

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 708

H. P. 581

House of Representatives, March 3, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Drinkwater of Belfast.

Cosponsor: Mrs. Hutchings of Lincolnville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning Cruelty to Animals

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

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

1. A person is guilty of cruelty to animals if, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly:

A. He kills or injures any animal belonging to another person without legal privilege or the consent of the owner. The owner or occupant of property is privileged to use reasonable force to eject a trespassing animal;

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

C. He deprives any animal which he owns or possesses of necessary sustenance, **necessary medical attention, proper shelter** or humanely clean conditions;

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~~

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

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.