

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 510

SENATE BILL NO. 487

By Raymond Finney

Substituted for: House Bill No. 953

By Maggart, Lynn, Casada, DuBois, Floyd, Watson, Gresham, Harwell, Eldridge

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, relative to criminal offenses against animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

39-14-213. (a) A person commits an offense who knowingly:

(1) Engages in any sexual activity with an animal;

(2) Causes, aids, or abets another person to engage in any sexual activity with an animal;

(3) Permits any sexual activity with an animal to be conducted on any premises under his or her charge or control;

(4) Engages in, organizes, promotes, conducts, advertises, aids, abets, participates in as an observer, or performs any service in the furtherance of an act involving any sexual activity with an animal for a commercial or recreational purpose; or

(5) Photographs or films, for purposes of sexual gratification, a person engaged in a sexual activity with an animal.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class E felony.

(c) In addition to the penalty imposed in subsection (b) of this section, the court may order that the convicted person do any of the following:

(1) Not harbor or own animals or reside in any household where animals are present;

(2) Participate in appropriate counseling at the defendant's expense; or

(3) Reimburse the animal shelter or humane society for any reasonable costs incurred for the care and maintenance of any animals

taken to the animal shelter or humane society as a result of conduct proscribed in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Nothing in this section may be considered to prohibit accepted animal husbandry practices or accepted veterinary medical practices.

(e) If the court has reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of this section has occurred, the court may order the seizure of all animals involved in the alleged violation as a condition of bond of a person charged with a violation.

(f) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Animal" has the same meaning as the term is defined in § 63-12-103;

(2) "Photographs" or "films" means the making of a photograph, motion picture film, videotape, digital image, or any other recording, sale, or transmission of the image; and

(3) "Sexual activity" means physical sexual contact between the person and the animal.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: June 7, 2007



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 25th day of June 2007



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR