



**Senate Bill No. 339**

**Public Act No. 24-65**

***AN ACT REQUIRING RESTITUTION WHEN A POLICE ANIMAL OR DOG IN A VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM IS INJURED OR KILLED.***

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

Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 53-247 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(d) Any person who intentionally injures any animal while such animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally injures a dog that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of the active individual member of such team, shall be guilty of a class D felony, and shall be required to pay restitution to the law enforcement unit, entity or individual that owns such animal or dog. Such restitution may include, but need not be limited to, the cost of veterinary services for the injured animal or dog and, if such animal or dog is rendered unable to perform its duties, the costs and expenses of the purchase and training of a replacement animal or dog.

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(e) Any person who intentionally kills any animal while such animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally kills a dog that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of the active individual member of such team, shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both, and shall be required to pay restitution to the law enforcement unit, entity or individual that owned such animal or dog. Such restitution may include, but need not be limited to, the costs and expenses of the purchase and training of a replacement animal or dog.

Approved May 28, 2024