



7894 Ocean Gateway ♦ P.O. Box 1143 ♦ Easton, MD 21601

(410) 822-0107 ♦ fax (410) 822-7619

www.talbothumane.org ♦ info@talbothumane.org

BOARDING, BREEDING, TRAINING, ANIMAL RESCUE, PET SALE FACILITY INSPECTION:

Need: Within Talbot County there are a number of animal holding facilities, training, boarding, rescue and breeders. Animal Control is contacted regarding concerns ranging from the care of animals, improper practices and/or noise at any number of these holding facilities each year. Often we do not know they exist until we receive a complaint. Other times our agency has been used as a form of harassment for these facilities. The purpose of an annual license and inspection would be to ensure basic standards are adhered to by each facility as they apply to the care of animals. We believe the average citizen would be surprised to know there is not inspection or licensing within Talbot County for these facilities.

Proposal:

- **A license should be required with a basic application (means of keeping track of facilities)**

- **Question to be answered:**

- **Who will license? Animal Control or another office in County Govt. Talbot County Animal Control would license and track**

- Type of facility
- Name and address of the holding facility, and
- Name and address of the owner of the holding facility
- Type of animals housed
- Maximum number of each animal facility is able to house
- Fee should not be more than \$50 annually. The purpose of this statute is animal and consumer protection, not revenue.

- **This would replace the requirement for individual licenses for those dogs and cats which are used for breeding each year. Currently the licensing is required for every dog or cat on the property of every resident in the county. The inspection and license of the facility would replace this for those fitting the criteria.**

- **This change would need to be noted in 15-3 Licensing.**

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- **Minimum Standards:**

- ***In general.*** In addition to the other requirements of this article, a holding facility shall comply with the minimum standards established in this section, the application of which shall be in conformity with individual species requirements and common veterinary practices.
- ***Food and water.***
 - All animals shall be supplied with sufficient good and wholesome food and potable water.
 - All food and water containers shall be clean and so placed that the animals cannot readily tip them over.
- ***Quarters.***
 - All animals and animal quarters shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

- Floors of buildings, runs, and walls shall be of a material that will permit proper cleaning and disinfecting.
- Adequate ventilation and temperatures shall be maintained.
- Proper washing and disinfecting of crates, runs, walls and other areas where animals are housed shall be done regularly.

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o *No escape.*

- Animals housed in holding facilities shall be maintained in quarters so constructed as to prevent their escape.
- All reasonable precautions shall be taken to protect the public from the animals and the animals from the public.

o *Size of cage.* Each cage shall be of sufficient size that an animal will have room to stand, turn, and stretch to the animal's full length.

▪ The requirements in other counties in Maryland is non-specific. They all refer to the above as an adequate space requirement.

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o *Exercise.* All animals housed in holding facilities shall be properly exercised in accordance with the age and species of the animal.

o *Veterinary care.*

- If an animal in a holding facility demonstrates signs of illness or disease, the animal shall be isolated in a manner that will prevent the spread of the illness or disease to other animals.
- The owner or lessee of a holding facility shall provide or cause to be provided appropriate veterinary care for sick, diseased, or injured animals.

• **Denial or Revocation of License:**

o At the request of The Talbot County Animal Control Authority, the Talbot County Animal Control Board (would this be the Chief animal control officer or Animal Control Board?) ~~The (county licensing agent) may refuse to issue a license to or revoke a license for a holding facility that:~~ may revoke or refuse licensure to a holding facility which:

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- o Is maintained in an unsanitary or inhumane manner;
- o Violates any provision of this article; or
- o Fails to meet the standards established under this title

• **Inspections**

- o In General: The Animal Control Authority shall schedule an inspection each calendar year.
- o Includes inspection of records. The right of inspection extends to any records of the holding facility or any records contained in the holding facility that are required to be kept by federal, state, or county law.

• **Unaffected:** MD Comar10-616 Kennel Inspection.

• **Exception:** this section does not apply to any research institute.

MD Counties with similar ordinances: Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Calvert County, Charles County, Montgomery County, Kent County

Comments and changes dated 5/31/18

