

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.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2442

4  
5 By: Representative Wood  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE TORTURE OF DOGS, CATS AND  
10 HORSES; TO PROVIDE A PENALTY; TO AUTHORIZE  
11 PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT FOR PERSONS  
12 WHO TORTURE DOGS, CATS OR HORSES; TO AUTHORIZE  
13 TRANSFER OF TORTURED DOGS, CATS AND HORSES TO  
14 ANIMAL CRUELTY PREVENTION SOCIETIES; AND FOR  
15 OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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18 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE TORTURE OF DOGS,  
19 CATS AND HORSES AND TO PROVIDE A  
20 PENALTY.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 62, Subchapter 1 is amended  
26 by adding the following additional section to read as follows:

27 5-62-125. Torture of dogs, cats, and horses.

28 (a) A person commits the offense of torture of dogs, cats, or horses  
29 if the person knowingly tortures a dog, cat, or horse.

30 (b) Torture of dogs, cats, and horses is a Class D felony.

31 (c) In addition to all other penalties provided by law, the court may  
32 order any person found guilty of torture of dogs, cats, or horses to receive  
33 a psychiatric or psychological evaluation, and if determined appropriate,  
34 psychiatric or psychological counseling or treatment.

35 (d) If the person pleads guilty, nolo contendere or is found guilty of  
36 torture of dogs, cats, or horses, the court may assign custody of the

1 tortured animal or animals to a society which is incorporated for the  
2 prevention of cruelty to animals.

3 (e) For purposes of this section, "torture" means to inflict any  
4 unnecessary and unjustifiable severe pain or unnecessary and unjustifiable  
5 serious injury on a dog, cat, or horse.

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7 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General  
8 Assembly that each year there is an increasing number of dogs, cats and  
9 horses subjected to cruel treatment and needless suffering, and the present  
10 law concerning cruelty to animals needs more specificity with regard to those  
11 acts against animals which subject persons to criminal responsibility.  
12 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately  
13 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall  
14 become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is  
15 neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the  
16 expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill.  
17 If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall  
18 become effective on the date the last house overrides the veto.

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