
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 449 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MARKOSEK, MADDEN, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, CIRESI, HILL-
EVANS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, FLEMING, KIM AND GILLEN,
MARCH 16, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 16, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in riot, disorderly conduct and
3 related offenses, providing for the offense of kidnapping of
4 animals.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 5539.1. Kidnapping of animals.

10 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if the
11 person:

12 (1) intentionally, knowingly or recklessly takes, sells
13 or purchases any dog, cat, equine animal, swine or cattle for
14 resale to another, use in a laboratory or for animal
15 fighting; or

16 (2) intentionally, knowingly or recklessly takes or
17 carries away any dog, cat or equine animal without permission
18 for a special or temporary purpose.

1 (b) Grading.--An offense under subsection (a) shall be
2 graded as follows:

3 (1) An offense under subsection (a)(1) is a felony of
4 the third degree and a second or subsequent offense under
5 subsection (a)(1) is a felony of the second degree.

6 (2) An offense under subsection (a)(2) is a misdemeanor
7 of the third degree and a second or subsequent offense under
8 subsection (a)(2) is a misdemeanor of the second degree.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.