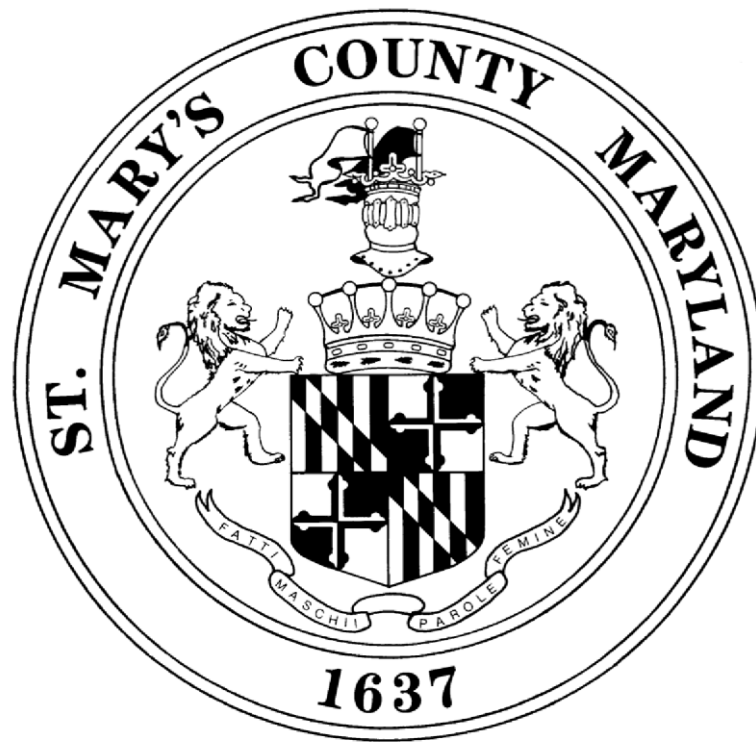


St. Mary's County Animal Control Advisory Board



2019 Annual Report

**ST. MARY’S COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
2019 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 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, and policies and procedures. The Board will review and discuss budgets and operational plans of the animal shelter and advise on animal shelter staffing and 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 Animal Control Ordinance.

Members

The membership of the ACAB shall be six (6) animal welfare organization members; five (5) citizen members; one (1) veterinarian or veterinary technician with three or more years of experience; the Animal Control Supervisor from St. Mary’s County Government or other member of Emergency Services designated by the Director (ex officio).

Current Members	Position	Appointment Date	Expiration Date
Drema Ballengee-Grunst	Chair	02/26/2019	06/30/2020
Dr. Pat Richardson	Vice-Chair	02/26/2019	06/30/2020
Melinda Brown	Secretary	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Rita Weaver	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Melissa Carnes	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Dr. David Langford	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Aubrey Briggs	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2020
Dave Ryan*	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2020
John Butterfield*	Member	02/26/2019	06/30/2020
Joyce Richardson*	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2020
John Windolph*	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Chelsea Franceschini*	Member	02/26/2019	06/30/2020
Susan Morris	Member (ex-officio)		
Joy Wilson	Member (ex-officio)		

**The number of Board positions has been reduced by resolution of the St. Mary’s County Commissioners; members noted above with an asterisk are no longer serving on th Animal Control Advisory Board.*

Meetings

The ACAB has regular meetings every first Wednesday on every odd month. One special meeting was called in the Month of June to elect officers.

Attendance

The St. Mary's County ACAB held three (3) meetings in 2019 with one (1) special meeting called with fourteen (14) absences for the year.

Elections

Election for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary Positions were held in June 2019. Drema Ballengee-Grunst was elected as the Chairperson, Dr. Pat Richardson was elected Vice-Chair, and Melinda Brown was elected Secretary.

Shelter Site Selection and Building Design

The St. Mary's County ACAB endorsed the site selection proposed by St. Mary's County Emergency Services and forwarded that recommendation to the St. Mary's County Commissioners.

Shelter Staffing, Budgets, and Policy

The ACAB has not been included in Animal Shelter staffing studies or budget reviews during 2019. Animal shelter policy development will occur as the building design and development is formalized.

Animal Control Ordinance

The ACAB evaluated current Animal Control ordinance. Recommended changes will be forthcoming in 2020.

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. During 2019, the county made significant progress toward the establishment of the St. Mary's County Animal Shelter by finalizing site selection and selection of a building contractor. The ACAB was established mid-year and has formalized sub-committees to work these important issues pertaining to Animal Shelter building, staffing, and policy development; St. Mary's County Animal Control Ordinance, and Public Education. As a new Board, the ACAB worked to establish a solid foundation and organization to ensure Animal Shelter and Animal Control Ordinance matters could be handled swiftly as we move into a two-year period of significant progress. The professionalism and support of relevant county staff, specifically, the Department of Emergency Services, was integral to our success in 2019. We are looking forward to the developments ahead while serving on this board in 2020.

Questions or Comments about this report are welcome, and, may be sent to the Animal Control Advisory Board via the Secretary mbrown20659@gmail.com.