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By: **Delegates Conway, Bozman, Cane, Donoghue, Elmore, and Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2005

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CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Aggravated Cruelty to Animals - Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the penalty for the crime of aggravated cruelty to  
4 animals under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the crime of  
5 aggravated cruelty to animals.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

7 Article - Criminal Law

8 Section 10-606

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2002 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Criminal Law**

14 10-606.

15 (a) A person may not:

16 (1) intentionally mutilate, torture, cruelly beat, or cruelly kill an animal;

17 (2) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under item (1) of this  
18 subsection; or

19 (3) except in the case of self-defense, intentionally inflict bodily harm,  
20 permanent disability, or death on an animal owned or used by a law enforcement unit.

1 (b) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated  
2 cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to:

3 (I) imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding  
4 \$5,000 or both; OR

5 (II) IF THE VIOLATION RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF THE ANIMAL,  
6 IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 OR  
7 BOTH.

8 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant  
9 convicted of violating this section to participate in and pay for psychological  
10 counseling.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 October 1, 2005.