

SB0703_CarolineCountyHumaneSociety_FAV

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**Caroline County
Humane Society**
SERVING ALL CREATURES
GREAT AND SMALL

On behalf of the Caroline County Humane Society, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 703.

As an organization dedicated to promoting responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and public safety in Caroline County, we recognize the importance of practical, community centered approaches to animal control and licensing. Senate Bill 703 provides our county with the flexibility to determine what type of dog licensing structure works best for our individual community.

Caroline County's demographics, geographic layout, and animal population present unique considerations. Allowing the County to tailor its dog licensing program ensures that the system remains effective, efficient, and responsive to local conditions. This flexibility can improve compliance, enhance public awareness, and better support animal welfare efforts across the community.

The Humane Society sees clear value in empowering counties to make informed decisions about licensing structures that align with local priorities. We appreciate the opportunity to support legislation that promotes responsible governance while maintaining a strong commitment to animal welfare and public safety.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 703 and for your continued work on behalf of Caroline County's community and animals.

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Flower
Executive Director
Caroline County Humane Society**

SB703 Letter of Support Caroline Co. Delegation.pd

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STEPHEN S. HERSHEY, JR.
CHAIR

JOHNNY MAUTZ



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
CAROLINE COUNTY DELEGATION

February 10, 2026

Senator Pam Biedle
Chair
Finance Committee
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT
SB703 Caroline County Delegation – Regulation of Animals - Dogs

The Caroline County Senate Delegation supports SB703 Caroline County Delegation – Regulation of Animals – Dogs.

I thank you for the committee's consideration of the bill and request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Hershey".

Steve Hershey
District 36
Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil, and Caroline

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Johnny Mautz".

Johnny Mautz
District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and
Wicomico Counties

SB703 LOS from Caroline County Commissioners Office

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Position: FAV



CAROLINE COUNTY
you belong here
CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

JAMES TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT
LARRY C. PORTER, VICE PRESIDENT
NORMAN FRANKLIN BARTZ, III., COMMISSIONER
109 Market Street, Room 123
Denton, Maryland 21629

February 12, 2026

Senator Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee Chair
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Beidle,

On behalf of the Caroline County Commissioners, we write to express our full support for Senate Bill 703. This legislation reflects a practical and necessary update to how dog licensing is managed in Caroline County, and we appreciate our local senators bringing this bill forward.

For years, Caroline County has been required under state law to follow a detailed set of procedures for issuing dog licenses, tags, and related enforcement. In reality, compliance with these requirements has been inconsistent at best. Many residents have not abided by the law, and enforcement has become burdensome and ineffective. We are currently required to manage a process that very few residents actually follow, and which delivers limited public benefit in return.

Senate Bill 703 gives the County the flexibility to manage dog licensing and animal control in a way that fits our rural population and limited resources. We are already tasked with implementing a wide range of state mandates on everything from public safety to infrastructure, and we do not need more regulation that is outdated, widely ignored, and difficult to enforce.

We are not seeking to eliminate oversight of animals in our county. We are simply asking for the authority to decide how to manage it locally and efficiently. This bill ensures that we can still license dogs if we choose, but without being tied to requirements that no longer make sense for our community.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 703.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President