

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2021, Legislative Day No. 16

Bill No. 68-21

Introduced by Ms. Lacey, Chair  
(by request of the County Executive)

By the County Council, July 19, 2021

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Introduced and first read on July 19, 2021  
Public Hearing set for and held on September 7, 2021  
Bill AMENDED on September 20, 2021  
Public Hearing on AMENDED bill set for and held on October 4, 2021  
Bill Expires October 22, 2021

By Order: Laura Corby, Administrative Officer

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Animal Care and Control – Authority to  
2 Impound – Tethering of Dogs

3  
4 FOR the purpose of amending the circumstances under which an animal may be  
5 impounded; amending the circumstances under which a dog may be tethered outdoors;  
6 and generally relating to animal care and control.

7  
8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments: §§ 12-4-501(10) and (11); and 12-4-  
9 801(a)  
10 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

11  
12 BY adding: § 12-4-501(12)  
13 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

14  
15 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*  
16 That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) read as follows:

17  
18  
19  
20

**ARTICLE 12. PUBLIC SAFETY**

**TITLE 4. ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.  
[[Brackets]] indicate matter stricken from existing law.  
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* indicate existing Code provisions in a list or chart that remain unchanged.  
Underlining indicates matter added to bill by amendment.  
~~Strikeover~~ indicates matter removed from bill by amendment.

1 **12-4-501. Authority to impound.**

2  
3 The Agency may impound:

4  
5 \*\*\*

6  
7 (10) a community cat, including an eartipped community cat, about which repeated  
8 complaints to the Agency from residents or business owners remain unresolved; ~~[[or]]~~

9  
10 (11) an animal designated as potentially dangerous or dangerous if at any time the  
11 owner fails to comply with the conditions of the potentially dangerous or dangerous order;  
12 OR

13  
14 (12) AN ANIMAL THAT IS KEPT OUTDOORS IF ANY OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF §§ 12-  
15 4-801(A) THROUGH (C) OR 12-4-802 ARE NOT MET.

16  
17 **12-4-801. Animals outdoors.**


18  
19 (a) **Tethering of dogs prohibited; exceptions.** ~~[[An owner]]~~ A PERSON may not tether,  
20 fasten, chain, tie, or restrain a dog, to a shelter, tree, fence, or any other stationary object,  
21 except ~~[[that, while supervised,]]~~ a dog may be tethered, fastened, chained, or tied, WITH A  
22 CHAIN, ROPE, LINE, OR SIMILAR RESTRAINT THAT SHALL BE AT LEAST 10 FEET LONG, to  
23 allow ~~[[an owner]]~~ A PERSON to complete a temporary task that requires the dog to be  
24 restrained or to allow the ~~[[animal]]~~ DOG to eliminate or exercise. EXCEPT FOR ONE  
25 FIFTEEN MINUTE PERIOD PER DAY, A DOG MAY NOT BE TETHERED, FASTENED, CHAINED,  
26 OR TIED OUTDOORS BY ANY MEANS UNLESS A PERSON, ~~OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE~~  
27 THIRTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, IS OUTDOORS, ON THE SAME PROPERTY, WITH A  
28 DIRECT LINE OF SIGHT TO THE DOG AT ALL TIMES WHILE THE DOG IS TETHERED,  
29 FASTENED, CHAINED, OR TIED OUTDOORS. ~~[[An owner]]~~ A PERSON may not cause, procure,  
30 or authorize an act prohibited under this subsection. A dog may not be tethered, fastened,  
31 chained, or tied outdoors by any means if the outdoor temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit  
32 or lower or 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. This subsection may not be construed to  
33 prohibit a person from exercising or otherwise holding a dog with a leash. A person may  
34 not tether or connect a dog to a chain, rope, line, or similar restraint in a manner that  
35 endangers the health, safety or well-being of the dog OR ALLOW THE RESTRAINT TO WRAP  
36 OR TANGLE AROUND A NECK OR LIMB OF THE DOG.

37  
38 SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* that this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days  
39 from the date it becomes law.

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED: September 20, 2021

READ AND PASSED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021


By Order:

  
Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer

PRESENTED to the County Executive for his approval this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021

  
Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer

APPROVED AND ENACTED this 13 day of October, 2021

  
Chris Trumbauer  
Acting County Executive

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 27, 2021

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF  
BILL NO. 68-21 THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS RETAINED IN THE FILES  
OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

  
Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer