

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 15

Bill No. 68-25

Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

By the County Council, July 21, 2025

Introduced and first read on July 21, 2025
Public Hearing set for and held on September 15, 2025
Public Hearing on AMENDED bill set for and held on October 6, 2025
Public Hearing on AMENDED bill set for and held on October 20, 2025
Bill Expires October 24, 2025

By Order: Kaley Schultze, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Zoning – Animal Rescue

2
3 FOR the purpose of requiring an animal rescue license and establishing the application and
4 issuance criteria for a license; defining “animal rescue”; adding an animal rescue as a
5 conditional use and providing for the conditions in certain districts; adding an animal
6 rescue as a home occupation in certain circumstances; and generally relating to public
7 safety and zoning.
8

9 BY renumbering: §§ 12-4-711 through 12-4-718, respectively, to be §§ 12-4-712 through
10 12-4-719, respectively; § 18-1-101(12) through (175) to be § 18-1-101(13) through
11 (176), respectively; and §§ 18-10-106 through 18-10-140 and 18-10-142 through 18-
12 10-176 to be §§ 18-10-107 through 18-10-141 and 18-10-143 through 18-10-177,
13 respectively
14 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24,
15 13-25, and 29-25)
16

17 BY adding: §§ 12-4-711; 8-1-101(12); and 18-10-106
18 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24 and
19 13-25)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.
Asterisks *** indicate existing Code provisions in a list or chart that remain unchanged.
Underlining indicates matter added to bill by amendment.
~~Strikeover~~ indicates matter removed from bill by amendment.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments: §§ 18-4-106, 18-5-102; and 18-6-103
Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24, 2-25,
and 13-25)

BY repealing, reenacting and renumbering, with amendments: § 18-10-141 to be
§ 18-10-142, respectively
Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24, 2-25,
13-25, and 58-25)

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*
That §§ 12-4-711 through 12-4-718; 18-1-101(12) through (175); and 18-10-106 through
18-10-140 and 18-10-142 through 176, respectively, of the Anne Arundel County Code
(2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24, 13-25, and 29-25), are hereby
renumbered to be §§ 12-4-712 through 12-4-719; 18-1-101(13) through (176); and 18-10-
107 through 18-10-141 and 18-10-143 through 18-10-177, respectively.

SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County
Code (2005, as amended) that read as follows:

ARTICLE 12. PUBLIC SAFETY

TITLE 4. ANIMAL CONTROL

12-4-711. Animal rescue license.

(A) Definition. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

(1) “ANIMAL RESCUE” HAS THE MEANING IN § 18-1-101 OF THIS CODE.

(2) “OPERATOR” MEANS THE ENTITY OR ORGANIZATION OPERATING AN ANIMAL
RESCUE FACILITY.

(3) “RESPONSIBLE PERSON” OR “PERSON IN CHARGE” MEANS THE INDIVIDUAL
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE.

(B) When required. IN ADDITION TO MEETING THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS
IMPOSED BY § 12-4-702, THE OPERATOR OF AN ANIMAL RESCUE SHALL OBTAIN AN ANIMAL
RESCUE LICENSE. THE REQUIREMENT IN THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON
WHO KEEPS LIVESTOCK OR FOWL ON A PROPERTY USED AS A FARM, AS DEFINED IN § 18-1-
101 OF THIS CODE.

(C) Non-profit status required. THE OPERATOR OF AN ANIMAL RESCUE SHALL BE A
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR (D) OF THE
INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

(D) Application. THE APPLICATION FOR AN ANIMAL RESCUE LICENSE OR RENEWAL
SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) THE NAME AND PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE;

(2) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OPERATOR OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE;

(3) PROOF OF THE OPERATOR’S TAX-EXEMPT STATUS;

(4) THE NAME AND HOME ADDRESS OF THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON OR PERSON IN CHARGE;

(5) THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO BE HOUSED IN THE ANIMAL RESCUE, WHICH MAY NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS IN § 18-10-106 OF THIS CODE; AND

(6) A SIGNED STATEMENT INDICATING WHETHER THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON OR PERSON IN CHARGE HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF OR ENTERED A PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE TO ANY VIOLATION OF A LAW INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY.

(E) Inspection. BEFORE A LICENSE MAY BE ISSUED, THE ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY SHALL BE INSPECTED BY AN ANIMAL SERVICES OFFICER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR AREAS ARE CLEAN, SANITARY, SECURE, AND OF ADEQUATE SIZE FOR THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO BE KEPT AT THE ANIMAL RESCUE.

(F) Grounds for denial. AN ANIMAL RESCUE LICENSE SHALL BE DENIED IF AN APPLICATION IS INCOMPLETE, THE OPERATOR FAILS TO PROVIDE PROOF OF TAX-EXEMPT STATUS, THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON OR PERSON IN CHARGE HAS BEEN CONVICTED OR ENTERED A PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE TO ANY VIOLATION OF A LAW INVOLVING ANIMAL CRUELTY, THE ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY DOES NOT PASS THE INSPECTION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (E), OR THE OPERATOR, PERSON IN CHARGE, OR ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY DOES NOT OTHERWISE COMPLY WITH THIS ARTICLE.

(G) Fees. THE ANNUAL ANIMAL RESCUE LICENSE FEE IS \$25. THE LICENSE SHALL BE VALID FOR ONE YEAR AND BE RENEWED BEFORE EXPIRATION FOR AS LONG AS THE ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY IS IN OPERATION. AN APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE.

(H) Phase in. FOR AN ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY IN OPERATION AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF BILL NO. 68-25, THE OPERATOR SHALL APPLY FOR AN ANIMAL RESCUE LICENSE WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF BILL NO. 68-25.

ARTICLE 18. ZONING

TITLE 1. DEFINITIONS

18-1-101. Definitions.

Unless defined in this article, the Natural Resources Article of the State Code, or COMAR, words defined elsewhere in this Code apply in this article. The following words have the meanings indicated:

(12) "ANIMAL RESCUE" MEANS A FACILITY LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE 12 OF THIS CODE, WHERE ANIMALS OTHER THAN LIVESTOCK OR FOWL ON A PROPERTY USED AS A FARM, ARE KEPT AND GIVEN CARE SHORT-TERM, AND THAT PROVIDES ADOPTION SERVICES, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS KENNELING, BREEDING, SALE, TRAINING, OR GROOMING OF ANIMALS.

TITLE 4. RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

18-4-106. Permitted, conditional, and special exception uses.

The permitted, conditional, and special exception uses allowed in each of the residential districts are listed in the chart in this section using the following key: P = permitted use;

C = conditional use; SE = special exception use. A blank means that the use is not allowed in the district. Except as provided otherwise in this article, uses and structures customarily accessory to the listed uses also are allowed, except that guest houses as accessory structures are prohibited and outside storage as an accessory use is limited to the lesser of 10% of the allowed lot coverage or 500 square feet.

Permitted, Conditional, and Special Exception Uses	RA	RLD	R1	R2	R5	R10	R15	R22

Animal hospitals and veterinary clinics	SE	SE	SE					
ANIMAL RESCUE	C	C	C	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>			

TITLE 5. COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

18-5-102. Permitted, conditional, special exception, and business complex auxiliary uses.

The permitted, conditional, and special exception uses allowed in each of the commercial districts, and uses auxiliary to a business complex, are listed in the chart in this section using the following key: P = permitted use; C = conditional use; SE = special exception use; and A = auxiliary to a business complex use. A blank means that the use is not allowed in the district. Except as provided otherwise in this article, uses and structures customarily accessory to permitted, conditional, and special exception uses also are allowed.

Permitted, Conditional, Special Exception, and Business Complex Auxiliary Uses	C1	C2	C3	C4

Animal hospitals with non-medical overnight stays and veterinary clinics with non-medical overnight stays		C	C	C
ANIMAL RESCUE			<u>C</u>	C

TITLE 6. INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

18-6-103. Permitted, conditional, special exception uses.

The permitted, conditional, and special exception uses allowed in each of the industrial districts are listed in the chart in this section using the following key: P = permitted use; C = conditional use; SE = special exception use; and A = auxiliary use to a business complex use. A blank means that the use is not allowed in the district. Except as provided otherwise in this article, uses and structures customarily accessory to permitted, conditional, and special exception uses also are allowed, except that outside storage as an accessory use in W1 is limited to 15% of the allowed lot coverage.

Permitted, Conditional, and Special Exception Uses	W1	W2	W3

Animal hospitals with non-medical overnight stays and veterinary clinics with non-medical overnight stays	P	C	
ANIMAL RESCUE	C	C	

TITLE 10. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDITIONAL USES

18-10-106. Animal Rescue.

AN ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS.

~~(1) BUILDINGS AND ENCLOSURES FOR THE HOUSING OR SHELTER OF ANIMALS SHALL BE AT LEAST 100 FEET FROM ANY RESIDENTIALLY ZONED PROPERTY AND ANIMALS MAY NOT BE HOUSED WITHIN THE 100 FOOT SETBACK. BUILDINGS AND ENCLOSURES FOR THE HOUSING OR SHELTER OF ANIMALS AT A FACILITY WITH DOGS EXCLUSIVELY OR DOGS IN ADDITION TO OTHER ANIMALS SHALL BE AT LEAST 100 FEET FROM ANY EXISTING RESIDENCE ON ANY SURROUNDING PROPERTY AND ANIMALS MAY NOT BE HOUSED WITHIN THE 100 FOOT SETBACK. BUILDINGS AND ENCLOSURES FOR THE HOUSING OF ANIMALS AT A FACILITY WITH NO DOGS SHALL BE AT LEAST 75 FEET FROM ANY EXISTING RESIDENCE ON ANY SURROUNDING PROPERTY AND ANIMALS MAY NOT BE HOUSED WITHIN THE 75 FOOT SETBACK.~~

~~(2) ANIMALS SHALL BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED BEFORE OR UPON ARRIVAL TO PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION FROM THE FACILITY, UNLESS A VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THE ANIMAL IS MEDICALLY UNABLE TO UNDERGO THE PROCEDURE. THE ANIMAL RESCUE OWNER SHALL KEEP A REGISTER TO SHOW THAT ALL ANIMALS AT THE FACILITY HAVE COMPLIED WITH THIS REQUIREMENT.~~

(3) NOTWITHSTANDING § 18-4-104(1), THERE MAY BE UP TO ~~30~~ 50 CATS AT THE FACILITY ANY ONE TIME. CATS MAY NOT BE KEPT OUTDOORS.

(4) FOR AN ANIMAL RESCUE IN A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, THE FACILITY SHALL ALSO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

(I) EXCEPT FOR A FACILITY SOLELY FOR CATS, THE FACILITY SHALL BE LOCATED ON A LOT OF AT LEAST THREE ACRES.

~~(II) ANY DWELLING ON THE PROPERTY SHALL BE OCCUPIED BY AT LEAST ONE PERSON INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE.~~

~~(III)~~ (II) DOGS, LIVESTOCK OR FOWL KEPT ON THE PROPERTY MAY NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS SET FORTH IN § 18-4-104.

~~(IV)~~ (III) THE USE MAY NOT BE NOXIOUS, OFFENSIVE, OR OTHERWISE OBJECTIONABLE TO SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL USES.

(5) FOR AN ANIMAL RESCUE IN A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, THE FACILITY SHALL ALSO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1 (I) AN ANIMAL RESCUE LOCATED IN A STRUCTURE THAT CONTAINS USES
2 OTHER THAN AN ANIMAL RESCUE SHALL INCORPORATE SOUND ATTENUATION
3 CONSTRUCTION OR MEASURES DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF NOISE FROM THE
4 ANIMAL RESCUE ON THE OTHER USES OR OCCUPANTS IN THE STRUCTURES.

5
6 (II) AN ANIMAL RESCUE MAY NOT UNREASONABLY INTERFERE WITH OTHER
7 USES OR OCCUPANTS WITHIN THE SAME STRUCTURE AS THE ANIMAL RESCUE AND THE
8 USE MAY NOT BE NOXIOUS, OFFENSIVE, OR OTHERWISE OBJECTIONABLE TO
9 SURROUNDING USES OR OCCUPANTS.

10
11 (6) FOR AN ANIMAL RESCUE IN A C3 DISTRICT, THE FACILITY MAY HOUSE OR
12 SHELTER ONLY CATS OR SMALL ANIMALS OTHER THAN CATS NOT EXCEEDING 20 POUNDS
13 IN WEIGHT.

14
15 **[[18-10-141.]] 18-10-142. Home Occupations.**

16
17 A home occupation shall comply with all the following requirements.

18
19 ***

20
21 (3) Home occupations are limited to the following:

22
23 ***

24
25 (XIX) ANIMAL RESCUE, PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOGS, CATS,
26 LIVESTOCK OR FOWL ON THE PROPERTY AT ANY TIME DOES NOT EXCEED THE NUMBER
27 PERMITTED TO BE KEPT ON THE PROPERTY UNDER § 18-4-104; THE HOMEOWNER DOES NOT
28 BOARD ANIMALS IN OUTSIDE KENNELS; ANIMALS ARE KEPT IN A FENCED AREA WITH A
29 SECURE LOCKING GATE WHEN OUTDOORS; AND THE USE IS NOT NOXIOUS OR OFFENSIVE
30 TO SURROUNDING USES.

31
32 ***

33
34 SECTION 3. And be it further enacted, That all references in this Ordinance to “the
35 effective date of Bill No. 68-25”, or words to that effect, shall, upon codification, be
36 replaced with the actual date on which this Ordinance takes effect under Section 307 of the
37 County Charter as certified by the Administrative Officer to the County Council.

38
39 SECTION 3. 4. And be it further enacted, That this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days
40 from the date it becomes law.

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED: September 15, 2025 and October 6, 2025

READ AND PASSED this 20th day of October, 2025

By Order:



Kaley Schultze
Administrative Officer

PRESENTED to the County Executive for his approval this 22nd day of October, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Schultze', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kaley Schultze
Administrative Officer

APPROVED AND ENACTED this 28th day of October, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steuart Pittman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steuart Pittman
County Executive

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 12, 2025

Bill No. 68-25

Page No. 8

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF
BILL NO. 68-25 THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS RETAINED IN THE FILES
OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Schultze', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Kaley Schultze
Administrative Officer**