
HOUSE BILL 2481

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Carrell, Haigh, DeBolt, Talcott, Mielke, Jarrett, Anderson, Cox, Campbell, Roach, Grant, Kirby, Bush, Boldt, Sump, Orcutt and Dunn

Read first time 01/18/2002. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to using animals for fighting; amending RCW
2 16.52.117; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 16.52.117 and 1994 c 261 s 11 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Any person who does any of the following is guilty of a (~~gross~~
7 ~~misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment not to exceed one year, or by a~~
8 ~~fine not to exceed five thousand dollars, or by both fine and~~
9 ~~imprisonment~~) class C felony punishable under RCW 9A.20.021:

10 (a) Owns, possesses, keeps, sells, or trains any animal with the
11 intent that the animal shall be engaged in an exhibition of fighting
12 with another animal;

13 (b) For amusement or gain causes any animal to fight with another
14 animal, or causes any animals to injure each other; or

15 (c) Permits any act in violation of (a) or (b) of this subsection
16 to be done on any premises under his or her charge or control, or
17 promotes or aids or abets any such act.

18 (2) Any person who is knowingly present, as a spectator, at any
19 place or building where preparations are being made for an exhibition

1 of the fighting of animals, with the intent to be present at such
2 preparations, or is knowingly present at such exhibition or at any
3 other fighting or injuring as described in subsection (1)(b) of this
4 section, with the intent to be present at such exhibition, fighting, or
5 injuring, is guilty of a (~~misdemeanor~~) class C felony punishable
6 under RCW 9A.20.021.

7 (3) Nothing in this section may prohibit the following:

8 (a) The use of dogs in the management of livestock, as defined by
9 chapter 16.57 RCW, by the owner of the livestock or the owner's
10 employees or agents or other persons in lawful custody of the
11 livestock;

12 (b) The use of dogs in hunting as permitted by law; or

13 (c) The training of animals or the use of equipment in the training
14 of animals for any purpose not prohibited by law.

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