

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session _____ 1990 _____

Bill No. _____ CB-87-1990 _____

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by _____ Council Member Wilson _____

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

AN ACT concerning

Homing and Racing Pigeons

FOR the purpose of regulating the keeping of pigeons.

BY adding:

SUBTITLE 12. HEALTH.

Section 12-135.3,

The Prince George's County Code

(1987 Edition, 1989 Supplement).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that a new Section 12-135.3 be and the same is hereby added to the Prince George's County Code:

SUBTITLE 12. HEALTH.

DIVISION 4. HEALTH REGULATIONS.

Sec. 12-135.3. Keeping of Homing or Racing Pigeons.

(a) Permits and inspections.

(1) No person shall keep homing or racing pigeons without a valid permit from the Zoonoses Division of the Health Department.

(2) Any person desiring to keep homing or racing pigeons as permitted under Section 27-441(b) (7) shall apply for a permit upon forms to be supplied by the Health Officer.

(3) Permits shall be issued for a period not to exceed one (1) year, and may be renewed for a period not to exceed one year. Application for renewal of a permit shall be made at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the issued permit.

(4) For every permit issued pursuant to this subsection, a fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50) shall be paid prior to the issuance of the permit.

(5) When, upon review of the application form and following a complete inspection of the aviary, the Health Department is satisfied that the facilities comply with the provisions of this Section, a written permit for the keeping of homing or racing pigeons shall be issued.

(6) Any aviary that does not comply with the provisions of this Section shall be denied a permit. Final denial shall be in writing.

(7) The Health Department shall conduct periodic inspections of aviaries to determine compliance with the provisions of this Section.

(8) The Health Department shall be permitted access at

all reasonable times to any aviary that is subject to a permit issued pursuant to this subsection.

(b) The sanitary regulations for homing and racing pigeons shall be as follows:

(1) The exteriors of the lofts shall have a clean appearance and be maintained in a good state of repair. The lofts shall be painted as often as necessary to assure that they can be easily cleaned.

(2) Exterior grounds below the loft shall maintain a clean appearance and be free of papers, droppings, straw, boxes, etc.

(3) All structures used to house pigeons shall be required to be at least eighteen (18) inches off the ground and rodent proofed to protect against the ingress of rodents. The premises shall be free of rodents and food and/or harborage sites which could attract rodents.

(4) Each loft shall be dry, well ventilated, with windows so placed as to permit the passage of sunlight into the loft.

(5) The interiors of the lofts shall be cleaned once a week, or more often if required, to ensure a healthy, sanitary environment for the pigeons, their handlers, and the community.

(6) Pigeon droppings shall be removed daily and disposed of in plastic bags having a minimum thickness of three thousandths (.003) of an inch. Each bag shall be securely tied and placed in a metal container with a tight fitting lid and disposed of on a bi-weekly basis with other household refuse. Pigeon droppings shall

not be used for fertilizer.

(7) Disposable gloves, masks, and protective clothing shall be worn when cleaning the loft.

(8) Pigeon drinking fountains shall be kept clean and supplied with clean water at all times.

(9) Training baskets, breeding cages, medical treatment cages, etc. shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Scoops for removing pigeon droppings shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

(c) Enforcement of regulations.

(1) The Division of Zoonoses shall inform the Animal Control Division concerning the mistreatment of any pigeon raised in captivity.

(2) Any facility found to be in violation of these regulations shall be issued a notice by the Health Department in order to correct the deficiencies. Any person who fails to comply in the time period stipulated for compliance may be subject to a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) and/or the impoundment of his pigeons and revocation of the permit. The impoundment of pigeons shall be accomplished in accordance with the procedures provided in Subtitle 3, Division 4, Subdivision 2, Impoundment and Disposition of Animals.

(3) The Division of Zoonoses shall respond to any complaints registered against any individual who may be raising pigeons within one week of receipt of the complaint.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that facilities for the

keeping of pigeons currently operating as permitted uses pursuant to Section 27-441(b)(7) may continue in operation until January 1, 1991. On that date, these operations may only continue pursuant to the issuance of a permit by the Health Department as described in Section 12-135.3(a).

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 1990.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Jo Ann T. Bell
Chairman

ATTEST:

Jean M. Schmuhl, CMC
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Parris N. Glendening
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.