



F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department	 HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF BALTIMORE 1797 BALTIMORE MARYLAND
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 12-0101: Animal Control and Protection – Licensing Private Kennels		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

August 7, 2012

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 12-0101 Animal control and Protection – Licensing Private Kennels. The purpose of this bill is to require licenses for private kennels; establish the procedures for issuing or revoking private kennel licenses; make the failure to obtain a private kennel license punishable by citation; define certain terms; and generally relating to the licensing of private kennels.

Through this reconstitution effort, the requirement of a private kennel license for three or more dogs or cats in one residence was eliminated. The reasoning behind this elimination was that the provision dissuaded those who would otherwise do so from adopting and providing a good home for a third animal. It also suppressed licensing because members of the community, who could easily care for a third pet and in fact chose to do so, would often ignore the licensing requirement so as not to bring undue attention to themselves. It did little to prevent those individuals who were ill equipped to care for multiple animals from doing so; rather, those individuals would keep the animals and simply not obtain a kennel license or any other type of license.

Licensing of each individual cat or dog is one of the primary means by which to verify the rabies immunization status of animals, it provides much needed revenue to fund sheltering operations and it helps reunite lost animals with their owners. Any measures that would suppress licensing would have a serious negative impact on all of these.

The little used kennel licensing process did not have the intended effect of limiting the number of animals in each household, it consumed Department resources as each “kennel” had to be individually approved by Animal Control staff and it certainly worked to dissuade responsible pet owners from obtaining a third pet. For these reasons, BCHD does not support this bill.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Patrick Chaulk, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health
Mary Beth Haller, Asst. Commissioner of Environmental Affairs, Department of Health
Amy Samman, Legislative Director, Department of Health

Unfavorable

