KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION **KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY** **Commonwealth Bill**	**Blue | CW 57** **Referred to Committee: Senate 2**
Authors: Stephen Clark, Clay Greenwell	**Action on the Bill**
School: Thomas Nelson HS	House: ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated Senate: ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated
City: Bardstown	

An act to increase punishment on Animal Abuse charges.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: Whereas animal cruelty charges in Kentucky are at most a Class D felony with a $1,000 fine or 1 year in jail, we do not feel as if this is a harsh enough punishment. As a moderate punishment (3+ times) the punishment by law will be $7,000 and/or 4 year jail time. Along with harsher punishments, we also feel an animal abuser list is necessary to keep animals out of the hands of multiple offenders. This list would be shared with al veterinaries and animal shelters in the states.

Section 2: Kentucky was named the top state in animal abuse rates for 9 years in a row and have been in the top 10 since 2002.

Section 3: Increasing the punishment for animal abuse will more than likely change the fact that we are last in the country when it comes to animal safety.

Section 4: Our bordering states of Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia are all in the top tier when it comes to animal abuse rates (Illinois even coming in top in the nations), while Ohio, Tennessee, and Missouri are in the middle tier. We should not be that out of place when it comes to our neighboring states.

Section 5: This bill will go into effect January 1st, 2017