

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1123

4
5 By: Representative Saunders
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO PROTECT PETS; TO INCREASE THE PENALTY
10 FOR SERIOUSLY INJURING PETS; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

13
14 AN ACT TO PROTECT PETS; TO INCREASE THE
15 PENALTY FOR SERIOUSLY INJURING PETS.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 62, Subchapter 1 is amended
21 to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 5-62-125. Aggravated cruelty to animals.

23 (a) As used in this section:

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

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

26 (B) Done or carried out in an especially depraved or
27 sadistic manner; and

28 (2)(A) "Pet" means any domesticated animal normally maintained
29 in or near the households of the owners the domesticated animal.

30 (B) "Pet" includes a domesticated animal normally
31 maintained in a cage or tank, including, but not limited to, gerbils,
32 hamsters, canaries, psittacines, birds, mynahs, finches, tropical fish,
33 goldfish, snakes, and turtles.

34 (b) A person is guilty of aggravated cruelty to animals if, with no
35 justifiable purpose, he or she intentionally kills or intentionally causes
36 serious physical injury to a pet with aggravated cruelty.



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

3 (1) Hunting, trapping, or fishing;

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

6 (3) Protecting livestock and poultry as authorized by § 20-10-
7 102;

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

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

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

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