

By: Ordaz

H.B. No. 736

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 42.092(b), Penal Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (8) uses a live animal as a lure in dog race training

1 or in dog coursing on a racetrack; or

2 (9) seriously overworks an animal.

3 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
4 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
5 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
6 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
7 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
8 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
9 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
10 before that date.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.