

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 15-17

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING Animal Cruelty in Queen Anne's County;

FOR THE PURPOSE of revising the provisions on animal cruelty in Queen Anne's County; providing for consideration of appropriate standards of care; and providing that violation of the provisions on cruelty to animals be a misdemeanor and establishing penalties for such violations;

BY AMENDING Section 9-21 A. of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that Section 9-21 A. of the Code of Public Local Laws be amended to read as follows:

Chapter 9. Animal Control

Article III. Registration and Animal Care

§9-21. Cruelty.

A. Prohibited.

(1) No individual shall;

(a) Abandon an animal;

(b) Tease, torture, torment, deliberately incite, cruelly beat or kill, intentionally injure, mutilate, intentionally run down with a vehicle, overdrive, overload, or otherwise abuse an animal;

(c) Administer poison to any animal or knowingly place or leave any poisonous or other harmful substance with the intent to injure or kill any animal other than vermin;

(d) Use or permit any animal to be used for the purpose of fighting raise for the purpose of fighting, or organize or participate in any type of animal fighting.

- (e) Inflict suffering or pain upon an animal under the individual's charge or custody.
- (f) Fail to provide an animal with nutritious food in sufficient quantity, necessary veterinary care, proper drink, air, space, shelter, or protection from the elements;
- (g) Leave any domestic animal unattended in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the animal;
- (h) Shoot any domestic animal, except as provided under §9-17F of this chapter or to humanely destroy such animal because of sickness, disease, or injury.

(2) Penalty.

Notwithstanding Section 9-27 of this chapter, violation of this Section shall be a misdemeanor and upon conviction, a person shall be subject to incarceration for a period of up to 90 days and a fine of up to \$1,000.00 or both such fine and incarceration. In determining whether a violation of this Section has occurred, consideration shall be given to the Standards of Care and regulations adopted pursuant thereto in Section 9-15 of this Chapter.

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on the forty-sixth (46th) day following its enactment.

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner J. Wilson

DATE: December 22, 2015

PUBLIC HEARING HELD: January 26, 2016 @ 6:40 p.m.

VOTE: 4 Yea 0 Nay

DATE OF ADOPTION: February 9, 2016

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 26, 2016