

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 164 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, HARKINS, RAVENSTAHL, KOTIK, SCHLOSSBERG, O'NEILL, O'BRIEN, JAMES, SCHWEYER, WATSON, KILLION, FARRY, BOBACK, MATZIE, HARPER, CONKLIN, SANTARSIERO, COHEN, TAYLOR, HARHAI, DAVIS, DEASY, KORTZ, CARROLL, LONGIETTI, SNYDER, MURT, FRANKEL, BAKER, KAUFFMAN, D. MILLER, A. HARRIS, SAINATO, MAHER, DIGIROLAMO, GOODMAN, D. COSTA, QUINN, GRELL, GINGRICH, M. K. KELLER, MACKENZIE, PICKETT, READSHAW, GIBBONS, HACKETT, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, DEAN, TOBASH, McCARTER, SAMUELSON, SIMMONS, TOEPEL, ENGLISH, JOZWIAK AND RADER, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 2, 2015

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(j) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended, subsection (q) is amended by
9 adding a definition and the section is amended by adding a
10 subsection to read:

11 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

12 \* \* \*

13 (h.2) Possession of animal fighting paraphernalia.--In
14 addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person commits

1 a misdemeanor of the third degree if he knowingly owns or  
2 possesses animal fighting paraphernalia.

3 \* \* \*

4 (j) Seizure of animals kept or used for animal fighting.--  
5 Any police officer or agent of a society or association for the  
6 prevention of cruelty to animals incorporated under the laws of  
7 this Commonwealth, shall have power to seize any animal kept,  
8 used, or intended to be used for animal fighting. When the  
9 seizure is made, the animal or animals so seized shall not be  
10 deemed absolutely forfeited, but shall be held by the officer or  
11 agent seizing the same until a conviction of some person is  
12 first obtained for a violation of subsection (h.1) or forfeiture  
13 is obtained under the act of July 9, 2013 (P.L.263, No.50),  
14 known as the Costs of Care of Seized Animals Act. The officer or  
15 agent making such seizure shall make due return to the issuing  
16 authority, of the number and kind of animals or creatures so  
17 seized by him. Where an animal is thus seized, the police  
18 officer or agent is authorized to provide such care as is  
19 reasonably necessary, and where any animal thus seized is found  
20 to be disabled, injured or diseased beyond reasonable hope of  
21 recovery, the police officer or agent is authorized to provide  
22 for the humane destruction of the animal. In addition to any  
23 other penalty provided by law, the authority imposing sentence  
24 upon a conviction for any violation of subsection (h.1) shall  
25 order the forfeiture or surrender of any abused, neglected or  
26 deprived animal of the defendant to any society or association  
27 for the prevention of cruelty to animals duly incorporated under  
28 the laws of this Commonwealth and shall require that the owner  
29 pay the cost of the keeping, care and destruction of the animal.

30 \* \* \*

1 (q) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
2 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
3 subsection:

4 \* \* \*

5 "Animal fighting paraphernalia." Any device, implement,  
6 object, ~~facility, space~~ or drug used, or intended to be used, <--  
7 for animal fighting, to train an animal for animal fighting or  
8 in furtherance of animal fighting. In determining whether an  
9 object is animal fighting paraphernalia, a court or other  
10 authority should consider statements by an owner or by anyone in  
11 control of the object concerning its use, any prior convictions  
12 under Federal or State law relating to animal fighting, the  
13 proximity of the object in time and space to the direct  
14 violation of this section, direct or circumstantial evidence of  
15 the intent of the accused to deliver the object to persons whom  
16 he or she knows or should reasonably know intends to use the  
17 object to facilitate a violation of this section, oral or  
18 written instructions provided with or in the vicinity of the  
19 object concerning its use, descriptive materials accompanying  
20 the object which explain or depict its use and all other  
21 logically relevant factors.

22 \* \* \*

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