

HOUSE BILL 922

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3lr2452

By: **Delegate Kach**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2013

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Feral Cats – Rabies Vaccinations**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a certain feral cat caregiver shall make every
4 reasonable effort to ensure that certain cats are vaccinated for rabies and
5 ear-tipped, and that there is a certain record made of a certain vaccination;
6 providing that an ear-tipped cat is considered to have had a certain vaccination;
7 defining certain terms; and generally relating to rabies vaccinations for feral
8 cats.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Health – General
11 Section 18-318.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Health – General**

17 **18-318.1.**

18 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
19 MEANINGS INDICATED.

20 (2) “EAR-TIPPED CAT” MEANS A CAT THAT HAS HAD THE TIP OF
21 AN EAR REMOVED WHILE UNDER ANESTHESIA TO INDICATE THAT THE CAT WAS
22 VACCINATED FOR RABIES.

23 (3) “FERAL CAT” MEANS A CAT THAT:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(I) IS UNSOCIALIZED TO HUMANS AND HAS A**
2 **TEMPERAMENT OF FEAR AND RESISTANCE TO CONTACT WITH HUMANS; AND**

3 **(II) HAS NO PERMANENT OWNER OR RESIDENCE.**

4 **(4) “FERAL CAT CAREGIVER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

5 **(I) MONITORS A FERAL CAT COLONY TO ENSURE THAT NEW**
6 **CATS ARE VACCINATED FOR RABIES AND EAR-TIPPED; AND**

7 **(II) PROVIDES CARE, INCLUDING FOOD, SHELTER, OR**
8 **OTHER MEDICAL CARE, TO FERAL CATS.**

9 **(B) A FERAL CAT CAREGIVER WHO PROVIDES CARE TO OR HAS**
10 **TEMPORARY CUSTODY OF A FERAL CAT SHALL MAKE EVERY REASONABLE**
11 **EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT:**

12 **(1) THE FERAL CAT IS VACCINATED FOR RABIES;**

13 **(2) THE FERAL CAT VACCINATED FOR RABIES IS EAR-TIPPED;**
14 **AND**

15 **(3) THERE IS A WRITTEN RECORD OF THE FERAL CAT’S**
16 **VACCINATION.**

17 **(C) AN EAR-TIPPED CAT IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN VACCINATED**
18 **FOR RABIES AT LEAST ONE TIME.**

19 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
20 **October 1, 2013.**