STATE OF NEW YORK

10119

IN ASSEMBLY

February 2, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. CLARK -- 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, overdriving, torturing and injuring animals and for aggravated cruelty to animals, and establishing an animal abuser registry

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

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

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

§ 2. The opening paragraph of section 353 of the agriculture and markets law, as amended by chapter 523 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

A person who overdrives, overloads, tortures or cruelly beats or unjustifiably injures, maims, mutilates or kills any animal, whether wild or tame, and whether belonging to [~~himself~~] **such person** or to another, or deprives any animal of necessary sustenance, food or drink, or neglects or refuses to furnish it such sustenance or drink, or causes, procures or permits any animal to be overdriven, overloaded, tortured, cruelly beaten, or unjustifiably injured, maimed, mutilated or killed, or to be deprived of necessary food or drink, or who wilfully sets on foot, instigates, engages in, or in any way furthers any act of cruelty to any animal, or any act tending to produce such cruelty, is guilty of a [~~class A~~] misdemeanor **punishable by imprisonment for a period not to exceed three hundred sixty-four days and by a fine of eight hundred fifty dollars,** and for purposes of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 160.10 of the criminal procedure law, shall be treated as a misdemeanor defined in the penal law.

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

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§ 3. 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~~] punishable by imprisonment for a period not to exceed seven years and by a fine of twenty thousand dollars.

§ 4. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new section 353-g to read as follows:

§ 353-g. Animal abuser registry. 1. For purposes of this section, the term "animal abuser" means a person over sixteen years of age who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor violation of any provision of this article or of the comparable statutes of another state.

2. Any animal abuser physically within the boundaries of this state for more than ten consecutive days shall register with the county sheriff for the county in which the animal abuser is located before the end of the eleventh day in the state.

3. Any previously registered animal abuser shall reregister with the county sheriff for the county in which the animal abuser is located no later than ten days after moving to a new location within the state.

4. When an animal abuser registers with the county sheriff, the animal abuser shall provide the following registration information:

(a) the legal name and any other names or aliases that the animal abuser is using or has used;

(b) the date of birth of the animal abuser;

(c) the social security number of the animal abuser;

(d) the current address or location of the animal abuser;

(e) the place of employment of the animal abuser;

(f) the animal protection offense for which the animal abuser was convicted; and

(g) the date and place of the animal protection offense conviction of the animal abuser.

5. When an animal abuser registers with a county sheriff, the sheriff shall obtain:

(a) a photograph of the animal abuser and a complete set of the animal abuser's fingerprints; and

(b) a description of any tattoos, scars or other distinguishing features on the animal abuser's body that would assist in identifying the animal abuser.

6. Following an animal abuser's initial registration pursuant to the provisions of this section, an animal abuser shall annually renew the animal abuser's registration with the county sheriff prior to December thirty-first of each subsequent calendar year for a period of seven years from the animal abuser's date of conviction or release from incarceration for the underlying violation of this article, whichever is later. An animal abuser who is convicted of a subsequent felony or misdemeanor violation of any provision of this article or of the comparable statutes of another state shall be required to annually renew such animal abuser's registration with the county sheriff prior to December thirty-first of each subsequent calendar year for the rest of their life.

7. An animal abuser who intentionally or knowingly fails to comply with the registration requirements, or provides false information when

complying with the registration requirements set forth in this section, is guilty of a class E felony.

8. Each county sheriff shall maintain a local registry of animal abusers in the sheriff's jurisdiction required to register pursuant to this section.

9. The county sheriff shall forward all registration information obtained from animal abusers to the New York state division of criminal justice services.

10. Within ten days of receiving initial registration information from an animal abuser, the county sheriff shall contact every residence, school, humane society, animal shelter and any other business within a half mile radius of the animal abuser's residence or location and provide them with the animal abuser's registration information, with the exception of the animal abuser's social security number.

11. The New York state division of criminal justice services shall maintain a central registry of animal abusers required to register pursuant to the provisions of this section. The central registry of animal abusers shall be made available to the public through internet access, telephone access, written access and in-person access. All of the information contained in an animal abuser's registration, with the exception of the animal abuser's social security number, shall be made available. Records of each animal abuser's registration shall be maintained for the duration of the period in which the animal abuser is required to be registered.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.