

CHAPTER 24

AN ACT concerning certain dogs and amending P.L.1983, c.261.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 1 of P.L.1983, c.261 (C.2C:29-3.1) is amended to read as follows:

C.2C:29-3.1 Animal owned, used by law enforcement agency, search and rescue dog, infliction of harm upon, interference with officer, degree of crime, penalties.

1. Any person who purposely kills a dog, horse or other animal owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog shall be guilty of a crime of the third degree. Any person who purposely maims or otherwise inflicts harm upon a dog, horse or other animal owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog shall be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Any person who interferes with any law enforcement officer using an animal in the performance of his official duties commits a disorderly persons offense, subject to a sentence of six months' imprisonment, some or all of which may be community service, restitution and a \$1,000.00 fine.

As used in this section, "search and rescue dog" means any dog trained or being trained for the purpose of search and rescue that is owned by an independent handler or member of a search and rescue team, and used in conjunction with local law enforcement or emergency services organizations for the purpose of locating missing persons or evidence of arson.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 26, 2005.