



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

**PO Box 1143  
Easton, Maryland 21601**

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**HB-0438– Civil Actions-Torturous Injury to or Death of Pet  
Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee**

**February 3, 2025**

**Dear Honorable Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett, and members of the committee:**

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on HB0438.

As I had the opportunity to share in the past, cases the rise to this level are not everyday occurrences, however when they do occur, they are horrific crimes. Pets and their owners are caught in a legal dilemma. Pets are considered property in Maryland; however, they are living creatures which when these cases do arise, the cost of medical care will often rise into the thousands of dollars and should be the full responsibility of the person(s) who harmed the animal.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland supports efforts to protect animals and their owners in our community.

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

Sincerely,

***Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, CAWA***

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland