

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Commonwealth Bill	Blue CW 11						
	Referred to Committee: House 1						
Authors: Trey Stansfield, Clay Hardigree, Amanda Houston, Caroline Antle	Action on the Bill						
School: Martha Layne Collins HS							
City: Shelbyville							
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">House</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
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1 An act to Provide Stricter Punishments for Animal Cruelty in Kentucky

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

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5 Section 1: According to the Legal Animal Defense Fund, Kentucky ranked at 50th place for the worst
6 animal cruelty laws nine years in a row. Additionally, about 90% of serial killers admit to hurting
7 animals before they harm humans. In Kentucky, animal cruelty is categorized as a class D felony, which
8 includes a minimum of 1 year in prison and a minimum fine of \$1000. This is further undermined by the
9 fact that criminals in Kentucky on average only serve around 1/3rd of their sentence. If this bill is
10 passed, stricter punishments will be allotted for the act of animal cruelty such as making animal cruelty
11 a class C felony, which would increase the maximum sentence to 10 years. Our bill will help Kentucky by
12 showing that animal abuse is a serious offense that will not be tolerated, and by taking away animal
13 abuser's chances of harming animals.

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15 Section 2: If a case of animal cruelty is reported, that person will be investigated by the police or other
16 local authorities and if proven guilty will be sentenced to a punishment. Our bill will be enforced by the
17 police, who will carry out an investigation in the manner of which they already do; in addition, the
18 public may report animal abuse or signs of animal abuse to their local authorities. Signs of animal
19 abuse may include, but are not limited to; obvious wounds, being noticeably underweight, or having
20 bones that are clearly visible.

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22 Section 3: To fund this bill, we will take a very minimal amount from the funds raised by the selling of
23 animal licenses. These funds will pay for the extra time animal abusers stay in prison. In addition, our
24 bill would increase the punishments for animal cruelty to a class C felony. This would increase the
25 minimum sentence to 5 years in prison, while keeping the minimum fine of \$1000.

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27 Section 4: This bill will take effect at the beginning of 2017.