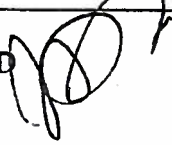



FROM	Name & Title	Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey, PhD Interim Commissioner 	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 14-0442 Animal Control – Impoundment Reform		

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

October 20, 2014

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 14-0442 Animal Control and Protection – Impoundment Reform. The purpose of this bill is to delete provisions allowing for the appeal of certain animal control decisions; reduce the period in which an owner must respond to certain notifications; lengthen the period of time for which an individual whose license was revoked or denied to apply for another license; and clarifying the requirements if an owner elects to find a new owner for the animal. This bill also defines terms, sets penalties and clarifies animal control provisions.

Last year BCHD, Police and the State's Attorney's Office made important changes in the way animal abuse and neglect cases are investigated and brought forward for prosecution. As a result of these changes, more complex investigations have been undertaken that have led to a significant increase in the number of animals being removed from unfavorable to horrific conditions.

During the investigation and hearing procedures these animals can sometimes be housed for long periods of time until the case and appeal process is resolved. Long-term confinement is detrimental to an animal's health and welfare and as a result many of these animals develop behavioral issues, or in cases where such issues exist they are made more significant. Self-injury is common and the animal unduly suffers as a result. Ultimately, an otherwise adoptable animal may become unadoptable as a result of an extended confinement.

For these reasons BCHD supports this bill and will be available at the hearing to answer any additional questions the Committee may have.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Patrick Chaulk, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health
Shannon Mace Heller, Interim Legislative Director, Department of Health