
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 15 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY GOODMAN, FREEMAN, LONGIETTI, DONATUCCI, SOLOMON,
PASHINSKI, V. BROWN, SAINATO, McNEILL, MILLARD, O'BRIEN,
WATSON, A. HARRIS, BIZZARRO, READSHAW, KIRKLAND AND KAVULICH,
APRIL 24, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 24, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in offenses against public order and
3 decency, further providing for the offense of cruelty to
4 animals.

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

7 Section 1. Section 5511(c)(2), (h)(1)(i), (2)(i), (3)(i),
8 (4)(i) and (5)(i) and (m.2) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
9 Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

10 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

11 * * *

12 (c) Cruelty to animals.--

13 * * *

14 (2) The following apply:

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

18 (ii) A person convicted for a second or subsequent

1 time of violating paragraph (1) commits a misdemeanor of
2 the [third] second degree [if all of the following
3 occurred:

4 (A) The action or omission for which the person
5 was convicted for a subsequent time was performed on
6 a dog or cat.

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

11 * * *

12 (h) Specific violations; prima facie evidence of
13 violation.--

14 (1) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
15 misdemeanor of the third degree if the person crops,
16 trims or cuts off, or causes or procures to be cropped,
17 trimmed or cut off, the whole or part of the ear or ears
18 of a dog.

19 * * *

20 (2) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
21 misdemeanor of the third degree if the person debarks a
22 dog by cutting, causing or procuring the cutting of its
23 vocal cords or by altering, causing or procuring the
24 alteration of any part of its resonance chamber.

25 * * *

26 (3) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
27 misdemeanor of the third degree if the person docks, cuts
28 off, causes or procures the docking or cutting off of the
29 tail of a dog over five days old.

30 * * *

1 (4) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
2 misdemeanor of the third degree if the person surgically
3 births or causes or procures a surgical birth.

4 * * *

5 (5) (i) A person commits a [summary offense]
6 misdemeanor of the third degree if the person cuts off or
7 causes or procures the cutting off of the dewclaw of a
8 dog over five days old.

9 * * *

10 (m.2) Prohibition of ownership.--Notwithstanding any
11 provision of law and in addition to any other penalty provided
12 by law, the authority imposing sentence upon a conviction for
13 any violation of this section may order the prohibition or
14 limitation of the defendant's ownership, possession, control or
15 custody of animals or employment with the care of animals for a
16 period of time not [to exceed] less than the statutory maximum
17 term of imprisonment applicable to the offense for which
18 sentence is being imposed.

19 * * *

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