COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2015, Legislative Day No. 31

Bill No. 79-15

Introduced by Mr. Trumbauer and Mr. Grasso

By the County Council, July 6, 2015

Introduced and first read on July 6, 2015
Public Hearing set for September 8, 2015
Bill Expires October 11, 2015

By Order: Elizabeth E. Jones, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning: Animal Control – Cruelty to Elephants

FOR the purpose of prohibiting cruelty to elephants through certain behavior and use of
certain tools for the purposes of training or behavior management of elephants;
providing for the effective date of this Ordinance; and generally relating to animal
control.

BY adding: § 12-4-913
Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

WHEREAS, animal protection and animal welfare is of great public concern and
there has been increased awareness of cruelty to animals in traveling circuses and
other festivals; and

WHEREAS, a bullhook, also known as an ankus or guide, is designed to, and
used to, inflict pain and instill fear as a behavior compliance tool in elephant
training and performance; and

WHEREAS, a bullhook resembles a fireplace poker and is used to prod, poke,
strike, and hit elephants about the ears, head, lips, eye, anus and other sensitive
areas of the body to inflict pain; and

WHEREAS, other tools, such as whips and electronic prods, are often used to
control an elephant in captivity through use or threat of use; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
WHEREAS, Ringling Brothers recently announced that they will phase out elephant acts due to the outcry over the inhumane training and treatment of circus elephants; and

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County should lead an effort to outlaw the use of these implements as well as abusive behavior for elephant training; now, therefore

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) read as follows:

ARTICLE 12. PUBLIC SAFETY

TITLE 4. ANIMAL CONTROL

12-4-913. Cruelty to Elephants Prohibited.

(A) Definition. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION “BULLHOOK” MEANS ANY INSTRUMENT OR DEVICE CONSISTING OF A SPIKE, HOOK, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF, ATTACHED TO A SHAFT OR HANDLE OR WOOD, FIBERGLASS, METAL OR OTHER SOLID OR FLEXIBLE MATERIALS.

(B) Prohibited. A PERSON MAY NOT PHYSICALLY ABUSE AN ELEPHANT BY BEATING OR KICKING OR USE OR DIRECT THE USE OF A BULLHOOK, ANKUS OR GUIDE, OR ANY OTHER IMPLEMENT OR TOOL, INCLUDING A BASEBALL BAT, WHIP, ELECTRIC DEVICE, AXE HANDLE, BLOCK AND TACKLE, PITCHFORK, CHAIN, OR TIE. PROHIBITED USE OF THE IMPLEMENT OR TOOL INCLUDES BRANDISHING, EXHIBITING OR DISPLAYING THE PROHIBITED IMPLEMENT OR TOOL IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ELEPHANT.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That this Ordinance shall take effect January 1, 2016.