

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

Bill No. CB-081-2025

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Watson

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

3 For the purpose of creating the Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee;
4 providing for the powers and duties of the Committee; providing for the Committee composition,
5 terms and officers; providing for meetings; providing for the Committee's advice and annual
6 report; and generally regarding animal welfare in the County.

7 BY adding:

8 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

9 Sections 2-552, 2-553, 2-554, 2-555 and 2-556,

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2023 Edition; 2024 Supplement).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
13 Maryland, that Sections 2-552, 2-553, 2-554, 2-555 and 2-556 of the Prince George's County
14 Code be and the same are hereby added:

15 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

16 **DIVISION 49. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY**
17 **COMMITTEE.**

18 **Sec. 2-552. Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.**

19 The Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is hereby created to
20 promote and enhance the welfare of animals and serve as a link between the animal welfare
21 community and local government.

Sec. 2-553. Powers and Duties of Committee.

(a) The Committee shall have the power and duty to:

(1) Serve as the central point of information for the animal welfare community regarding governmental, non-profit and private programs affecting animal welfare.

(2) Advise the County Executive and County Council on issues and recommendations for animal rescue; animal fostering; control of the animal population; animal bite prevention; zoonotic disease transmission; and education the public on safely coexisting with wildlife.

(3) Advise the County Executive and County Council on best practices for animal shelters and for recruiting volunteers for the County animal shelter.

(4) Advise the County Executive and County Council regarding the effect of animal welfare operations on existing laws, policies, rules and regulations aimed at improving the treatment and care of animals.

(5) Advise the County Executive and County Council regarding the effect of animal welfare operations on potential laws, policies, rules and regulations aimed at improving the treatment and care of animals.

(6) Work to establish better communication and understanding between the animal welfare community, the County government and the community at large.

(7) 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.

(8) Promote public awareness and education regarding responsible pet ownership and animal welfare issues.

(9) Collaborate with local organizations and stakeholders to enhance animal welfare programs.

(10) Report annually to the County Executive and County Council on the status of animal welfare in the County.

Sec. 2-554. Committee Composition; Term; Officers.

(a) The Committee shall be composed of nine members (9) nominated by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The nine members shall represent each of the following:

(1) One member serving as a volunteer from the Prince George's County Animal

Services Facility and Adoption Center;

(2) One member being a licensed veterinarian with pet and wildlife experience;

(3) One member 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.

(b) The term of office for each member shall be three years; however, the terms of the initial appointments shall be staggered with three members appointed to three-year terms, three members appointed to two-year terms, and three members appointed to one-year terms.

(c) After an appointment to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of the unexpired term.

(d) The Committee members must elect annually a Chair and Vice Chair from among its voting members. Staff support shall be provided by the County Council.

Sec. 2-555. Meetings.

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.

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,

1 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
2 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
3 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
4 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
5 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
6 or section.

7 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
8 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