

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

SESSION LAW 2010-16  
SENATE BILL 254

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR THE MALICIOUS ABUSE, TORTURE, OR  
KILLING OF AN ANIMAL.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 14-360(a1) reads as rewritten:

"(a1) If any person shall maliciously kill, or cause or procure to be killed, any animal by intentional deprivation of necessary sustenance, that person shall be guilty of a ~~Class A1 misdemeanor~~ Class H felony."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-360(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) If any person shall maliciously torture, mutilate, maim, cruelly beat, disfigure, poison, or kill, or cause or procure to be tortured, mutilated, maimed, cruelly beaten, disfigured, poisoned, or killed, any animal, every such offender shall for every such offense be guilty of a ~~Class I~~ Class H felony. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to increase the penalty for cockfighting provided for in G.S. 14-362."

**SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2010, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2010.

s/ Walter H. Dalton  
President of the Senate

s/ William L. Wainwright  
Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
Governor

Approved 1:46 p.m. this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2010

