

Chapter 27

(House Bill 227)

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law – ~~Abuse or Neglect of Animals~~ Animal Abuse, Neglect, or Cruelty – ~~Sentencing~~ Conditions of Probation

FOR the purpose of authorizing a court, as a condition of ~~sentencing~~ probation for certain violations concerning ~~the abuse or neglect of animals~~ animal abuse, neglect, or cruelty, to prohibit a certain defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal ~~for a certain period~~; and generally relating to animal abuse, neglect, or cruelty.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 10–604 and 10–606
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2002 Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

10–604.

- (a) A person may not:
- (1) overdrive or overload an animal;
 - (2) deprive an animal of necessary sustenance;
 - (3) inflict unnecessary suffering or pain on an animal;
 - (4) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under item (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection; or
 - (5) if the person has charge or custody of an animal, as owner or otherwise, unnecessarily fail to provide the animal with nutritious food in sufficient quantity, necessary veterinary care, proper drink, air, space, shelter, or protection from the weather.

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

(2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may:

~~(H)~~ order a defendant convicted of violating this section to participate in and pay for psychological counseling;~~AND.~~

~~(H) (3) AS A CONDITION OF PROBATION, THE COURT MAY PROHIBIT A DEFENDANT CONVICTED OF VIOLATING THIS SECTION FROM OWNING, POSSESSING, OR RESIDING WITH AN ANIMAL FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME.~~

10-606.

(a) A person may not:

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

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

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

(b) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

(2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may:

~~(H)~~ order a defendant convicted of violating this section to participate in and pay for psychological counseling;~~AND.~~

~~(H) (3) AS A CONDITION OF PROBATION, THE COURT MAY PROHIBIT A DEFENDANT CONVICTED OF VIOLATING THIS SECTION FROM OWNING, POSSESSING, OR RESIDING WITH AN ANIMAL FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME, INCLUDING THE LIFE OF THE DEFENDANT.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2011.

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2011.