

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 17.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE.

AN ACT to amend chapter one hundred and twenty-four, section twenty-eight of the revised statutes, relating to cruelty to animals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

SECTION 1. Any officer or agent of the society for
2 the prevention of cruelty to animals may lawfully in-
3 terfere to prevent the perpetration of any act of cruelty
4 upon any animal in his presence, and any person who
5 shall interfere with or obstruct any such officer or agent
6 in the discharge of his duty, shall be guilty of a mis-
7 demeanor.

SECT. 2. Any officer or agent of said society may
2 lawfully destroy, or cause to be destroyed, any animal
3 found abandoned and not properly cared for, appearing

4 in the judgment of two respectable persons called by
5 him to view the same in his presence, to be glandered,
6 injured, or diseased passed recovery for any useful
7 purpose.

SECT. 3. When any person arrested is at the time of
2 such arrest, in charge of any vehicle drawn by or con-
3 taining any animal, said officer or agent of said society
4 may take charge of such animal, and of such vehicle
5 and its contents, and deposit the same in a safe place
6 of custody, or deliver the same into the possession of
7 the police or sheriff of the county or place wherein
8 such arrest was made, who shall thereupon assume the
9 custody thereof.

SECT. 4. Upon complaint under oath or affirmation
2 to any magistrate authorized to issue warrants in crim-
3 inal cases, that the complainant has just and reason-
4 able cause to suspect that any of the provisions of law
5 relating to or in any wise affecting this act, are being
6 or about to be violated in any particular building or
7 place, such magistrate shall immediately issue and de-
8 liver a warrant to any person authorized by law to
9 make arrests for such offences, authorizing him to en-
10 ter and search such building or place, and to arrest any
11 person or persons there present found violating any of
12 said laws, and to take such person or persons before a

13 magistrate of competent jurisdiction, to be dealt with
14 according to law.

SECT. 5. In this act, and in every law of this state
2 passed, or which may be passed, relating to or affect-
3 ing animals, the singular shall include the plural; the
4 words "animal," or "dumb animal," shall be held to
5 include every living creature; the words "torture,"
6 "torment," or "cruelty," shall be held to include
7 every act, omission or neglect whereby unjustifiable,
8 physical pain, suffering or death is caused or permit-
9 ted; and the words "owner" or "person," shall be
10 held to include corporations as well as individuals; but
11 nothing in this act shall be construed as prohibiting
12 the shooting of birds for the purpose of human food.

SECT. 6. This act shall take effect immediately after
2 its passage.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 4, 1875.

Reported from Committee on Agriculture, by Mr. LORD of
York, and laid over to be printed under the Joint Rule.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*