



**Committee:** GO

**Committee Review:** At a future date

**Staff:** Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney

**Purpose:** To introduce agenda item – no vote expected

**Keywords:** #AnimalServices

AGENDA ITEM #10B

October 19, 2021

**Introduction**

## SUBJECT

Bill 37-21, Animal Control – Animal Services Advisory Committee - Established

Lead Sponsor: Council Vice-President Albornoz

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Whether to establish an Animal Services Advisory Committee.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Would a new advisory committee for animal services improve the operation of the County Office of Animal Services?

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- What should be the composition of the membership of the Committee?

### This report contains:

Staff Report

Bill 37-21

LRR

Pages 1-2

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**M E M O R A N D U M**

October 14, 2021

TO: County Council

FROM: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 37-21, Animal Control – Animal Services Advisory Committee - Established

PURPOSE: Introduction – no Council votes required

Bill 37-21, Animal Control – Animal Services Advisory Committee - Established, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Council Vice-President Albornoz, is scheduled to be introduced on October 19, 2021. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for November 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

**Background**

Bill 37-21 would establish a new County Animal Services Advisory Committee. The Committee would have 11 voting members representing different stakeholders and 3 non-voting *ex officio* members from the Office of Animal Services. All members would be appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council. The Committee would work with the Office of Animal Services to advise the Executive and the Council on issues and recommendations for:

- (1) animal care and welfare;
- (2) animal rescue;
- (3) animal fostering and adoption;
- (4) control of the animal population;
- (5) animal bite prevention;
- (6) zoonotic disease transmission;
- (7) educating the public on safely coexisting with wildlife;
- (8) best practices for animal shelters;
- (9) recruiting volunteers for the County animal shelter; and
- (10) the operation of the Office.

Issues of animal well-being are a significant interest to a large segment of Montgomery County residents as evidenced by the activity at – and calls to – the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC), and by the number of actively supported non-profit organizations providing rescue and care services for domesticated animals and wildlife.

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<sup>1</sup>#AnimalServices

Montgomery County is home to a wide variety of animal care experts and related organizations that can provide OAS with support and expertise that will allow OAS to better serve Montgomery County residents and animals.

OAS already relies on foster and other organizations to extend their reach. An Advisory Committee will provide an institutionalized and formal mechanism for OAS' work with the broader animal care community and interested residents. An Advisory Group will also provide a conduit for discussions with the animal care and broader community. Finally, OAS will benefit from institutionalized input of the community expertise available in Montgomery County, as well as the input from the community they serve.

This packet contains:

Expedited Bill 37-21

Legislative Request Report

Circle #

1

5

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Bill No. 37-21  
Concerning: Animal Control – Animal  
Services Advisory Committee -  
Established  
Revised: 10-5-21 Draft No. 2  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expires: \_\_\_\_\_  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Lead Sponsor: Council Vice President Alborno

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**AN ACT** to:

- (1) establish an Animal Services Advisory Committee;
- (2) establish guidelines for the appointment of members by the Executive;
- (3) assign duties for the Committee; and
- (4) generally amend the law governing animal services in the County.

By adding

Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 5, Animal Control  
Section 5-105

<b>Boldface</b>	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

1           **Sec. 1. Section 5-105 is added as follows:**

2    **5-105. Animal Services Advisory Committee.**

3           (a)   Definitions. In this Section the follow words have the meanings indicated:

4               Animal means as defined in Section 5-101.

5               Committee means the Animal Services Advisory Committee.

6               Office means the Office of Animal Services.

7           (b)   Established. There is an Animal Services Advisory Committee. The  
 8               Executive must appoint the members of the Committee subject to  
 9               confirmation by the Council.

10          (c)   Composition and terms of members.

11           (1)   The Commission has 11 voting members and 3 ex officio non-  
 12               voting members.

13           (2)   The Executive should appoint:

14               (A)   1 licensed veterinarian with pet and wildlife experience;

15               (C)   1 person with expertise in animal or pet behavior;

16               (D)   1 person with experience in recruiting, training, and  
 17               retaining volunteers;

18               (E)   1 person designated by the Montgomery County Partners  
 19               for Animal Well-Being or a similar organization operating  
 20               in the County;

21               (F)   1 person designated by the Second Chance Wildlife Center  
 22               or a similar organization operating in the County;

23               (G)   1 person representing a non-profit organization that  
 24               provides animal fostering services in the County;

25               (H)   1 person representing an organization for feral cats;

- (I) 1 person representing Friends of Montgomery County Animals (FMCA) or a similar organization operating in the County;
- (J) 1 person representing an animal rescue organization operating in the County; and
- (K) 2 public members who live or work in the County.
- (3) Ex officio non-voting members. The Executive must appoint the following ex officio members:
- (A) the Director of the Office or the Director's designee;
- (B) the lead veterinarian for the Office; and
- (C) the budget operations manager for the Office.
- (4) The term of each member is 3 years. After an appointment to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of the unexpired term.
- (d) Voting, officers, meetings, and compensation.
- (1) Except the ex officio members, all members of the Committee are voting members.
- (2) The Committee must elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its voting members.
- (3) The Committee meets at the call of the Chair. The Committee must meet as often as necessary to perform its duties, but not less than 6 times each year.
- (4) A member must serve without compensation. However, a member may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates established by the County.
- (e) Duties. The Commission must work with the Office to advise the Executive and the Council on issues and recommendations for:

- (1) animal care and welfare;
- (2) animal rescue;
- (3) animal fostering and adoption;
- (4) control of the animal population;
- (5) animal bite prevention;
- (6) zoonotic disease transmission;
- (7) educating the public on safely coexisting with wildlife;
- (8) best practices for animal shelters;
- (9) recruiting volunteers for the County animal shelter; and
- (10) the operation of the Office.

(f) Requests for information. The Office must respond to Committee requests for information within 30 days after the Office receives the request.

(g) Annual Report. By July 1 each year, the Committee must submit to the Executive and the Council an annual report on its functions, activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives.

(h) Advocacy. The Committee must not engage in any advocacy activity at the State or federal levels unless that activities is approved by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

(i) Staff. The Director of the Office must provide appropriate staff to the Committee.

## **Sec. 2. Transition.**

Notwithstanding paragraph (d)(2), the Executive must designate the Chair and Vice-Chair until the Committee elects the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Executive must stagger the initial terms of the voting members so that the terms of approximately one-third of the members expires each year.

## LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 37-21

*Animal Control – Animal Services Advisory Committee - Established*

<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	The purpose of the Montgomery County Animal Services Advisory Committee is to, in partnership with the Office of Animal Services, advise the County Council and the County Executive on issues pertaining to animal care and welfare, animal rescue, animal fostering and adoption, control of the animal population, animal bite prevention, zoonotic disease transmission, educating the public on safely coexisting with wildlife, best practices for animal shelters now and in the future, recruiting volunteers, and any other issues related to the operation of the County's Office of Animal Services (OAS).
<b>PROBLEM:</b>	OAS could benefit from advice from an ongoing group of community experts in animal services.
<b>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:</b>	To improve the operation of the Office of Animal Services.
<b>COORDINATION:</b>	Office of Animal Services
<b>FISCAL IMPACT:</b>	To be requested.
<b>ECONOMIC IMPACT:</b>	To be requested.
<b>EVALUATION:</b>	To be researched.
<b>EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:</b>	To be researched.
<b>SOURCE OF INFORMATION:</b>	Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney (240) 777-7895
<b>APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	To be researched.
<b>PENALTIES:</b>	Not applicable.