

or (iii) except in the case of self-defense, intentionally inflicts bodily harm, disability, or death on an animal used by a law enforcement unit, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or by imprisonment not to exceed 3 years, or both.

(2) As a condition of sentence for a person convicted under paragraph (1) of this subsection, a court may order the person to participate in psychological counseling that is to be paid for by the person.

(c) Customary and normal veterinary and agricultural husbandry practices including but not limited to dehorning, castration, docking tails, and limit feeding, are not covered by the provisions of this section. In the case of activities in which physical pain may unavoidably be caused to animals, such as food processing, pest elimination, animal training, and hunting, cruelty shall mean a failure to employ the most humane method reasonably available. It is the intention of the General Assembly that all animals, whether they be privately owned, strays, domesticated, feral, farm, corporately or institutionally owned, under private, local, State, or federally funded scientific or medical activities, or otherwise being situated in Maryland shall be protected from intentional cruelty, but that no person shall be liable for criminal prosecution for normal human activities to which the infliction of pain to an animal is purely incidental and unavoidable.]

59.

(A) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT ALL ANIMALS BE PROTECTED FROM INTENTIONAL CRUELTY IF THEY ARE:

- (1) PRIVATELY OWNED;
- (2) STRAYS;
- (3) DOMESTICATED;
- (4) FERAL;
- (5) FARM ANIMALS;
- (6) CORPORATELY OR INSTITUTIONALLY OWNED;

(7) IN PRIVATELY, LOCALLY, STATE, OR FEDERALLY FUNDED SCIENTIFIC OR MEDICAL ACTIVITIES; OR

- (8) OTHERWISE LOCATED IN THE STATE.

(B) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT:

- (I) OVERDRIVE OR OVERLOAD AN ANIMAL;
- (II) DEPRIVE AN ANIMAL OF NECESSARY SUSTENANCE;

(III) CAUSE, PROCURE, OR AUTHORIZE AN ACT PROHIBITED IN ITEM (I) OR ITEM (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH;