WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1988

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ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 4133

(By Delegates Sivera & Humphrey)

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Passed March 11, 1988

In Effect Ninety Days After Passage
AN ACT to amend article eight, chapter sixty-one of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated section nineteen-a, relating to acts of cruelty to dogs and cats; prohibiting certain acts with respect thereto, including, but not limited to, prohibiting the pitting of such animals against each other in fights; and prescribing penalties for violations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article eight, chapter sixty-one of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section nineteen-a, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 8. CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY, MORALITY, AND DECENCY.

§61-8-19a. Cruelty to dogs and cats prohibited; pitting such animals in fights against each other prohibited; penalties.

1 If any person shall cruelly, or needlessly beat, torture, torment, mutilate, kill or willfully deprive necessary sustenance, to any dog or cat, irrespective of whether any such dog or cat be his or her own or that of another person, or if any such person shall impound or confine any such dog or cat in any place unprotected from the elements or fail to supply the same with a sufficient
quantity of food and water, or shall abandon to die any maimed, sick, or diseased dog or cat or shall be engaged in or employed at dogfighting, or pitting one dog or cat to fight against another dog or cat or any similar cruelty to any dog or cat, or shall receive money for the admission of any person, or shall knowingly purchase an admission, to any place kept for such purpose, or shall use, train or possess a dog or cat for the purpose of seizing, detaining, or maltreating any other dog or cat, he or she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than one hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, and in addition thereto, in the discretion of the court or magistrate, may be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding thirty days, and the county humane officer may remove the dog or cat involved and place said animal in the county pound.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within Approved this the 30th day of ......... 1988.

Governor