

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to animal cruelty during a declared  
 3           state of emergency; amending s. 828.12, F.S.;  
 4           providing increased criminal penalties for animal  
 5           cruelty offenses committed during a declared state of  
 6           emergency; providing an effective date.

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

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 10           **Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 828.12, Florida**  
 11 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

12           828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

13           (1) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a person who  
 14 unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of  
 15 necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or  
 16 kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in  
 17 or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or  
 18 inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the  
 19 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine  
 20 of not more than \$5,000, or both.

21           (b) A person who commits a violation of paragraph (a)  
 22 during a state of emergency declared pursuant to s. 252.36 in an  
 23 area included in the state of emergency commits a felony of the  
 24 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,  
 25 or s. 775.084.

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**Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.