

2013 -- H 5494

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Introduced By: Representatives DeSimone, Ackerman, Lima, Fellela, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: February 14, 2013

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 4-1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-1 entitled "Cruelty to  
2   Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **4-1-3. Unnecessary cruelty.** -- (a) Every owner, possessor, or person having the charge  
4   or custody of any animal, who cruelly drives or works that animal when unfit for labor, or cruelly  
5   abandons that animal, or who carries that animal or who fails to provide that animal with  
6   adequate living conditions as defined in subsection (c), or causes that animal to be carried, in or  
7   upon any vehicle or otherwise in a cruel or inhuman manner, or willfully, intentionally,  
8   maliciously, recklessly, and/or knowingly authorizes or permits that animal to be subjected to  
9   unnecessary torture, suffering or cruelty of any kind, or who places or causes to have placed on  
10   any animal any substance that may produce irritation or pain, or that is declared a hazardous  
11   substance by the U.S. food and drug administration or by the state department of health, shall be  
12   punished for each offense in the manner provided in section 4-1-2.

13           (b) The substances proscribed by subsection (a) do not include any drug having curative  
14   and therapeutic effect for disease in animals and which is prepared and intended for veterinary  
15   use.

16           (c) For purposes of this chapter, "adequate living conditions" means a sanitary  
17   environment which is dry and free of accumulated feces and free of debris and garbage that may  
18   clutter the environment, pose a danger or entangle the animal. The environment in which the  
19   animal is kept must be of sufficient size so as not to inhibit comfortable rest, normal posture or

1 [range of movement, and suitable to maintain the animal in a good state of health.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would expand the meaning of unnecessary cruelty to one who willfully,  
2 intentionally, maliciously, recklessly and/or knowingly authorizes or permits that animal to be  
3 subjected to unnecessary torture, suffering or cruelty of any kind. This act would also defines  
4 “adequate living conditions” as used in the section.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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