



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

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

**HB0053 Criminal Law- Non-domesticated Animal Prohibitions- Alterations
Maryland Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee**

March 20, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstriecker, and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on HB0053.

Maryland has a strong prohibition for exotics in 10-621 of the Maryland Annotated Code which allows us to protect these animals from exploitation and the safety of the citizens in our communities. Over recent years new animals have moved onto the exotic's scene, specifically zebras, wallabies, wallaroos, and kangaroos. We need only google "Zebra loose in MD" to find one of the most notable incidents in recent years- 3 zebras ran loose for months in 2021 costing taxpayers' money and ending in one of the animals dying a painful death in the wild. As we saw from this incident local agencies are not properly equipped for the specific needs and behaviors of these animals thus adding to the already stretched time and resources of animal control and police agencies.

These animals have extremely specific needs and require specialized environments for their wellbeing and for proper confinement. When we consider the humane aspect of owning these animals, preventing exploitation, and ensuring the humane care of these animals should also be considered.

The passing of HB0053 to update Code 10-621 to include Zebras, wallabies, wallaroos, and kangaroos is a reasonable request to protect animals from exploitation and ensure safe communities. We ask for a favorable report on HB0053.

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