

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

2011 Legislative Session

Bill No. _____

Chapter. No. _____

Introduced by _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2

Charles County Animal Regulations

3

4 FOR the purpose of

5

Adding new provisions and clarifying or modifying existing provisions of the Charles
County Animal Regulations.

6

7

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments:

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Chapter 230, Article I - Dogs and Other Animals

10

Code of Charles County, Maryland

11

(1994 Edition, 2007 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW

Underlining indicated new matter added to existing law

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law

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SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Charles County, Maryland read as follows:

Chapter 230
Dogs and Other Animals
Article I – Animal Matters

§ 230-1. Statement of Purpose.

These Animal Regulations are hereby established by the County Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland to provide for the safety of the public, the humane care and treatment of animals and to encourage responsible pet ownership.

§ 230-2. Definitions.

As used in these Regulations the following terms are defined below:

Adult Animal - Any animal four months of age or older.

[**Air, proper** - Enclosed areas must be constructed or modified to allow free flow of air to control temperature, humidity and prevent air stagnation.]

Animal - Every non-human species of animal, both domestic and wild, including but not limited to dogs, cats, livestock and fowl.

Animal at Large - Any animal off the premises of the owner OR CUSTODIAN, and not under the restraint of a person capable of controlling the animal.

[**Animal Control** - Charles County Animal Control shall include but not be limited to

1 any individual designated by the County Commissioners to enforce these regulations and
2 the State Code.]

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4 **Animal Control Officer (ACO)** - Any Animal Control Officer employed by Charles
5 County Commissioners to enforce these regulations and [the] applicable State Code.
6 [(Also referred to as an"ACO").]

7
8 **[Animal exposed to rabies** - Any animal which has been bitten by an animal which
9 either has rabies or has been in proximity to or contact with an animal that has rabies, or
10 any animal which has not been bitten but which has been in proximity to or in contact
11 with or has otherwise been exposed for any period of time to an animal which has rabies.
12 The determination whether an animal is infected with rabies shall be made by the Health
13 Officer for Charles County and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental
14 Hygiene.]

15
16 **ANIMAL FANCIER** - ANY PERSON PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR OTHER
17 LEGAL ENTITY THAT HARBORS OR KEEPS ANY COMBINATION OF MORE
18 THAN 10 ADULT ANIMALS AND WHICH DOES NOT BREED AND SELL THE
19 OFFSPRING OR USE MALES FOR STUD. THIS DEFINITION SHALL NOT
20 INCLUDE FISH, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND OTHER FARM ANIMALS USED
21 IN CUSTOMARY AND NORMAL AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.

22
23 **Animal Shelter** - Any facility operated by a [municipal agency] PUBLIC ENTITY or its
24 [agents] AGENT, for the purpose of impounding animals under the authority of these
25 regulations or State Code for care, confinement, return to owner, adoption or euthanasia.

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27 **Animal/Veterinary Hospital** - Any establishment maintained or operated by a licensed
28 veterinarian for the immunization, hospitalization, surgery or diagnosis, prevention and
29 treatment of diseases and injuries of animals.

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[**Auction** - Any place or facility where animals are regularly bought, sold, or traded, except for those facilities otherwise defined in these regulations.]

Board - The Animal Matters Hearing Board established pursuant to these Regulations.

Cage - Any [enclosure] CONFINING DEVICE of limited space, enclosed on the bottom, top and all sides by a wall [or otherwise], in which animals are placed for any purpose, including confinement or display.

CHARLES COUNTY DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL - CHARLES COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ENFORCE THESE REGULATIONS AND THE APPLICABLE STATE CODE.

Circus - A commercial variety show featuring animal acts for public entertainment.

Commercial Animal Establishment - Any person, partnership, [or] corporation or other legal entity [that has as a purpose] ENGAGED IN the TRAINING, GROOMING, BOARDING, sale, transfer, AUCTION, or other [conveyance] DELIVERY of any animal/animal services [for money]. Shall include but not be limited to any pet shop, grooming shop, [auction,] zoological park, circus, performing animal exhibition, boarding or breeding facility; [or establishment with the purpose of] AND any PERSON, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY ENGAGED IN THE training, leasing, or SALE OF [selling] guard dogs. Shall not include animal hospitals, animal shelters or humane societies.

[**Commercial Boarding Facility** - Any person, partnership, corporation or other legal entity establishment for the commercial animal sales, training, boarding, and grooming.

1 sale or training of animals for which a fee is charged; provided that any animal or
2 hospitals maintained by a licensed veterinarian as part of the practice of veterinary
3 medicine for the treatment of animals shall not be considered a "Commercial Facility"
4 shall not include livestock, poultry and other farm animals used in customary and normal
5 agricultural husbandry practices.]

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7 **Commercial Breeding Facility** - Any person, partnership, [or] corporation or other legal
8 entity that owns [, keeps, harbors or is custodian of] OR POSSESSES BREEDING
9 STOCK OF four (4) or more unneutered male [animals] or [four or more] unspayed
10 female animals or [four or more of] any combination [of unneutered male, unspayed
11 female animals kept or used for stud or breeding for which a fee is charged and/or for
12 breeding for which a fee is charged for the offspring] THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE
13 OF CHARGING A FEE FOR STUD SERVICES OR OFFSPRING. This definition shall
14 not include livestock, poultry and other farm animals used in customary and normal
15 agricultural husbandry practices.

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17 **Cruelty** - As defined in § 230-8.

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19 **Custodian** - Any person, partnership, [or] corporation [having or taking temporary
20 responsibility of any animal as caretaker or otherwise] OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY
21 THAT HARBORS, TAKES CARE OR CUSTODY OF, OR TAKES
22 RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANOTHER PERSON'S ANIMAL(S); OR ALLOWS THE
23 ANIMAL(S) TO REMAIN ON THEIR PREMISES.

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25 **Dangerous Animal** - As defined under § 230-12.5[.], AND AS LISTED IN THE
26 ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, CRIMINAL LAW SECTION 10-621(b):
27 PROHIBITED - A PERSON MAY NOT IMPORT INTO THE STATE OR CHARLES
28 COUNTY, OFFER FOR SALE, TRADE, BARTER, POSSESS, BREED, OR
29 EXCHANGE A LIVE:

- 1) FOX, SKUNK, RACCOON OR BEAR;
- 2) CAIMAN, ALLIGATOR OR CROCODILE;
- 3) MEMBER OF THE CAT FAMILY OTHER THAN THE DOMESTIC CAT;
- 4) HYBRID OF A MEMBER OF THE CAT FAMILY AND A DOMESTIC CAT IF THE HYBRID WEIGHS OVER 30 POUNDS;
- 5) MEMBER OF THE DOG FAMILY OTHER THAN THE DOMESTIC DOG;
- 6) HYBRID OF A MEMBER OF THE DOG FAMILY AND A DOMESTIC DOG;
- 7) NONHUMAN PRIMATE, INCLUDING LEMUR, MONKEY, CHIMPANZEE, GORILLA, ORANGUTAN, MARMOSET, LORIS OR TAMARIN; OR
- 8) POISONOUS SNAKE IN THE FAMILY GROUPS HYDROPHIDAE, ELAPIDAE, VIPERIDAE OR CROTOLIDAE.

Domestic Animal - Any animal kept for pleasure rather than utility; an animal of a species that has been bred and raised to live [in or about the habitation of] WITH OR IN PROXIMITY TO humans, and WHICH is dependent on [people] HUMANS for food and shelter. Domestic animals include but are not limited to farm animals, and pets such as dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and other small rodents, European ferrets, and hedgehogs, nonpoisonous reptiles, fish, and amphibians, parakeets, cockatiels and other [commercially raised] EXOTIC birds.

FERAL ANIMAL – A DOMESTIC ANIMAL LIVING IN A WILD STATE.

Grooming Shop - A commercial animal establishment where animals are bathed, clipped, plucked or otherwise groomed.

Guard Dog - Any dog that is trained specifically for and/or used to protect private property or for personal protection.

Guard Dog Training Center - Any establishment that trains, [and/or] brokers [and/] or

1 sells dogs to be used to protect [public/private] property or for personal protection.

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3 **Humane Society** - A non-profit organization chartered by the State of Maryland
4 [dedicated] to ENGAGE IN THE CARE, TREATMENT, rehabilitation, rescue, and
5 adoption of [injured and ailing pets. and in to the humane education of both adults and
6 children] DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND IN THE HUMANE EDUCATION OF BOTH
7 ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

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9 **Impound** - Any animal in the custody of [animal control] THE CHARLES COUNTY
10 DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL or its agents.

11

12 **INTIMIDATION** - WHEN A REASONABLE PRUDENT PERSON UNDER THE
13 SAME OR SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HAVE BEEN THREATENED BY
14 THE ACTIONS OF THE ANIMAL IN QUESTION.

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16 **Livestock** - Cattle, equines, goats, sheep or swine unless otherwise provided.

17

18 **Owner** - Any person, partnership, corporation [owning, keeping or harboring] OR
19 OTHER LEGAL ENTITY THAT OWNS, KEEPS OR HARBORS one (1) or more
20 animals; OR ALLOWS THE ANIMAL(S) TO REMAIN ON THEIR PREMISES. An
21 animal shall be deemed to be harbored if it is fed or sheltered for three (3) consecutive
22 days or more. IN THE EVENT THAT THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF ANY
23 ANIMAL IS A MINOR, THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF SUCH MINOR SHALL
24 BE RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT ALL PROVISIONS OF THESE
25 REGULATIONS AND APPLICABLE STATE CODE ARE COMPLIED WITH.

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27 **Performing Animal Exhibition** - Any spectacle, display, act or event, other than
28 circuses, in which performing animals are used.

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1 **Pet Shop** - Any person, partnership, [or] corporation OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY,
2 whether operated [separately] INDEPENDENTLY or in connection with another
3 business enterprise that buys or brokers any species of animal for sale or resale as pets.

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5 **Petting Zoo** - Any ESTABLISHMENT, activity or facility where a fee is charged [,
6 whose purpose is to permit] FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMITTING persons to come
7 into physical contact with animals maintained within or upon such establishment, activity
8 or facility.

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10 **Potentially Dangerous Animal** - As defined under § 230-12.5.

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12 **Public Nuisance** - As defined under § 230-12.4.

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14 **RABIES EXPOSURE** - SHALL INCLUDE ANY INSTANCE WHEREIN A HUMAN
15 OR AN ANIMAL HAS BEEN BITTEN BY ANOTHER ANIMAL FOR WHICH A
16 RABIES DIAGNOSIS IS SUSPECTED OR CLINICALLY CONFIRMED; OR ANY
17 HUMAN OR ANIMAL WHICH HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO OR IN CONTACT WITH
18 ANOTHER ANIMAL FOR WHICH A RABIES DIAGNOSIS IS SUSPECTED OR
19 CLINICALLY CONFIRMED. THE CLINICAL DETERMINATION AS TO
20 WHETHER AN ANIMAL IS INFECTED WITH RABIES SHALL BE MADE BY THE
21 CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE MARYLAND
22 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE (DHMH).

23
24 **Rabies Vaccination** - An anti-rabies vaccination using a Vaccine type approved by the
25 Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Maryland Public Health
26 Veterinarian.

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28 **[Restraint** - Any animal humanely secured by a leash or lead and/or under the control of
29 a responsible person and obedient to that person's commands.]

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Sanitary - A condition of good order and cleanliness which minimizes the probability of transmission of disease.

Space, Proper - Space available to the animal must be usable and safe (e.g. must be provided an area free from standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects and debris and maintained in a safe and healthful manner). Space must be appropriate and sufficient for the age, breed/type, quantity, condition and size of the animal(s).

State Code - Any and all animal laws of the Annotated Code [for the State] of Maryland.

TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER (TCAS) - THE DESIGNATED SHELTER AUTHORITY WITHIN CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND.

VENTILATION - AREAS CONSTRUCTED OR MODIFIED TO ALLOW THE FREE FLOW OF ADEQUATE AIR TO CONTROL TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY AND PREVENT AIR STAGNATION.

Vicious Animal - As defined under § 230-12.5.

Wild Animal - [As defined in State and Federal Code] AN ANIMAL WHICH IS NOT DEFINED AS A DOMESTIC ANIMAL AND IS INCAPABLE OF BEING COMPLETELY DOMESTICATED OR TAMED. AN ANIMAL WHICH IN ITS NATURAL STATE IS WILD, DANGEROUS OR FEROCIOUS AND THOUGH IT MAY BE TRAINED AND HABITUATED BY THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN WILL REMAIN DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. ANY HYBRID OR CROSSBRED ANIMAL WHICH IS PART EXOTIC OR WILD.

Wolf Hybrid - Any animal that is advertised, registered, licensed, or otherwise described

1 or represented as a wolf hybrid by its owner, POSSESSOR OR CUSTODIAN, or any
2 animal exhibiting primary physical and behavioral wolf characteristics.

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4 **Zoological Park** - Any facility operated by a person, partnership, corporation or other
5 [government agency] LEGAL ENTITY, other than a [pet shop or kennel]
6 COMMERCIAL ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENT, displaying or exhibiting one (1) or
7 more species of non-domesticated animals.

8
9 **§ 230-3. Duties of [all] animal owners [to be responsible owners] OR CUSTODIANS.**

- 10 A. It shall be the duty of the [every] owner OR CUSTODIAN of any animal, or anyone
11 having any animal in his possession [or custody], to exercise reasonable care and to take
12 all necessary steps and precautions to protect [other] people, property and animals from
13 [injuries] INJURY or damage which might result from their animals' behavior, regardless
14 of whether such behavior is motivated by mischievousness, playfulness or ferocity.
- 15 B. In the event that the owner or [keeper] CUSTODIAN of any animal is a minor, the parent
16 or guardian of such minor shall be responsible to ensure that all provisions of these
17 regulations and [the] APPLICABLE State Code are complied with.
- 18 [C. No animal may be sold or given to a minor without the written consent of the minor's
19 parent or legal guardian.]

20
21 **§ 230-4. Animal Matters Hearing Board.**

- 22 A. Membership; rules; support.
- 23 (1) There is hereby created an Animal Matters Hearing Board which shall consist of
24 not more than nine (9) members to be appointed by the County Commissioners.
25 The Board shall consist of not less than four (4) [citizens] CHARLES COUNTY
26 RESIDENTS at large and one (1) representative each from the following agencies
27 and professions:
- 28 (a) Charles County Office of the Sheriff
29 (b) Charles County Humane Society

- 1 (c) A veterinarian licensed [to practice] BY MARYLAND THAT
2 PRACTICES in Charles County.
- 3 (2) [The members shall all be Charles County citizens.]
- 4 [(3)] The term of appointment is for four (4) years. Any person
5 appointed to fill a vacancy created by resignation or otherwise shall be appointed
6 only to fulfill the unexpired term of the member who has vacated the position. Of
7 the members first appointed, two (2) must be appointed for [1-] ONE (1) year
8 terms, two (2) must be appointed for [2-] TWO (2) year terms, two (2) must be
9 appointed for [3-] THREE (3) year terms, and one (1) must be appointed for a [4-]
10 FOUR (4) year term. Additional appointments shall be at the [pleasure]
11 DISCRETION of the County Commissioners in accordance with applicable laws.
- 12 [(4)](3) The members of the Board shall serve without compensation.
- 13 (4) A BOARD MEMBER WHO MISSES THREE (3) REGULARLY SCHEDULED
14 MEETINGS IN A ROLLING TWELVE MONTH PERIOD MAY BE
15 REPLACED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
16 UPON REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.
- 17 (5) Board members shall abide by the Charles County Code of Ethics.
- 18 (6) The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the County
19 Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland.
- 20 (7) A quorum shall consist of a majority of the appointed members.
- 21 (8) To the extent provided by the approved fiscal year budget, the County
22 Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland shall provide for the Board such
23 office space, supplies and equipment as may be required by the Board.
- 24 (9) To the extent provided by the approved fiscal year budget the County Attorney's
25 Office shall provide support personnel as may be required by the Board.
- 26 (10) The Board shall use Roberts Rules of Order as a guide to conduct of any and all
27 public hearings.
- 28 B. Powers and/or duties of the Animal Matters Hearing Board.
- 29 (1) The Board shall meet twice monthly or at the discretion of the Chairman

- 1 to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Board.
- 2 (2) The Board shall submit an annual report to the County Commissioners
3 concerning its responsibility hereunder.
- 4 (3) The Board shall recommend to the County Commissioners changes in the
5 law regarding the control of animals in Charles County.
- 6 (4) [The Chairman shall notify the County Commissioners if a Board member
7 misses three regularly scheduled meetings annually; this member may
8 then be replaced at the discretion of the County Commissioners] THE
9 BOARD SHALL CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS TO DETERMINE
10 WHETHER A VIOLATION OF THESE REGULATIONS HAS
11 OCCURRED.
- 12 (5) [Upon a written complaint or a request from a person receiving a violation
13 notice, the Board shall conduct a public hearing after due notice to
14 determine whether violations of these regulations have occurred and
15 whether a person subject to an order of the Board has complied with that
16 order.] THE BOARD MAY ISSUE SUBPOENAS TO COMPEL THE
17 ATTENDANCE OF ANY WITNESS, AS WELL AS THE
18 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS.
- 19 (6) [At the close of all evidence in a case, if the Board finds that a violation of
20 the Charles County Animal Regulations occurred, it may levy fines as
21 provided in § 230-12.9. The Board may reduce or increase any fine
22 imposed to an amount that the Board considers appropriate in accordance
23 with §§ 230-4 and 230-12.9 of these regulations. If the Board finds that a
24 violation did not occur, it shall dismiss the charges.] IN REACHING ITS
25 DECISION, THE BOARD MAY CONSIDER PRIOR VIOLATION(S)
26 AND PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR.
- 27 (7) [The Board shall have the power to issue subpoenas for the attendance of
28 any witness(es) and the production of document(s) at a hearing of the
29 Board.] THE BOARD MAY ISSUE ORDERS AND IMPOSE

1 MONETARY FINES AS PROVIDED IN § 230-12.9 OF THESE
2 REGULATIONS.

- 3 [(8) Upon determination after notice and hearing that a violation of these
4 regulations have occurred and that a public nuisance animal or condition
5 exists, require the payment of penalties and the taking of other affirmative
6 action to abate.
- 7 (9) Any animal that has been determined by the Board to be a public nuisance
8 and/or vicious and or/ dangerous that is impounded for a repeat violation
9 of the same charge may be held, at the Board's request, at the Sheltering
10 Facility until the case can be heard by the Board.
- 11 (10) A complaint under these regulations shall be filed within one year and one
12 day from the date of the alleged violation.]

13 C. Hearing procedures: Findings and Orders. The Board shall conduct A public
14 [hearings when] HEARING:

- 15 (1) UPON RECEIPT OF A written complaint that a person, PARTNERSHIP,
16 CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY has violated [or
17 permitted his animal to violate] the provisions of these Regulations [is
18 filed with the Board]. The complaint must [be specific, particularly with
19 regard to identification of animals and dates and locations of particular
20 incidents] SPECIFY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ANIMAL'S
21 OWNER OR CUSTODIAN, AS WELL AS CLEARLY AND
22 ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE ANIMAL(S) INVOLVED AND THE
23 DATE(S) AND LOCATION(S) OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENT(S). A
24 COMPLAINT UNDER THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BE FILED
25 WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR AND ONE (1) DAY FROM THE DATE OF
26 THE ALLEGED VIOLATION.
- 27 (2) [A written complaint that a person] UPON RECEIPT OF NOTICE THAT
28 A PARTY SUBJECT TO AN ORDER OF THE BOARD has failed to
29 comply with [an outstanding] SUCH order [of the Board is filed with the

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Board].

- (3) [A person who has been served with a citation failed to pay the fine before the required date; or] UPON NOTICE THAT A PARTY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN ISSUED A CITATION FOR A VIOLATION OF THESE REGULATIONS HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THAT CITATION IN THE TIME FRAME PRESCRIBED.
- (4) An Animal Control Officer [signs] FILES a written complaint.
- (5) ANY ANIMAL THAT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND/OR VICIOUS AND/OR DANGEROUS THAT IS IMPOUNDED FOR A REPEAT VIOLATION OF THE SAME CHARGE MAY BE HELD, AT THE BOARD'S REQUEST, AT THE SHELTERING FACILITY UNTIL THE CASE CAN BE HEARD BY THE BOARD.
- (6) THE BOARD SHALL GIVE FOURTEEN (14) DAYS PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE HEARING TO THE DEFENDANT OF A COMPLAINT THROUGH PERSONAL SERVICE, BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RESTRICTED DELIVERY, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED.
- (7) FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF ALL EVIDENCE, THE BOARD SHALL DELIBERATE AND SHALL ISSUE ITS WRITTEN DECISIONS AND ORDER WITHIN FOURTEEN (14) CALENDAR DAYS. THE ORDER SHALL CONTAIN FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW. IF THE BOARD FINDS THAT A VIOLATION DID NOT OCCUR, IT SHALL DISMISS THE COMPLAINT OR CITATION. IN ADDITION TO IMPOSING PENALTIES, THE BOARD MAY REQUIRE APPROPRIATE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:
 - (a) THE MANDATORY RESTRICTION OR CONFINEMENT OF THE ANIMAL UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS AS THE BOARD

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MAY REQUIRE IN ITS DISCRETION.

(b) THE MANDATORY DISPOSITION OF THE ANIMAL AS THE BOARD MAY DIRECT IN ITS DISCRETION.

(c) THE CORRECTION OF CONDITIONS OR METHODS OF ANIMAL CARE, KEEPING, MAINTENANCE, HOUSING OR VETERINARY TREATMENT, AS THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE IN ITS DISCRETION; ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOARD’S RECOMMENDATION SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER.

(d) ORDERING THE OWNER/CUSTODIAN OF AN ANIMAL, AFTER HAVING FOUND THEM IN VIOLATION OF THESE REGULATIONS OR THE STATE CODE, TO MAKE RESTITUTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE COUNTY FOR BOARD, VETERINARY CARE, ETC., TO THE CHARLES COUNTY DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES.

(e) IF THE BOARD FINDS THAT A VIOLATION OF THE CHARLES COUNTY ANIMAL REGULATIONS HAS OCCURRED, THE BOARD IT MAY IMPOSE LEVY FINES AS PROVIDED IN § 230-12.9. THE BOARD MAY SUSPEND, REDUCE OR INCREASE ANY FINE IMPOSED TO AN AMOUNT THAT THE BOARD CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 230-4 AND 230-12.9 OF THESE REGULATIONS.

(f) ALL DECISIONS OF THE BOARD AUTHORIZED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BE FINAL AND SUBJECT TO REVIEW ONLY BY THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CHARLES COUNTY UPON A TIMELY APPEAL FILED PURSUANT TO THE MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE BY ANY PARTY AGGRIEVED BY A DECISION WITHIN

1 THE TIME PRESCRIBED FOR APPEALS FROM
2 ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES BY SUCH RULES OF
3 PROCEDURE.

4 [D. The Board shall give notice in writing to the defendant of a complaint by either
5 personal delivery, or by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested. Said
6 notice shall be received by the defendant at least 14 days prior to the public hearing
7 regarding the alleged violation.

8 E. At the close of all the evidence, the Board shall deliberate and within 14 days, the
9 Board shall issue its written decision and order. The order shall contain findings of fact
10 and conclusions of law. If the Board finds that a violation did not occur, it shall dismiss
11 the complaint or citation. In addition to imposing penalties, the Board may require
12 appropriate affirmative action, including, but not limited to:

13 (1) The mandatory restriction or confinement of the animal under such
14 conditions as the Board may require in its discretion.

15 (2) The mandatory disposition of the animal as the Board may direct in its
16 discretion.

17 (3) The correction of condition or methods of animal care, keeping,
18 maintenance, housing or veterinary treatment, as the Board may determine in its
19 discretion; all costs associated with the Board's recommendation shall be the
20 responsibility of the owner.

21 (4) Ordering the owner/custodian of an animal, after having found them in
22 violation of these regulations or the State Code, to make restitution of expenses
23 incurred for board, veterinary care, etc., to Charles County Department of Animal
24 Control Services.

25 F. All decisions of the Board authorized under these regulations shall be final and
26 subject to review only by the Circuit Court for Charles County upon a timely appeal filed
27 pursuant to the Maryland Rules of Procedure by any party aggrieved by a decision within
28 the time prescribed for appeals from administrative agencies by such rules of procedure.

29 G] D. Orientation for the Board. At the beginning of each CALENDAR year, the

1 assigned County Attorney will conduct a briefing for the Board. [(The serious
2 consequences for all concerned makes it imperative that the hearing be conducted
3 properly and with fairness to all parties. Not only should the members of the Board, and
4 in particular the Chairman, know and follow the adopted rules of administrative
5 procedure, but the Board should be educated in the principles and practice of due process,
6 including but not limited to, how to examine and weigh evidence and testimony. The
7 briefing proposed above would serve as an orientation for new members and a "refresher"
8 for incumbents).]

9
10 **§ 230-5. Chief of Animal Control Services.**

11 A. The Chief shall [ensure] BE RESPONSIBLE FOR the enforcement of the
12 provisions of these regulations, including but not limited to public safety, public
13 nuisance, prevention, cruelty to animals and minimum standards for animal care.

14 The Chief shall implement and maintain the following:

- 15 (1) A program of regular patrols and response to citizen complaints for the
16 purpose of enforcing these regulations and the State Code regarding
17 animals.
- 18 (2) A program inspection of all COMMERCIAL AND NON COMMERCIAL
19 animal establishments required to have a special permit under the
20 provision of these regulations.
- 21 (3) A program to maintain accurate records of licenses, impoundments,
22 dispositions and enforcement actions and animal bites.
- 23 (4) Provision of twenty-four (24) hour, seven (7) day a week animal
24 emergency service to the extent provided by the current approved fiscal
25 year budget.
- 26 (5) THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF Public information
27 programs on these regulations, adoption, spay and neuter, health care, and
28 other programs as needed.

29 B. The Chief shall serve as an advisor to the Animal Matters Hearing Board.

1 C. The Chief shall carry out AND ENFORCE the orders resulting from the hearings
2 of the Animal Matters Hearing Board.

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4 **§ 230-6. Animal Control Officer.**

5 A. Any Animal Control Officer employed by the County Commissioners of Charles
6 County, Maryland, shall exercise that authority necessary to enforce the
7 provisions of these regulations and the State Code. Animal Control Officers are
8 specifically authorized and empowered by these regulations, without limitation,
9 to:

10 (1) [Humanely impound] IMPOUND any animal which has been observed by
11 an Animal Control Officer OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT
12 OFFICIAL to be kept in violation of [those] THESE Regulations or the
13 State Code;

14 (2) Make [a] prompt and reasonable [effort] EFFORTS to locate and notify
15 the owner or custodian of an impounded animal, including coordinating
16 with the shelter staff;

17 (3) MAY INVESTIGATE AND ISSUE [Issue] notices of violations to the
18 owner or custodian of an animal when it has been observed by an Animal
19 Control Officer OR ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL to be in
20 violation of these regulations or the State Code.

21 (4) [Shall promptly] PROMPTLY respond [to] AND administer OR OBTAIN
22 emergency assistance, first aid and/or qualified medical assistance to
23 injured or diseased stray animals which come into the custody of the
24 County, without the consent of the owner or custodian of such animal.
25 For this purpose, neither the officer administering such assistance, Charles
26 County nor any of its employees or agents shall be liable for acts
27 committed or omitted while rendering such assistance unless such act or
28 omission constitutes gross negligence or malice.

29 (5) To investigate animal bites and make recommendations to the Animal

1 Matters Hearing Board and/or Health Department pursuant to these
2 regulations.

3 (6) Receive and investigate complaints concerning dangerous and/or vicious
4 animals. Whenever an animal complained against shall be reasonably
5 deemed by an Animal Control Officer to be a dangerous and/or vicious
6 OR A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS animal as defined in § 230-12.5 of
7 these regulations, the Animal Control Officer may issue a citation for
8 violation of animal regulations to the owner and/or custodian of the animal
9 citing § 230-12.5 and any other applicable sections of the Animal
10 Regulations. A citation for the violation of § 230-12.5 requires the owner
11 and/or custodian to appear before the Animal Matters Hearing Board on
12 the date specified on the citation for a hearing to determine if the animal is
13 to be designated as dangerous and/or vicious pursuant to these
14 regulations.

15 (a) If the Animal Control Officer DEEMS AN ANIMAL TO BE
16 DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY
17 DANGEROUS, AND THAT THE ANIMAL HAS OR
18 CONTINUES TO POSE A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND
19 WELFARE [determines that an animal which has threatened the
20 public safety and welfare continues to present a threat to the public
21 safety and welfare], the Animal Control Officer may impound the
22 animal. The Animal Control Officer may enter on private property
23 upon probable cause in order to determine if the animal threatens
24 the public safety and welfare and to impound the animal pursuant
25 to this section. The animal shall remain impounded pending a
26 hearing before the Animal Matters Hearing Board. Whenever an
27 animal has been impounded pursuant to this section the owner
28 and/or custodian, if known, shall be issued a citation for violation
29 of animal regulations § 230-12.5 [with the date and time for the

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scheduled hearing by the Animal Matters Hearing Board. The Animal Control Officer, owner and/or custodian may petition the Chairman of the Animal Matters Hearing Board to conduct a special hearing on the matter prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Animal Matters Hearing Board in accordance with § 230-4 of these regulations]. SUCH CITATION SHALL INCLUDE THE DATE AND TIME OF THE SCHEDULED HEARING BY THE ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD. THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, OWNER AND/OR CUSTODIAN MAY PETITION THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL HEARING ON THE MATTER PRIOR TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 230-4 OF THESE REGULATIONS.

(b) During the period of impoundment [under this section] the owner and/or custodian may be held responsible for all costs and maintenance expenses incurred. These expenses shall be itemized and presented to the Animal Matters Hearing Board [to make a decision on] AS TO THE amount of restitution to be paid TO THE COUNTY BY the owner [and/or] OR custodian of the animal.

- (7) Conduct public information programs REGARDING [on] these regulations, adoption, spay neuter, health care, and other programs as directed.
- (8) Conduct inspections of commercial animal establishments as provided in these regulations.
- (9) [Receive] TAKE CUSTODY OF stray [and] or [unwanted] SURRENDERED animals.
- (10) Initiate a complaint [or] AND PROVIDE other [form] FORMS of

1 enforcement of these regulations and/or the State Code. Prior to a
2 complaint being filed by an Animal Control Officer with either the Board
3 or Court of the State of Maryland, the Animal Control Officer shall have
4 probable cause of an alleged violation of these regulations or the State
5 Code.

6 (11) [To serve] SERVE subpoenas requiring appearance before the board.
7 B. It shall be a violation of these regulations to interfere with, hinder, or molest an
8 Animal Control Officer [performing the] IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR
9 duties as prescribed in these Regulations and the State Code. Such prohibited
10 interference includes, but is not limited to: physically striking or attempting to
11 strike the animal control officer; removing or attempting to remove any animal
12 from the control of an Animal Control Officer; REMOVING OR
13 INTENTIONALLY HIDING ANY ANIMAL UNDER INVESTIGATION BY
14 AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER; KNOWINGLY PROVIDING FALSE
15 INFORMATION TO AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER; removing or
16 attempting to remove any animal from any vehicle used by an Animal Control
17 Officer [in the lawful performance of his/her duties, and] ; AND, taking or
18 damaging any county property used by an Animal Control Officer [in the lawful
19 performance of his/her duties]. Certain violations of this section may also be
20 subject to prosecution under the Annotated Code of Maryland.

21
22 **§ 230-7. Powers and duties of THE TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER (TCAS)**
23 **[animal shelter].**

24 A. The TCAS animal shelter shall have the powers to:
25 (1) Receive stray and [unwanted] SURRENDERED animals;
26 (2) Ascertain the identity of the owner OR CUSTODIAN of any impounded
27 animal, and as a precondition of release require the payment of all charges
28 for the care, impoundment, board, veterinary treatment and unpaid license
29 fees [from the animal owner] INCURRED PURSUANT TO AN

- 1 IMPOUNDMENT;
- 2 (3) Place [for adoption unredeemed or unwanted] UNCLAIMED OR
- 3 SURRENDERED animals FOR ADOPTION OR RESCUE in accordance
- 4 with these regulations, the State Code, and the policies established by the
- 5 [Sheltering Authority] TCAS;
- 6 (4) Humanely euthanize [unredeemed or unwanted] UNCLAIMED OR
- 7 SURRENDERED animals in accordance with these regulations and the
- 8 State Code.
- 9 B. The [animal shelter] TCAS shall have the following duties[. It shall]:
- 10 (1) Provide humane treatment of all animals, at all times, under its their care.
- 11 (2) Maintain and adhere to [comprehensive procedures prescribing]
- 12 PRESCRIBED standards for the humane operation of the animal shelter,
- 13 including, but not limited to, the housing, feeding, care, veterinary
- 14 treatment, RESCUE, adoption and euthanasia of animals in the facility
- 15 pursuant to these regulations and State Code.
- 16 (3) To the extent provided by the approved fiscal year budget, provide for
- 17 necessary and appropriate veterinary care of injured or sick animals in the
- 18 custody of the [County] TCAS. Such veterinary care may be rendered
- 19 without the consent of the owner. UNLESS CAUSED BY GROSS
- 20 NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, Charles County
- 21 employees, [Shelter] TCAS Staff and its agents shall not be liable for acts
- 22 committed or omitted in rendering such care.
- 23 (4) Post IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER
- 24 an approved schedule of fees for the housing, care, treatment, adoption
- 25 and redemption of animals which come into the custody of the TCAS
- 26 [animal shelter in a conspicuous place at the animal shelter].
- 27 (5) [Keep for a period of three years after such activity] MAINTAIN ALL
- 28 records of impoundments, veterinary treatment, disposition of animals and
- 29 other activities FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS. Animal records

1 shall be complete and accurate AS to the [best ability of the] breed, sex,
2 color, condition, how, when, and where the animal was obtained, and
3 [identification as tattoos or tags] THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE
4 ANIMAL.

5 (6) Conduct public information programs on regarding these regulations,
6 responsible pet ownership, adoption, spaying, neutering, healthcare and
7 other programs as directed by the Sheltering Authority.

8 (7) Make [a] prompt and reasonable [effort] EFFORTS to locate and notify
9 possible [owners] OWNER OR CUSTODIAN of THE INTAKE OF a
10 stray animal[; trace identification and provide for publication of the name,
11 location, hours of operation and telephone numbers in a newspaper of
12 general circulation in Charles County].

13

14 **§ 230-8. Cruelty.**

15 A. It shall be a violation of these regulations for any individual to:

- 16 (1) Abandon any animal;
- 17 (2) Torture, torment, [cruelly beat/kill] BEAT, KILL, injure, [intentionally]
18 mutilate, [run down with a vehicle intentionally] INTENTIONALLY
19 STRIKE WITH ANY VEHICLE, overdrive, overload, or otherwise abuse
20 any animal, EXCEPT IN DEFENSE OF PERSONS OR OTHER
21 ANIMALS;
- 22 (3) Administer poison to any animal or knowingly place or leave any
23 poisonous or other harmful substance with intent to injure or kill any
24 animal other than vermin;
- 25 (4) Use or permit any animal to be used for the purpose of fighting with any
26 other animal;
- 27 (5) Cause, arrange or authorize these acts;
- 28 (6) [Have the charge or custody of an animal and inflict] INFLICT
29 unnecessary suffering or pain upon an animal, or unnecessarily fail to

- 1 provide the an animal with nutritious food in sufficient quantity, necessary
2 veterinary care, proper drink, [air] VENTILATION₂, SPACE₂, SHADE,
3 shelter [or] AND protection from the elements.
- 4 (7) Sell or distribute any dog or cat less than eight weeks of age unless
5 accompanied by its dam. This does not apply to animals given to a
6 government operated or supported animal shelter or animals accompanied
7 by a statement signed by a licensed veterinarian stating that the dam is
8 incapacitated for humane or medical reasons and cannot care for her
9 offspring.
- 10 (8) [Sell or give away any warm-blooded animal as an inducement to enter a
11 contest, game, or place of amusement] ANIMALS LEFT IN A
12 STANDING OR PARKED VEHICLE.
- 13 (a) AN OWNER OR CUSTODIAN MAY NOT LEAVE AN
14 ANIMAL UNATTENDED IN A STANDING OR PARKED
15 MOTOR VEHICLE IN A MANNER THAT ENDANGERS THE
16 HEALTH OR SAFETY OF THE ANIMAL.
- 17 (b) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (c) OF THIS
18 SECTION, A PERSON MAY USE REASONABLE FORCE TO
19 REMOVE FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE ANY ANIMAL LEFT
20 IN A VEHICLE IN VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF
21 SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION IF THE PERSON IS:
- 22 (1) AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER UNDER THE
23 JURISDICTION OF THE STATE OR A LOCAL
24 GOVERNING BODY;
- 25 (2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL;
- 26 (3) A PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE OR
27 OF A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY.
- 28 (c) EXCEPTION - A PERSON MAY NOT USE FORCE OF ANY
29 KIND TO REMOVE FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE:

- 1 (1) A DOG USED BY THE STATE OR A LOCAL
- 2 GOVERNING BODY FOR POLICE WORK WHILE THE
- 3 DOG IS ON DUTY; OR
- 4 (2) A CAT OR DOG IN THE CUSTODY OF AN ANIMAL
- 5 CONTROL OFFICER.
- 6 (9) SELL OR GIVE AWAY ANY ANIMAL AS AN INDUCEMENT TO
- 7 ENTER A CONTEST, GAME, OR PLACE OF AMUSEMENT,
- 8 UNLESS SUCH ACTIVITY HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY PERMITTED
- 9 BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

10 B. In the case of activities in which physical pain may unavoidably be caused to

11 animals, such as medical and scientific activities, food processing, customary and

12 normal veterinary and agricultural husbandry practices, and hunting, "cruelty"

13 means a failure to employ the most humane method reasonably available.

14

15 **§ 230-9. Rabies prevention.**

16 A. It shall be the duty of every [resident of the County owning]OWNER OR

17 CUSTODIAN OF a dog, cat or ferret at least four (4) months [old or older] OF

18 AGE WITHIN CHARLES COUNTY to have such [dog, cat or ferret] ANIMAL

19 inoculated with an anti-rabies vaccine approved by the [Director of Public Health,

20 which] CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. THIS inoculation

21 shall be [repeated] RE-ADMINISTERED as [often] FREQUENTLY as the

22 CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH [Director of Public Health]

23 may from time to time specify TO ENSURE THAT THE ANIMAL

24 MAINTAINS ITS RESISTANCE TO RABIES. [The inoculation shall be

25 administered by a licensed veterinarian. The rabies certificate issued by the

26 veterinarian shall be carefully preserved by the owner or custodian of the dog, cat

27 or ferret and exhibited promptly upon the request for inspection by the Animal

28 Control Officer, Health Officer, or any other law enforcement officer, or their

29 agents, to include shelter staff when redeeming an animal at the shelter. The

1 status of an animal in quarantine should always be verified in person either by a
2 health agent, Animal Control Officer or veterinarian exam.]

- 3 (1) THE INOCULATION SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY A LICENSED
4 VETERINARIAN WHO SHALL ISSUE THE OWNER OR
5 CUSTODIAN A RABIES CERTIFICATE.
- 6 (2) THE RABIES CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE VETERINARIAN
7 SHALL BE PRESERVED BY THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF THE
8 ANIMAL AND BE EXHIBITED UPON THE REQUEST FOR
9 INSPECTION BY AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, HEALTH
10 OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, OR THEIR
11 AUTHORIZED AGENTS, TO INCLUDE SHELTER STAFF WHEN
12 THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN SEEKS TO RECLAIM AN ANIMAL
13 AT FROM THE TCAS SHELTER.
- 14 (3) THE HEALTH STATUS OF AN ANIMAL IN QUARANTINE SHALL
15 ALWAYS BE VERIFIED IN PERSON BY EITHER BY A HEALTH
16 OFFICER, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER OR LICENSED
17 VETERINARIAN.

18 B. Quarantine Requirements. [As directed by the Health Department, an animal who
19 has bitten, been bitten by or otherwise exposes or has been exposed by another
20 animal, or who has bitten or otherwise exposes a human, or other animal, if not
21 euthanized and tested for rabies, shall be quarantined for a minimum of 10 days
22 following the exposure, that quarantine requires:] ANY DOMESTICATED
23 MAMMAL THAT HAS BITTEN A PERSON, OR ANY OTHER DOG, CAT
24 OR FERRET SHALL BE QUARANTINED FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS
25 THAN TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE
26 BITE. ANY DOMESTICATED MAMMAL WHICH HAS BEEN BITTEN BY
27 OR OTHERWISE PHYSICALLY EXPOSED TO AN ANIMAL THAT IS
28 KNOWN OR SUSPECTED TO BE INFECTED WITH THE RABIES VIRUS
29 SHALL BE QUARANTINED FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN TEN (10)

1 CALENDAR DAYS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE BITE OR
2 EXPOSURE. A LONGER QUARANTINE PERIOD MAY BE MANDATED,
3 OR THE ANIMAL MAY BE ORDERED TO BE EUTHANIZED AND
4 TESTED FOR RABIES IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE CHARLES
5 COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. THE QUARANTINE
6 REQUIREMENTS ARE:

- 7 (1) Confinement of the animal to a house, garage or other escape proof
8 enclosure or building approved by the CHARLES COUNTY
9 DEPARTMENT OF Health [Department or its designated agent(s)] OR
10 ITS DESIGNEE.
- 11 (2) The QUARANTINED animal may not be removed from the
12 QUARANTINE PREMISES [structure] unless on a leash, MUZZLED,
13 and under the immediate control of an adult CAPABLE OF
14 CONTROLLING THE ANIMAL.
- 15 (3) Prevention of contact with other animals or persons other than the primary
16 caretakers.
- 17 (4) The animal may not be removed from the quarantine premise [unless
18 permission is obtained from] WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION
19 OF the [local] CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF Health
20 [Department Officer or his designated agent(s)] OR ITS DESIGNEE.
- 21 (5) If the QUARANTINED animal becomes ill or begins to [show] EXHIBIT
22 behavioral changes, the owner OR CUSTODIAN SHALL [must]
23 immediately notify the [Department] CHARLES COUNTY
24 DEPARTMENT OF Health, who shall determine the appropriate course of
25 action [what shall be done].
- 26 (6) If the QUARANTINED animal dies, the owner OR CUSTODIAN shall
27 immediately notify the CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF Health
28 [Department] and make the animal available for rabies testing.
- 29 (7) If the quarantined animal escapes, the owner OR CUSTODIAN shall

1 immediately notify the CHARLES COUNTY Sheriff's OFFICE
2 [Department, Department of Animal Control, and the Health Department],
3 THE CHARLES COUNTY DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL AND
4 THE CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
5 DEPARTMENT.

- 6 (8) Until the animal is cleared by the CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT
7 OF Health [Department] from quarantine, the owner OR CUSTODIAN
8 shall not EUTHANIZE, kill, give away, sell or otherwise dispose of the
9 animal without written [permission] AUTHORIZATION from the
10 CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF Health [Department].
- 11 (9) If a veterinarian's examination is not required on the [last] FINAL day of
12 the quarantine, the owner OR CUSTODIAN shall [report by telephone to
13 the Health Department the health status of the animal] TELEPHONE THE
14 CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REPORT THE
15 STATUS OF THE ANIMAL.
- 16 (10) If the animal is unvaccinated against rabies at the time [of exposure] IT
17 WAS BITTEN OR EXPOSED, the animal shall not be vaccinated until
18 released from quarantine.
- 19 (11) If unvaccinated, the owner OR CUSTODIAN shall take the animal to a
20 licensed veterinarian for a physical rabies exam and vaccination within
21 five (5) CALENDAR days of the FINAL DAY [end] of quarantine.
- 22 (12) If an animal is not properly quarantined it shall be impounded by an
23 Animal Control Officer or his designee.

24 **§ 230-10. LICENSING.**

25 A. The sale of licenses shall be through the [Charles County Treasurer,] Charles
26 County DIVISION OF Animal Control, OR ITS [and/or] designees [of the
27 Charles County Commissioners].

- 28 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, [or] corporation OR OTHER
29 LEGAL ENTITY to own, keep or harbor a dog OR CAT four months old

- 1 or older without a current Charles County License. [The license shall
2 expire one year from the date of issuance.]
- 3 (2) Owners OR CUSTODIANS of certified Seeing Eye dogs, hearing dogs,
4 governmental police dogs, or other certified dogs that are trained to assist
5 the physically handicapped shall not be required to pay the annual fee but
6 shall be required to obtain and display the license.
- 7 (3) Animal shelters operated by chartered humane organizations or [the
8 County] LOCAL GOVERNMENT for the purpose of housing stray,
9 abandoned, sick or injured animals shall be exempt from licensing prior to
10 adoption or return to owner.
- 11 (4) Applications for license(s) shall be made to the [County Treasurer or a
12 duly authorized agent(s)] CHARLES COUNTY DIVISION OF ANIMAL
13 CONTROL OR ITS DESIGNEE WITHIN (30) THIRTY DAYS OF
14 RESIDENCY.
- 15 (a) Before any license shall be issued, the owner shall produce a valid
16 rabies certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian proving that the
17 dog OR CAT is currently vaccinated against rabies.
- 18 (b) Before any unsexed license shall be issued, the owner shall
19 produce a certificate of surgical sterilization issued by a licensed
20 veterinarian proving that the dog OR CAT has been spayed or
21 neutered.
- 22 (5) License certificates shall include the date of issuance, [and] expiration
23 date, the owner's name and address, home and work telephone numbers,
24 AS WELL AS THE ANIMAL'S sex, species, breed, age, color and
25 markings; rabies expiration date, rabies tag number, issuing [veterinarian]
26 VETERINARIAN'S NAME and [veterinarian's] telephone number.
- 27 (6) A license tag shall be issued with the license certificate. This tag shall be
28 worn by the dog OR CAT at all times, except when confined in a HOME,
29 kennel or when participating in a competition where such displays are

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prohibited.

- (7) No person may use any license for any dog OR CAT other than the animal for which it was issued.
- (8) The license certificate shall be made available upon request by any health, [public safety] ANIMAL CONTROL OR LAW ENFORCEMENT officer, or their agents.
- (9) The annual fee for a dog OR CAT license shall be AS SET FORTH IN THE COMMISSIONERS' FEES AND CHARGES, APPROVED ON A YEARLY BASIS WITH THE ANNUAL BUDGET [:
 - (a) Unneutered male: \$15.
 - (b) Unspayed Female: \$15.
 - (c) Neutered Male: \$2.
 - (d) Spayed Female: \$2].

B. ANIMAL FANCIER LICENSING. ANY PERSON, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION, OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY THAT HARBORS OR KEEPS ANY COMBINATION OF MORE THAN 10 ADULT ANIMALS AND WHICH DOES NOT BREED AND SELL THE OFFSPRING OR USE MALES FOR STUD MAY NOT DO SO WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING AN ANIMAL FANCIER'S LICENSE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

- (1) APPLICATION FOR AN ANIMAL FANCIER'S LICENSE SHALL BE MADE TO THE CHARLES COUNTY DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL OR ITS DESIGNEE. THE APPLICATION SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTOGRAPH, CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE AND DESCRIPTION OF EACH ANIMAL TO BE COVERED BY THE LICENSE.
- (2) THE LICENSE PERIOD SHALL RUN FOR ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE. RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES SHALL BE MADE THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF SAID LICENSE.

1 IF ALL OF THE ANIMALS COVERED BY THE LICENSE ARE
2 STERILIZED, A 75% REDUCTION OF THE APPLICABLE FEE WILL
3 BE APPLIED.

4 (7) NO PERSON, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL
5 ENTITY THAT HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF CRUELTY TO
6 ANIMALS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN ANIMAL FANCIER'S
7 LICENSE.

8 C. [B.] Commercial Animal Establishment Licensing. No person, partnership,
9 corporation OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY shall operate a commercial animal
10 establishment without first obtaining a license in compliance with this section.
11 License applications shall be accompanied by written verification from Charles
12 County [Government] DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND GROWTH
13 MANAGEMENT that the [applicant] APPLICANT'S INTENDED USE OF THE
14 PROPERTY complies with any and all [Zoning Ordinance and amendments
15 thereto] APPLICABLE LOCAL AND STATE ZONING AND LAND USE
16 STATUTES.

- 17 (1) No fee may be required of any government operated zoological park.
- 18 (2) All dogs and cats offered for sale or resale must be examined by a licensed
19 veterinarian within the last three months prior to sale or resale.
 - 20 (a) Any animal under veterinarian treatment may not be offered for
21 sale without release from the veterinarian.
 - 22 (b) Any owner or employee of a commercial animal establishment
23 who knows of or should have known of any animal defect or
24 illness shall make a purchaser aware of this information prior to
25 sale.
- 26 (3) Records or forms must be maintained for a period of one (1) year for any
27 animal offered for sale or sold. Records shall contain the following but
28 are not limited to:
 - 29 (a) Animal Description: breed, sex, color, and age.

- 1 (b) The origin of purchase, to include the supplier and the date of
2 receipt.
- 3 (c) Proof of sale
- 4 (d) Medical Record and any required treatment program.
- 5 (4) [An annual commercial animal establishment license] COMMERCIAL
6 ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE shall be [issued] RENEWED
7 ANNUALLY upon successful completion of an inspection and payment
8 of the applicable fee, [and] THE LICENSE shall be displayed AT THE
9 COMMERCIAL ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENT in a conspicuous [place]
10 LOCATION SUITABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.
- 11 (5) Change in ownership or location.
- 12 (a) If there is a change in ownership of a commercial animal
13 establishment, the new owner shall have the current license
14 transferred to his/her name upon payment of a \$25 transfer fee and
15 completion of a successful inspection of the premises.
- 16 (b) If there is a change in the location of a commercial animal
17 establishment, the owner shall file for a change of address and pay
18 a [\$25 fee] AS SET FORTH IN THE COMMISSIONERS' FEES
19 AND CHARGES, APPROVED ON A YEARLY BASIS WITH
20 THE ANNUAL BUDGET, and complete a successful inspection
21 of the premises within 30 days of change of location.
- 22 (6) Any commercial animal establishment who has a change in the category
23 under which a license was issued shall notify the licensing authority and
24 be subject to reinspection, reclassification and readjustment of the license
25 fee.
- 26 (7) Every [facility regulated by] COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY SUBJECT TO
27 these Regulations shall be considered a separate enterprise requiring an
28 individual license FEE.
- 29 (8) The license period shall run for one year from the date of issuance.

1 Renewal applications for licenses shall be made 30 days prior to
2 expiration of said license.

3 D. [C.] Commercial animal establishment license issuance [or revocation] AND
4 SUSPENSION.

5 (1) [Written application for a commercial animal establishment license shall
6 be made to the County Treasurer. Application shall be accompanied by
7 the license fee and written verification from Charles County Government
8 that the establishment complies with County Zoning Ordinances.] IN
9 THE CASE OF COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITIES, IF THE
10 PROPERTY WHERE THE ACTIVITY IS TO TAKE PLACE IS NOT
11 OWNED BY THE APPLICANT, LESSEE'S MUST SUBMIT WRITTEN
12 NOTARIZED PERMISSION FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER
13 AUTHORIZING THE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTED AND
14 THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ANIMALS ALLOWED THE BE KEPT
15 ON THE PROPERTY.

16 (2) UPON RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION AND LICENSE FEE [After
17 an application is filed], the [license authority] CHARLES COUNTY
18 DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL shall inspect the facility prior to
19 ISSUANCE OF [issuing] the license. A license may be DENIED
20 [withheld or revoked] if the person, partnership, or corporation OR
21 OTHER LEGAL ENTITY holding the license refuses or fails to comply
22 with these regulations or any law governing the protection and keeping of
23 animals.

24 (3) It shall be a condition of [the issuance of] any license ISSUED
25 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION that THE Charles County
26 DIVISION OF Animal Control IS EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED [to be
27 permitted] to CONDUCT UNANNOUNCED POST-ISSUANCE
28 COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS [inspect upon demand] during normal
29 COUNTY business hours. THE INSPECTORS WILL EXAMINE all

1 animals AT THE PREMISES, all records required to be MAINTAINED
2 [retained] under these regulations, [and] AS WELL AS the premises
3 where animals are kept. If permission for such inspection is refused, the
4 license [of the refusing owner] PREVIOUSLY ISSUED shall be [revoked]
5 SUSPENDED.

6 (4) If the applicant has withheld or falsified any information on the
7 application, the CHARLES COUNTY DIVISION OF ANIMAL
8 CONTROL [licensing authority] may [refuse to issue or may revoke]
9 SUSPEND the license.

10 (5) No person, partnership, or corporation [who] OR OTHER LEGAL
11 ENTITY THAT has been found guilty of cruelty to animals shall be issued
12 a license to operate a commercial animal establishment.

13 (6) Any person, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL
14 ENTITY HAVING ITS LICENSE REVOKED BY ORDER OF THE
15 ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD [having been denied a
16 license], shall not be eligible to reapply for a period of six (6) months
17 FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE REVOCATION. Each re-
18 application shall be accompanied by a fee of [\$25] AS SET FORTH IN
19 THE COMMISSIONERS' FEES AND CHARGES, APPROVED ON A
20 YEARLY BASIS WITH THE ANNUAL BUDGET and SHALL
21 INCLUDE WRITTEN VERIFICATION FROM THE CHARLES
22 COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND GROWTH
23 MANAGEMENT GOVERNMENT THAT THE APPLICANT'S
24 INTENDED USE OF THE PROPERTY COMPLIES WITH ANY AND
25 ALL APPLICABLE LOCAL AND STATE ZONING AND LAND USE
26 STATUTES, AS WELL AS ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO [written
27 verification from Charles County Government that the establishment
28 complies with any and all County Zoning Ordinances and amendments
29 thereto. Individuals who have been denied a license under Subsection

1 C(5) shall be ineligible to hold a Commercial Animal Establishment
2 License. may not reapply].

3 (7) Appeals for [withheld] DENIED, or [revoked] SUSPENDED licenses may
4 be made to the ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING Board within
5 FOURTEEN (14) CALENDAR days OF RECEIPT of [the] WRITTEN
6 notice of such action. FAILURE OF THE LICENSEE TO APPEAL THE
7 DENIAL OR SUSPENSION WITHIN THE TIME SPECIFIED SHALL
8 CAUSE THE LICENSE DENIAL OR SUSPENSION TO STAND.

9 (8) THE FILING OF A TIMELY APPEAL OF A DENIAL OR
10 SUSPENSION OF A LICENSE TO THE ANIMAL MATTERS
11 HEARING BOARD SHALL NOT STAY NECESSARY
12 ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND
13 WELFARE OF ANIMALS OWNED OR IN THE CUSTODY OF THE
14 APPELLANT. IN ADDITION, IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY
15 SITUATION AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE MAY PETITION THE
16 CHAIRMAN OF THE ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD TO
17 ISSUE AN IMMEDIATE "CEASE AND DESIST" ORDER [In the event
18 of a timely appeal, the revocation of a license may not be effective until
19 after the next scheduled public hearing except, in the event of an
20 emergency situation an Animal Control Officer may make application
21 before the Chairman of the Board, who is authorized to issue a cease and
22 desist order. This case shall be heard at the next hearing of the Board].

23 E. [D.] Commercial animal establishment license fees. License fees shall be as SET
24 FORTH IN THE COMMISSIONERS' FEES AND CHARGES, APPROVED ON
25 A YEARLY BASIS WITH THE ANNUAL BUDGET, [follows:

- 26 (1) Any Boarding/breeding facility Facilities:
 - 27 (a) Boarding facility authorized to house fewer than 10 dogs or cats:
28 \$75.
 - 29 (b) Boarding facility authorized to house 10 or more but fewer than 50

- 1 dogs or cats: \$150.
- 2 (c) Boarding facility authorized to house 50 or more dogs or cats:
3 \$200.
- 4 (d) Breeding facility authorized to house fewer than 10 adult animals:
5 \$75.
- 6 (e) Breeding facility authorized to fouse 10 or more but fewer than
7 fifty adult animals: \$150.
- 8 (f) Breeding facility authorized to house 50 or more adult animals:
9 \$200.
- 10 (2) Pet shop: \$200.
- 11 (3) Auction: \$300.
- 12 (4) Zoological park: \$250.
- 13 (5) Circus: \$250.
- 14 (6) Grooming shop: \$150.
- 15 (7) Petting zoo: \$300.
- 16 (8) Guard dog training center: \$250.]

17

18 **§ 230-11. Animal care.**

- 19 A. No owner or custodian of an animal shall fail to provide the animal with humane
20 care and treatment; sufficient, [wholesome and] nutritious food; potable water in
21 sufficient quantities; [proper air] VENTILATION, shelter, space, shade and
22 protection from the weather; and, veterinary care when needed. In the case of
23 farm animals, nothing in this section may be construed as imposing shelter
24 requirements or standards more stringent than normally accepted husbandry
25 practices.
- 26 B. Minimum standards for indoor and outdoor enclosures for animals must:
- 27 (1) Be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the animal
28 from injury and to contain the animal;
- 29 (a) FENCING SHALL BE APPROPRIATE SO AS TO KEEP THE

1 INTENDED ANIMALS RESTRAINED WITHIN ITS
2 BOUNDARIES.

- 3 (2) Provide sufficient space to allow each animal adequate freedom of
4 movement; space must be appropriate and sufficient for the age,
5 breed/type, quantity, condition and size of the animal(s).
6 (3) Be usable and safe (e.g., must be provided an area free from standing
7 water, accumulated waste, sharp objects, trash and debris and maintained
8 in a safe and humane manner to minimize health hazards and obnoxious
9 odors);
10 (4) Provide [palatable] POTABLE water that is always available and that is
11 kept in a vessel secured to prevent tipping.

12 C. [Indoor] INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR housing facilities shall provide adequate
13 ventilation by natural or mechanical means, and the ambient temperature shall be
14 compatible with the health of the animal.

15 D. Outdoor shelter shall be as follows:

- 16 (1) [When] DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND
17 SEPTEMBER 15 OR WHENEVER THE AMBIENT AIR
18 TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 80 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, OR WHEN
19 sunlight is likely to cause heat exhaustion, sufficient shade by natural or
20 artificial means shall be provided to protect the animal from direct
21 sunlight. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A DOG HOUSE,
22 REGARDLESS OF ITS DESIGN, BE CONSIDERED SHADE DURING
23 THE SUMMER MONTHS.
24 (2) If an animal is confined outdoors [unattended] FOR A CONTINUOUS
25 PERIOD OF A HALF HOUR OR MORE, it shall be the duty of [each and
26 every owner] THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN to provide said animal
27 with proper shelter [for] FROM THE ELEMENTS CONSISTENT WITH
28 that species of animal. For livestock, poultry and other farm animals
29 proper shelter shall be CONSISTENT WITH customary and normal

1 agricultural husbandry practices. For dogs AND CATS proper shelter is
2 described below:

3 (a) Weatherproof. Shelter must be solid. There shall be no cracks or
4 openings other than entrance. The shelter shall not have any metal
5 or plastic primary interior surfaces. [(Commercially made shelters
6 with insulation material between the inner and outer layers of
7 fiberglass/plastic construction are generally acceptable)].

8 (b) Elevated. Floor must be off the ground at least two (2) inches.

9 (c) Door flap. BETWEEN DECEMBER 1 AND MARCH 15 AND
10 WHENEVER THE AMBIENT AIR TEMPERATURE IS 35
11 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR LOWER, [The] THE entrance
12 must be covered with a SELF CLOSING DOOR, AN OFFSET
13 OUTER DOOR OR A flexible flap and/or THE entrance
14 SHOULD FACE south or east, AWAY FROM THE
15 PREVAILING WINDS to protect the animal from the elements [of
16 weather].

17 (d) Bedding. Bedding must be KEPT dry. Straw, leaves, hay, [cedar
18 chips] WOOD SHAVINGS or other suitable material must be
19 provided [as needed during cold and inclement weather] IN
20 SUFFICIENT QUANTITY FOR INSULATION AGAINST
21 COLD AND DAMP.

22 (e) Size. The shelter must be large enough to allow the animal to
23 enter, stand, turn around and lie down comfortably and small
24 enough to allow the animal to warm the interior with its body.

25 E. THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF A DOG MAY NOT TIE, CHAIN, CABLE
26 OR IN ANY WAY TETHER A DOG OUTSIDE FOR A TOTAL OF MORE
27 THAN FOUR (4) HOURS A DAY. If a chain, rope, line or other such item, is
28 used to tie an animal, it shall be of sufficient length to safely and humanely allow
29 the animal freedom of movement without becoming entangled with obstructions.

1 A DOG MAY NOT BE TETHERED USING A COLLAR OR HARNESS THAT
2 IS MADE PRIMARILY OF METAL AND IS NOT AT LEAST AS LARGE AS
3 THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE DOG'S NECK PLUS ONE (1) INCH.

4 F. [A person may not allow an animal to ride in the unenclosed area of a motor
5 vehicle unless the animal is confined by a securely affixed, well- ventilated
6 container, cage or other device designated to safely prevent the animal from
7 falling or jumping from the motor vehicle.] A KENNEL/PEN FOR OUTSIDE
8 DOGS SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF SIX (6) FEET IN HEIGHT AND MEET
9 THE MINIMUM SPACE/SIZE REQUIREMENTS AS LISTED IN THE
10 FOLLOWING TABLE. THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT APPLICABLE
11 TO ANIMAL SHELTERS, HUMANE SOCIETIES, COMMERCIAL
12 BOARDING KENNELS, VETERINARY CLINICS & HOSPITALS, OR PET
13 STORES.

14

15 Number of Dogs	Small (up to 25 lbs)	Medium (25 - 50lbs)	Large (over 50 lbs)
16 1	3' x 7' (21 sq. ft)	6' x 10' (60 sq. ft)	8' x 10' (80 sq. ft)
17 2	4' x 8' (32 sq. ft)	8' x 10' (80 sq. ft)	10' x 10' (100 sq. ft)
18 3	5' x 9' (45 sq. ft)	8' x 12' (96 sq. ft)	10' x 14' (140 sq. ft)
19 4	8' x 10' (80 sq. ft)	10' x 12' (120 sq. ft)	12' x 16' (192 sq. ft)

20
21 G. A PERSON MAY NOT ALLOW AN ANIMAL TO RIDE IN THE
22 UNENCLOSED AREA OF A MOTOR VEHICLE UNLESS THE ANIMAL IS
23 CONFINED BY A SECURELY AFFIXED, WELL- VENTILATED
24 CONTAINER, CAGE OR OTHER DEVICE DESIGNATED TO SAFELY
25 PREVENT THE ANIMAL FROM FALLING OR JUMPING FROM THE
26 MOTOR VEHICLE.

27
28 **§ 230-12. Animal at large.**

29 A. It shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, or corporation OR OTHER

- 1 LEGAL ENTITY to allow [their] AN animal to be at large.
- 2 B. This Section shall not apply to a dog undergoing supervised obedience training or
3 while actually engaged in the sport of hunting in an authorized area while
4 supervised by a competent person.
- 5 C. Without permission of the proper authority the owner or custodian of any animal
6 may not permit the animal to be on school grounds on a day when school is in
7 session, in a public recreation area, any public property or thoroughfare or private
8 property without the property owner's permission unless:
- 9 (1) The animal is controlled by a leash or similar restraining device.
10 (2) The presence of the animal is in an organized activity such as a dog show.
- 11 D. No animal accidentally at large with a person capable of controlling the animal in
12 immediate physical pursuit shall be deemed at large.
- 13 E. A person who is aware of an animal being at large or who finds a stray animal
14 shall report the condition to the [animal shelter or] TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL
15 SHELTER, AN Animal Control Officer, OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT
16 OFFICIAL.
- 17 F. An Animal Control Officer [and/]or authorized representative of Animal Control
18 who observes an animal at large may pursue that animal on public and/or private
19 property.
20

21 **§ 230-12.1. Female in season.**

22 Every female dog or cat in season shall be humanely confined in a building or secure enclosure
23 in such a manner that such female dog or cat cannot come in contact with an unneutered male of
24 the same species except for planned breeding. This does not exclude normal waste elimination
25 while under physical restraint and direct supervision and on the owner/custodian's property.
26

27 **§ 230-12.2. Allowing animal to urinate or defecate on private property prohibited.**

28 It shall be unlawful for any owner or custodian to allow their animal to urinate or defecate on the
29 property of another without the consent of the owner of said property.

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§ 230-12.3. Allowing animal to defecate on public property prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any owner or custodian to allow their animal to defecate on public property unless the owner or custodian of the animal immediately thereafter removes and disposes of it in a sanitary manner. [This does not apply to livestock.]

§ 230-12.4. Public nuisance.

- A. No person, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY shall keep or maintain any animal in such manner as to cause or permit the animal to be a public nuisance. A public nuisance is when an owner or custodian allows an animal to:
- (1) Be at large;
 - (2) Damage the property of anyone other than its owner.
 - (3) Molest pedestrians, neighbors or passersby;
 - (4) Intimidate pedestrians, neighbors or passersby: [Intimidation should be defined as a reasonable prudent person under same and/or similar circumstances would have been intimidated by the actions of the animal in question.]
 - (5) Chase vehicles;
 - (6) Bark or make other harsh or excessive noise so as to disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of members of the community as reflected by reasonable persons with normal sensitivities;
 - (7) Foul the air by odor and thereby create unreasonable annoyance or discomfort to neighbors or others in close proximity to the premises where the animal is kept or harbored;
 - (8) Defecate on public property and/or urinate/defecate on private property; or
 - (9) Continue or repeat that behavior or activity for which the animal has previously been determined by the Board, after notice to its owner and a hearing, to be in violation of any of these regulations and/or a public

1 nuisance by virtue of being a menace to the public health, welfare or
2 safety.

3
4 **§ 230-12.5. Dangerous and/or vicious animals and potentially dangerous animals.**

5 A. For the purpose of these Regulations, a dangerous and/or vicious animal shall be
6 defined as any animal:

- 7 (1) Which wounds, bites, or otherwise injures a human being without
8 provocation on public or private property. For the purposes of this section,
9 the term provoked shall mean any situation occurring in Subsection B, and
10 not the term as described in the Health Department bite report[.];
- 11 (2) Which has injured or killed a domestic animal, without provocation, on
12 public or private property[.];
- 13 (3) Which has a vicious nature, disposition and/or propensity which is known
14 or should be known by its owner or custodian[.];
- 15 (4) [Owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of animal fighting
16 or any animal trained for animal fighting] WHICH HAS BEEN
17 PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED TO BE DANGEROUS AND/OR
18 VICIOUS BY OTHER COMPETENT AUTHORITY;
- 19 (5) [Not owned by a governmental or law enforcement unit, used primarily to
20 guard public or private property.] OWNED OR HARBORED
21 PRIMARILY OR IN PART FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANIMAL
22 FIGHTING OR ANY ANIMAL TRAINED FOR ANIMAL FIGHTING;
23 OR
- 24 (6) NOT OWNED BY A GOVERNMENTAL OR LAW ENFORCEMENT
25 UNIT, USED PRIMARILY TO GUARD PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
26 PROPERTY.
- 27 (7) ANY LIVE ANIMAL AS LISTED IN THE ANNOTATED CODE OF
28 MARYLAND, CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE, §10-621(b) ENTITLED
29 IMPORT, OFFER OR TRANSFER OF DANGEROUS ANIMAL

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(PROHIBITED).

- B. No animal may be declared dangerous and/or vicious if:
 - (1) The threat, wound, bite, injury or damage was sustained by a person who:
 - (a) At the time was committing a willful trespass or other tort upon the premises occupied by the owner or custodian keeper of the animal;
or
 - (b) Was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the animal(s); or
 - (c) Has in the past been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the animal; or
 - (d) Was committing or attempting to commit a crime;
 - (2) [or] OR the animal was:
 - (a) Protecting or defending its young or other animal.
 - (b) Responding to pain or injury.
- C. **POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS:** The Board may make a determination that an animal is potentially dangerous. A potentially dangerous animal is any animal that [constitutes], by its actions, **CONSTITUTES** a physical threat to human beings, other domestic animals, or both.
- D. **THE BOARD MAY CONSIDER PAST HISTORY AND ACTIONS OF THE ANIMAL IN THEIR DETERMINATIONS.** [Upon determination of dangerous and/or vicious or potentially dangerous by the Board, the Board may require any or all of the following:
 - (1) No dangerous and/or vicious or potentially dangerous animal shall be chained, tethered or otherwise tied to any inanimate object, such as a tree, post or building outside of its own enclosure.
 - (2) For any owner of a dangerous and/or vicious or potentially dangerous animal who maintains their animal outside, a portion of their property shall be fenced with a perimeter or area fence. Within this perimeter fence, the animal shall be humanely confined inside a pen or kennel of adequate size. The pen or kennel may not share common fencing with the

- 1 area or perimeter fence. The kennel or pen must have secured sides; a
2 secure top attached to all sides; the sides must either be buried two feet
3 into the ground, sunken into a concrete pad, or otherwise secured to
4 prevent escape by digging. The gate to the kennel must be locked.
- 5 (3) Whenever outside of its enclosure, but on the owner's property, a
6 dangerous and/or vicious or potentially dangerous animal must be
7 attended by the owner and restrained by a secure collar and leash of
8 sufficient strength to prevent escape.
- 9 (4) The owner or custodian of any dangerous and/or vicious or potentially
10 dangerous animal shall display in a prominent place on their premises
11 where the animal is kept, and at each entrance and exit to the area where
12 such animal is confined, a sign easily readable by the public using the
13 words "DANGEROUS DOG" or such other language as the Board may
14 direct. The lettering on the signs shall be at least three-inch block on signs
15 8 ½ inches by 14 inches, easily readable, in bright colors.
- 16 (5) Except when being transported in, and humanely and securely confined
17 within, a vehicle, no dangerous and/or vicious or potentially dangerous
18 animal shall be permitted off the property of its owner except when it is:
- 19 (a) Attended by his owner; and
20 (b) Is humanely restrained by a secure collar and lease (not to exceed
21 six feet in length); both collar and leash to be of sufficient strength
22 to prevent escape; and
23 (c) Is humanely muzzled by any means sufficient to prevent biting
24 other persons or domestic animals.
- 25 (6) The animal be neutered at the expense of the owner.
- 26 (7) The animal be tattooed with a number to be issued by the Board, or
27 microchipped, at the expense of the owner.
- 28 (8) Ownership or custody of an animal deemed dangerous and/or vicious or
29 potentially dangerous by the Board shall not be transferred without prior

1 written approval of the Board.]

2 E. [Upon determination of dangerous and/or vicious by the Board, the Board may
3 require that the animal be humanely euthanized.] UPON DETERMINATION OF
4 DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS BY
5 THE BOARD, THE BOARD MAY REQUIRE ANY OR ALL OF THE
6 FOLLOWING:

7 (1) NO DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY
8 DANGEROUS ANIMAL SHALL BE CHAINED, TETHERED OR
9 OTHERWISE TIED TO ANY INANIMATE OBJECT, SUCH AS A
10 TREE, POST OR BUILDING OUTSIDE OF ITS OWN ENCLOSURE.

11 (2) FOR ANY OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF A DANGEROUS AND/OR
12 VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL WHO
13 MAINTAINS THEIR ANIMAL OUTSIDE, A PORTION OF THEIR
14 PROPERTY SHALL BE FENCED WITH A PERIMETER OR AREA
15 FENCE. WITHIN THIS PERIMETER FENCE, THE ANIMAL SHALL
16 BE HUMANELY CONFINED INSIDE A PEN OR KENNEL MEETING
17 THE REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN THESE REGULATIONS. THE
18 PEN OR KENNEL MAY NOT SHARE COMMON FENCING WITH
19 THE AREA OR PERIMETER FENCE. THE KENNEL OR PEN MUST
20 HAVE SECURED SIDES; A SECURE TOP ATTACHED TO ALL
21 SIDES; THE SIDES MUST EITHER BE BURIED TWO FEET INTO
22 THE GROUND, SUNKEN INTO A CONCRETE PAD, OR
23 OTHERWISE SECURED TO PREVENT ESCAPE BY DIGGING. THE
24 GATE TO THE PEN OR KENNEL MUST BE LOCKED.

25 (3) WHENEVER OUTSIDE OF ITS ENCLOSURE, BUT ON THE
26 OWNER'S OR CUSTODIAN'S PROPERTY, A DANGEROUS AND/OR
27 VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL MUST BE
28 ATTENDED BY THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN AND RESTRAINED
29 BY A SECURE COLLAR AND LEASH OF SUFFICIENT STRENGTH

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TO PREVENT ESCAPE.

- (4) THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF ANY DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL SHALL DISPLAY IN A PROMINENT PLACE ON THEIR PREMISES WHERE THE ANIMAL IS KEPT, AND AT EACH ENTRANCE AND EXIT TO THE AREA WHERE SUCH ANIMAL IS CONFINED, A SIGN EASILY READABLE BY THE PUBLIC USING THE WORDS "DANGEROUS DOG". THE LETTERING ON THE SIGNS SHALL BE AT LEAST THREE-INCH BLOCK ON SIGNS 8 ½ INCHES BY 14 INCHES, LEGIBLE, IN BRIGHT COLORS.
- (5) EXCEPT WHEN BEING TRANSPORTED IN, AND HUMANELY AND SECURELY CONFINED WITHIN, A VEHICLE, NO DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL SHALL BE PERMITTED OFF THE PROPERTY OF ITS OWNER OR CUSTODIAN EXCEPT WHEN IT IS:
 - (a) ATTENDED BY ITS OWNER OR CUSTODIAN; AND
 - (b) IS HUMANELY RESTRAINED BY A SECURE COLLAR AND LEASH (NOT TO EXCEED SIX (6) FEET IN LENGTH); BOTH COLLAR AND LEASH TO BE OF SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO PREVENT ESCAPE; AND
 - (c) IS HUMANELY MUZZLED BY ANY MEANS SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT BITING OTHER PERSONS OR DOMESTIC ANIMALS.
- (6) THE ANIMAL BE NEUTERED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN.
- (7) THE ANIMAL BE MICROCHIPPED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN AND THE MICROCHIP NUMBER PROVIDED TO CHARLES COUNTY DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL.

1 (8) OWNERSHIP OR CUSTODY OF AN ANIMAL PRESUMED OR
2 DEEMED DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY
3 DANGEROUS SHALL NOT BE TRANSFERRED WITHOUT PRIOR
4 WRITTEN APPROVAL.

5 F. [The owner or custodian of an animal deemed dangerous and/or vicious or
6 potentially dangerous by the Board shall immediately notify the Sheriff's
7 Department and Animal Control if the animal should become at-large or
8 otherwise not meet any and all requirements set by the Board] UPON
9 DETERMINATION OF DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS BY THE BOARD,
10 THE BOARD MAY REQUIRE THAT THE ANIMAL BE HUMANELY
11 EUTHANIZED.

12 G. THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF AN ANIMAL PRESUMED OR DEEMED
13 DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS BY
14 THE BOARD SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE CHARLES COUNTY
15 SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPARTMENT AND CHARLES COUNTY DIVISION
16 OF ANIMAL CONTROL IF THE ANIMAL SHOULD BECOME AT-LARGE
17 OR OTHERWISE NOT MEET ANY AND ALL REQUIREMENTS SET.

18 [Enforcement of the requirements set by the Board for the keeping of a dangerous
19 and/or vicious or potentially dangerous animal.

20 (1) In the event that the owner or custodian of a dangerous and/or vicious or
21 potentially dangerous animal is in violation of any regulation, the ACO or
22 other public safety officer may order the violation immediately corrected
23 and issue a citation to the owner or custodian.

24 (2) If the violation cannot be immediately corrected, the animal may be
25 impounded, in which case the owner or custodian will be issued a citation
26 and notified to appear before the Board for the violation. At the owners
27 request and expense and upon approval by Animal Control, such
28 impoundment may be at a veterinarian or licensed kennel of the owner's
29 choosing.

- 1 (3) If the owner or keeper of a dangerous and/or vicious or potentially
- 2 dangerous animal impounded for violation of these regulations presents
- 3 proof that the animal will now be kept in compliance with these
- 4 regulations, the animal shall be released upon payment of any fees and
- 5 penalties due.
- 6 (4) If the owner or custodian of a dangerous and/or vicious or potentially
- 7 dangerous animal fails to either provide proof that the animal shall now be
- 8 kept restrained and/or confined in compliance with these regulations or
- 9 fails to reclaim it within 72 hours from Animal Control after
- 10 impoundment, the animal shall be humanely euthanized.]
- 11 H. [Repeat offenders of provisions relating to dangerous and/or vicious or potentially
- 12 dangerous animals will be given an opportunity to fully explain to the Board why
- 13 a violation has been repeated. The Board will consider such explanation in
- 14 determining penalties and/or disposition.] ENFORCEMENT OF THE
- 15 REQUIREMENTS SET FOR THE LAWFUL KEEPING OF A DANGEROUS
- 16 AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL.
- 17 (1) IN THE EVENT THAT THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF A
- 18 DANGEROUS AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS
- 19 ANIMAL IS IN VIOLATION OF ANY REGULATION, AN ANIMAL
- 20 CONTROL OFFICER OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
- 21 MAY ORDER THE VIOLATION IMMEDIATELY CORRECTED AND
- 22 ISSUE A CITATION TO THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN.
- 23 (2) IF THE VIOLATION CANNOT BE IMMEDIATELY CORRECTED,
- 24 THE ANIMAL MAY BE IMPOUNDED, IN WHICH CASE THE
- 25 OWNER OR CUSTODIAN WILL BE ISSUED A CITATION AND
- 26 NOTIFIED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD FOR THE
- 27 VIOLATION. AT THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN'S REQUEST AND
- 28 EXPENSE AND UPON APPROVAL BY AN ANIMAL CONTROL
- 29 OFFICER, SUCH IMPOUNDMENT MAY BE AT A VETERINARIAN

1 OR LICENSED COMMERCIAL ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
2 OWNER OR CUSTODIAN'S CHOOSING.

3 (3) IF THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF A DANGEROUS AND/OR
4 VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL IMPOUNDED
5 FOR VIOLATION OF THESE REGULATIONS PRESENTS PROOF
6 THAT THE ANIMAL WILL NOW BE KEPT IN COMPLIANCE WITH
7 THESE REGULATIONS, THE ANIMAL SHALL BE RELEASED
8 UPON PAYMENT OF ANY FEES AND PENALTIES DUE.

9 (4) IF THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF A DANGEROUS AND/OR
10 VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL FAILS TO
11 EITHER PROVIDE PROOF THAT THE ANIMAL SHALL NOW BE
12 KEPT RESTRAINED AND/OR CONFINED IN COMPLIANCE WITH
13 THESE REGULATIONS OR FAILS TO RECLAIM IT WITHIN
14 SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS FROM THE TIME OF IMPOUNDMENT
15 BY ANIMAL CONTROL, THE ANIMAL SHALL BE HUMANELY
16 EUTHANIZED.

17 I. REPEAT OFFENDERS OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO DANGEROUS
18 AND/OR VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS WILL BE
19 GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO FULLY EXPLAIN TO THE BOARD WHY A
20 VIOLATION HAS BEEN REPEATED. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER
21 SUCH EXPLANATION IN DETERMINING PENALTIES AND/OR
22 DISPOSITION.
23

24 **§ 230-12.6 Impoundment; redemption; adoption.**

25 A. Any animal observed in violation of these regulations or the State Code [shall]
26 MAY be immediately and humanely impounded and housed AT THE TRI-
27 COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER [with the animal shelter] or its designated agent.
28 In addition to, or in lieu of, impounding an animal, the Animal Control Officer
29 may issue to the known owner or custodian of such animal a notice of violation.

- 1 B. Impounded STRAY domestic animals [shall be kept for not less than three
2 working days unless said animal is contagiously ill or severely injured.] MAY
3 NOT BE ADOPTED, RESCUED, PLACED, OR DESTROYED UNTIL:
- 4 (1) SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS HAVE ELAPSED AFTER GIVING
5 NOTICE TO THE OWNER; OR
- 6 (2) IF THE OWNER CANNOT BE NOTIFIED, SEVENTY-TWO (72)
7 HOURS HAVE ELAPSED AFTER THE ANIMAL IS IMPOUNDED;
- 8 (3) UNLESS:
- 9 (A) THE ANIMAL IS SERIOUSLY DISEASED OR SEVERELY
10 INJURED; OR
- 11 (B) THE ANIMAL IS UNDER THREE (3) MONTHS OF AGE
- 12 C. An owner OR CUSTODIAN reclaiming an impounded animal shall pay the fees
13 established by the TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER [Sheltering Authority].
14 The fees for subsequent impounds occurring within 12 months shall be doubled.
15 Upon the third and any subsequent impoundments within 12 months, the animal
16 shall remain in the shelter until the owner or custodian appears before the Board's
17 next scheduled hearing. The Board shall determine the necessary means to abate
18 the violations and may levy fines and fees.
- 19 D. [In addition to paying the established fees, an owner reclaiming an impounded
20 animal shall show proof of a current rabies vaccination and county license, or
21 shall pay the deposit fees required to comply with §§ 230-9 and 230-10 of these
22 regulations and other expenses incurred by the County in caring for the
23 impounded animal.] AS A PRECONDITION OF RELEASE THE OWNER OR
24 CUSTODIAN RECLAIMING ANY IMPOUNDED ANIMAL WILL BE
25 REQUIRED TO PAY ALL ESTABLISHED FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES
26 FOR THE CARE, IMPOUNDMENT, BOARD AND VETERINARY
27 TREATMENT INCURRED BY CHARLES COUNTY OR ITS AGENTS
28 PURSUANT TO THE IMPOUNDMENT.
- 29 E. [Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, any animal impounded and

1 not redeemed by its owner or custodian within three working days following
2 notice of impoundment shall be deemed abandoned. The animal shall then
3 become the property of the County, which shall place for adoption or euthanize
4 the animal in accordance with the State Code and shelter policy.] IN ADDITION
5 TO PAYING THE ESTABLISHED FEES, AN OWNER OR CUSTODIAN
6 RECLAIMING AN IMPOUNDED ANIMAL SHALL SHOW PROOF OF A
7 CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION AND COUNTY LICENSE, OR SHALL
8 PAY THE DEPOSIT FEES REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH §§ 230-9 AND
9 230-10 OF THESE REGULATIONS.

10 F. [No unclaimed dog or cat shall be released for adoption without being sterilized,
11 or without written agreement from the adopter guaranteeing that such animal will
12 be sterilized within 30 days for adults or a specified date in the contract for
13 puppies and kittens.] ALL IMPOUNDED DOGS AND CATS BEING
14 RECLAIMED FROM THE TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER WILL BE
15 MICRO-CHIPPED PRIOR TO RELEASE AT AN ESTABLISHED FEE TO BE
16 PAID BY THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN RECLAIMING THE ANIMAL.

17 G. [Any animal considered by the Sheltering Authority to be unhealthy, dangerous or
18 otherwise unsafe may not be placed for adoption.] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE
19 PROVIDED IN THESE REGULATIONS, ANY ANIMAL IMPOUNDED AND
20 NOT RECLAIMED BY ITS OWNER OR CUSTODIAN WITHIN THREE (3)
21 WORKING DAYS FOLLOWING IMPOUNDMENT SHALL BE DEEMED
22 ABANDONED. THE ANIMAL SHALL THEN BECOME THE PROPERTY
23 OF CHARLES COUNTY, AND BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION,
24 RESCUE OR EUTHANIZATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE
25 REGULATIONS, STATE CODE AND TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
26 POLICY.

27 H. [The Animal Shelter may deny applications for adoption as provided by
28 established shelter policy and procedure] NO UNCLAIMED DOG OR CAT
29 SHALL BE RELEASED FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT BEING STERILIZED,

1 OR WITHOUT WRITTEN AGREEMENT FROM THE ADOPTER
2 GUARANTEEING THAT SUCH ANIMAL WILL BE STERILIZED WITHIN
3 THIRTY (30) DAYS FOR ADULTS OR A SPECIFIED DATE IN THE
4 CONTRACT FOR PUPPIES AND KITTENS.

5 I. [No wild animal may be placed for adoption] ANY ANIMAL CONSIDERED
6 BY THE TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER TO BE UNHEALTHY,
7 DANGEROUS OR OTHERWISE UNFIT MAY NOT BE PLACED FOR
8 ADOPTION.

9 J. [No animal shall be knowingly sold or given away for use in experimentation or
10 research] THE TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER MAY DENY
11 APPLICATIONS FOR ADOPTION AS PROVIDED BY ESTABLISHED
12 SHELTER POLICY AND PROCEDURE.

13 K. [The County, its employees or agents shall not be liable for any damages to
14 person or property caused by an animal or reclaimed from the shelter] NO WILD
15 ANIMAL MAY BE PLACED FOR ADOPTION.

16 L. NO ANIMAL SHALL BE KNOWINGLY SOLD OR GIVEN AWAY FOR USE
17 IN EXPERIMENTATION OR RESEARCH.

18 M. CHARLES COUNTY, ITS EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS SHALL NOT BE
19 LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES TO PERSON OR PROPERTY CAUSED BY
20 AN ANIMAL ADOPTED, RESCUED OR RECLAIMED FROM THE
21 SHELTER.

22
23 **§ 230-12.7. Striking A domestic animal with A motor vehicle.**

24 As in THE Maryland ANNOTATED CODE, Transportation [Law,] Article § 20-106 [20, §§ 105
25 and 106], any person who, as the operator of a motor vehicle, strikes a domestic animal shall
26 immediately notify the owner OR CUSTODIAN of the domestic animal, or, if the owner OR
27 CUSTODIAN cannot be immediately notified, then the State or local police, OR ANIMAL
28 CONTROL of the accident.
29

1 **§ 230-12.8. Fees.**

2 Any fees or fines established within these regulations may be evaluated and adjusted annually.

3

4 **§ 230-12.9. Fines.**

5 A. The Board may impose fines at the close of all evidence, at any hearing, as set
6 forth below.

7 B. The fines for subsequent violations within a ROLLING TWELVE (12) month
8 period shall be doubled [for those violations with set penalties].

9

In Violation

10	of Section	[Subject] CATEGORY	Fine
11			
12	§ 230-6B	Interference with an Animal Control Officer	\$ <u>250</u> [50]
13	230-8	Cruelty (requires an appearance before the Board)	\$50 to \$[500] <u>1,000</u>
14	230-9	Rabies prevention (requires an appearance	
15		before the Board)	
16		A. Failure to vaccinate	\$[100] <u>150</u>
17		B. Failure to quarantine	\$[100] <u>150</u>
18	230-10	Licensing	
19		A. Individual	\$[35] <u>50</u>
20		B. FANCIER	<u>150</u>
21		C. Commercial animal establishment	\$[150] <u>250</u>
22	230-11	Animal care (per offense[; not to exceed	
23		\$100 per animal])	\$[25] <u>35</u>
24	230-11G	Animal riding in an open vehicle	\$[35] <u>50</u>
25	230-12	Animal at large	\$[35] <u>50</u>
26	230-12.1	Female in season	\$[35] <u>50</u>
27	230-12.2	Allowing an animal to urinate/defecate	
28		on private property	\$[35] <u>50</u>
29	230-12.3	Allowing an animal to defecate on public property	\$[35] <u>50</u>

1	<u>230-12.4</u>	<u>§A(1) THROUGH §A(8)</u>	<u>\$50</u>
2	230-12.4	<u>§A(9)</u> ; Public nuisance violation of the Board's	
3		order (requires an appearance before the Board)	\$50 to \$[100] <u>200</u>
4	230-12.5	Dangerous and/or vicious or potentially dangerous	
5		(requires an appearance before the Board)	\$50 to \$[500] <u>1000</u>
6	<u>230-12.5</u>	FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE	
7		CHARLES COUNTY ANIMAL REGULATIONS	
8		IN THE KEEPING OF DANGEROUS AND/OR	
9		VICIOUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS	
10		ANIMALS (REQUIRES AN APPEARANCE	
11		BEFORE THE BOARD)	<u>\$200 - \$1,000</u>

12

13 C. Violations covered under Section 230-12.11 BELOW are referred to, and

14 prosecuted by the State's Attorney in the District Court of Maryland for Charles

15 County.

16

17 **§ 230-12.10. Entering into contracts with outside services.**

18 No statement, provision or regulation set forth herein shall be construed to prevent the County

19 Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland, from entering into a contract with an outside

20 service FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE REGULATIONS.

21

22 **§ 230-12.11. Failure to pay fines; failure to appear before Animal Matters Hearing**

23 **Board; or failure to comply with lawful orders of Animal Matters Hearing Board.**

24 A. [Anyone] ANY PERSON, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR OTHER

25 LEGAL ENTITY served with a citation for an alleged violation of any of the

26 provisions of these regulations shall be subject to payment of a fine as specified

27 on the citation form or must appear before the Animal Matters Hearing Board to

28 answer the complaint. [Any person willfully failing] FAILURE to appear before

29 the Board when [notified] ORDERED to do so, and/or after having failed to pay

1 the fine as specified on the citation form within the time specified on the citation
2 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by not more than SIXTY (60) days in
3 jail, a fine of \$300, or both.

4 B. Any person, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY
5 willfully failing to comply with any lawful order of the Board shall be guilty of a
6 misdemeanor punishable by not more than SIXTY (60) days in jail, a fine of
7 \$300, or both.

8 C. Charges under this section will be referred to the State's Attorney's Office for
9 prosecution in the District Court of Maryland for Charles County.

10

11 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act shall take effect 45 calendar days after
12 it becomes law.