

# Chapter 185

(Senate Bill 659)

AN ACT concerning

## Crimes Relating to Animals – Surgery on Dogs – Penalties

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person, other than a licensed veterinarian, ~~or a registered veterinary technician employed by and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian,~~ using anesthesia when appropriate, from performing certain procedures on a dog; ~~prohibiting a person other than a licensed veterinarian from performing a certain procedure on a dog;~~ establishing penalties for a violation of this Act; and generally relating to crimes relating to animals.

BY adding to

Article – Criminal Law

Section 10–624

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### Article – Criminal Law

#### 10–624.

(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON MAY NOT:

- (1) CROP OR CUT OFF THE EAR OF A DOG;
- (2) DOCK OR CUT OFF THE TAIL OF A DOG;
- (3) CUT OFF THE DEWCLAW OF A DOG; OR
- (4) SURGICALLY BIRTH A DOG.

(B) ~~(1)~~ A PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN ~~SUBSECTION (A)~~ SUBSECTION (A)(1), (2), OR (3) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN, ~~OR A REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN~~

~~EMPLOYED BY AND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN,  
USING ANESTHESIA WHEN APPROPRIATE ON THE ANIMAL.~~

~~(2) A PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A)(4) OF THIS  
SECTION MAY BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN USING  
ANESTHESIA WHEN APPROPRIATE ON THE ANIMAL.~~

(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO:

(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH; AND

(2) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 180 DAYS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2014.