



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

David Luckenbaugh, Director

SENATE BILL 390

Provision of Veterinary Services- Routine Medical Care and Rabies Vaccines

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2023

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment (EEE)

POSITION: Support with Amendments

FROM: David Luckenbaugh, Director, Division of Animal Control, Frederick County Government

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 390- Provision of Veterinary Services- Routine Medical Care and Rabies Vaccines. As the Director of the Division of Animal Control in Frederick County, I urge the committee to give Senate Bill 390 a favorable report.

One purpose of SB390 is to control rabies and protect human health, grant authority to the Public Health Veterinarian and the local Health Officer permission to allow individuals who work in or for a veterinary Hospital, as defined in 2-304.1 of the Agriculture Article, or an Animal Control facility, as defined in 2-305 of the Agriculture Article to administer rabies vaccines if:

- (I) The individual is working in or for a Veterinary Hospital, the Veterinary Hospital is licensed under 2-304.1 of the Agriculture Article.
- (II) The individual is working in or for an Animal Control facility and, the Animal Control facility is licensed to administer drugs under 2-305 of the Agriculture Article; and
- (III) The rabies vaccine is administered in accordance with applicable protocols for licensed veterinarians.

Frederick County Animal Control employs one, part-time contractual Veterinarian 15-20 hours per week. When the Veterinarian is off duty, no one in the shelter can administer a rabies vaccine to a dog or cat. This causes a delay in placing adoptable animals for public view, increasing their length of stay. Stray animals, not currently vaccinated, are released to owners with a rabies voucher requiring owners to obtain a rabies vaccination on a later date. Unvaccinated animals occupy kennel space, causing unnecessary overcrowding. Allowing other individuals at Animal Control to administer a rabies vaccine, in accordance with current regulations, would be tremendously beneficial to our division and other animal shelters across the state. Frederick County is consistently at or near the top of all Maryland counties for animals testing positive for the rabies virus. More dogs and cats currently vaccinated against the rabies virus will have a direct impact on public health and safety.

Thank you for your consideration of SB390. On behalf of Frederick County Government, I urge a favorable report.

David Luckenbaugh, Director, Frederick County Division of Animal Control

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