
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 15 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY GOODMAN, KNOWLES, BOBACK, V. BROWN, CARROLL, D.
COSTA, DAY, DEAN, DONATUCCI, FABRIZIO, FARRY, FLECK, FREEMAN,
GABLER, GIBBONS, GILLEN, HAGGERTY, HARHAI, HESS, KAUFFMAN, W.
KELLER, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHER, MATZIE, MILLER,
MILNE, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PETRI, READSHAW, ROZZI, SANTARSIERO,
SCHLOSSBERG, STEPHENS, WATSON, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD,
JANUARY 29, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 29, 2013

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(c)(2), (h)(1)(i), (2)(i), (3)(i),
7 (4)(i) and (5)(i) and (m.2) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

10 * * *

11 (c) Cruelty to animals.--

12 * * *

13 (2) The following apply:

14 (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii), a
15 person convicted of violating paragraph (1) commits a
16 [summary offense] misdemeanor of the third degree and

1 shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not
2 less than \$750 or to imprisonment for not more than one
3 year, or both.

4 (ii) A person convicted for a second or subsequent
5 time of violating paragraph (1) commits a misdemeanor of
6 the [third] second degree [if all of the following
7 occurred:

8 (A) The action or omission for which the person
9 was convicted for a subsequent time was performed on
10 a dog or cat.

11 (B) The dog or cat was seriously injured,
12 suffered severe physical distress or was placed at
13 imminent risk of serious physical harm as the result
14 of the person's action or omission].

15 * * *

16 (h) Specific violations; prima facie evidence of
17 violation.--

18 (1) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
19 misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon
20 conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than
21 \$750 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or
22 both, if the person crops, trims or cuts off, or causes
23 or procures to be cropped, trimmed or cut off, the whole
24 or part of the ear or ears of a dog.

25 * * *

26 (2) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
27 misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon
28 conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than
29 \$750 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or
30 both, if the person debarks a dog by cutting, causing or

1 procuring the cutting of its vocal cords or by altering,
2 causing or procuring the alteration of any part of its
3 resonance chamber.

4 * * *

5 (3) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
6 misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon
7 conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than
8 \$750 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or
9 both, if the person docks, cuts off, causes or procures
10 the docking or cutting off of the tail of a dog over five
11 days old.

12 * * *

13 (4) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
14 misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon
15 conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than
16 \$750 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or
17 both, if the person surgically births or causes or
18 procures a surgical birth.

19 * * *

20 (5) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
21 misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon
22 conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than
23 \$750 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or
24 both, if the person cuts off or causes or procures the
25 cutting off of the dewclaw of a dog over five days old.

26 * * *

27 (m.2) Prohibition of ownership.--Notwithstanding any
28 provision of law and in addition to any other penalty provided
29 by law, the authority imposing sentence upon a conviction for
30 any violation of this section may order the prohibition or

1 limitation of the defendant's ownership, possession, control or
2 custody of animals or employment with the care of animals for a
3 period of time not [to exceed] less than the statutory maximum
4 term of imprisonment applicable to the offense for which
5 sentence is being imposed.

6 * * *

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