



November 2, 2017

Bill 23-17 has made many twists and turns since it was originally written on February 2, 2017 as an Act, by a Senior Food and Nutrition Manager at the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and sent to the County Council on April 12, 2017.

Since that time it has been considered for placement in Animal Cruelty, Chapter 5, Animal Control, Sections 5-101, 5-102, and 5-201. This did not prove to be enforceable by the Animal Welfare Division of Montgomery County as learned at the September 11, 2017 work session. Then it was to be placed in Sec. 5-202. Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous animals, and this did not work either. Now it is being considered by amending Chapter 5, Animal Control, Sections 5-101, 5-102, and 5-201, and by adding Chapter 5, Animal Control, Section 5-204 Traveling Act.

The fact that it has been so difficult to designate where it should be placed in our code, and that the Animal Welfare Division has no reports on record of animal cruelty by shows that have exotic animals leads to the conclusion that Montgomery County Maryland does not have an animal abuse problem and no need for Bill 23-17.

It has become commonplace to believe that humane treatment is not exercised by caretakers of performing animals and exhibits, but that could not be further from the truth. Performing animals are well respected and are provided with a life full of excellent medical care, environmental stimulation, and scientific based husbandry practices all of which are regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Those who violate animal cruelty laws should be prosecuted under the laws that are already in place. Please remember that as of this date, there are no reported incidents of cruelty against exotic animals in Montgomery County according to the records of our Animal Welfare Division.

HSUS has a long-term agenda against meat and agriculture. If this were not the case, their focus would be on prosecuting owners that are being abusive and mistreating animals. Instead, the HSUS is encouraging the development of complex legislation, as is being done here in Montgomery County, to prevent legal ownership and display of exotic animals. If HSUS is successful, their initiatives regarding animal ownership and food sources will ultimately ban animals at the Fair.

Consider that this Bill was originally written by a Registered Nurse who is the Nutrition Manager at the Humane Society of the United States to understand the connection Bill 23-17 has to the Fair and the agricultural community. It is common

knowledge that HSUS funds dozens of groups including the anti-meat platform agenda from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Wayne Pacelle, President/CEO of the HSUS to Farm & Dairy Magazine, "We believe in the Three R's - reducing the consumption of meat and other animal-based foods; refining the diet by eating products only from methods of production, transport, and slaughter that minimize pain and distress; and replacing meat and other animal-based foods in the diet with plant-based foods."

John "J.P." Goodwin, former Political Director at HSUS, currently Senior Director of the Stop Puppy Mills campaign at HSUS told AR-Views, an animal rights Internet discussion group, that "My goal is the abolition of all animal agriculture".

The HSUS has openly stated that the Fair business in the United States is their target for 2017 and beyond. This initiative began in 2016 with Fairs from various parts of the country reporting disruptions caused by HSUS. The HSUS plan is to ban animals from Fairs. This will take time but they are patient.

HSUS has over 230 million dollars in assets to achieve their goal. We can offer only facts and common sense to ensure our future.

We are seeing the first steps in the slow demise of your Montgomery County Fair and animal agriculture to satisfy a social agenda being promoted by the HSUS to solve an animal abuse situation that the data says does not exist. Their goal is to open the door to animal regulation and then expand on legislation that is passed to move on to their plan to stop animal agriculture.

Do not let this happen.