

Anne Arundel County Animal Welfare Council

Annual Report 2025



Submitted by Linda Mazer, Chair

December 2025

awc.aaco@gmail.com

<https://www.aacounty.org/animal-welfare-council>

Council Board Members

Linda Mazer – Chair

Tanya Keitz – Vice Chair

Sandra Andrulis, DVM – Secretary

Jaci Kyle, Membership Chair

Alison Sachs

Kip Imperato, DVM

Kiani Brooks

Ralph Youngs

Marion Hosmer

Kristi Ellefson

Lauren Umlandt

The Anne Arundel County Animal Welfare Council was created in 2016 (Executive Order no. 15, 2016). It consists of up to 16 citizen members of Anne Arundel County appointed by the County Executive. The mission of the Animal Welfare Council (AWC) is to consider matters for the promotion of the humane treatment of animals in Anne Arundel County and to provide advice to the County Executive and the County Departments on such matters. This advisory role includes recommending policy improvements, reviewing legislation, promoting pet ownership and volunteerism, monitoring issues of animal cruelty and providing resource materials.

Effective July 5, 2025, through the passage of Bill No. 25-25 (section 3-27-101), the Animal Welfare Council was codified into the Anne Arundel County legislative code. While the mission and duties of the Animal Welfare Council remain unchanged, the codification will provide stability for the Animal Welfare Council through changes of County Executives.

Meetings held in 2025: All meetings were hybrid allowing in person and virtual attendees

January 15, 2025

April 16, 2025

July 16, 2025

October 16, 2025

Future Scheduled Meetings for 2026 at Animal Services with virtual option:

January 21, 2026

April 15, 2026

July 15, 2026

October 21, 2026

Accomplishments in 2025:

1. Legislation:
 - Supported **Bill No. 6-25** (Miniature pigs in residential districts), AWC members attended and testified at hearings on February 3 and February 18. Bill passed.
 - Supported **Bill No. 25-25** (Department of Animal Services), AWC members attended and testified at hearings on April 21, May 5 and May 19. Bill passed
 - Supported **Bill No. 68-25** (Defining Animal Rescue), AWC members attended and testified at hearings on September 15, October 6 and October 20. Bill passed.
2. Worked together with the Director of Department of Animal Services (DAS) to produce a Strategic Plan. This plan should help to identify priorities and manage expectations for DAS and AWC.
3. Updated the AWC website content, resource documents and added our newly developed logo.
4. Supported and helped facilitate community grassroots efforts on the Reach Back Initiative and the Equine/Farm Animal Initiative.

Recommendations for the coming year of 2026:

1. To support the Department of Animal Services (DAS) as they continue to implement items reflected in the Strategic Plan. A copy of this plan has been submitted along with this Annual Report. One of the items from this plan included the new shelter specific software, Shelter Buddy. This has been the # 1 priority recommendation from the AWC for the past 4 years. The AWC is very pleased to see this implementation become a reality. It should provide needed critical data to analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of shelter programs and activities, streamline communication and decrease duplicity of tasks.
2. To encourage and identify diversification for fundraising opportunities that support DAS.
3. To attend and speak at community meetings and forums to increase transparency, approachability and give residents a chance to ask questions and give input on county animal issues.
4. To continue to participate in both the County Budget Town Halls hosted by the County Executive and the County Council Budget Hearings.
5. To continue to review and give input on any new animal related legislation.
6. To encourage new innovative methods for marketing and educational purposes. For example, creating short 2 – minute videos that can be placed on the website or social media pages.
7. To continue to support and facilitate new grassroots efforts regarding animal issues from community members.