

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 88, *approved May 8, 1997*
Senate Committee Substitute (*First Reprint*) for
Senate, No. 465

1 AN ACT concerning the animal cruelty laws and the killing of certain
2 types of rats ¹[,] and¹ mice ¹[and other animals posing a significant
3 public health threat]¹ , and amending R.S.4:22-16.
4

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

7
8 1. R.S.4:22-16 is amended to read as follows:

9 4:22-16. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to
10 prohibit or interfere with:

11 a. Properly conducted scientific experiments performed under the
12 authority of the Department of Health or the United States
13 Department of Agriculture. Those departments may authorize the
14 conduct of such experiments or investigations by agricultural stations
15 and schools maintained by the State or federal government, or by
16 medical societies, universities, colleges and institutions incorporated
17 or authorized to do business in this State and having among their
18 corporate purposes investigation into the causes, nature, prevention
19 and cure of diseases in men and animals; and may for cause revoke
20 such authority;

21 b. The killing or disposing of an animal or creature by virtue of the
22 order of a constituted authority of the State;

23 c. The shooting or taking of game or game fish in such manner
24 and at such times as is allowed or provided by the laws of this State;

25 d. The training or engaging of a dog to accomplish a task or
26 participate in an activity or exhibition designed to develop the physical
27 or mental characteristics of that dog. These activities shall be carried

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AES committee amendments adopted February 10, 1997.

1 out in accordance with the practices, guidelines or rules established by
2 an organization founded for the purpose of promoting and enhancing
3 working dog activities or exhibitions; in a manner which does not
4 adversely affect the health or safety of the dog; and may include
5 avalanche warning, guide work, obedience work, carting, dispatching,
6 freight racing, packing, sled dog racing, sledding, tracking, and weight
7 pull demonstrations;

8 e. The raising, keeping, care, treatment, marketing, and sale of
9 domestic livestock in accordance with the standards developed and
10 adopted therefor pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.1995,
11 c.311 (C.4:22-16.1); and

12 f. The killing or disposing¹, by a reasonable or commercially
13 acceptable method or means,¹ of a Norway or brown rat (*Rattus*
14 *norvegicus*), black rat (*Rattus rattus*), or house mouse (*Mus musculus*)
15 ¹[, or any other animal deemed by the Department of Health, in
16 consultation with the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty
17 to Animals, to pose a significant threat to the public health and
18 identified as such in rules and regulations which shall be adopted by
19 the Department of Health pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
20 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) within 180 days of the
21 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (now before the Legislature as
22 this bill).]¹ by any person, or with the permission or at the direction of
23 that person, while the animal is on property either owned or leased by,
24 or otherwise under the control of, that person, provided that the
25 animal is not a pet .

26 (cf: P.L.1995, c.311, s.2)

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28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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33 Exempts killing of certain types of rats and mice from animal cruelty
34 laws.