

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 677

H. P. 514

House of Representatives, February 9, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Bailey of Woolwich.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 17, § 1211, amended. The first sentence of section 1211 of Title 17 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer, **humane agent** or agent for any society for the prevention of cruelty to animals or any person authorized to make arrests may apply to the District Court for process to permit the applicant to take possession of any old, maimed, disabled, diseased or injured animal or any animal whose owner has cruelly abandoned or cruelly fails to take care of or provide for, or for process to cause the same to be destroyed or turned over to the applicant or some other suitable person.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 17, § 1211, amended. Section 1211 of Title 17 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding after the first sentence a new sentence to read as follows:

In the event any person referred to in the preceding sentence reasonably determines that the health, welfare or life of any animal referred to is in immediate danger, then he may take the said animal into protective custody without making application to the District Court to do so, but shall forthwith upon such taking apply to the District Court for process to cause the same to be destroyed humanely or turned over to the applicant or some other suitable person.

STATEMENT OF FACT

It has become a fact that various acts of cruelty or neglect frequently occur to domestic or wild animals, or both within Maine. Such acts of cruelty

towards animals tend to be detrimental to the rights of the public with relation to public health, morals, safety, order and welfare. The purpose of this bill is to attempt to halt such acts of cruelty before it has become too late to be of benefit to the animal or animals involved.