



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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February 15, 2023

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Provision of Veterinary Services – Routine Medical Care and Rabies Vaccines – HB 325 – Favorable with Amendment.

Chair Barve, Vice - Chair Stein, members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc. 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 the State of Maryland, I respectfully ask that the House Environment & Transportation Committee vote favorable with amendment for Provision of Veterinary Services – Routine Medical Care and Rabies Vaccines – HB 325.

We understand that there has been some concern about extending the veterinary services beyond state borders such that the Maryland Veterinary Board would not have the role screen veterinarians who provide services in our state. It was not our intention to diminish their role. Therefore, we would appreciate this bill being amended such that the sole purpose of the bill would be to allow certain individuals who work in certain veterinary hospitals, rescues, shelters, or animal control under conditions outlined in the bill to provide rabies shots. It would not allow out-of-state veterinarians who did not possess a Maryland veterinary license to practice in Maryland.

Trained professionals such as licensed veterinary technicians already provide many wellness services in those specific venues, including shots such as distemper. Therefore, adding this service would be a benefit not just to the animal but to public health. It would free up veterinarians to do the lifesaving procedures that they were trained as veterinarians to perform.

Thanks to Delegate Terrasa for sponsoring HB 325. I urge the committee to vote favorable with amendment for this bill.

