

P.L. 1996, CHAPTER 64, *approved July 12, 1996*  
Senate Committee Substitute for  
Senate No. 661

1 AN ACT concerning animal cruelty and amending R.S.4:22-17,  
2 R.S.4:22-18, and R.S.4:22-19.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. R.S.4:22-17 is amended to read as follows:

8 4:22-17. Cruelty; disorderly persons offense

9 A person who shall:

10 a. Overdrive, overload, drive when overloaded, overwork,  
11 torture, torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, unnecessarily or  
12 cruelly beat or otherwise abuse, or needlessly mutilate or kill, a living  
13 animal or creature;

14 b. Cause or procure any of such acts to be done; or

15 c. Inflict unnecessary cruelty upon a living animal or creature of  
16 which he has charge either as owner or otherwise, or unnecessarily fail  
17 to provide it with proper food, drink, shelter or protection from the  
18 weather--

19 Shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense, and notwithstanding  
20 the provisions of N.J.C.2C:43-3 to the contrary, for every such offense  
21 shall be fined not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000, or be  
22 imprisoned for a term of not more than six months, or both, in the  
23 discretion of the court. In addition, the court (1) shall impose a term  
24 of community service of up to 30 days, and may direct that the term  
25 of community service be served in providing assistance to the New  
26 Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a district  
27 (county) society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or any other  
28 recognized organization concerned with the prevention of cruelty to  
29 animals or the humane treatment and care of animals, or to a  
30 municipality's animal control or animal population control program;  
31 (2) may require the violator to pay restitution or otherwise reimburse  
32 any costs for food, drink, shelter, or veterinary care or treatment, or  
33 other costs, incurred by any agency, entity, or organization

**EXPLANATION** - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 investigating the violation, including but not limited to the New Jersey  
2 Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a district (county)  
3 society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, any other recognized  
4 organization concerned with the prevention of cruelty to animals or  
5 the humane treatment and care of animals, or a local or State  
6 governmental entity; and (3) may impose any other appropriate  
7 penalties established for a disorderly persons offense pursuant to Title  
8 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

9 (cf: P.L.1995, c.355, s.2).

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11 2. R.S.4:22-18 is amended to read as follows:

12 4:22-18. Carrying animal in cruel, inhumane manner; disorderly  
13 persons offense

14 A person who shall carry, or cause to be carried, a living animal or  
15 creature in or upon a vehicle or otherwise, in a cruel or inhumane  
16 manner, shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense and punished as  
17 provided in R.S.4:22-17.

18 (cf: P.L.1995, c.355, s.3)

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20 3. R.S.4:22-19 is amended to read as follows:

21 4:22-19. A person who shall:

22 a. Impound or confine, or cause to be impounded or confined, in  
23 a pound or other place, a living animal or creature, and shall fail to  
24 supply it during such confinement with a sufficient quantity of good  
25 and wholesome food and water; or

26 b. Destroy or cause to be destroyed any such animal by hypoxia  
27 induced by decompression or in any other manner, by the  
28 administration of a lethal gas other than an inhalant anesthetic, or in  
29 any other manner except by a method of euthanasia generally  
30 accepted by the veterinary medical profession as being reliable,  
31 appropriate to the type of animal upon which it is to be employed, and  
32 capable of producing loss of consciousness and death as rapidly and  
33 painlessly as possible for such animal shall, in the case of a violation  
34 of subsection a., be guilty of a disorderly persons offense and shall be  
35 punished as provided in R.S.4:22-17; or, in the case of a violation of  
36 subsection b., be subject to a penalty of \$25.00 for the first offense  
37 and \$50.00 for each subsequent offense. Each animal destroyed in  
38 violation of subsection b. shall constitute a separate offense. The  
39 penalty shall be collected in accordance with "the penalty  
40 enforcement law" (N. J. S. 2A:58-1 et seq.) and all money collected  
41 shall be remitted to the State.

42 This section shall apply to kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds  
43 as defined and licensed pursuant to P.L.1941, c. 151 (C. 4:19-15.1 et  
44 seq.); to pounds and places of confinement owned and operated by  
45 municipalities, counties or regional governmental authorities; and to

1 every contractual warden or impounding service, any provision to the  
2 contrary in this title notwithstanding.

3 (cf: P.L.1982, c.158, s.2)

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5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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10 Expands criminal penalties for violations of certain animal cruelty  
11 laws.