

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 83, *approved May 11, 2021*  
Senate, No. 975

1 AN ACT concerning animal cruelty and animal fighting, and  
2 amending and supplementing chapter 22 of Title 4 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. (New section) a. In addition to the provisions of R.S.4:22-  
9 24, it shall be unlawful to engage in, facilitate, or provide the means  
10 to engage in, trunk fighting. For the purposes of this section, “trunk  
11 fighting” means the practice of enclosing two or more animals in  
12 the trunk or any part of a motor vehicle for the purpose of the  
13 animals attacking each other, and possibly fighting until one or  
14 more of the animals are dead.

15 b. A violation of subsection a. of this section shall be a crime  
16 of the third degree.

17  
18 2. R.S.4:22-26 is amended to read as follows:  
19 4:22-26. A person who shall:

20 a. (1) Overdrive, overload, drive when overloaded, overwork,  
21 abuse, or needlessly kill a living animal or creature, or cause or  
22 procure, by any direct or indirect means, including but not limited  
23 to through the use of another living animal or creature, any such  
24 acts to be done;

25 (2) Torment, torture, maim, hang, poison, unnecessarily or  
26 cruelly beat, cruelly abuse, or needlessly mutilate a living animal or  
27 creature, or cause or procure, by any direct or indirect means,  
28 including but not limited to through the use of another living animal  
29 or creature, any such acts to be done;

30 (3) Cause the death of, or serious bodily injury to, a living  
31 animal or creature from commission of any act described in  
32 paragraph (2), (4), or (5) of this subsection, by any direct or indirect  
33 means, including but not limited to through the use of another living  
34 animal or creature, or otherwise cause or procure any such acts to  
35 be done;

36 (4) Fail, as the owner or a person otherwise charged with the  
37 care of a living animal or creature, to provide the living animal or  
38 creature with necessary care, or otherwise cause or procure such an  
39 act to be done; or

40 (5) Cause bodily injury to a living animal or creature from  
41 commission of the act described in paragraph (4) of this subsection;

**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       b. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2003, c.232)
- 2       c. Inflict unnecessary cruelty upon a living animal or creature,  
3 by any direct or indirect means, including but not limited to through  
4 the use of another living animal or creature; or leave the living  
5 animal or creature unattended in a vehicle under inhumane  
6 conditions adverse to the health or welfare of the living animal or  
7 creature;
- 8       d. Receive or offer for sale a horse that is suffering from abuse  
9 or neglect, or which by reason of disability, disease, abuse or  
10 lameness, or any other cause, could not be worked, ridden or  
11 otherwise used for show, exhibition or recreational purposes, or  
12 kept as a domestic pet without violating the provisions of article 2  
13 of chapter 22 of Title 4 of the Revised Statutes;
- 14       e. Keep, use, be connected with or interested in the  
15 management of, or receive money or other consideration for the  
16 admission of a person to, a place kept or used for the purpose of  
17 fighting or baiting a living animal or creature;
- 18       f. Be present and witness, pay admission to, encourage, aid or  
19 assist in an activity enumerated in subsection e. of this section;
- 20       g. Permit **【or suffer】** a person's place owned or controlled by  
21 the person to be used as provided in subsection e. of this section;
- 22       h. Carry, or cause to be carried, a living animal or creature in  
23 or upon a vehicle or otherwise, in a cruel or inhumane manner;
- 24       i. Use a dog or dogs for the purpose of drawing or helping to  
25 draw a vehicle for business purposes;
- 26       j. Impound or confine or cause to be impounded or confined in  
27 a pound or other place a living animal or creature, and shall fail to  
28 supply the living animal or creature during such confinement with a  
29 sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water;
- 30       k. Abandon a maimed, sick, infirm or disabled animal or  
31 creature to die in a public place;
- 32       l. Willfully sell, or offer to sell, use, expose, or cause or permit  
33 to be sold or offered for sale, used or exposed, a horse or other  
34 animal having the disease known as glanders or farcy, or other  
35 contagious or infectious disease dangerous to the health or life of  
36 human beings or animals, or who shall, when any such disease is  
37 beyond recovery, refuse, upon demand, to deprive the animal of  
38 life;
- 39       m. Own, operate, manage or conduct a roadside stand or market  
40 for the sale of merchandise along a public street or highway; or a  
41 shopping mall, or a part of the premises thereof; and keep a living  
42 animal or creature confined, or allowed to roam in an area whether  
43 or not the area is enclosed, on these premises as an exhibit; except  
44 that this subsection shall not be applicable to: a pet shop licensed  
45 pursuant to P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.1 et seq.); a person who  
46 keeps an animal, in a humane manner, for the purpose of the  
47 protection of the premises; or a recognized breeders' association, a  
48 4-H club, an educational agricultural program, an equestrian team, a

- 1 humane society or other similar charitable or nonprofit organization  
2 conducting an exhibition, show or performance;
- 3 n. Keep or exhibit a wild animal at a roadside stand or market  
4 located along a public street or highway of this State; a gasoline  
5 station; or a shopping mall, or a part of the premises thereof;
- 6 o. Sell, offer for sale, barter or give away or display live baby  
7 chicks, ducklings or other fowl or rabbits, turtles or chameleons  
8 which have been dyed or artificially colored or otherwise treated so  
9 as to impart to them an artificial color;
- 10 p. Use any animal, reptile, or fowl for the purpose of soliciting  
11 any alms, collections, contributions, subscriptions, donations, or  
12 payment of money except in connection with exhibitions, shows or  
13 performances conducted in a bona fide manner by recognized  
14 breeders' associations, 4-H clubs or other similar bona fide  
15 organizations;
- 16 q. Sell or offer for sale, barter, or give away living rabbits,  
17 turtles, baby chicks, ducklings or other fowl under two months of  
18 age, for use as household or domestic pets;
- 19 r. Sell, offer for sale, barter or give away living baby chicks,  
20 ducklings or other fowl, or rabbits, turtles or chameleons under two  
21 months of age for any purpose not prohibited by subsection q. of  
22 this section and who shall fail to provide proper facilities for the  
23 care of such animals;
- 24 s. Artificially mark sheep or cattle, or cause them to be  
25 marked, by cropping or cutting off both ears, cropping or cutting  
26 either ear more than one inch from the tip end thereof, or half  
27 cropping or cutting both ears or either ear more than one inch from  
28 the tip end thereof, or who shall have or keep in the person's  
29 possession sheep or cattle, which the person claims to own, marked  
30 contrary to this subsection unless they were bought in market or of  
31 a stranger;
- 32 t. Abandon a domesticated animal;
- 33 u. For amusement or gain, cause, allow, or permit the fighting  
34 or baiting of a living animal or creature; or engage in, facilitate, or  
35 provide the means to engage in, trunk fighting as defined in section  
36 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);
- 37 v. Own, possess, keep, train, promote, purchase, or knowingly  
38 sell a living animal or creature for the purpose of fighting or baiting  
39 that animal or creature; or own, possess, buy, sell, transfer, or  
40 manufacture animal fighting paraphernalia as defined pursuant to  
41 R.S.4:22-24 for the purpose of engaging in or otherwise promoting  
42 or facilitating the fighting or baiting of a living animal or creature;
- 43 w. Gamble on the outcome of a fight involving a living animal  
44 or creature;
- 45 x. Knowingly sell or barter or offer for sale or barter, at  
46 wholesale or retail, the fur or hair of a domestic dog or cat or any  
47 product made in whole or in part from the fur or hair of a domestic  
48 dog or cat, unless such fur or hair for sale or barter is from a

- 1 commercial grooming establishment or a veterinary office or clinic  
2 or is for use for scientific research;
- 3 y. (1) Knowingly sell or barter, or offer for sale or barter, at  
4 wholesale or retail, for human consumption, the flesh of a domestic  
5 dog or cat, or any product made in whole or in part from the flesh of  
6 a domestic dog or cat;
- 7 (2) Knowingly slaughter a horse for human consumption;
- 8 (3) Knowingly sell or barter, or offer for sale or barter, at  
9 wholesale or retail, for human consumption, the flesh of a horse, or  
10 any product made in whole or in part from the flesh of a horse, or  
11 knowingly accept or publish newspaper advertising that includes the  
12 offering for sale, trade, or distribution of any such item for human  
13 consumption;
- 14 (4) Knowingly transport a horse for the purpose of slaughter for  
15 human consumption;
- 16 (5) Knowingly transport horsemeat, or any product made in  
17 whole or in part from the flesh of a horse, for the purpose of human  
18 consumption;
- 19 z. Surgically debark or silence a dog in violation of section 1  
20 or 2 of P.L.2002, c.102 (C.4:19-38 or C.4:19-39);
- 21 aa. Use a live pigeon, fowl or other bird for the purpose of a  
22 target, or to be shot at either for amusement or as a test of skill in  
23 marksmanship, except that this subsection and subsections bb. and  
24 cc. shall not apply to the shooting of game;
- 25 bb. Shoot at a bird used as described in subsection aa. of this  
26 section, or is a party to such shooting; or
- 27 cc. Lease a building, room, field or premises, or knowingly  
28 permit the use thereof for the purposes of subsection aa. or bb. of  
29 this section ---
- 30 Shall forfeit and pay a sum according to the following schedule,  
31 to be sued for and recovered, with costs, in a civil action by any  
32 person in the name of the municipality or county wherein the  
33 defendant resides or where the offense was committed:
- 34 For a violation of subsection e., f., g., u., v., w., or z. of this  
35 section or of paragraph (3) of subsection a. of this section, or for a  
36 second or subsequent violation of paragraph (2) or (5) of subsection  
37 a. of this section, a sum of not less than \$3,000 nor more than  
38 \$5,000;
- 39 For a violation of subsection l. of this section, for a first violation  
40 of paragraph (2) or (5) of subsection a. of this section a sum of not  
41 less than \$1,000 nor more than \$3,000;
- 42 For a violation of paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section,  
43 or subsection c. of this section, a sum of not less than \$500 nor  
44 more than \$2,000;
- 45 For a violation of subsection x. or paragraph (1) of subsection y.  
46 of this section, a sum of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 for  
47 each domestic dog or cat fur or fur or hair product or domestic dog

1 or cat carcass or meat product sold, bartered, or offered for sale or  
2 barter;

3 For a violation of paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection y.  
4 of this section, a sum of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 for  
5 each horse slaughtered or transported for the purpose of slaughter  
6 for human consumption, or for each horse carcass or meat product  
7 transported, sold or bartered, or offered or advertised for sale or  
8 barter;

9 For a violation of subsection t. of this section, a sum of not less  
10 than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, but if the violation occurs on or  
11 near a highway, a mandatory sum of \$1,000;

12 For a violation of subsection d., h., j., k., aa., bb., or cc. of this  
13 section or of paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section, a sum of  
14 not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000; and

15 For a violation of subsection i., m., n., o., p., q., r., or s. of this  
16 section, a sum of not less than \$250 nor more than \$500.

17 (cf: P.L.2019, c.223, s.3)

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19 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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## STATEMENT

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24 This bill establishes the animal cruelty offense of engaging in,  
25 facilitating, or providing the means to engage in, trunk fighting as a  
26 crime of the third degree. It defines trunk fighting as the practice of  
27 enclosing two or more animals in the trunk of a motor vehicle for  
28 the purpose of the animals attacking each other, and possibly  
29 fighting until one or more of the animals are dead. The bill also  
30 provides civil penalties for the offense.

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35 Establishes trunk fighting as animal cruelty offense and crime of  
36 the third degree.