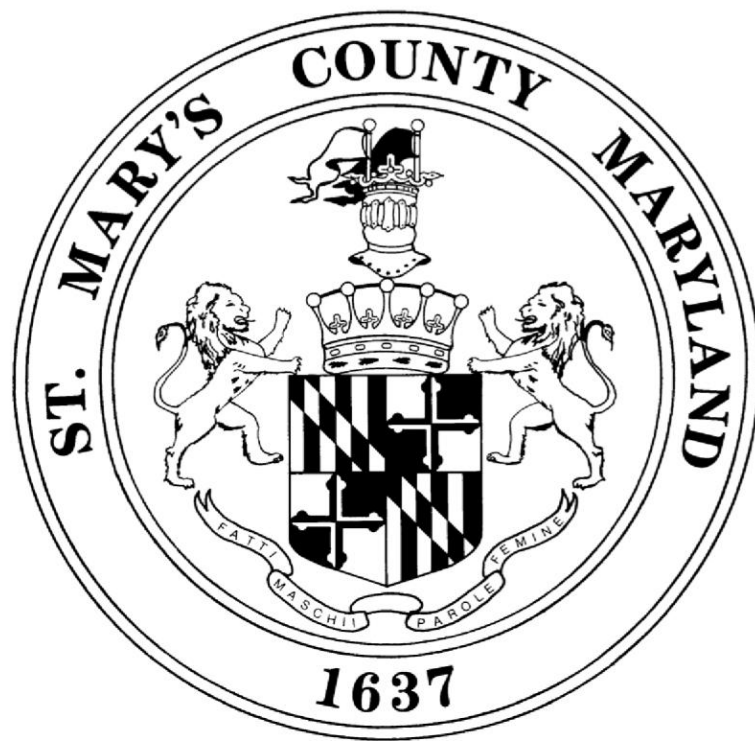


St. Mary's County Animal Control Advisory Board



2024 Annual Report

**ST. MARY’S COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

Introduction

The St. Mary’s County Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) was adopted as a Board on January 8, 2019, effective January 22, 2019.

The Board shall advise the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County (CSMC) on all matters relating to the development and management of the Animal Shelter and the St. Mary’s County Animal Control Ordinance. The purpose of the Board is to assist in animal shelter site selection, building design, emergency plans, policies and procedures. The Board will review and discuss budgets and operational plans for the animal shelter and advise on animal shelter staffing as well as spay and neuter policies. The Board will assist in the development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan for the Animal Shelter, serve as a liaison to the community to increase support and awareness of the Animal Shelter, and review and make recommendations on the Animal Control Ordinance.

The membership of the ACAB shall be seven (6) citizen members; the Animal Control Supervisor from St. Mary’s County Government or other member of Emergency Services designated by the Director (ex officio) and a representative from the St. Mary’s County Health Department (ex-officio). The Health Department Member is a voting Member.

Current Members	Position	Appointment Date	Expiration Date
Steve Tuttle	Chair	07/01/2023	06/30/2026*
Rita Weaver	Vice-Chair	12/31/2021	12/31/2024*
Dr. David Langford	Secretary	12/31/2021	12/31/2024*
Cesar Afanador	Member	07/01/2022	12/31/2025*
Molly Schmeiser	Member	07/01/2023	06/30/2026
Diane Harris	Member	07/01/2023	06/30/2026*
Susan Morris	Member (ex-officio)		
Tina James	Member (ex-officio)		

Asterisk * indicates second term.

Meetings

The ACAB meets 6 times a year, on the first Wednesday in odd months. St. Mary’s County ACAB met 5 times this year. The July meeting was cancelled due to a holiday. The major focus of the meetings during 2024 was staffing, County Animal Ordinances, and volunteer opportunities for the **Animal Adoption and Resource Center {AARC}**. Meetings this year also provided presentations on various topics from staff including how to volunteer at the AARC, Animal Adoption, Trap Neuter and Release Ear Tipping Policy, and an introduction to the Director of Emergency Services Jennifer Utz.

Elections

Election for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary positions were held in January 2024. Steve Tuttle was elected Chairperson, Rita Weaver was elected Vice-Chair, and Dr. David Langford was elected Secretary.

ACAB Subcommittees

ACAB Subcommittees –Dr. Langford and Dr. Krasznay (part time veterinarian) visited the Linda Kelley Animal Shelter in Calvert County. The purpose of the visit was to gather information about the setup of the veterinary area and shelter medical procedures.

Conclusion

The ACAB is dedicated to serving the citizens and domestic animals of our community by advising the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County on Animal Shelter and Animal Control Ordinance matters.

The ACAB will continue to serve by providing input to the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County on a variety of topics including program operations, policies and procedures, operating expenses and revenues, public education, and additional needs to best serve the citizens of St. Mary’s County.

Questions or Comments about this report are welcome and may be sent to the Animal Control Advisory Board.