



Anne Arundel County Police Department  
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***Amal Awad***  
**Chief of Police**

The Honorable Delegate Kumar P. Barve  
Chairman, Environment and Transportation  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for House Bill 281 Humane Society and Animal Control Officers- Education and Training Requirements

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

Anne Arundel County and our Animal Care & Control Section of the Police Department support HB281. Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control strives to be an example of how Animal Care & Control Agencies operate. Animal Care & Control in Anne Arundel County officers complete training at the East Coast Animal Control Academy, at State approved Euthanasia by Injection Training through PAWS (Professional Animal Workers of MD), training at the Anne Arundel County Police Department Training Academy in various applicable areas in addition to training with a Field Training Officer prior to being released. We believe this bill is in the best interest of public safety, the community and the animals.

There currently are no educational requirements for those entering the role of Animal Control Officer in Maryland. While numerous agencies, such as ours, have internal requirements for training, there are agencies enforcing state and local laws with little to no formal training. This bill, which requires 80 hours of initial training within the first 12 months of employment in the position of Animal Control Officer, and 6 hours annually of continuing education, allows for the details of the training to be determined by the agencies. This should ensure funding does not prevent compliance with the laws.

HB281 will raise the professionalism of the field of Animal Control and support our continuing efforts for public safety and best practices in the field.

Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a favorable vote on HB281 Humane Society and Animal Control Officers- Education and Training.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RSCA".

Robin Catlett  
Administrator  
Animal Care & Control Section