

HB249 INTRODUCED



1 HB249
2 8A1XHHH-1
3 By Representatives Colvin, Stadthagen
4 RFD: Agriculture and Forestry
5 First Read: 11-Feb-25

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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, an individual commits the
6 crime of cruelty to a dog or cat when he or she takes
7 certain actions. The law also defines the term "cruel"
8 to include abandonment of a dog or cat for purposes of
9 committing this crime.

10 This bill would specifically prohibit the
11 abandonment of a dog or cat and provide a criminal
12 penalty for a violation.

13 This bill would also make nonsubstantive,
14 technical revisions to update the existing code
15 language to current style.

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18 A BILL
19 TO BE ENTITLED
20 AN ACT
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22 Relating to dogs and cats; to amend Sections 13A-11-240
23 and 13A-11-243, Code of Alabama 1975, to define the term
24 "abandon;" to provide for the enforcement of the crime of
25 abandonment of a dog or cat; to make nonsubstantive, technical
26 revisions to update the existing code language to current
27 style; to add Section 13A-11-241.1 to the Code of Alabama
28 1975, to prohibit a person from abandoning a dog or cat; and



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to provide criminal penalties for violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 13A-11-240 and 13A-11-243, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§13A-11-240

~~(a) The word "torture" as used in this article shall mean the act of doing physical injury to a dog or cat by the infliction of inhumane treatment or gross physical abuse meant to cause said animal intensive or prolonged pain or serious physical injury, or thereby causing death due to said act.~~

~~(b) The word "cruel" as used in this article shall mean:~~

For purposes of this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) ABANDON. To forsake entirely or leave a dog or cat at a location without providing minimum reasonable care.

(2) CRUEL. Every act, omission, or neglect, ~~including abandonment,~~ where unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering, ~~including abandonment,~~ is caused or where unnecessary pain or suffering is allowed to continue.

~~(c) The words "dog or cat" as used in this article shall mean any~~ (3) DOG or CAT. Any domesticated member of the dog or cat family.

(4) TORTURE. The act of doing physical injury to a dog or cat by the infliction of inhumane treatment or gross physical abuse that causes the dog or cat intensive or prolonged pain or serious physical injury, or thereby causing death."



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"§13A-11-243

(a) Any law enforcement officer ~~and any~~ or agent of ~~the~~
a county or ~~the~~ municipality appointed pursuant to Section
13A-11-242, ~~having reasonable belief, evidence of, or having~~
~~found a dog or cat to be neglected or cruelly treated~~ that has
a reasonable belief of, has evidence of, or observes a
violation of this article may ~~perform~~ do either of the
following:

(1) Remove the dog or cat from its present location.

(2) Order the owner of the dog or cat to provide
certain care to the dog or cat at the owner's expense without
the removal of the dog or cat from its present location.

(b) Neither the county or municipality, nor any
employee or agent of the county or municipality, acting in
good faith, shall be liable for any actions taken under this
section, regardless of whether or not the dog or cat is
returned to its owner after impoundment."

Section 2. Section 13A-11-241.1 is added to the Code of
Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§13A-11-241.1

(a) A person commits the crime of abandonment of a dog
or cat if he or she, with criminal negligence, abandons a dog
or cat.

(b) Abandonment of a dog or cat is a Class A
misdemeanor.

Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
1, 2025.