

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 231

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BASYE.

0755H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 578.012, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to animal abuse, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 578.012, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 578.012, to read as follows:

578.012. 1. A person commits the offense of animal abuse if he or she:

(1) Intentionally or purposely kills an animal in any manner not allowed by or expressly exempted from the provisions of sections 578.005 to 578.023 and 273.030;

(2) Purposely ~~[or]~~, intentionally, **or knowingly** causes injury or suffering to an animal; or

(3) Having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate care which results in substantial harm to the animal.

2. Animal abuse is a class A misdemeanor, unless ~~[the defendant has previously been found guilty of animal abuse or]~~ the suffering involved in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section is the result of torture or mutilation consciously inflicted while the animal was alive, in which case it is a class E felony. **The offense of animal abuse is a class D felony if the defendant has previously been found guilty of an offense under this section.**

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