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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Executive Forms Animal Rights Commission

Montgomery County looking to Strengthen its Animal Protection Laws

Montgomery County Executive Matt Ossenfort formally announced the Animal Welfare Investigation & Cruelty Prevention Commission, on Tuesday.

The Commission, chaired by District #1 Legislator Martin Kelly, will consist of a comprehensive mix of law enforcement officials, animal professionals, advocates and other county leaders. The Commission will be tasked with three main objectives — looking into puppy mills, animal cruelty and the sheltering of animals, following a disaster.

“This is a chance to formally recognize that animal welfare is an issue of importance in Montgomery County,” said Ossenfort.

On Jan. 9, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed a law allowing municipalities to draft their own laws, with regards to breeding and pet-dealing.

As a proud pet owner, this is an issue that is near and dear to the County Executive, himself and made known this was a priority moving forward, at his State of the County address, last Friday.

“I’ve always believed that a community can be judged on how it treats its animals,” Ossenfort said. “This is a significant measure for the County. I’m proud to take this first step and anxious to see what the Commission reports back.”