



Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act Is A Federal Law Get Informed and Find Out Why!

The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) is a United States federal law (Pub.L. 109-374; 18 U.S.C. § 43) that prohibits any person from using force, violence, or threats “for the purpose of damaging or interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise.” The bill is described by the author as being intended to “provide the Department of Justice the necessary authority to apprehend, prosecute, and convict individuals committing animal enterprise terror.”

The law gives the U.S. Department of Justice stronger tools to respond to threats posed by animal rights extremists. The AETA does so by broadening the definition of “animal enterprise” to include academic and commercial enterprises that use or sell animals or animal products. In addition, the AETA specifically addresses the “tertiary targeting” system used by animal rights activists by prohibiting any person from intentionally damaging the property of a person or entity having a connection to an animal enterprise. It also increases the existing penalties for intentionally causing a person bodily injury or intentionally placing a person in reasonable fear of death or bodily injury; includes penalties based on the amount of economic damage caused; and allows animal enterprises to seek restitution. For example, under the law, a research facility could seek restitution for the cost of repeating an experiment. The AETA’s Rules of Construction also expressly state that the Act is not to be construed as prohibiting any lawful First Amendment activity such as peaceful picketing or peaceful demonstrating.

Animal rights activists have criticized the bill on the grounds that it does not provide explicit protection for “whistleblowing” and undercover investigations. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals claimed that “no other industrial sector in U.S. history has ever been given such legal protections against people’s exercising of their First Amendment free-speech rights.

According to PETA, this bill is an attempt by corporations to manipulate people’s fear of terrorism in an effort to stop the peaceful animal protection movement”. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) believes the law’s language is overly broad and vague, the current law is satisfactory, and that the AETA could be interpreted to protect unlawful animal enterprises. Alliance for Animals director Lori Nitzel suggested “it heavily criminalizes civil disobedience, and just for animal rights activists.” However, Jerry Vlasak, spokesman for the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, suggested the bill would have little impact on the movement because underground activists “don’t really care about those laws” and law enforcement agencies had already “gone after” effective above-ground activists.

Remember – The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act is a FEDERAL LAW enforced by the Federal Government. Knowing that HSUS has impersonated various law enforcement agencies before, it is entirely possible that when someone with a “Badge” shows up as your kennel claiming that they are doing an investigation, they could be breaking a Federal Law and infringing on your rights.

No matter what, as a civil servant, they are in place to serve the people. Be sure to request positive proof that the subjects are real Law Enforcement Officers and are there for legitimate reasons. If you are not satisfied, call 911 and report trespassers. This is also enforced by the United States Marshals Office.

ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM ACT

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