

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2023, Legislative Day No. 14

Bill No. 46-23

Councilmembers Kach & Jones

By the County Council, July 3, 2023

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Animal Welfare – Picking up Stray Animals

FOR the purpose of granting certain additional time to a person who picks up a stray animal to turn the animal to the Animal Services Division; permitting a person who picks up a stray animal to take certain actions to find the owner; providing for the automatic sunset of this Act; requiring the County Auditor to provide a report; and generally relating to stray animals.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 12-3-201
Article 12 – Animals
Title 3 – Animal Welfare
Subtitle 2 – General Prohibitions and Requirements
Baltimore County Code, 2015

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County shall read as follows:

3
4 ARTICLE 12 – ANIMALS

5 Title 3 – Animal Welfare

6 Subtitle 2 – General Prohibitions and Requirements

7
8 § 12-3-201. Impoundment of stray animal or animal at large.

9 (a) (1) Within [24] 72 hours after picking up a stray animal, a person who picks up a
10 stray animal shall turn the animal over to the Animal Services Division.

11 (2) ~~BEFORE TURNING THE ANIMAL OVER TO THE ANIMAL SERVICES~~
12 ~~DIVISION WHILE IN POSSESSION OF A STRAY ANIMAL, A PERSON WHO PICKS UP~~
13 ~~A STRAY ANIMAL MAY, BUT IS NOT REQUIRED TO~~ SHALL ACTIVELY ATTEMPT
14 TO LOCATE THE OWNER AND REUNITE THE ANIMAL. EFFORTS TO LOCATE THE
15 OWNER SHALL INCLUDE:

16 (I) ~~CHECK~~ CHECKING THE ANIMAL FOR A TAG, TATTOO,
17 MICROCHIP, OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION TO ASCERTAIN THE OWNER;

18 (II) ~~FILE~~ FILING A FOUND REPORT WITHIN 24 HOURS OF
19 FINDING A STRAY ANIMAL WITH THE ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION THAT
20 INCLUDES THE FINDER'S INFORMATION, ANIMAL DESCRIPTION, AND THE DATE
21 AND LOCATION THE ANIMAL WAS FOUND; ~~OR~~ AND

1 (III) PUBLICATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA, FLYERS, OR OTHER
2 PUBLIC PLATFORMS.

3 [(2)] (3) Unless the stray animal is claimed by its owner, the person who turned
4 the stray animal in to the Animal Services Division may adopt the stray animal after the statutory
5 holding period.

6
7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that at the end of March 31, 2025, this
8 Act, with no further action required by the County Council, shall be abrogated and of no further
9 force and effect. No later than March 1, 2025, the Office of the County Auditor shall conduct an
10 audit of the Animal Services Division related to the changes in this Act and submit a report to the
11 County Council on the performance of this Act in relation to reuniting stray animals with owners
12 and make recommendations on possible amendments and the automatic termination of this Act.

13
14 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
15 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days from the
16 date of enactment.



LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION _____

DISPOSITION _____

ENACTED _____

EFFECTIVE _____

AMENDMENTS _____

ROLL CALL - LEGISLATION

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Young
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Patoka
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Kach
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Jones
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Marks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Ertel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Young
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Patoka
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Kach
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