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LC00166  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, McBurney, and Doyle

Date Introduced: January 13, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 41-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 41 entitled "Cruelty to  
2 Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **4-1-3. Unnecessary cruelty.** -- (a) Every owner, possessor, or person having the charge  
4 or custody of any animal, who cruelly drives or works that animal when unfit for labor, or cruelly  
5 abandons that animal, or who carries that animal, or causes that animal to be carried, in or upon  
6 any vehicle or otherwise in a cruel or inhuman manner, or willfully, intentionally, maliciously,  
7 recklessly, and/or knowingly authorizes or permits that animal to be subjected to unnecessary  
8 torture, suffering or cruelty of any kind, or who places or causes to have placed on any animal  
9 any substance that may produce irritation or pain, or that is declared a hazardous substance by the  
10 U.S. food and drug administration or by the state department of health, shall be punished for each  
11 offense in the manner provided in section 4-1-2.

12           (b) The substances proscribed by subsection (a) do not include any drug having curative  
13 and therapeutic effect for disease in animals and which is prepared and intended for veterinary  
14 use.

15           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 expand the scope of the provisions against unnecessary cruelty to animals.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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