STATE OF NEW YORK

250

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SEPULVEDA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to aggravated cruelty to animals

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

Section 1. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 353-a of the agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 118 of the laws of 1999, are amended to read as follows:

1. A person is guilty of aggravated cruelty to animals when, with no justifiable purpose, [~~he or she~~] **such person** intentionally kills or intentionally causes serious physical injury to a companion animal **or wildlife, as defined in subdivision six of section 11-0103 of the environmental conservation law, other than insects,** with aggravated cruelty. For purposes of this section, "aggravated cruelty" shall mean conduct which: (i) is intended to cause extreme physical pain; or (ii) is done or carried out in an especially depraved or sadistic manner.

2. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit or interfere in any way with anyone lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping, [~~or~~] fishing, **or taking** as provided in article eleven of the environmental conservation law, **activities deemed to be sound agricultural practices pursuant to section three hundred eight of this chapter, or reasonable activities for the purpose of managing pests that is in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations,** the dispatch of rabid or diseased animals, as provided in article twenty-one of the public health law, or the dispatch of animals posing a threat to human safety or other animals, where such action is otherwise legally authorized, or any properly conducted scientific tests, experiments, or investigations involving the use of living animals, performed or conducted in laboratories or institutions approved for such purposes by

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

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the commissioner of health pursuant to section three hundred fifty-three of this article.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.