

A007-0708

An Act Concerning

10 **Participation In Dog Fights – Attendance, Participation, and Training**

20 FOR the purposes of stiffer penalties for the attendance and participation in dog fighting.

30 BY repealing, and reenacting, with amendments,
40 Article – Crimes Relating to Animals
50 10-607, 10-605, 10-611

60 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE,
70 That the Laws of Maryland reads as follows:

80 **§ 10-607. Same - Certain activities related to dogfights prohibited.**

90 (a) *Prohibited activities.*- A person may not:

100 (1) use or allow a dog to be used in a dogfight;

110 (2) arrange or conduct a dogfight;

120 (3) PURCHASE, possess, own, sell, transport, or train a dog with the intent to use the dog in a
130 dogfight; ~~or~~

140 (4) PURCHASE, POSSESS, OWN, SELL, OR TRANSPORT AN ANIMAL TO USE IN
150 TRAINING A DOG TO FIGHT; OR

160 ~~(4)~~ (5) knowingly allow premises under the person's ownership, charge, or control to be used to
170 conduct a dogfight.

180 (b) *Penalty.*-

190 (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated cruelty to animals
200 and on conviction is subject to imprisonment FOR A TERM OF NO LESS THAN 2 YEARS
210 AND NOT EXCEEDING 10 YEARS AND A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000.. ~~not~~
220 ~~exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.~~

230 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant convicted of violating this
240 section to participate in and pay for psychological counseling.

250 **§ 10-605. Attending dogfights or cockfights.**

260 (a) *Dogfighting.*- A person may not knowingly attend a deliberately conducted dogfight as a
270 spectator.

280 (b) *Cockfighting.*- A person may not knowingly attend as a spectator a deliberately conducted
290 event that uses a fowl, cock, or other bird to fight with another fowl, cock, or other bird.

300 (c) *Penalty.*-

310 (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to
320 imprisonment not exceeding ~~90~~ 180 days or a fine ~~not exceeding \$1,000~~ NOT LESS THAN
330 \$1,000 AND NOT EXCEEDING \$2,500, or both

340 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant convicted of violating this
350 section to participate in and pay for psychological counseling.

360 **§ 10-611. Killing of dog or cat - Prohibited means.**

370 (a) *Prohibited.*- A person may not kill or allow a dog or cat to be killed by use of:

380 (1) a decompression chamber;

390 (2) carbon monoxide gas; ~~or~~

400 (3) curariform drugs;

410 (4) ELECTROCUTION;

420 (5) HANGING; OR

430 (6) DROWNING.

440 (7) ANY MANNER NOT CARRIED OUT BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN OR ANYONE ACTING
450 FOR THE PUBLIC'S SAFETY

460 (b) *Penalty.*- A person who violates this section is guilty of a ~~misdemeanor~~ FELONY OF
470 AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS and on conviction is subject to a SENTENCE OF
480 NO LESS THAN 6 MONTHS OR A fine not exceeding ~~\$500~~ \$1000.

490 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1,
500 2009.

510 **MANDATES:** Martin O'Malley, Governor
520 Michael Busch, Speaker of the House
530 Kumar Barve, Houes Majority Leader
540 Anthony O'Donnell, House Minority Leader
550 Edward Kasemeyer, Senate Majority Leader
560 David Brinkley, Senate Minority Leader

SPONSOR:
Paul R Schuman,
Co-DCP, UMBC