

A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANIMAL CRUELTY AND CALLING FOR A REVISION OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Short Title: 12.53

Author: Services Vice President Alex Reynolds

Sponsors: Student Body President Dorian Brown, Executive Vice President Katie Hayden, Academic Vice President Bryson Sebastian, Ethan Rutter (A&S), Ellen Tinker (Nursing), Amelia Boone (Nursing), Senate Speaker Noah Young (A&S), Camden Harris (A&S), Rebekah Flowers (A&S), Abigail Fortney (Kent School), Danielle Tackett (Law), Alexandria Underwood (Graduate School), Claire Crowley (Speed School), Daniel Ngongo (A&S), Kai Speed (A&S), Caroline Thomas (Business), Amal Hassan (SPHIS), Daydrianna Jeffries (Kent School), Liam Gallagher (A&S), Griffin Gould (Speed School), Cami Nasr (Graduate)

Version: II

First Reading: Services Committee (4/13/23)

Second Reading: 4/18/23

WHEREAS, on April 7th, 2023, a series of disgusting videos of animal cruelty were posted on Instagram by a student at the University of Louisville under the account @_ssenteza.

WHEREAS, the videos showed the student cooking, air frying, baking, microwaving, and hanging several live baby chicks in a truly despicable act of animal cruelty.

WHEREAS, on April 8th, 2023, the University of Louisville issued a statement via its instagram informing the public that it was “aware of an off-campus incident regarding a UofL student and alleged actions of animal cruelty.”

WHEREAS, the University has relayed the information of this incident of animal cruelty to the “appropriate authorities for further investigation” and “is under investigation by University of Louisville Police Department and the university's student affairs.”¹

WHEREAS, animal cruelty has long been a predictor of subsequent violence against humans, as research has found animal abusers to be as much as five times more likely to harm people.²

¹https://www.wdrb.com/news/crime-reports/university-of-louisville-investigating-after-student-allegedly-committed-acts-of-animal-cruelty/article_dcb9e184-d674-11ed-8a00-9bbe84207f7.html

² <https://time.com/6191947/mass-shootings-animal-cruelty/>

WHEREAS, the Code of Student Conduct is the University's policy regarding non-academic misconduct of students and student organizations,

WHEREAS, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or designee under the University of Louisville Redbook section 6.7.1 is the final authority in defining and interpreting the Code of Student Conduct and conduct procedures.

WHEREAS, The University reserves the right to amend the Code of Student Conduct at any time.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 525 sections .125, .130, .135, .137, .200, .205, .215, and .220 all in some way or another make animal cruelty and abuse illegal.

WHEREAS, section 4 of the 2022-2023 Code of Student Conduct allows the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or designee to determine whether or not acts prohibited by the Code but not committed on University premises may be grounds for disciplinary action.

WHEREAS, section 7 of the 2022-2023 Code of Student Conduct provides for accountability of students to both civil and criminal authorities and to the University for acts which constitute violations of law and of the Code.

WHEREAS, “Animal Cruelty and Abuse” are notably absent from section 11 of the 2022-2023 Code of Student Conduct detailing “prohibited conduct.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Government Association condemns the disgusting acts of animal cruelty committed, recorded, and posted by this student.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Association urges the University of Louisville administration to amend the Code of Student Conduct to include a subsection of section 11 on “Prohibited Conduct” entitled “ss. **Animal Abuse or Cruelty.**”

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Student Government Association invites the Staff and Faculty Senates to sign on to and pass this resolution or a similar version within their respective legislative bodies.

Support from the Staff and Faculty Senates

Staff Senate Sponsors: Staff Senate Chair John Smith, Bonnie Dean, Angela Lewis-Klein, Shirin Bolhari, Asma Addarrat-Edwards, Linda Leake, Kayla Miller, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Becky Patterson, Tammy Lawson, Brenda Sexton, Betty Nunn, Tessa McGilbra, Angela Cox, Kimberly Noltemeyer, Kelly Moore, Alyssa Murphy, Cynthia Houchens, Megan Johnson, Patricia Williams, Jody Carroll, Lisa Sirles, Denise Hand, Stephanie Kittle, Faith Yount, Jason Sievers, Dennis Thomas, Whitney Rogers, William Tuttle, Shelby Eisenback, Charles Carter, Janet Olson, Lisa Floore, Timothy Dill, Bonnie Dean, Mani Vangalur, Christine Newton, Heather Gentry, Krisin Roberts, William Adamchik, and Alice Abbott-Moore. (No formal vote was taken; senators were given the option to be named as sponsors)

Faculty Senate Sponsors: The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Unanimous).
