



MEMO

September 18, 2018

**RE: Updates to the Talbot County Code
For Immediate Release**

In January 2018 the Talbot County Animal Control Board and Talbot Humane began work to consider changes to the Talbot County Code related to the care of animals.

This portion of the County Code has not been updated since 2006. Over the past 12 years there has been great progress in laws across the country as well as other counties in Maryland as they apply to the protection of animals. Businesses serving animals and animal guardians have also expanded exponentially during this time; examples are breeding, training, rescue and boarding facilities. These points have brought the demand for change from the citizens of Talbot County for the better protection of animals in our county.

The following is a summary of the requested changes to Chapter 15: Animals of the Talbot County Code:

- Creates a new license for kennels, breeders (6 females, 1 litter a year), trainers, rescue entities and pet stores, setting standards and removing the requirement of individual animal licensure, allowing for suspension and revocation
- Changes the definition of a vicious animal to attacking or injuring a person and exhibiting aggressive or dangerous behavior, removing a third category of physical threat
- Creates a requirement that animals must be provided specifically suitable shelter during extreme weather (below 32 and above 85)
- Disallows unattended tethering of animals
- Tightens the requirements on vicious and dangerous dogs related to type of leash control

The public is encouraged to comment in writing on these updates before October 18, 2018, or in person at the public hearing scheduled for Thursday October 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing will be held in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 N. Washington St., Easton Maryland 21601.

To submit comments please contact Mary O'Donnell, Talbot County Office of Law:

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