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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Introduced By: Representatives Amore, and Hearn

Date Introduced: April 07, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

(by request)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 4-1-21 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-1 entitled "Cruelty to  
2 Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **4-1-21. Powers of agents of society for prevention of cruelty to animals. --** The  
4 general agent of the Rhode Island society for the prevention of cruelty to animals and any number  
5 of special agents as may be appointed by that society have the same power and authority to arrest  
6 as any officer authorized to serve criminal process for the purpose of enforcing any of the laws of  
7 this state in relation to cruelty to animals, that power and authority to extend throughout the state,  
8 and they may serve any search warrant issued under § 4-1-19 and may search any building or  
9 place named in that warrant. A general agent and any special agents [licensed pursuant to §§11-](#)  
10 [47-11, 11-47-12 or 11-47-18](#) may, for the purpose of carrying out their duties, possess and carry  
11 pistols as defined in § 11-47-2, ~~and the provisions of § 11-47-8 shall not apply to them.~~ Any  
12 person who interferes with or obstructs any of those agents in the discharge of their duty shall be  
13 guilty of obstructing an officer and punished as provided in § 11-32-1.

14           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would require and general agents or special agents for Rhode Island Society for  
2 the prevention of cruelty to animals to apply and have a permit to carry a concealed firearm  
3 before doing so in the execution of their duties.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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