

A bill for an act

relating to animals; changing provisions prohibiting animal fights and possession of certain items; imposing penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 343.31, subdivision 1.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 343.31, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Penalty for animal fighting; possessing animal fighting devices; attending animal fight.** ~~A person who~~ (a) Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a felony:

(1) promotes, engages in, or is employed in the activity of cockfighting, dogfighting, or violent pitting of one ~~domestic pet or companion~~ animal as defined in section 346.35, subdivision 6, against another of the same or a different kind;

(2) receives money for the admission of a person to a place used, or about to be used, for that activity;

(3) willfully permits a person to enter or use for that activity premises of which the permitter is the owner, agent, or occupant; or

(4) uses, trains, or possesses a dog or other animal for the purpose of participating in, engaging in, or promoting that activity.

(b) Whoever possesses any device or substance with intent to use or permit the use of the same to enhance an animal's ability to fight is guilty of a felony. ~~A person who~~

(c) Whoever purchases a ticket of admission or otherwise gains admission to that the activity of cockfighting, dogfighting, or violent pitting of one pet or companion animal as defined in section 346.35, subdivision 6, against another of the same or a different kind is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

- 2.1 (d) This subdivision shall not apply to the taking of a wild animal by hunting.