

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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4609

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2021

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Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to estab-  
lishing animals as sentient beings

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-  
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 382 to read as follows:

3 § 382. Animals as sentient beings. The Legislature finds and declares  
4 that animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, stress,  
5 and fear. It is the policy of New York that, in order to protect animals  
6 from experiencing pain, stress, or fear at human hands, animals are to  
7 be treated humanely. For that reason, animals shall be considered the  
8 victims of animal cruelty crimes and shall be treated as such in a court  
9 of law.

10 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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