

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2397 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY GILLESPIE, W. KELLER, BIZZARRO, WARD, REGAN,
BOBACK, DRISCOLL, ROZZI, DAVIS, CORBIN, STURLA, O'BRIEN,
BURNS, SAINATO, FARRY, MILLARD, A. HARRIS, LONGIETTI,
BULLOCK, D. COSTA, HARHAI, MAHONEY, R. BROWN, GIBBONS,
PHILLIPS-HILL, GILLEN, KAUFFMAN, MILNE AND DEASY,
OCTOBER 7, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in riot, disorderly conduct and
3 related offenses, further providing for the offense of
4 cruelty to animals.

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

7 Section 1. Section 5511 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:
9 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

10 * * *

11 (c.1) Malicious cruelty to animals.--

12 (1) A person commits an offense if, to a point that the
13 animal was seriously injured, suffered severe physical
14 distress or was placed at imminent risk of serious physical
15 harm as the result of the person's action or omission, the
16 person maliciously:

17 (i) abuses or tortures an animal;

1 (ii) neglects any animal as to which the person has
2 a duty of care; or

3 (iii) deprives any animal of necessary sustenance,
4 drink, shelter or veterinary care or access to clean and
5 sanitary shelter.

6 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraphs (ii) and
7 (iii), a person convicted of violating paragraph (1)
8 commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

9 (ii) A person convicted of violating paragraph (1)
10 in a case in which the animal in question dies commits a
11 felony of the third degree.

12 (iii) A person convicted of a second or subsequent
13 violation of paragraph (1) commits a felony of the third
14 degree.

15 (3) This subsection shall not apply to activity
16 undertaken in normal agricultural operation.

17 * * *

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.