

By: Ordaz

H.B. No. 285

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, Penal Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as  
7 follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (7) causes one animal to fight with another animal, if  
24 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.