

1969 Legislative Session, Legislative Day No. 3

Council Bill No. 7

An Act to repeal Sections 109 through 114, inclusive, of the Code of Public Local Laws of Howard County (1965 Edition), being Article 14 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "Dogs, custody or control, seizure, expenses, farmer's dogs, impound, and violation," and to enact new Sections 17.500 through 17.506, inclusive, of the Howard County Code, to provide for licensing and vaccination of dogs, to provide a procedure for obtaining title to stray dogs, to provide for the seizure, impoundment, and disposal of any dog running at large, and to provide further for liability for impounding fee and enforcement of this sub-title.

Section 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That Sections 109, 110, 111, 112, 113 and 114, of the Code of Public Local Laws of Howard County, (1965 Edition) be and they are hereby repealed.

Section 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That Sections 17.500, 17.501, 17.502, 17.503, 17.504, 17.505, and 17.506, be and they are hereby added to Title 17 of the Howard County Code, "Public Protection Services", sub-title "Dogs", to read as follows:

17.500—Definitions

For the purposes of this sub-title and Title 8 the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to therein by this Section.

(a) Keeping or Harboring. The act or sufferance either of feeding or sheltering a dog on the premises of the occupant or owner thereof.

(b) Owner or Own. Any person having a right of property in a dog and any person who keeps or harbors a dog or has it in his care or acts as custodian or permits it to remain on or about any premises occupied or controlled by him.

(c) Vicious Dog. Any dog that constitutes a physical threat to human beings, other dogs, cats, livestock, swine or fowl by the virtue of its specific training or demonstrated behavior EXCEPTING DOGS BELONGING TO A GOVERNMENT AGENCY ACTING IN THE OFFICAL PERFORMANCE OF AUTHORIZED DUTY.

(d) Public Nuisance. Any animal found at large making loud or objectionable sounds, damaging property, molesting passerby, chasing vehicle or acting in any manner which is deemed to be doing damage to property or to the public health and well being or which is known to have bitten two or more persons or shall have been determined by the animal control officer THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER or any other authorized representative of the County to be a detriment to public health, welfare and safety shall be deemed to be a public nuisance.

(e) At Large. Any domesticated animal will be deemed to be at large when not on the property of his owner and not under the control of a responsible person.

17.501—License—Required; Rabies Vaccination

No person shall own or have custody of any dog over three months of age unless such dog is licensed as herein provided. This provision