

By: Ordaz, Leach, Meyer, Moody, Cook, et al.

H.B. No. 285

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prosecution of the offense of cruelty to nonlivestock animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 42.092, Penal Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(b) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, ~~or~~ recklessly, or with criminal negligence:

(1) tortures an animal or in a cruel manner kills or causes serious bodily injury to an animal;

(2) without the owner's effective consent, kills, administers poison to, or causes serious bodily injury to an animal;

(3) fails unreasonably to provide necessary food, water, care, or shelter for an animal in the person's custody;

(4) abandons unreasonably an animal in the person's custody;

(5) transports or confines an animal in a cruel manner;

(6) without the owner's effective consent, causes bodily injury to an animal;

(7) causes one animal to fight with another animal, if either animal is not a dog;

1 (8) uses a live animal as a lure in dog race training
2 or in dog coursing on a racetrack; or

3 (9) seriously overworks an animal.

4 (d-1) It is a defense to prosecution for alleged criminal
5 negligence that the conduct occurred during the actual discharge of
6 the actor's duties while employed as a veterinarian licensed under
7 Chapter 801, Occupations Code, or as a person assisting the
8 veterinarian.

9 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
10 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
11 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
12 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
13 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
14 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
15 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
16 before that date.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.