**TKC Legislative Liaison Report April 3, 2017**

**House Bill 626:** Passed 3/31/17 Any animal shelter must follow specified written protocol for reclaiming animals. Starting Oct 1, 2017, Dept of Agriculture now requires shelters to secure minimum standards of care within a specified period of time to the animals.

**Senate Bill 631:** Beginning Oct 1, 2017, The Animal Abuse Emergency Compensation Fund has been established. Any fines, costs, forfeitures, and penalties will be collected by clerks of the District Court. Funds go to those not-for-profit organizations established to promote animal welfare to assist in paying costs to remove and care for animals caught in a criminal situation.

Bills in session now:

HB334: Kennel Licenses required for those with 6 unspayed females over 6 months and kept for the purpose of breeding and selling their puppies. You must register if you have more than 6 litters per year.

HB781: Pet stores must keep records of purchasers. They cannot buy from anyone with prior citations or violations. The store must post animal’s history, health, and if registrable.

SB441: Discussion to begin to establish a Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program to offer training to qualified veterans and a partner dog as a service team.

Thank you for your concern and participation in this great Club,

Your Legislative Liaison, Diane Horowitz