

**§4012. Cruelty to birds**

**1. Cruelty to birds.** A person is guilty of cruelty to birds if that person:

A. Keeps or uses any live pigeon, fowl or other bird for a target or to be shot at, either for amusement or as a test of skill in marksmanship; [PL 1987, c. 383, §3 (NEW).]

B. Shoots at any bird or is present as a party, umpire or judge at a shooting; or [PL 1987, c. 383, §3 (NEW).]

C. Rents any building, shed, room, yard, field or premises or knowingly allows the use of the same for the purposes of paragraphs A and B. [PL 1997, c. 690, §45 (AMD).]

[PL 1997, c. 690, §45 (AMD).]

**2. Construction.** This section may not be construed to prohibit the shooting of wild game in its wild state or the shooting of birds at field trials under the supervision of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in accordance with Title 12, chapter 915, subchapter 13.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §16 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

**3. Affirmative defense.** It is an affirmative defense to this section that the conduct involved the use of live animals in the training of other animals in accordance with the laws of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Title 12, Part 13.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §16 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 383, §3 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 690, §45 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 414, §B16 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.