

Questions and Answers
April 29, 2015 Animal Care and Control Oversight Commission meeting

- Q1. Why are animals in A Buddy for Life, Inc.'s care being mistreated? (Tamara Spurlock)
- A1. A Buddy for Life, Inc. is inspected by an independent inspection agent on a quarterly basis, and is inspected by the State of Maryland Board of Veterinary Medicine on an annual basis, as well as unannounced spot inspections. The inspections performed to-date have not cited A Buddy for Life, Inc. for mistreatment of animals.
- Q2. Why are agents of A Buddy for Life, Inc. being paid substantial remuneration to take care of dogs, but dogs are in cages? (Amayan Talley)
- A2. The question presented is too vague for specific response. In general, compensation paid to employees of a 501(c)(3) non-profit are subject to review by the Internal Revenue Service, which determines whether such compensation is prohibited private inurement. To-date, the County is not aware of an IRS finding that A Buddy for Life, Inc.'s compensation package for any employee is prohibited private inurement. It is common practice for dogs and other animals in an animal rescue or shelter to be housed in cages.
- Q3. Why are innocent animals being treated this way? (Lilly Talley)
- A3. The question presented is too vague for specific response. Please see A1 above.
- Q4. Why were questions asked at the January, 2015 meeting not answered? (Jayne Mitchell-Werbrich)
- A4. Questions asked at the January, 2015 meeting were answered, and the answers were timely posted to the County's website. The ACCOC, ACCA, and County do not respond to salacious or mixed question/opinion inquiries.
- Q5. Why did A Buddy for Life, Inc. not intervene during the criminal case involving two boxer dogs?
- A5. A Buddy for Life, Inc. cited the owners of the boxer dogs, and initiated a criminal prosecution through the State's Attorney. During pendency of the prosecution, A Buddy for Life, Inc. had the dogs evaluated by a veterinarian, who determined that there were not grounds for seizure under State law. The owners were eventually convicted and fined, however, the judge did not order that the dogs be seized or surrendered by the owners.
- Q6. A Buddy for Life, Inc.'s animal control officers appear to be overwhelmed; why has additional staff not been hired?
- A6. The County has not been informed by A Buddy for Life, Inc. that there is a staffing issue, and A Buddy for Life, Inc. has received few complaints about the performance of its animal control officers.
- Q7. Why is there a lack of transparency regarding A Buddy for Life, Inc.'s operating policies and procedures in its animal rescue operation?
- A7. A Buddy for Life, Inc.'s animal rescue operation is not contractually affiliated with the County, and is a private entity. As such, A Buddy for Life, Inc. is not legally obligated to provide the public with copies of its internal policies or procedures.
- Q8. When will a Request for Proposal ("RFP") for animal care and control authority contract be issued by the County?
- A8. A date has not been established for the release of an RFP for the animal care and control authority contract.

