

PROPOSED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 15

Bill No. 68-25

Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

By the County Council, July 21, 2025

Introduced and first read on July 21, 2025
Public Hearing set for September 15, 2025
Bill Expires October 24, 2025

By Order: Kaley Schultze, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Zoning – Animal Rescue

2
3 FOR the purpose of defining “animal rescue”; adding an animal rescue as a conditional use
4 and providing for the conditions in certain districts; adding an animal rescue as a home
5 occupation in certain circumstances; and generally relating to zoning.
6

7 BY renumbering: § 18-1-101(12) through (175) to be § 18-1-101(13) through (176),
8 respectively; and §§ 18-10-106 through 18-10-140 and 18-10-142 through 18-10-176
9 to be §§ 18-10-107 through 18-10-141 and 18-10-143 through 18-10-177, respectively
10 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24,
11 13-25, and 29-25)
12

13 BY adding: §§ 18-1-101(12) and 18-10-106
14 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24 and
15 13-25)
16

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments: §§ 18-4-106, 18-5-102; and 18-6-103
18 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24, 2-25,
19 and 13-25)
20

21 BY repealing, reenacting and renumbering, with amendments: § 18-10-141 to be
22 § 18-10-142, respectively
23 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24, 2-25,
24 13-25, and 58-25)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.
Asterisks *** indicate existing Code provisions in a list or chart that remain unchanged.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,* That §§ 18-1-101(12) through (175); and 18-10-106 through 18-10-140 and 18-10-142 through 176, respectively, of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) (as amended by Bill Nos. 72-24, 13-25, and 29-25), are hereby renumbered to be §§ 18-1-101(13) through (176); and 18-10-107 through 18-10-141 and 18-10-143 through 18-10-177, respectively.

SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) that read as follows:

ARTICLE 18. ZONING

TITLE 1. DEFINITIONS

18-1-101. Definitions.

Unless defined in this article, the Natural Resources Article of the State Code, or COMAR, words defined elsewhere in this Code apply in this article. The following words have the meanings indicated:

(12) "ANIMAL RESCUE" MEANS A FACILITY WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT AND GIVEN CARE SHORT-TERM, AND THAT PROVIDES ADOPTION SERVICES, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS KENNELING, BREEDING, SALE, TRAINING, OR GROOMING OF ANIMALS.

TITLE 4. RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

18-4-106. Permitted, conditional, and special exception uses.

The permitted, conditional, and special exception uses allowed in each of the residential districts are listed in the chart in this section using the following key: P = permitted use; C = conditional use; SE = special exception use. A blank means that the use is not allowed in the district. Except as provided otherwise in this article, uses and structures customarily accessory to the listed uses also are allowed, except that guest houses as accessory structures are prohibited and outside storage as an accessory use is limited to the lesser of 10% of the allowed lot coverage or 500 square feet.

Permitted, Conditional, and Special Exception Uses	RA	RLD	R1	R2	R5	R10	R15	R22

Animal hospitals and veterinary clinics	SE	SE	SE					
ANIMAL RESCUE	C	C	C					

TITLE 5. COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

18-5-102. Permitted, conditional, special exception, and business complex auxiliary uses.

The permitted, conditional, and special exception uses allowed in each of the commercial districts, and uses auxiliary to a business complex, are listed in the chart in this section using the following key: P = permitted use; C = conditional use; SE = special exception use; and A = auxiliary to a business complex use. A blank means that the use is not allowed in the district. Except as provided otherwise in this article, uses and structures customarily accessory to permitted, conditional, and special exception uses also are allowed.

Permitted, Conditional, Special Exception, and Business Complex Auxiliary Uses	C1	C2	C3	C4

Animal hospitals with non-medical overnight stays and veterinary clinics with non-medical overnight stays		C	C	C
ANIMAL RESCUE				C

TITLE 6. INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

18-6-103. Permitted, conditional, special exception uses.

The permitted, conditional, and special exception uses allowed in each of the industrial districts are listed in the chart in this section using the following key: P = permitted use; C = conditional use; SE = special exception use; and A= auxiliary use to a business complex use. A blank means that the use is not allowed in the district. Except as provided otherwise in this article, uses and structures customarily accessory to permitted, conditional, and special exception uses also are allowed, except that outside storage as an accessory use in W1 is limited to 15% of the allowed lot coverage.

Permitted, Conditional, and Special Exception Uses	W1	W2	W3

Animal hospitals with non-medical overnight stays and veterinary clinics with non-medical overnight stays	P	C	
ANIMAL RESCUE	C	C	

TITLE 10. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDITIONAL USES

18-10-106. Animal Rescue.

AN ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS.

(1) BUILDINGS AND ENCLOSURES FOR THE HOUSING OR SHELTER OF ANIMALS SHALL BE AT LEAST 100 FEET FROM ANY RESIDENTIALLY ZONED PROPERTY AND ANIMALS MAY NOT BE HOUSED WITHIN THE 100 FOOT SETBACK.

(2) ANIMALS SHALL BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED BEFORE OR UPON ARRIVAL TO THE FACILITY. THE ANIMAL RESCUE OWNER SHALL KEEP A REGISTER TO SHOW THAT ALL ANIMALS AT THE FACILITY HAVE COMPLIED WITH THIS REQUIREMENT.

(3) NOTWITHSTANDING § 18-4-104(1), THERE MAY BE UP TO 30 CATS AT THE FACILITY ANY ONE TIME. CATS MAY NOT BE KEPT OUTDOORS.

(4) FOR AN ANIMAL RESCUE IN A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, THE FACILITY SHALL ALSO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

(I) EXCEPT FOR A FACILITY SOLELY FOR CATS, THE FACILITY SHALL BE LOCATED ON A LOT OF AT LEAST THREE ACRES.

(II) ANY DWELLING ON THE PROPERTY SHALL BE OCCUPIED BY AT LEAST ONE PERSON INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE.

(III) DOGS, LIVESTOCK OR FOWL KEPT ON THE PROPERTY MAY NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS SET FORTH IN § 18-4-104.

(IV) THE USE MAY NOT BE NOXIOUS, OFFENSIVE, OR OTHERWISE OBJECTIONABLE TO SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL USES.

(5) FOR AN ANIMAL RESCUE IN A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, THE FACILITY SHALL ALSO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

(I) AN ANIMAL RESCUE LOCATED IN A STRUCTURE THAT CONTAINS USES OTHER THAN AN ANIMAL RESCUE SHALL INCORPORATE SOUND ATTENUATION CONSTRUCTION OR MEASURES DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF NOISE FROM THE ANIMAL RESCUE ON THE OTHER USES OR OCCUPANTS IN THE STRUCTURES.

(II) AN ANIMAL RESCUE MAY NOT UNREASONABLY INTERFERE WITH OTHER USES OR OCCUPANTS WITHIN THE SAME STRUCTURE AS THE ANIMAL RESCUE AND THE USE MAY NOT BE NOXIOUS, OFFENSIVE, OR OTHERWISE OBJECTIONABLE TO SURROUNDING USES OR OCCUPANTS.

[[18-10-141.]] 18-10-142. Home Occupations.

A home occupation shall comply with all the following requirements.

(3) Home occupations are limited to the following:

(XIX) ANIMAL RESCUE, PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOGS, CATS, LIVESTOCK OR FOWL ON THE PROPERTY AT ANY TIME DOES NOT EXCEED THE NUMBER PERMITTED TO BE KEPT ON THE PROPERTY UNDER § 18-4-104; THE HOMEOWNER DOES NOT BOARD ANIMALS IN OUTSIDE KENNELS; ANIMALS ARE KEPT IN A FENCED AREA WITH A SECURE LOCKING GATE WHEN OUTDOORS; AND THE USE IS NOT NOXIOUS OR OFFENSIVE TO SURROUNDING USES.

SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted*, That this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days from the date it becomes law.