

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-097-2025

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment

Date: 10/14/2025

Action: NR(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: No Recommendation, as Amended, 3-0 (In Favor: Council Members Olson, Harrison, and Fisher)

The Committee convened on October 14, 2025, to discuss CB-97-2025, which amends Subtitle 3 (Animal Control), Division 1 (Definitions), Division 4 (Enforcement), and Division 6 (Rules, Regulations and Standards). This legislation:

- strengthens the animal control law.
- increases civil penalties.
- expands the leash law.
- lifts the Pit Bull Terrier ban.
- establishes a pilot program to foster and adopt Pit Bull Terriers.

Highlights

1. Animal at large is expanded to include animals not leashed.
2. Dangerous animal and potentially dangerous animal are expanded to include an animal declared by another jurisdiction as dangerous or potentially dangerous.
3. Adds to the dangerous animal definition: “one that poses a physical threat to humans because of specific training or demonstrated behavior or has a bite that is poisonous.”
4. Exceptions include an animal protecting or defending a person in the immediate vicinity or defending itself, its litter, or another animal.
5. Increases civil penalties for violation of dangerous animal restrictions: 1st violation - \$500; 2nd violation - \$1,500; 3rd violation – \$3,000.
6. Expands the leash law to include exercise areas designated by MNCPPC or the Administrator.
7. Provides that a leash may not exceed ten (10) feet in length.
8. Permits unleashed animals in securely fenced areas with the owner’s permission.
9. Lifts the Pit Bull Terrier ban.
10. Establishes a pilot program to foster and adopt Pit Bull Terriers.

Amendments

1. The Committee accepted each of the Department of the Environment’s amendments, which revise the definitions of animal at large, dangerous animal, and potentially

dangerous animal, and add the definitions of provocation and severe injury. The pet parenting and animal handling courses language was also revised.

2. The Committee expanded the current spay and neuter law to apply to adopted and fostered Pit Bulls.
3. The Committee increased the fines for failure to obtain a permit for a Pit Bull Terrier from \$50 to \$150.

After discussion, the Committee voted No Recommendation on CB-97-2025 as amended, by a vote of 3-0.