

By Mr. Piro of Somerville, petition of Vincent J. Piro for legislation to further protect dogs and other animals from cruelty. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-One.

AN ACT TO FURTHER PROTECT DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS FROM CRUELTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out section 77, as most recently amended by chapter 921 of the acts
3 of 1977, and inserting in place thereof the following section: —

4 *Section 77.* Whoever overdrives, overloads, drives when over-
5 loaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary suste-
6 nance, cruelly beats, mutilates or kills an animal, or causes or
7 procures an animal to be overdriven, overloaded, driven when
8 overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of neces-
9 sary sustenance, cruelly beaten, mutilated or killed; and whoever
10 uses in a cruel or inhuman manner in a race, game, or contest, or in
11 training therefor, as lure or bait a live animal, except an animal if
12 used as lure or bait in fishing; and whoever, having the charge or
13 custody of an animal, either as owner or otherwise, inflicts cruelty
14 upon it, or fails to provide it with sufficient, good and wholesome
15 food and water as often as the feeding habits of such animals
16 require, a clean shelter for the well-being of such animals shall be
17 maintained at all times and protection from extremes of the weath-
18 er so as not to expose such animals to excessive heat, cold, or
19 sunlight, driving rain or snow, and whoever as owner, possessor, or
20 person having the charge or custody of an animal, cruelly drives or
21 works it when unfit for labor, or recklessly abandons it, or carries it
22 or causes it to be carried in or upon a vehicle, or otherwise, in a
23 cruel or inhuman manner or in a way and manner which might en-
24 danger the animal carried thereon, or authorizes or permits it to be

25 subjected to torture, suffering or cruelty of any kind shall be pun-
 26 ished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or by impris-
 27 onment for not more than one year, or both.