

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 39

## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BURNETT.

0983H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

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

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*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Section A. Section 578.012, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 578.012, to read as follows: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 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]~~ **E felony**, 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]~~ **D felony**.

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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.