

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 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2551

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

8  
9 AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PENALTY FOR THE OFFENSE OF  
10 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS COMMITTED AGAINST DOGS, CATS,  
11 OR HORSES ONLY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

13  
14 TO ENHANCE THE PENALTY FOR THE OFFENSE  
15 OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS COMMITTED AGAINST  
16 DOGS, CATS, OR HORSES ONLY.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-62-101 is amended to read as follows:  
22 5-62-101. Cruelty to animals.

23 (a) A person commits the offense of cruelty to animals if, except as  
24 authorized by law, he or she knowingly:

- 25 (1) Abandons any animal;  
26 (2) Subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment;  
27 (3) Subjects any animal in his or her custody to cruel neglect;

28 or

29 (4) Kills or injures any animal belonging to another without  
30 legal privilege or consent of the owner.

31 (b)(1) ~~Cruelty~~ Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this  
32 subsection, cruelty to animals is a Class A misdemeanor.

33 (2) A person shall be guilty of a Class D felony under this  
34 section if he or she:

35 (A) Pleads guilty or nolo contendere to or is found guilty  
36 of violating subdivision (a) of this section for a second or subsequent



1 offense committed against a dog, cat, or horse; and

2 (B) Previously plead guilty or nolo contendere to or been  
3 found guilty of violating subdivision (a) of this section committed against a  
4 dog, cat, or horse.

5 (c)(1) In addition to all other penalties provided by law, the court  
6 may order any person found guilty of cruelty to animals to receive a  
7 psychiatric or psychological evaluation, and if determined appropriate,  
8 psychiatric or psychological counseling or treatment.

9 (2) The cost of any evaluation, counseling, or treatment may be  
10 ordered paid by the defendant up to the jurisdictional limit of the court.

11 (d) If the person pleads guilty or nolo contendere to or is found  
12 guilty of cruelty to animals, the court may assign custody of the abused  
13 animal or animals to a society which is incorporated for the prevention of  
14 cruelty to animals.

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