

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 _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

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19 are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

1 animal until it can be determined at a hearing conducted by the Animal Control Commission
2 whether the animal is dangerous.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (k) The Administrator or any other person must not sell, release, or place for adoption an

1 animal that an animal control officer found is dangerous or potentially dangerous unless the
2 Administrator finds the action is safe.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 **SUBTITLE 3. ANIMAL CONTROL.**

29 **DIVISION 5. LICENSES AND STANDARDS.**

30 **SUBDIVISION 1. PET LICENSES.**

1 **Sec. 3-145.01. Dangerous animals; licenses.**

2 An owner or custodian, or prior owner or custodian, of a dangerous animal whose
3 dangerous animal has violated Section(s) 3-101(a)(33), 3-136, or 3-137 of this Subtitle shall be
4 prohibited from obtaining a license.

5 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
6 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
7 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
8 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
9 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
10 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
11 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
12 or section.

13 SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
14 calendar days after it becomes law.

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.