
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 230 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, COSTA, BROWNE, HUGHES, FARNESE, BREWSTER,
SABATINA, TARTAGLIONE, KILLION, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, WARD
AND VULAKOVICH, JANUARY 26, 2017

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JANUARY 26, 2017

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(c) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

10 * * *

11 (c) Cruelty to animals.--

12 (1) A person commits an offense if he wantonly or
13 cruelly illtreats, overloads, beats, otherwise abuses any
14 animal, or neglects any animal as to which he has a duty of
15 care, whether belonging to himself or otherwise, or abandons
16 any animal, or deprives any animal of necessary sustenance,
17 drink, shelter or veterinary care, or access to clean and
18 sanitary shelter which will protect the animal against

1 inclement weather and preserve the animal's body heat and
2 keep it dry.

3 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii), a
4 person convicted of violating paragraph (1) commits a
5 summary offense.

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

11 (A) The action or omission for which the person
12 was convicted [for a subsequent time] was performed
13 on a dog or cat.

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

18 (3) This subsection shall not apply to activity
19 undertaken in normal agricultural operation.

20 * * *

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