



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 10, 2021

To: House Environment & Transportation 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) – HB 563 – Support

Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, members of the Environment & Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before to you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Environment & Transportation Committee vote favorably for Local Government- Animal Control Facilities – Adoption Fee Waiver for Veterans (Pets for Vets Act of 2021) – HB 563.

The Pets for Vets Act of 2021 would require animal control facilities to waive the adoption fee for a dog or cat adopted by a veteran provided that the veteran 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.

I want to thank Delegate Long for his sponsorship and ask for a favorable report of HB 563.

Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane

WWW.VOTEANIMALS.ORG

January 28, 2021