

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-081-2025

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment

Date: 10/9/2025

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 5-0 (In Favor: Council Members Olson, Harrison, Blegay, Dernoga, and Fisher)

The Committee convened on October 9, 2025, to discuss CB-81-2025, which establishes a new Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to promote and enhance the welfare of animals and serve as a link between the animal welfare community and local government. The Committee shall have the power and duty to:

- Serve as the central point of information and communication for the animal welfare community regarding governmental, non-profit, and private programs affecting animal welfare, pet ownership, and safe co-existence with wildlife.
- Advise the County Executive and County Council on a number of issues, including: animal rescue; animal fostering; control of the animal population; animal bite prevention; zoonotic disease transmission; best practices for animal shelters and volunteer recruitment at the County animal shelter.
- Advise the County Executive and County Council regarding the effect of animal welfare operations on existing and potential state and local laws, policies, rules, and regulations aimed at improving the treatment and care of animals.
- Advise the County government on the implementation of state and local initiatives pertaining to, but not limited to, sheltering, keeping, adoption, fostering, rescue, volunteerism, partnership, nonprofits, and charitable giving.
- Report annually to the County Executive and County Council on the status of animal welfare in the County

The Advisory Committee consists of nine (9) members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council:

- (1) A volunteer from the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center;
- (2) A licensed veterinarian with pet and wildlife experience;
- (3) A representative of the Prince George's County Society of the Prevention of Cruelty Against Animals (SPCA);
- (4) One member from a non-profit providing animal fostering services in the County;
- (5) One member representing an organization providing services for feral cats;
- (6) One member of an animal rescue organization working within the County;
- (7) One member representing the recruiting, training, and retaining of volunteers;

- (8) One member experienced in animal or pet behavior; and
- (9) One public member who lives or works in the County.

Advisory Committee members will serve 3-year terms, must meet at least six (6) times annually, and provide an annual report by July 1 of each year. The Department of Environment provided support with amendments aimed at fostering a collaborative process between the Advisory Committee, the Animal Control Commission, and the Animal Services Division. The sponsor was receptive to DOE's concerns and proposed amendments to:

- add a tenth (10th) member, defined as a community advocate, and
- An eleventh (11th) member with expertise in breeding
- Remove the responsibilities of serving as the central point of information, advising on existing laws and policies, and establishing improved communications
- Change providing services for feral cats to community cats
- Add humane to the control of the animal population.
- One member experienced in animal fostering. (Revised original language.)

After discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-81-2025 as amended by a vote of 5-0.