



Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control Agencies and Humane Societies  
PO Box 1143  
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**HB0912 Local Government - Trap-Neuter-Return Policies for Community Cats - Requirements and Restrictions (Ash's Law)**

**Maryland House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 20, 2026**

**Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and members of the committee:**

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization of animal control agencies and humane societies, supports HB0912 with one amendment and encourages a favorable and speedy report with the inclusion of this change.

Many shelters and animal control authorities across the state have been moving in the direction of Trap Neuter Return, whether having formal programs themselves or working behind the scenes with other organizations because there is not an authorized pathway for feral/community cat population management. Why? Because it works. We have learned that trapping and euthanizing otherwise healthy cats is inhumane, fiscally irresponsible and does not solve the problem. Cats will return to the area and continue to reproduce. Overwhelmingly, *healthy feline euthanasia* within Maryland animal shelters is comprised of feral/community cats from authorities that do not currently have a program nor work with other nonprofit organizations. One of the main reasons some agencies are not participating in these programs is the law does not explicitly give them permission to do so.

The one adjustment to the language we feel is imperative for our support of this bill addresses the safety of the animals in question. There are those times where returning cats to the areas they came from would be detrimental to their health and safety. Whether it is that the location itself is dangerous or there have been threats of harm to the animals from property owners in the area. These situations are not the norm, but they do happen enough that this is a concern for officers and shelters alike. Without this caveat this bill could cause unintended consequences of a shelter being in violation to protect the health and safety of a cat(s). We would like the following addition considered: LINE 19 (4) UNLESS VETERINARY CARE IS REQUIRED **OR THE AREA HAS BEEN DEEMED UNSAFE FOR RETURN.**

This bill will codify the treatment of feral/community cats within Maryland not only permitting but requiring authorities across the state to continue their progress in the humane treatment of feral/community cats and a more humane Maryland overall. With this we ask for a favorable report with amendments on HB0912.

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