

By: Senator(s) Huggins, Gordon

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2926

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS FOR THE CHAPTER ON CRUELTY TO
2 ANIMALS; TO PROVIDE THAT NOTHING IN THE CHAPTER SHALL BE CONSTRUED
3 TO PROHIBIT CUSTOMARY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FARMING PRACTICES; AND
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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7 SECTION 1. For the purpose of this chapter, the following
8 words shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context
9 clearly requires otherwise:

10 (a) "Abandon" or "abandonment" means that an owner or
11 custodian of an animal has moved leaving an animal behind without
12 making provisions for its care, has carried an animal away from
13 his or her property and intentionally deserted the animal, has
14 forced the animal to leave, or has otherwise neglected or refused
15 to provide an animal with sustenance and humane care.

16 (b) "Animal" includes every living vertebrate.

17 (c) "Cruelty," "torture," or "torment" includes every
18 act, omission, or neglect whereby unnecessary or unjustifiable
19 pain or suffering is caused.

20 (d) "Diseased" means deviated from a healthy or normal
21 condition of any of the functions or tissues of the body; an
22 alteration in the state of the body or some of its organs;
23 interrupted or disturbed performance of the vital functions
24 causing or threatening pain or weakness; suffering from an illness
25 or an abnormal state having a definite pattern of symptoms.

26 (e) "Euthanize" or "euthanasia" means the humane
27 killing of an animal by a licensed veterinarian, or by an animal
28 control officer, a law enforcement officer, or an agent of a

29 society for the prevention of cruelty, by means of a method
30 recognized by the American and Mississippi Veterinary Medical
31 Association as humane.

32 (f) "Injury" or "injured" means physical damage or harm
33 inflicted or suffered.

34 (g) "Neglect" means an owner or custodian of an animal
35 omits, fails, disregards or refuses to provide that which is
36 necessary sustenance or protection for the well-being of the
37 animal.

38 (h) "Owner," "person," and "custodian" include
39 corporations, and the knowledge and acts of agents and employees
40 of corporations in regard to animals transported, owned, employed
41 by, or in the custody of a corporation.

42 (i) "Sanitary conditions" means living space free from
43 health hazards such as accumulated animal excreta, exposure to
44 disease and overcrowding that endanger an animal's well-being.

45 (j) "Shelter" means appropriate protection or housing
46 from discomfort and the elements, suitable for the age, breed and
47 species of an animal to sustain the animal in good health.

48 (k) "Sustenance" or "care" means the provision of
49 sufficient and appropriate wholesome food and unpolluted water,
50 shelter, sanitary conditions, veterinary medical attention and
51 necessary grooming to maintain an animal's well-being.

52 SECTION 2. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to
53 prohibit the lawful killing of livestock, any customary animal
54 husbandry or farming practice involving livestock, or the lawful
55 killing and use of an animal pursuant to fish and wildlife
56 regulations, pest control, or scientific research that is being
57 conducted in compliance with federal regulations.

58 SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 shall be codified in Chapter 41
59 of Title 97, Mississippi Code of 1972.

60 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after July 1, 1999.