



General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 932

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 3563



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ANIMALS AND DOGS IN VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Any person who (1) overdrives, drives when overloaded,
4 overworks, tortures, deprives of necessary sustenance, mutilates or
5 cruelly beats or kills or unjustifiably injures any animal, [or who,] (2)
6 having impounded or confined any animal, fails to give such animal
7 proper care or neglects to cage or restrain any such animal from doing
8 injury to itself or to another animal or fails to supply any such animal
9 with wholesome air, food and water, [or] (3) unjustifiably administers
10 any poisonous or noxious drug or substance to any domestic animal or
11 unjustifiably exposes any such drug or substance, with intent that the
12 same shall be taken by an animal, or causes it to be done, [or,] (4)
13 having charge or custody of any animal, inflicts cruelty upon it or fails
14 to provide it with proper food, drink or protection from the weather or
15 abandons it or carries it or causes it to be carried in a cruel manner, or

16 (5) fights with or baits, harasses or worries any animal for the purpose
17 of making it perform for amusement, diversion or exhibition, shall, for
18 a first offense, be fined not more than one thousand dollars or
19 imprisoned not more than one year or both, and for each subsequent
20 offense, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

21 (b) Any person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates,
22 tortures, wounds or kills an animal shall, (1) for a first offense, be
23 guilty of a class D felony, and (2) for any subsequent offense, be guilty
24 of a class C felony. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to
25 any licensed veterinarian while following accepted standards of
26 practice of the profession or to any person while following approved
27 methods of slaughter under section 22-272a, while performing medical
28 research as an employee of, student in or person associated with any
29 hospital, educational institution or laboratory, while following
30 generally accepted agricultural practices or while lawfully engaged in
31 the taking of wildlife.

32 (c) Any person who knowingly (1) owns, possesses, keeps or trains
33 an animal engaged in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain,
34 (2) possesses, keeps or trains an animal with the intent that it be
35 engaged in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain, (3) permits
36 an act described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection to take place
37 on premises under [his] such person's control, (4) acts as judge or
38 spectator at an exhibition of animal fighting for amusement or gain, or
39 (5) bets or wagers on the outcome of an exhibition of animal fighting
40 for amusement or gain, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

41 (d) Any person who intentionally injures or kills any animal while
42 such animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision
43 of a peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally injures or
44 kills a dog that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue
45 team, as defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance
46 of its duties under the supervision of the active individual member of
47 such team, shall be guilty of a class [D] C felony.

48 (e) Any person who intentionally [kills] annoys, teases, torments or
49 otherwise harasses any animal while such animal is confined in a
50 motor vehicle while in the performance of its duties under the
51 supervision of a peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, [or
52 intentionally kills a dog that is a member of a volunteer canine search
53 and rescue team, as defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the
54 performance of its duties under the supervision of the active
55 individual member of such team, shall be fined not more than ten
56 thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both] shall
57 be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

58 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On and after July 1, 2024,
59 emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj of
60 the general statutes, may provide emergency treatment to an animal
61 that is injured in the performance of its duties under the supervision of
62 a peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3 of the general statutes, and
63 transport such animal by ambulance to a veterinary facility equipped
64 to provide emergency treatment to such animal pursuant to
65 regulations adopted under subsection (b) of this section, provided such
66 treatment or transportation may not be provided if it would inhibit the
67 ability of such personnel to provide emergency medical attention or
68 transport to a person requiring such services.

69 (b) Not later than July 1, 2024, the Department of Public Health shall
70 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of
71 the general statutes, regarding (1) training of emergency services
72 personnel in basic level first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and
73 life-saving interventions for such animals; (2) safe handling procedures
74 for such animals; (3) identification of veterinary facilities that provide
75 emergency treatment for such animals; and (4) decontamination and
76 sterilization requirements for equipment and vehicles after transport of
77 such animals.

78 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 20-197 of the general statutes is
79 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
80 *passage*):

81 (a) No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or
82 dentistry until such person has obtained a license as provided in
83 section 20-199. A person shall be construed to practice veterinary
84 medicine, surgery or dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter,
85 who holds himself or herself out as being able to diagnose, administer
86 biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease,
87 pain, injury, deformity or physical condition, or who either offers or
88 undertakes, by any means or methods, to diagnose, administer
89 biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease,
90 pain, injury, deformity or physical condition. The treatment of animals
91 by emergency medical services personnel pursuant to section 2 of this
92 act shall not be deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine. The
93 euthanizing of animals in accordance with applicable state and federal
94 drug laws by the Connecticut Humane Society, the floating of teeth in
95 horses by persons experienced in that practice and the performance of
96 myofascial trigger point therapy by persons experienced in that
97 practice shall not be deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine.
98 For the purposes of this section, (1) "floating teeth" means using hand-
99 held rasps to reduce or eliminate sharp or uneven edges on a horse's
100 upper and lower molars to avoid injury to the tongue and cheeks and
101 to improve chewing food, but does not include treating decay or
102 tumors or extracting teeth, [For the purposes of this section,] (2)
103 "myofascial trigger point therapy" means the use of specific palpation,
104 compression, stretching and corrective exercise for promoting
105 optimum athleticism, and (3) "persons experienced in that practice"
106 means persons who, prior to October 1, 2003, have attended a
107 minimum of two hundred hours of classroom, lecture and hands-on
108 practice in myofascial trigger point therapy, including animal
109 musculoskeletal anatomy and biomechanics, theory and application of
110 animal myofascial trigger point techniques, factors that habituate a
111 presenting condition and corrective exercise.

112 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) For the fiscal year ending June
113 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Emergency
114 Services and Public Protection shall, within available appropriations,

115 administer a grant program to provide law enforcement units that use
116 one or more dogs to perform law enforcement duties as part of a state-
117 wide or municipal canine unit with body armor for such dogs. Not
118 later than October 1, 2023, the department shall post in a conspicuous
119 place on the department's Internet web site a description of the grant
120 program, including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria and the
121 application process for the program. A unit shall apply for such grants
122 on such forms and in such manner as determined by the department.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	53-247
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	20-197(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

PS *Joint Favorable*