
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 977 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, TARTAGLIONE, LEACH, SABATINA,
FONTANA, DINNIMAN, COSTA, BOSCOLA, RAFFERTY, BLAKE AND
PILEGGI, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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 cruelty to animals.

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

6 Section 1. Section 5511(q) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions and the
8 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

10 * * *

11 (h.3) Leaving animal in unattended motor vehicle.--The
12 following shall apply:

13 (1) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a
14 motor vehicle owner or operator commits a summary offense if
15 the motor vehicle owner or operator confines a dog or cat in
16 an unattended motor vehicle in extreme heat, endangering the
17 dog's or the cat's health and well-being.

18 (2) A person who witnesses an act under paragraph (1),

1 may contact a police officer, a volunteer or professional
2 fireman, humane officer, security guard or other first
3 responder, who may take any action to safeguard the dog or
4 cat, including, but not limited to, breaking into the motor
5 vehicle to remove the dog or cat from the unattended motor
6 vehicle after a reasonable effort to search for the owner or
7 operator of the unattended motor vehicle.

8 (3) A police officer, a volunteer or professional
9 fireman, humane officer, security guard or other first
10 responder, and the department or agency employing the
11 officer, is not liable for any damage to property resulting
12 from actions taken under this section.

13 (4) Once the dog or cat is removed from the motor
14 vehicle, the police officer, volunteer or professional
15 fireman, humane officer, security guard or other first
16 responder removing the dog or cat shall:

17 (i) leave a note in the motor vehicle or in a
18 conspicuous location stating the person's name and
19 contact information and information as to where the dog
20 or cat can be located; and

21 (ii) take the dog or cat to a veterinary hospital or
22 animal care clinic for treatment and health screening.
23 The dog or cat shall then be admitted to a shelter or
24 humane society if the motor vehicle owner or operator is
25 unable to be located.

26 * * *

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

30 * * *

1 "Extreme heat." An extremely high temperature, inside or
2 outside of a motor vehicle, that could endanger an animal's
3 health or well-being.

4 * * *

5 "Unattended motor vehicle." A motor vehicle that is out of
6 the owner's or operator's sight.

7 * * *

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