



**Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control
Agencies and Humane Societies**

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

**HB1192 Criminal Law - Animal Cruelty - Suspected Commission by a Minor
Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee**

March 3, 2023

Dear Honorable Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chairman Moon, and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies supports Bill HB1192 Criminal Law - Animal Cruelty - Suspected Commission by a Minor.

Historically, animal cruelty has been considered an isolated issue, but research shows a well-documented link that it is a predictive or co-occurring crime with violence against humans (including intimate partners, children, and elders) and is associated with other types of violent offenses. This behavior often begins in childhood. Increased awareness of this linkage and early intervention is imperative.

Currently in Maryland when a minor is suspected of committing an act of cruelty toward an animal, there are often little to no recourse for intervention. Animals and humans alike are put at risk when we cannot address these acts. This bill will allow for evaluation, monitoring and protective measures to be put in place in such circumstances.

We respectfully ask for a speedy and favorable report on this bill.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Zimby CAWA

Executive Director- Talbot Humane
President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland