

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1558

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2021

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 increasing certain penalties for violating the prohibition of animal fighting and for aggravated cruelty to animals

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

1 Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 2 of section 351 of  
2 the agriculture and markets law, as amended by chapter 190 of the laws  
3 of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

4 Any person who engages in any of the following conduct is guilty of a  
5 felony punishable by imprisonment for a period not to exceed [~~four~~] six  
6 years, or by a fine not to exceed [~~twenty-five~~] thirty thousand dollars,  
7 or by both such fine and imprisonment:

8 § 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 3 of section 351 of the agriculture  
9 and markets law, as added by chapter 150 of the laws of 1984, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 (a) Any person who engages in conduct specified in paragraph (b) of  
12 this subdivision is guilty of a [~~misdemeanor~~] felony and is punishable  
13 by imprisonment for a period not to exceed [~~one-year~~] four years, or by  
14 a fine not to exceed [~~fifteen~~] twenty thousand dollars, or by both such  
15 fine and imprisonment.

16 § 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 351 of the agriculture  
17 and markets law, as added by chapter 150 of the laws of 1984, is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 (a) Any person who engages in conduct specified in paragraph (b)  
20 [~~hereof~~] of this subdivision is guilty of a [~~misdemeanor~~] felony and is  
21 punishable by imprisonment for a period not to exceed [~~one-year~~] two  
22 years, or by a fine not to exceed [~~one~~] ten thousand dollars, or by both  
23 such fine and imprisonment.

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

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§ 4. Subdivision 3 of section 353-a of the agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 118 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

3. Aggravated cruelty to animals is a felony. A defendant convicted of this offense shall be sentenced [~~pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 55.10 of the penal law provided, however, that any term of imprisonment imposed for violation of this section shall be a definite sentence, which may not exceed two years~~] to a period of imprisonment not to exceed four years, by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or by both such fine and imprisonment. In addition to any other penalty provided by law, the court shall order any defendant convicted of this offense, including a defendant who has been adjudicated a youthful offender, to undergo a psychiatric evaluation by a qualified mental health professional and may require that such person, at his or her own expense, enter and complete any treatment or program deemed necessary to treat any mental disease, mental defect or mental condition, which may have caused or contributed to such offense.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.