COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND 2025 Legislative Session

Bill No.	CB-081-2025		
Chapter No.			
Proposed and I	Presented by Council Member Watson		
Introduced by	Council Members Watson, Burroughs, Oriadha, Dernoga, Hawkins, Olson		
	and Adams-Stafford		
Co-Sponsors			
Date of Introdu	October 21, 2025		
BILL			
AN ACT concern	ning		
	Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee		
For the purpose of creating the Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee;			
providing for the powers and duties of the Committee; providing for the Committee composition,			
terms and officers; providing for meetings; providing for the Committee's advice and annual			
report; and generally regarding animal welfare in the County.			
BY adding:			
SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.			
Sections 2-552, 2-553, 2-554, 2-555 and 2-556,			
The Prince George's County Code			
	(2023 Edition; 2024 Supplement).		
SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,			
Maryland, that Sections 2-552, 2-553, 2-554, 2-555 and 2-556 of the Prince George's County			
Code be and the same are hereby added:			
SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.			
DIVISION 49. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY			
	COMMITTEE.		
Sec. 2-552. Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.			
The Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is hereby created to			
promote and enhance the welfare of animals and serve as a link between the animal welfare			

2 Sec. 2-553. Powers and Duties of Committee. 3 (a) The Committee shall have the power and duty to: 4 [(1) Serve as the central point of information for the animal welfare community 5 regarding governmental, non-profit and private programs affecting animal welfare.] 6 [(2)] (1) Advise the County Executive and County Council on issues and 7 recommendations for animal rescue; animal fostering; humane and ecologically sound control of 8 the animal population; animal bite prevention; education on zoonotic disease transmission; and 9 education of the public on safely coexisting with wildlife. 10 [(3) Advise the County Executive and County Council on best practices for animal 11 shelters and for recruiting volunteers for the County animal shelter.] 12 (2) Advise the County Executive and County Council on best practices for animal 13 shelters. Identify successful best practices from animal shelters in other jurisdictions. Review 14 current practices for recruiting and training volunteers for the County animal shelter and make 15 recommendations for improvements. 16 [(4) Advise the County Executive and County Council regarding the effect of animal 17 welfare operations on existing laws, policies, rules and regulations aimed at improving the 18 treatment and care of animals.] 19 [(5)] (3) Advise the County Executive and County Council regarding the effect of 20 animal welfare operations on potential laws, policies, rules and regulations aimed at improving 21 the treatment and care of animals. 22 [(6) Work to establish better communication and understanding between the animal 23 welfare community, the County government and the community at large.] 24 (4) Serve as a facilitator of communication and understanding between the animal 25 welfare community, the County government, and the community at large. 26 [(7)] (5) Advise the County government on the implementation of state and local 27 initiatives pertaining to, but not limited to, sheltering, keeping, adoption, fostering, rescue, 28 volunteerism, partnership, nonprofits, and charitable giving. 29 [(8)] (6) Promote public awareness and education regarding responsible pet ownership 30 and animal welfare issues. [(9)] (7) Collaborate with local organizations and stakeholders to enhance animal 31

community and local government.

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1	welfare programs.	
2	[(10)] (8) Report annually to the County Executive and County Council on the status	
3	of animal welfare in the County.	
4	Sec. 2-554. Committee Composition; Term; Officers.	
5	(a) The Committee shall be composed of [nine] eleven members [(9)] nominated by	
6	the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The [nine] eleven members shall	
7	represent each of the following:	
8	(1) One member serving as a volunteer from the Prince George's County Animal	
9	Services Facility and Adoption Center;	
10	(2) One member being a licensed veterinarian with pet and wildlife experience;	
11	(3) One member of the [Prince George's County Society of the Prevention of	
12	Cruelty Against Animals (SPCA)] SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County;	
13	(4) One member [from a non-profit providing animal fostering services in the	
14	County] experienced in animal fostering;	
15	(5) One member representing an organization providing services for [feral]	
16	community cats;	
17	(6) One member of an animal rescue organization working within the County;	
18	(7) One member [representing the] with experience in animal care and behavior,	
19	outreach, training, to provide guidance in recruiting, training and retaining of shelter volunteers;	
20	(8) One member experienced in animal or pet behavior; [and]	
21	(9) One public member who lives or works in the County[.];	
22	(10)One member of a Community Advocacy Group; and	
23	(11) One member who is an expert in breeding.	
24	(b) The term of office for each member shall be three years; however, the terms of the	
25	initial appointments shall be staggered with [three] five members appointed to three-year terms,	
26	three members appointed to two-year terms, and three members appointed to one-year terms.	
27	(c) After an appointment to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the	
28	rest of the unexpired term.	
29	(d) The Committee members must elect annually a Chair and Vice Chair from among its	
30	voting members. Staff support shall be provided by the County Council.	
31	<u>Sec. 2-555. Meetings.</u>	

[The Committee shall meet in public session on call of the Chair. The Committee must meet as often as necessary to perform and exercise its duties, but not less than 6 times each year. The public meetings may be held in person or virtually.]

The committee shall meet in public session on call of the Chair. Appropriate notice must be given to the community per the State of Maryland's Open Meetings Act and county public meeting guidelines. The Committee must meet as often as necessary to perform and exercise its duties, but not less than 6 prescheduled times each year. The public meetings may be held virtually or in person. The Chair will conduct these meetings in an atmosphere or collaboration with the committee members and the public.

Sec. 2-556. Committee's Advice and Annual Report.

The Committee shall advise the County Executive and County Council on issues of interest to the animal welfare populace, both on the Committee's own initiative and upon the request of either branch of County government. Further, by July 1 each year, the Committee must submit to the County Executive and the County Council an annual report on its functions, activities, accomplishments, plans and objectives. The report should also include any recommendations or requests it deems appropriate to further the public purpose of the Committee.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this day of	, 2025. COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
	BY: Edward P. Burroughs III Chair
ATTEST:	
Donna J. Brown Clerk of the Council	– APPROVED:
DATE:	BY:Aisha N. Braveboy County Executive