



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

Legislative and Fiscal Summary of Administration Legislation

To: Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Affairs /s/

Date: July 21, 2025

Subject: Bill No. 68 -25 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Zoning – Animal Rescue

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Government Relations Office for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 68-25.

Summary

This legislation, introduced at the request of the Administration on behalf of the Office of Planning and Zoning, amends Article 18 to add a new use of “animal rescue” operations in the zoning code and allow it as a conditional use in select zoning districts, with conditions. The Department of Animal Services was also consulted and feels that there is a need for animal rescue services in the County.

The Bill defines an "animal rescue" as a facility for short-term animal care and adoption services, explicitly excluding commercial activities like kenneling, breeding, sale, training, or grooming. It allows animal rescues as a conditional use in the RA, RLD, R1, C4, W1, and W2 zoning districts. The Bill imposes the following conditions for animal rescues:

1. Buildings for animals must be at least 100 feet from residentially zoned property, and animals cannot be housed within this setback.
2. Animals must be spayed or neutered upon or before arrival, with a register maintained by the owner.
3. A maximum of 30 cats are allowed at a facility at one time, and cats cannot be kept outdoors.
4. For animal rescues in residential districts:
 - a. Facilities (except for cat-only rescues) must be on lots of at least three acres.
 - b. At least one person involved in the rescue operation must occupy any dwelling on the property.
 - c. Limits on dogs, livestock, or fowl must comply with existing code.

Note: This Legislative and Fiscal Summary provides a synopsis of the legislation as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the legislation.

- d. The use must not be noxious or offensive to surrounding residential uses.
- 5. For animal rescues in commercial or industrial districts:
 - a. Facilities within structures containing other uses must incorporate sound attenuation.
 - b. The rescue must not unreasonably interfere with other uses or occupants in the same structure and must not be noxious or offensive.

The bill also allows "Animal Rescue" as a home occupation, provided that the total number of animals (dogs, cats, livestock, or fowl) does not exceed permitted limits, animals are not boarded in outside kennels, outdoor animals are kept in a fenced area with a secure locking gate, and the use is not noxious or offensive to surrounding uses.

Purpose

The purpose of this legislation is to define "animal rescue" as a use in the Zoning Code, allow it as a conditional use in RA, RLD, R1, C4, W1, and W2 zoning districts, and articulate the conditions under which the use is allowed.

Fiscal Impact

Please see the Fiscal Note the Budget Office has prepared for an explanation of the fiscal impact of this Resolution.

Additional Information

The Government Relations Office is available to answer any additional questions regarding this Bill. Specific questions should be directed to Kelly Kenney, Office of Law, or Lynn Miller, Office of Planning and Zoning. Thank you.

cc: The Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive
Christine Anderson, Chief Administrative Officer
Jenny Proebstle, Chief of Staff
Gregory Swain, County Attorney
Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer
Janssen Evelyn, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jenny Dempsey, Planning and Zoning Officer