

Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act (H.R. 2293 / S. 1831)

Give Federal Law Enforcement the Ability to Prosecute Horrific “Crush Videos”

The Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Reps. Lamar Smith (R-TX) and Ted Deutch (D-FL), along with Reps. Tom Marino (R-PA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), and in the Senate by Sens. Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT).

What will the PACT Act Do?

The PACT Act empowers federal law enforcement with the ability to prosecute the horrific act of animal “crushing.” Often depicted in fetish videos, crushing occurs when perpetrators intentionally crush, burn, drown, suffocate, impale, or otherwise subject to serious bodily injury and death small live animals such as rodents and kittens. The bill also provides appropriate exceptions to ensure that the provisions do not apply to medical and scientific research, hunting and trapping, or agricultural practices.

Why is the PACT Act Necessary?

With the passage of the *Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act* in 2010, Congress prohibited the sale and distribution of crush videos. However, the current statute prevents prosecuting the underlying acts of cruelty depicted in these detestable videos. By banning the act of crushing, the PACT Act protects animals from vicious acts of cruelty and sends a clear warning to individuals seeking to profit from animal suffering and death. Such violent abuse of innocent animals should be illegal, regardless of whether or not a camera is running.

Felony animal cruelty statutes currently exist in all 50 states. However, no federal statute addresses the horrific types of animal cruelty depicted in crush videos. The PACT Act will complement state cruelty

laws by allowing for federal prosecution in instances and jurisdictions where local and state law enforcement cannot reach.

The ASPCA has long recognized the well-documented link between animal cruelty and other serious crimes. With the passage of the PACT Act, Congress will empower federal law enforcement to protect potential animal and human victims from the perpetrators of such despicable acts.



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