



# Calvert County NEWS

175 Main Street  
Courthouse  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678  
Phone: 410-535-4583 • 301-855-1880  
[www.co.cal.md.us](http://www.co.cal.md.us)

*Board of Commissioners*

**Mike Hart**  
**Tom Hejl**  
**Pat Nutter**  
**Evan K. Slaughenhaupt Jr.**  
**Steven R. Weems**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** Jan. 14, 2016  
**Contact:** Mark Volland, Marketing/Communications Specialist  
410-535-4583 Email: [vollanrm@co.cal.md.us](mailto:vollanrm@co.cal.md.us)  
Angela Walters, Public Information Specialist  
410-535-4583 Email: [walteram@co.cal.md.us](mailto:walteram@co.cal.md.us)

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### **Boards of County Commissioners Meet, Discuss Future of Tri-County Animal Shelter**

**PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – Jan. 14, 2016** – Members of the boards of county commissioners (BOCCs) from Calvert, Charles and St. Mary’s counties met Tuesday in Prince Frederick in an unprecedented action to discuss the future of the Tri-County Animal Shelter (TCAS).

The board members from each of the counties attended the public hearing to first talk about needed renovations at the TCAS in Hughesville and then share opinions on whether the counties should continue to fund a single shelter, build a new shelter or if each county should construct its own shelter. It was the first time commissioners from the tri-county BOCCs met in a public hearing to discuss a regional issue.

During the meeting, Calvert County Animal Control Chief Craig Dichter briefed the commissioners on various areas of concern at the TCAS including the lack of air conditioning in the 71 dog kennels, needed expansions and additional staff. There was also debate on whether the shelter should shift to a “no-kill” facility. The boards agreed to address the air conditioning issue within 30 days and decide on the shelter’s future in 90 days.

“Clearly we are at a crossroads with the shelter,” said Calvert County Commissioner President Evan Slaughenhaupt, Jr. “Our populations and demographics have significantly shifted since the shelter opened in the mid-1960s. Now each county has different fee structures and licensing regulations.

“This is the start of a conversation,” Slaughenhaupt added. “We would like to hear more from our citizens before reaching our final decision.”

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The board members are seeking public input on this issue. To view the public hearing in Calvert County, please visit [www.co.cal.md.us/jointpublichearing](http://www.co.cal.md.us/jointpublichearing) or turn to Comcast channel 6 for listings.

Citizens are encouraged to contact their BOCC, or all BOCCs, in the following manners:

- Calvert County at [Commiss@co.cal.md.us](mailto:Commiss@co.cal.md.us) or call 410-535-1600 or 301-855-1243, ext. 2202.
- Charles County at [Commissioners@CharlesCountyMD.gov](mailto:Commissioners@CharlesCountyMD.gov) or call 301-645-0550
- St. Mary's County at [CSMC@stmarysmd.com](mailto:CSMC@stmarysmd.com)

Information on Calvert County Government services can be found online at [www.co.cal.md.us](http://www.co.cal.md.us). Find Calvert County Government on [Facebook](#).

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*Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to more than 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, energy, advanced manufacturing and administrative services.*