

1-1 By: Ordaz, et al. (Senate Sponsor - West, et al.) H.B. No. 285  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2025;  
1-3 May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal  
1-4 Justice; May 21, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 21, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the prosecution of the offense of cruelty to  
1-18 nonlivestock animals.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 42.092, Penal Code, is amended by  
1-21 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as  
1-22 follows:

1-23 (b) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally,  
1-24 knowingly, ~~or~~ recklessly, or with criminal negligence:

1-25 (1) tortures an animal or in a cruel manner kills or  
1-26 causes serious bodily injury to an animal;

1-27 (2) without the owner's effective consent, kills,  
1-28 administers poison to, or causes serious bodily injury to an  
1-29 animal;

1-30 (3) fails unreasonably to provide necessary food,  
1-31 water, care, or shelter for an animal in the person's custody;

1-32 (4) abandons unreasonably an animal in the person's  
1-33 custody;

1-34 (5) transports or confines an animal in a cruel  
1-35 manner;

1-36 (6) without the owner's effective consent, causes  
1-37 bodily injury to an animal;

1-38 (7) causes one animal to fight with another animal, if  
1-39 either animal is not a dog;

1-40 (8) uses a live animal as a lure in dog race training  
1-41 or in dog coursing on a racetrack; or

1-42 (9) seriously overworks an animal.

1-43 (d-1) It is a defense to prosecution for alleged criminal  
1-44 negligence that the conduct occurred during the actual discharge of  
1-45 the actor's duties while employed as a veterinarian licensed under  
1-46 Chapter 801, Occupations Code, or as a person assisting the  
1-47 veterinarian.

1-48 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
1-49 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
1-50 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
1-51 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
1-52 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
1-53 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
1-54 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
1-55 before that date.

1-56 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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