



Committee: GO
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To receive testimony – no vote expected
Keywords: #AnimalServices

AGENDA ITEM #9
November 9, 2021
Public Hearing

SUBJECT

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

Lead Sponsor: Council Vice-President Alborno

Co-Sponsors: Council President Hucker and Councilmembers Katz, Navarro, Jawando, Glass, Rice, and Riemer

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Members of the Public

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A; hearing testimony from public

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

None

This report contains:

Staff Report
Bill 37-21
LRR

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© 5

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MEMORANDUM

November 4, 2021

TO: County Council

FROM: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney

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

PURPOSE: Public Hearing – to receive testimony

Bill 37-21, Animal Control – Animal Services Advisory Committee - Established, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Council Vice-President Alborno and Co-Sponsors Councilmember Navarro, Council President Hucker, Councilmembers Katz, Jawando, Rice, Riemer, and Glass, was introduced on October 19, 2021. A Government Operations & Fiscal Policy Committee worksession will be scheduled at a future date.¹

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.

¹ #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:	<u>Circle #</u>
Expedited Bill 37-21	1
Legislative Request Report	5

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Bill No. 37-21
Concerning: Animal Control – Animal Services Advisory Committee - Established
Revised: 10-19-21 Draft No. 3
Introduced: October 19, 2021
Expires: April 19, 2023
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Council Vice President Alborno
Co-Sponsors: Councilmember Navarro, Council President Hucker, Councilmembers Katz, Jawando, Rice, Riemer, and Glass

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

Boldface	<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;

26 (I) 1 person representing Friends of Montgomery County
 27 Animals (FMCA) or a similar organization operating in the
 28 County;

29 (J) 1 person representing an animal rescue organization
 30 operating in the County; and

31 (K) 2 public members who live or work in the County.

32 (3) Ex officio non-voting members. The Executive must appoint the
 33 following ex officio members:

34 (A) the Director of the Office or the Director's designee;

35 (B) the lead veterinarian for the Office; and

36 (C) the budget operations manager for the Office.

37 (4) The term of each member is 3 years. After an appointment to fill
 38 a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of
 39 the unexpired term.

40 (d) Voting, officers, meetings, and compensation.

41 (1) Except the ex officio members, all members of the Committee are
 42 voting members.

43 (2) The Committee must elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its
 44 voting members.

45 (3) The Committee meets at the call of the Chair. The Committee
 46 must meet as often as necessary to perform its duties, but not less
 47 than 6 times each year.

48 (4) A member must serve without compensation. However, a member
 49 may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs
 50 at rates established by the County.

51 (e) Duties. The Commission must work with the Office to advise the
 52 Executive and the Council on issues and recommendations for:

- 53 (1) animal care and welfare;
 54 (2) animal rescue;
 55 (3) animal fostering and adoption;
 56 (4) control of the animal population;
 57 (5) animal bite prevention;
 58 (6) zoonotic disease transmission;
 59 (7) educating the public on safely coexisting with wildlife;
 60 (8) best practices for animal shelters;
 61 (9) recruiting volunteers for the County animal shelter; and
 62 (10) the operation of the Office.
- 63 (f) Requests for information. The Office must respond to Committee
 64 requests for information within 30 days after the Office receives the
 65 request.
- 66 (g) Annual Report. By July 1 each year, the Committee must submit to the
 67 Executive and the Council an annual report on its functions, activities,
 68 accomplishments, plans, and objectives.
- 69 (h) Advocacy. The Committee must not engage in any advocacy activity at
 70 the State or federal levels unless that activities is approved by the Office
 71 of Intergovernmental Relations.
- 72 (i) Staff. The Director of the Office must provide appropriate staff to the
 73 Committee.

74 **Sec. 2. Transition.**

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 37-21

Animal Control – Animal Services Advisory Committee - Established

DESCRIPTION:	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).
PROBLEM:	OAS could benefit from advice from an ongoing group of community experts in animal services.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:	To improve the operation of the Office of Animal Services.
COORDINATION:	Office of Animal Services
FISCAL IMPACT:	To be requested.
ECONOMIC IMPACT:	To be requested.
EVALUATION:	To be researched.
EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:	To be researched.
SOURCE OF INFORMATION:	Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney (240) 777-7895
APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES:	To be researched.
PENALTIES:	Not applicable.