

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 25-016

Brief Title (Animal Shelter)

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Meghan D. Devcon

Council Administrator

Date

12/9/25

ENROLLED

Robert Vincent

Council President

Date

12/9/25

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 25-031

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Meghan D. Devcon

Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 10th
Day of December 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Meghan D. Devcon

Council Administrator



BY THE EXECUTIVE

[Signature]

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date

12/10/25

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill 25-016 having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on December 10, 2025.

EFFECTIVE: February 9, 2026

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 25-016

Introduced by Council Members Robert, Imhoff, Bennett and Boyle-Tsottles

Legislative Day No. 25 - 028 Date November 4, 2025

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, the definition of “animal shelter” of Section 267-4, Definitions, of Article 1, General Provisions, of Part 1, Standards, of Chapter 267, Zoning, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to allow animal shelters to provide spaying and neutering services and wellness vaccines to domestic animals and livestock owned by members of the public; and generally relating to zoning.

By the Council, November 4, 2025

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: December 2, 2025

at: 6:30 PM

By Order: *Mylia A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on December 2, 2025, and concluded on December 2, 2025.

Mylia A. Dixon, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that the definition of “animal shelter” of Section 267-4, Definitions, of Article 1, General Provisions, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, of Part 1, Standards, of Chapter 267, Zoning, of the Harford County Code, as amended, to read as follows:

Chapter 267. Zoning

Part 1. Standards

Article I. General Provisions

§ 267-4. Definitions.

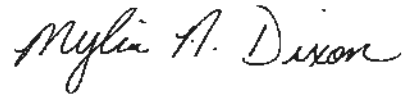
As used in this Part, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ANIMAL SHELTER – A non-profit facility, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code as Amended, established for the purpose of providing shelter and care for domestic animals and livestock that have been abandoned or placed in the shelter by the Harford County Government or members of the public for permanent or temporary care. In addition to shelter and care, the facility shall provide evaluative care to determine the adoptability of animals, education outreach programs on animal care for the community, on-site training programs for staff and volunteers, and areas for animals to exercise and socialize. ANIMAL SHELTERS MAY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT ADVANCE THE MISSION OF REDUCING THE POPULATION OF ABANDONED AND STRAY DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK. THEY ARE PERMITTED TO PROVIDE SPAYING AND NEUTERING SERVICES AS WELL AS WELLNESS VACCINES TO DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK OWNED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BUT SHALL NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER VETERINARY SERVICES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: February 9, 2026

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mylin A. Dixon".

Council Administrator