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	As Engrossed: S3/29/01 S4/9/01		
2	83rd General Assembly	A Bill		
3	Regular Session, 2001 HOU		HOUSE BILL	2443
4				
5	By: Representative Wood			
6				
7				
8		For An Act To Be Entitled		
9	AN ACT TO ALLOW PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS AND			
10	TREATMENT FOR PERSONS WHO ABUSE ANIMALS; TO			
11	AUTHORIZE TRANSFERRING ABUSED ANIMALS TO ANIMAL			
12	CRUELTY	PREVENTION SOCIETIES; AND FOR OTHER		
13	PURPOSE	S.		
14				
15				
16		Subtitle		
17	AN A	CT TO ALLOW PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS		
18	AND	TREATMENT FOR PERSONS WHO ABUSE		
19	ANIMALS; TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFERRING			
20	ABUSED ANIMALS TO ANIMAL CRUELTY			
21	PREV	ENTION SOCIETIES.		
22				
23				
24				
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE (GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN	SAS:	
26				
27	SECTION 1. Arkaı	nsas Code 5-62-101 is amended to read	as follows:	
28	5-62-101. Cruel	ty to animals.		
29	(a) A person co	ommits the offense of cruelty to anima	ls if, except a	as
30	authorized by law, he	knowi ngl y:		
31	(1) Aband	dons any animal;		
32	(2) Subje	ects any animal to cruel mistreatment;		
33	(3) Subje	ects any animal in his custody to crue	l neglect; or	
34	(4) Kills	s or injures any animal belonging to a	nother without	
35	legal privilege or com	nsent of the owner.		
36	(b) Cruelty to	animals is a Class A misdemeanor.		

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1	(c)(1) In addition to all other penalties provided by law, the court
2	may order any person found guilty of cruelty to animals to receive a
3	psychiatric or psychological evaluation, and if determined appropriate,
4	psychiatric or psychological counseling or treatment.
5	(2) The cost of any evaluation, counseling or treatment may be
6	ordered paid by the defendant up to the jurisdictional limit of the court.
7	(d) If the person pleads guilty, noto contendere to, or is found
8	guilty of cruelty to animals, the court may assign custody of the abused
9	animal or animals to a society which is incorporated for the prevention of
10	cruelty to animals.
11	
12	SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
13	General Assembly that each year there is an increasing number of dogs, cats
14	and other animals subjected to cruel treatment and needless suffering, and
15	the present law concerning cruelty to animals needs more specificity with
16	regard to those acts against animals which subject persons to criminal
17	responsibility. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
18	being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health
19	and safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by the
20	Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it
21	shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which
22	the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and
23	the veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house
24	overrides the veto.
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27	/s/ Wood
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