

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-020

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H2/6/07

86th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE BILL 1123

By: Representative Saunders

Referred to

Public Health, Welfare And Labor Committee- House

by the House of Representatives

on 04/02/2007

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT PETS; TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR SERIOUSLY INJURING PETS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO PROTECT PETS; TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR SERIOUSLY INJURING PETS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this act is to:

(1) Support properly researched and industry tested animal husbandry practices that provide consumers with a wholesome food supply;

(2) Oppose elevating the rights of animals to the same level as those of people;

(3) Oppose cruel and abusive treatment of animals;

(4) Ensure that violations of Arkansas animal cruelty laws remain a misdemeanor except in extreme cases of cruelty to dogs, cats, and horses; and

(5) Oppose legislation and rules that would prohibit or unduly restrict the use of animals in research.

1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 62, Subchapter 1 is amended
2 to add an additional section to read as follows:

3 5-62-125. Aggravated cruelty to pets.

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Aggravated cruelty" means conduct which is:

6 (A) Intended to cause extreme physical pain; and

7 (B) Done or carried out in an especially depraved or
8 sadistic manner; and

9 (2) "Pet" means any domesticated animal that is normally
10 maintained in or near a household and that is dependent upon the care of a
11 human.

12 (b) A person is guilty of aggravated cruelty to pets if, with no
13 justifiable purpose, he or she intentionally kills or intentionally causes
14 serious physical injury to a pet with aggravated cruelty.

15 (c) This section does not prohibit or interfere in any way with anyone
16 lawfully engaged in:

17 (1) Hunting, trapping, fishing, or any activity approved by the
18 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission;

19 (2) The killing of rabid or diseased animals or of animals
20 posing a threat to human safety;

21 (3) Protecting livestock and poultry as authorized by § 20-10-
22 102 or any other animal raised for commercial consumption or use;

23 (4) Engaging in practices lawful under the Arkansas Veterinary
24 Medical Practice Act, § 17-101-101 et seq.; or

25 (5) A properly conducted scientific test, experiment, or
26 investigation involving the use of living animals performed or conducted in a
27 laboratory or institution.

28 (d) A person who is found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
29 contendere to aggravated cruelty to animals is guilty of a Class D felony.

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31 /s/ Saunders
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