

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegates Levy, Jameson, Sossi, Menes, Quinter, Cane, Barve,  
Bromwell, Cardin, McMillan, McComas, Mandel, Cryor, Bronrott,  
Heller, Petzold, Hogan, and King**

Requested: July 21, 2005

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

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 2005 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;

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

21 [(3)] (4) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under [item (1) or  
22 item (2)] ITEM (1), (2), OR (3) of this subsection; or

1                    [(4)]    (5)    if the person has charge or custody of an animal, as owner or  
2 otherwise[:

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

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

7        (b)    (1)    A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on  
8 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding  
9 \$1,000 or both.

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

13        SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
14 effect October 1, 2006.