) SB 338- SUPPORT.

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before to you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee vote favorably for Local Government – Animal Control Facilities – Adoption Fee Waiver for Veterans (Pets for Vets Act of 2020) - SB 338.

This bill would require animal control facilities to waive the adoption fee for a dog or cat adopted by a veteran provided that he/she provides proper identification of veteran status and subject to certain restrictions.

This bill is a win-win for the lucky cat or dog waiting in a shelter longing to find a loving home. Our veterans make incredible sacrifices for Marylanders and Americans. It is the least that we can do to provide them with companionship. Moreover, it is documented that pets have a distinct therapeutic effect on people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD. The benefits to the animals, the veteran, and that veteran's family, which has also given up a lot as their family member has had to be away for long tours of duty, are compelling reasons to pass this bill.

In closing, I thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this bill, and urge a favorable report on SB 338.

Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane

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January 28, 2021