**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 47-1-125 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION ON COLORING OR DYEING ANIMALS, TO EXEMPT DOGS OVER THE AGE OF FIVE MONTHS AND TO REQUIRE CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR THIS EXEMPTION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 47-1-125 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 47-1-125. ~~(1)~~(A)(1) It is unlawful for any person to dye or color artificially any animal or fowl, including but not limited to rabbits, baby chickens, and ducklings, or to bring any dyed or colored animal or fowl into this State.

(2) The provisions of this subsection do not apply to dogs over the age of five months, provided that:

(a) the dye or artificial coloring used on a dog is non-toxic and pet-friendly; and

(b) the application of the dye or artificial coloring must not harm the dog.

~~(2)~~(B)(1) It is unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale or give away as merchandising premiums, baby chickens, ducklings or other fowl under four weeks of age or rabbits under two months of age to be used as pets, toys or retail premiums.

~~(3)~~(2) This ~~section~~ subsection shall not be construed to apply to any animal or fowl, including but not limited to rabbits, baby chickens and ducklings to be used or raised for agricultural purposes by persons with proper facilities to care for them or for poultry or livestock exhibitions.

~~(4)~~(C) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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