



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County will hold a Public Hearing on July 21, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, Maryland to consider a proposed Ordinance to repeal Section 212.7.A and amend Sections 212.4.A and 212.13.A of Chapter 212 of the *Code of St. Mary's County, Maryland* ("St. Mary's County Animal Control Regulations").

The repeal of Section 212.7.A would repeal the local requirement for a dog license and repeal the local fee for obtaining a dog license. A dog license would still be required by §13-129 of the *Local Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

Section 212.4.A would be amended by deleting references to "State Law" in the introductory paragraph and subparagraph (8) and to "State Code" in subparagraph (1), so as to read:

- A. Any Animal Warden employed by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Maryland shall exercise that authority necessary to enforce the provisions of these Regulations. Among their other duties, wardens are specifically authorized and empowered by these Regulations to:
- (1) Humanely impound animals whose owner, custodian, or keeper is found to be in violation of these Regulations, and humanely transport those animals to the Animal Shelter or other facilities as necessary.
 - (2) Make a prompt and reasonable effort to locate and notify the owner, custodian, or keeper of an impounded animal, including coordinating with the Animal Shelter staff, posting impoundment notice on suspected owner, custodian or keeper's property and review lost reports to locate possible owners.
 - (3) Issue notices of violations to the owner, custodian or keepers of an animal.
 - (4) Seek qualified medical assistance for injured or diseased animals, which come into the custody of Animal Control. If qualified medical assistance is not available, the Animal Warden may determine the necessity for treatment or disposition of animal.
 - (a) The Animal Warden administering such assistance, Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County or any of its employees or agents shall not be liable for acts committed or omitted while rendering such assistance.
 - (5) Conduct public information programs on these Regulations, State Law, adoption, spay/neuter, health care, and other programs.
 - (6) Conduct inspections of commercial animal establishments as provided in these Regulations.
 - (7) Receive animals for adoption or euthanasia as appropriate pursuant to these Regulations.
 - (8) Initiate a complaint or other form of enforcement of these Regulations.

Section 212.13.A would be amended by deleting reference to "State Law" in the introductory paragraph, so as to read:

- A. Any animal observed in violation of these Regulations shall be immediately and humanely impounded and housed with the Animal Shelter and/or other facilities as necessary at the sole expense and cost of the owner, custodian or keeper including boarding, feeding and transportation and legal fees, if necessary.
- (1) In addition to, or in lieu of, impounding an animal, the Warden may issue to the known owner of such animal a notice of violation.

These amendments would not change the requirement under §13-129 of the *Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland* that a dog be vaccinated adequately against rabies.

Citizens are encouraged to attend and participate in the public hearing.

Note that as a result of the evidence and comments made at the public hearing, amendments may be made to the proposed ordinance.

Written comments, questions and suggestions may be submitted on or before July 21, 2015, to: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance is available in the Public Information Office, Governmental Center, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650. The Commissioners invite public comments and participation.

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: George R. Sparling, County Attorney

Publish: June 19, 2015
June 26, 2015
July 3, 2015
July 10, 2015