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Over the past 14 months, Talbot Humane and the Talbot County Animal Control Board have worked on updates to the county ordinance Chapter 15- Animals. The last update to this portion of the county code was more than 13 years ago. Since that time, ordinances and best practices in animal law and care have improved exponentially across the country and in areas of Maryland. In an effort to improve the humane treatment of animals, and to better serve the community, we have concentrated on a few specific areas:

- Addition of an extreme weather ordinance
- Addition of a restriction of tethering ordinance
- Addition of an annual inspection for boarding facilities, training facilities and breeding facilities specific to dogs and cats within Talbot County
- Modification of some of the current Talbot County Ordinance definitions.

The desire for these changes has come from the voices of residents within Talbot County. The community demand for change is strong. When our area is experiencing extreme weather we hear from citizens that are angry law enforcement cannot do more to protect the animals. We hear from residents regarding local training and boarding facilities who are shocked these businesses have no minimum standard requirements. Residents are tired of seeing neighborhood dogs living on the end of a tether.

Our work has been arduous and we have taken the time to hear from the community at large with their concerns and recommendations. We have the support of the Talbot Kennel Club, numerous kennels in the county and a wealth of private citizens with an interest in a more humane Talbot County. We believe we have created compromise legislation which is fair to pet owners and business owners as well as protect the animals of our community.