

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 129

H. P. 119

House of Representatives, January 23, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Drinkwater of Belfast.

Cosponsors: Mrs. Hutchings of Lincolnville and Mr. Lowe of Winterport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Concerning Cruelty to Animals.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA § 510, sub-§ 1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499, § 1, is amended to read:

B. He overworks, tortures, **torments**, abandons, gives poison to, cruelly beats or mutilates any animal, or exposes a poison with the intent that it be taken by an animal;

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA § 510, sub-§ 1, ¶D, as amended by PL 1975, c. 638, § 3, is further amended to read:

D. He owns, possesses, keeps, or trains any animal with the intent that it shall be engaged in an exhibition of fighting, or if he instigates, promotes, attends or has a pecuniary interest in or acts as a judge at any such exhibition of fighting animals; ~~or~~

Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA § 510, sub-§ 1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499, § 1, is amended to read:

E. He keeps or leaves a domestic animal on an uninhabited or barren island lying off the coast of Maine during the month of December, January, February or March without providing sufficient food and proper shelter; **or**

Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA § 510, sub-§ 1, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. He allows any animal which he owns or possesses to roam at large on a public way where vehicular traffic might endanger the animal. Failure to heed a first warning from any law enforcement officer or any public official will be prima facie evidence of recklessness.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to alleviate the problem of domestic animals suffering from untreated sickness, untreated injuries and from improper shelter, and to reduce the number of animals injured and killed from vehicular collisions.