



April 2, 2014

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holiday Street  
Baltimore MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill 12-0101 – Animal Control and Protection – Licensing Private Kennels

Dear President and City Council Members:

On behalf of the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc. (BARCS) I wish to express that we are opposed to the enactment of Council Bill 12-0101, Licensing Private Kennels. Although we appreciate the amendment to increase the number of pets allowed without a permit from 3 to 4, and to exclude counting foster pets, we are still opposed to the bill per the reasons listed below.

With the support of the Mayors Anti-Animal Abuse Commission, Baltimore City Animal Control, and BARCS, Council Bill 11-0766 was enacted into law repealing the private kennel license (also known as the Multi Pet Permit).

On the surface, the Multi Pet Permit appears it could control the number of animals in a residence. However, as was researched prior to revoking this permit with Council Bill 11-0766, it actually does not.

Many pet owners in Baltimore, who provide proper care to their companion animals, already have multiple pets exceeding the proposed limit. This is particularly common with indoor cats. These are residential family homes, and are in no way considered “private kennels”. Rather than posting a large sign in their yard, attending a hearing, and incurring fees, an owner will avoid the license process in its entirety. This negates the positive relationship we are looking to build through the pet licensing program, return of lost pets, shelter support, and building our community relations.

In addition, the number of potential adopters may decrease as they look to avoid the inconvenient and awkward tasks required for the additional Multi Pet Permit when they simply want to add an additional member to their household.

When Animal Control agencies are called upon on a complaint regarding animals, it usual involves either a quarrel between neighbors or an irresponsible pet owner. In a neighborhood dispute, the pet complaint is generally just one in a myriad of other issues. Baltimore City Animal Control officers are already empowered to write citations or impound animals for actions made by irresponsible pet owners.

Multi pet permits do not prevent bad owners from having animals, but instead discourages good pet owners from adopting more.

Based on the arguments stated above, BARCS stands opposed to City Council Bill 12-0101.

Regards,

  
Jennifer Brause, Executive Director

