
By: **Delegates Levy, Jameson, and Mayer**
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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Inflicting Unnecessary Suffering or Pain on Animals - Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from inflicting unnecessary suffering or pain
4 on an animal; repealing the requirement that a person have charge or custody of
5 an animal, as owner or otherwise, to be prosecuted for inflicting unnecessary
6 suffering or pain on an animal; and generally relating to the infliction of
7 unnecessary suffering or pain on animals.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Criminal Law
10 Section 10-604
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2002 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Criminal Law**

16 10-604.

17 (a) A person may not:

18 (1) overdrive or overload an animal;

19 (2) deprive an animal of necessary sustenance;

1 (3) INFLICT UNNECESSARY SUFFERING OR PAIN ON AN ANIMAL;

2 [(3)] (4) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under [item (1) or
3 item (2)] ITEM (1), (2), OR (3) of this subsection; or

4 [(4)] (5) if the person has charge or custody of an animal, as owner or
5 otherwise[:

6 (i) inflict unnecessary suffering or pain on the animal; or

7 (ii)] , unnecessarily fail to provide the animal with nutritious food in
8 sufficient quantity, necessary veterinary care, proper drink, air, space, shelter, or
9 protection from the weather.

10 (b) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
11 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding
12 \$1,000 or both.

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

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