

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to police dogs, fire dogs, SAR
 3 dogs, and police horses; amending s. 843.19,
 4 F.S.; prohibiting intentionally and knowingly,
 5 without justification, causing great bodily
 6 harm to or using a deadly weapon upon a police
 7 dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse;
 8 prohibiting actually and intentionally
 9 maliciously touching, striking, or causing
 10 bodily harm to a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog,
 11 or police horse; prohibiting maliciously
 12 harassing, teasing, interfering with, or
 13 attempting to interfere with a police dog, fire
 14 dog, SAR dog, or police horse while the animal
 15 is in the performance of its duties; providing
 16 penalties; providing for restitution from
 17 violators; providing application; providing an
 18 effective date.

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 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 22 Section 1. Section 843.19, Florida Statutes, is
 23 amended to read:

24 843.19 Offenses against ~~Injuring or killing~~ police
 25 dogs ~~dog~~, fire dogs ~~dog~~, SAR dogs ~~dog~~, or police horses ~~horse~~
 26 ~~prohibited; penalty.--~~

27 (1) As used in this section, the term:

28 (a) "Police dog" means any dog, and "police horse"
 29 means any horse, that is owned, or the service of which is
 30 employed, by a law enforcement agency for the principal
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1 purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity,
2 enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders.

3 (b) "Fire dog" means any dog that is owned, or the
4 service of which is employed, by a fire department, a special
5 fire district, or the State Fire Marshal for the principal
6 purpose of aiding in the detection of flammable materials or
7 the investigation of fires.

8 (c) "SAR dog" means any search and rescue dog that is
9 owned, or the service of which is utilized, by a fire
10 department, a law enforcement agency, a special fire district,
11 or the State Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding
12 in the detection of missing persons, including, but not
13 limited to, persons who are lost, who are trapped under debris
14 as the result of a natural, manmade, or technological
15 disaster, or who are drowning victims.

16 (2) Any person who intentionally and knowingly, ~~and~~
17 ~~willfully and~~ without lawful cause or justification, causes
18 inflicts great bodily harm, permanent disability, or death to,
19 or uses a deadly weapon upon, a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog,
20 or police horse commits a felony of the third degree,
21 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.
22 775.084.

23 (3) Any person who actually and intentionally
24 maliciously touches, strikes, or causes bodily harm to a
25 police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse commits a
26 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
27 775.082 or s. 775.083.

28 (4) Any person who intentionally or knowingly
29 maliciously harasses, teases, interferes with, or attempts to
30 interfere with a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police
31 horse while the animal is in the performance of its duties

1 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
2 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

3 (5) A person convicted of an offense under this
4 section shall make restitution for injuries caused to the
5 police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse and shall pay
6 the replacement cost of the animal if, as a result of the
7 offense, the animal can no longer perform its duties.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2005,
9 and shall apply to offenses occurring on or after that date.

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