

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2026 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-025-2026

Chapter No.

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Olson

Introduced by Council Members Olson, Oriadha, Adams, Hunter, Harrison, Adams-  
Stafford, Dernoga, Ivey and Fisher

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction May 5, 2026

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Responsible Pet Ownership Act

3 For the purpose of providing for a certain recordkeeping requirement; providing for a certain  
4 licensing ban; providing for certain licensing restrictions; and generally regarding responsible pet  
5 ownership.

6 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

7 SUBTITLE 3. ANIMAL CONTROL.

8 Sections 3-136 and 3-142,

9 The Prince George's County Code

10 (2023 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

11 BY adding:

12 SUBTITLE 3. ANIMAL CONTROL.

13 Section 3-145.01,

14 The Prince George's County Code

15 (2023 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

16  
17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
18 Maryland, that Sections 3-136 and 3-142 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same  
19 are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

**SUBTITLE 3. ANIMAL CONTROL.**

**DIVISION 4. ANIMAL CONTROL ENFORCEMENT.**

**SUBDIVISION 2. IMPOUNDMENT AND DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS.**

**Sec. 3-136. - Dangerous animals.**

(a) An owner of an animal declared dangerous or potentially dangerous in another jurisdiction must remove the animal from the County within ten (10) days after receiving a citation or other notice of a violation of this Section unless waived of this requirement and has imposed conditions or restrictions for the animal to remain in the County. The Administrator may waive these prohibitions for a specific animal only upon a finding that the animal is not a threat to public health or safety. No animal shall be found to be dangerous if the threat, injury, or damage was sustained by a person who was acting in provocation.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Police Department to receive and document complaints concerning dangerous animals. It shall be the duty of the Administrator/Animal Control Officer to receive and investigate complaints concerning dangerous animals. Whenever an animal complained against shall be reasonably deemed by a police officer or the Administrator/Animal Control Officer to be a dangerous animal, the police officer or Administrator/Animal Control Officer shall report the fact to the Commission in the form of a written complaint and shall be authorized and empowered to impound the animal pending a hearing if he reasonably believes that the owner of the animal is not capable of restraining the animal from attacking, biting, or injuring any human being or other animal pending a hearing on whether the animal is dangerous. Notwithstanding the above, whenever an animal causes severe injury to any human being, the police officer or Animal Control Officer shall impound the animal pending a hearing by the Commission. In this Section, severe injury means any physical injury from single or multiple bite(s) resulting in broken bones, serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health, serious impairment of a bodily function, or requiring multiple sutures or cosmetic surgery.

(c) Whenever an animal has been impounded pursuant to this Section, the owner shall be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of the impoundment of a right to a preliminary hearing. The preliminary hearing shall be scheduled within seventy-two (72) hours of a written request by the owner. This preliminary hearing may be conducted by a hearing officer designated by the Commission and shall be for the sole purpose of determining whether the owner of the animal is

1 | capable of restraining the animal from attacking, biting or injuring any human being or other  
2 | animal until it can be determined at a hearing conducted by the Animal Control Commission  
3 | whether the animal is dangerous.

4 | (d) If it is determined that the alleged dangerous animal may be returned to the custody of  
5 | the owner until the scheduled full hearing, the Commission may impose such requirements of  
6 | conditions as are deemed necessary to restrain the animal and the owner shall be required to pay  
7 | the costs and maintenance expenses incurred during the time that the animal was impounded.  
8 | Should the owner not adhere to conditions set forth by the Commission, the alleged dangerous  
9 | animal shall be immediately impounded and remain in the custody of the County pending the  
10 | outcome of the full hearing.

11 | (e) If the Commission determines that continuing impoundment is necessary, the owner  
12 | shall be responsible for all costs and maintenance expenses incurred.

13 | (f) Any person who alleges that an animal is dangerous may file a complaint with the  
14 | Animal Control Commission that states in clear language why the animal is dangerous. This  
15 | complaint shall identify where the animal is located and describe the animal which is the subject  
16 | of the complaint. The Administrator shall investigate the complaint and may impound the animal  
17 | in accordance with this Section.

18 | (g) The Commission shall conduct a public hearing upon the question of whether the  
19 | animal is a dangerous animal in accordance with the provisions of Section 3-110 of this Subtitle.

20 | (h) If the Commission, upon the evidence before it, finds that the animal complained of is  
21 | in fact a dangerous animal, as defined in Subsection (a), above, and Section 3-101(32), the  
22 | Commission may direct the owner or custodian of the dangerous animal to confine the animal  
23 | and to abate its danger to the public in accordance with Section 3-137 herein, or require the  
24 | owner or custodian of the dangerous animal to surrender the animal to the County and authorize  
25 | the Administrator to destroy the animal.

26 | (i) The Administrator shall maintain a record of all known dangerous animals in Prince  
27 | George's County. This record shall be transmitted to the County Council annually.

28 | (j) If any animal shall be found at large or running at large by an Animal Control Officer  
29 | or police officer and, in the judgment of the Animal Control Officer or police officer, such  
30 | animal is dangerous, and cannot be taken up or tranquilized and impounded, such animal may be  
31 | slain by the Animal Control Officer or police officer.

1 (k) The Administrator or any other person must not sell, release, or place for adoption an  
 2 animal that an animal control officer found is dangerous or potentially dangerous unless the  
 3 Administrator finds the action is safe.

4 **Sec. 3-142. - Irresponsible owners.**

5 (a) An owner or custodian shall be declared to be an irresponsible owner if:

6 (1) they allow their animal to inflict bites on a human or another domesticated animal  
 7 either on public or private property;

8 (2) they allow their animal to chase or approach a person in a menacing fashion or  
 9 apparent attitude of attack, or with a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack  
 10 unprovoked, to cause injury, or otherwise to threaten the safety of humans or animals;

11 (3) they fail to provide proper care and treatment for an animal;

12 (4) they fail to provide humane training for appropriate temperament and  
 13 response;

14 (5) they fail to take precautions to abate aggressive behavior; prevent an imminent  
 15 threat, assault or disturbance; or ensure surrounding circumstances and environment do not  
 16 create or give rise to potentially dangerous situations.

17 (b) An irresponsible owner [may] shall be banned from licensing, owning, possessing, or  
 18 caring for animals [for up to five (5) years] subject to the right to petition the board for a waiver  
 19 based on good cause shown.

20 (c) The commission may mandate dangerous animal restrictions for any violations of this  
 21 section.

22 (d) Nothing in this division shall be construed to exempt any animal owner or custodian  
 23 from compliance [of] with the requirements for responsible animal ownership. An animal owner  
 24 or custodian found guilty of provisions of this division shall be declared to be an irresponsible  
 25 owner.

26 (e)The Commission shall impose a civil fine of a minimum of One-Thousand Dollars  
 27 (\$1,000) to a maximum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for a violation of this Section  
 28 imposed based on the frequency and severity of the violation.

29 SECTION 2. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
 30 Maryland, that Section 3-145.01 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby  
 31 added:



Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Krystal Oriadha  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aisha N. Braveboy  
County Executive

KEY:  
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.