

CRIMES CODE (18 PA.C.S.) - AMEND CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING
SENTENCING AND PENALTIES

Act of Dec. 9, 2002, P.L. 1439, No. 183

Cl. 18

Session of 2002

No. 2002-183

HB 2445

AN ACT

Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for cruelty to animals and for drug trafficking sentencing and penalties.

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

Section 1. Section 5511(a) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

§ 5511. Cruelty to animals.

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

(1) A person commits a misdemeanor of the second degree if he willfully and maliciously:

(i) Kills, maims or disfigures any domestic animal of another person or any domestic fowl of another person.

(ii) Administers poison to or exposes any poisonous substance with the intent to administer such poison to any domestic animal of another person or domestic fowl of another person.

(iii) Harasses, annoys, injures, attempts to injure, molests or interferes with a dog guide for an individual who is blind, a hearing dog for an individual who is deaf or audibly impaired or a service dog for an individual who is physically limited.

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this paragraph shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$500.

(2) A person commits a felony of the third degree if he willfully and maliciously:

(i) Kills, maims or disfigures any zoo animal in captivity.

(ii) Administers poison to or exposes any poisonous substance with the intent to administer such poison to any zoo animal in captivity.

(2.1) (i) A person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he willfully and maliciously:

(A) Kills, maims, mutilates, tortures or disfigures any dog or cat, whether belonging to himself or otherwise. **If a person kills, maims, mutilates, tortures or disfigures a dog guide for an individual who is blind, a hearing dog for an individual who is deaf or audibly impaired or a**

service dog for an individual who is physically limited, whether belonging to the individual or otherwise, that person, in addition to any other applicable penalty, shall be required to make reparations for veterinary costs in treating the dog and, if necessary, the cost of obtaining and training a replacement dog.

(B) Administers poison to or exposes any poisonous substance with the intent to administer such poison to any dog or cat, whether belonging to himself or otherwise.

(ii) Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this paragraph shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$1,000 or to imprisonment for not more than two years, or both. The court may also order a presentence mental evaluation. A subsequent conviction under this paragraph shall be a felony of the third degree. This paragraph shall apply to dogs and cats only.

(iii) The killing of a dog or cat by the owner of that animal is not malicious if it is accomplished in accordance with the act of December 22, 1983 (P.L.303, No.83), referred to as the Animal Destruction Method Authorization Law.

(3) This subsection shall not apply to:

(i) the killing of any animal taken or found in the act of actually destroying any domestic animal or domestic fowl;

(ii) the killing of any animal or fowl pursuant to the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), known as The Game Law, or 34 Pa.C.S. §§ 2384 (relating to declaring dogs public nuisances) and 2385 (relating to destruction of dogs declared public nuisances), or the regulations promulgated thereunder; or

(iii) such reasonable activity as may be undertaken in connection with vermin control or pest control.

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Section 2. Section 7508(a) of Title 18 is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

§ 7508. Drug trafficking sentencing and penalties.

(a) General rule.--Notwithstanding any other provisions of this or any other act to the contrary, the following provisions shall apply:

* * *

(8) A person who is convicted of violating section 13(a)(14), (30) or (37) of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act where the controlled substance or a mixture containing it is 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine; 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine; N-hydroxy-3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine; or their salts, isomers and salts of isomers, whenever the existence of such salts, isomers and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation, shall, upon conviction, be sentenced as set forth in this paragraph:

(i) When the aggregate weight of the compound or mixture containing the substance involved is at least 50

tablets, capsules, caplets or other dosage units, or 15 grams and less than 100 tablets, capsules, caplets or other dosage units, or less than 30 grams, the person is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding five years or to pay a fine not exceeding \$15,000, or both.

(ii) When the aggregate weight of the compound or mixture containing the substance involved is at least 100 tablets, capsules, caplets or other dosage units, or 30 grams and less than 1,000 tablets, capsules, caplets or other dosage units, or less than 300 grams, the person is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding ten years or to pay a fine not exceeding \$100,000, or both.

(iii) When the aggregate weight of the compound or mixture containing the substance involved is at least 1,000 tablets, capsules, caplets or other dosage units, or 300 grams, the person is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding 15 years or to pay a fine not exceeding \$250,000, or both.

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Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED--The 9th day of December, A. D. 2002.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER