

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2015, Legislative Day No. 31

Bill No. 79-15

Introduced by Mr. Trumbauer and Mr. Grasso

By the County Council, July 6, 2015

Introduced and first read on July 6, 2015
Public Hearing set for September 8, 2015
Bill Expires October 11, 2015

By Order: Elizabeth E. Jones, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Animal Control – Cruelty to Elephants

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3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting cruelty to elephants through certain behavior and use of
4 certain tools for the purposes of training or behavior management of elephants;
5 providing for the effective date of this Ordinance; and generally relating to animal
6 control.

7
8 BY adding: § 12-4-913
9 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

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11 WHEREAS, animal protection and animal welfare is of great public concern and
12 there has been increased awareness of cruelty to animals in traveling circuses and
13 other festivals; and

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15 WHEREAS, a bullhook, also known as an ankus or guide, is designed to, and
16 used to, inflict pain and instill fear as a behavior compliance tool in elephant
17 training and performance; and

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19 WHEREAS, a bullhook resembles a fireplace poker and is used to prod, poke,
20 strike, and hit elephants about the ears, head, lips, eye, anus and other sensitive
21 areas of the body to inflict pain; and

22
23 WHEREAS, other tools, such as whips and electronic prods, are often used to
24 control an elephant in captivity through use or threat of use; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

1 WHEREAS, Ringling Brothers recently announced that they will phase out
2 elephant acts due to the outcry over the inhumane training and treatment of circus
3 elephants; and
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5 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County should lead an effort to outlaw the use of
6 these implements as well as abusive behavior for elephant training; now, therefore
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8 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County,*
9 *Maryland,* That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) read as
10 follows:
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12 **ARTICLE 12. PUBLIC SAFETY**

13 **TITLE 4. ANIMAL CONTROL**

14 **12-4-913. Cruelty to Elephants Prohibited.**
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16 (A) **Definition.** FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION “BULLHOOK” MEANS ANY
17 INSTRUMENT OR DEVICE CONSISTING OF A SPIKE, HOOK, OR ANY COMBINATION
18 THEREOF, ATTACHED TO A SHAFT OR HANDLE OR WOOD, FIBERGLASS, METAL OR OTHER
19 SOLID OR FLEXIBLE MATERIALS.
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22 (B) **Prohibited.** A PERSON MAY NOT PHYSICALLY ABUSE AN ELEPHANT BY BEATING
23 OR KICKING OR USE OR DIRECT THE USE OF A BULLHOOK, ANKUS OR GUIDE, OR ANY
24 OTHER IMPLEMENT OR TOOL, INCLUDING A BASEBALL BAT, WHIP, ELECTRIC DEVICE,
25 AXE HANDLE, BLOCK AND TACKLE, PITCHFORK, CHAIN, OR TIE. PROHIBITED USE OF THE
26 IMPLEMENT OR TOOL INCLUDES BRANDISHING, EXHIBITING OR DISPLAYING THE
27 PROHIBITED IMPLEMENT OR TOOL IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ELEPHANT.
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30 SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall take effect January
31 1, 2016.