



**House Agriculture and Forestry Reported Substitute
for HB249**

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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to dogs and cats; to amend Sections 13A-11-240 and 13A-11-243, Code of Alabama 1975, to define the term "abandon;" to provide for the enforcement of the crime of abandonment of a dog or cat; to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style; to add Section 13A-11-241.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit a person from abandoning a dog or cat; and 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



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29 the following meanings:

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

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

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

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

44 "§13A-11-243

45 (a) Any law enforcement officer ~~and any or~~ agent of ~~the~~
46 a county or ~~the~~ municipality appointed pursuant to Section
47 13A-11-242, ~~having reasonable belief, evidence of, or having~~
48 ~~found a dog or cat to be neglected or cruelly treated~~ that has
49 a reasonable belief of, has evidence of, or observes a
50 violation of this article may ~~perform~~ do either of the
51 following:

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

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

56 (b) Neither the county or municipality, nor any



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57 employee or agent of the county or municipality, acting in
58 good faith, shall be liable for any actions taken under this
59 section, regardless of whether or not the dog or cat is
60 returned to its owner after impoundment."

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

63 §13A-11-241.1

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

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

69 (c) This section shall not apply to a person who
70 captures a feral cat to be vaccinated, spayed, or neutered and
71 then releases the feral cat after being vaccinated, spayed, or
72 neutered in the same location from which the feral cat was
73 captured.

74 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
75 1, 2025.