



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5832

January Session, 2001

AN ACT CONCERNING DAMAGES FOR THE UNLAWFUL KILLING OR INJURING OF COMPANION ANIMALS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) For the purposes of this section, "companion
2 animal" means a domesticated, warm-blooded animal that is normally
3 maintained in or near the household of its owner or keeper and is
4 dependent on a person for food, shelter and veterinary care, but does
5 not include an animal kept for farming or biomedical research
6 practices.

7 (b) Any person who negligently kills or injures a companion animal,
8 except as authorized by law, shall be liable to the owner of such
9 companion animal for economic damages sustained by such owner
10 including, but not limited to, expenses of veterinary care, the fair
11 monetary value of a deceased companion animal and burial expenses
12 for a deceased companion animal.

13 (c) Any person who intentionally or recklessly kills or injures a
14 companion animal, except as authorized by law, shall be liable to the
15 owner of such companion animal for (1) economic damages sustained
16 by such owner including, but not limited to, expenses of veterinary
17 care, the fair monetary value of a deceased companion animal and
18 burial expenses for a deceased companion animal, and (2)
19 noneconomic damages sustained by such owner, in an amount not to

20 exceed the jurisdictional monetary limit established by subsection (d)
21 of section 51-15 of the general statutes, including, but not limited to,
22 mental and emotional suffering and damages for the loss of the
23 reasonably expected society, companionship, affection and services of
24 such companion animal. The provisions of subdivision (2) of this
25 subsection shall not be applicable to a veterinarian licensed pursuant
26 to chapter 384 of the general statutes.

27 Sec. 2. Section 22-351 of the general statutes is repealed and the
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

29 Any person who steals, confines or conceals any dog, or who, with
30 the intention of stealing such dog or concealing its identity or the
31 identity of its owner or with the intention of concealing the fact that
32 the dog is licensed, removes the collar or harness or tag from any
33 licensed dog, or who unlawfully kills or injures any dog, shall be fined
34 not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six
35 months or both, and shall also be liable to the owner in a civil action,
36 except that, if such person unlawfully kills or injures any dog, such
37 person shall be liable to the owner in a civil action as provided in
38 section 1 of this act. For a second offense, or for an offense involving
39 more than one dog, any such person shall be fined not more than five
40 hundred dollars or imprisoned not less than one year nor more than
41 three years or be both fined and imprisoned.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*