

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 709 Session of  
2003

INTRODUCED BY DiGIROLAMO, ALLEN, BARD, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI,  
BROWNE, BUXTON, CASORIO, CAUSER, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CORNELL,  
CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, DALLY, DeLUCA, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS,  
FREEMAN, GEIST, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HARRIS, HASAY, HORSEY,  
KELLER, KENNEY, KOTIK, LaGROTTA, LEACH, MARKOSEK, McNAUGHTON,  
NAILOR, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, RAYMOND, READSHAW, ROONEY,  
RUBLEY, RUFFING, SAINATO, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER,  
STABACK, TANGRETTI, TRUE, WATSON, WEBER AND WILT,  
MARCH 6, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 6, 2003

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for cruelty to  
3 animals.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 5511(a)(2.1)(ii) of Title 18 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, amended December 9, 2002  
8 (P.L.1439, No.183), is amended and the section is amended by  
9 adding a subsection to read:

10 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

11 (a) Killing, maiming or poisoning domestic animals or zoo  
12 animals, etc.--

13 \* \* \*

14 (2.1) \* \* \*

15 (ii) Any person convicted of violating the

1 provisions of this paragraph shall be sentenced to pay a  
2 fine of not less than \$1,000 or to imprisonment for not  
3 more than [two] five years, or both. The court may also  
4 order a presentence mental evaluation. A subsequent  
5 conviction under this paragraph shall be a felony of the  
6 third degree. This paragraph shall apply to dogs and cats  
7 only.

8 \* \* \*

9 (m.2) Certain offenses.--In addition to any other penalty  
10 provided by law, a person convicted of a second or subsequent  
11 offense of cruelty to animals involving a dog or cat under  
12 subsection (c) shall be charged with a misdemeanor of the third  
13 degree.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.