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**States' Animal Cruelty Statutes**  
**State of Wyoming**

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UNIVERSITY of ARKANSAS  
SCHOOL of LAW

## States' Animal Cruelty Statutes

### STATE OF WYOMING

*Current through the 2009 General Session*

#### **§ 6-3-203. Cruelty to animals; penalties; limitation on manner of destruction**

- (a) A person commits cruelty to animals if he knowingly and with intent to cause death, injury or undue suffering:
- (i) Overrides an animal or drives an animal when overloaded; or
  - (ii) Unnecessarily or cruelly beats, tortures, torments, injures, mutilates or attempts to kill an animal; or
  - (iii) Carries an animal in a manner that poses undue risk of injury or death.
- (b) A person commits cruelty to animals if he has the charge and custody of any animal and unnecessarily fails to provide it with the proper food, drink or protection from the weather, or cruelly abandons the animal, or in the case of immediate, obvious, serious illness or injury, fails to provide the animal with appropriate care.
- (c) A person commits aggravated cruelty to animals if he:
- (i) Repealed by Laws 1987, ch. 91, § 2.
  - (ii) Owns, possesses, keeps or trains fowls or dogs with the intent to allow the dog or fowl to engage in an exhibition of fighting with another dog or fowl;
  - (iii) Repealed by Laws 1987, ch. 91, § 2.
  - (iv) For gain causes or allows any dog or fowl to fight with another dog or fowl;
  - (v) Knowingly permits any act prohibited under paragraphs (ii) or (iv) of this subsection on any premises under his charge or control; or
  - (vi) Promotes any act prohibited under paragraphs (ii) or (iv) of this subsection.
- (d) A person shall not destroy an animal by the use of a high-altitude decompression chamber or a carbon monoxide gas chamber utilizing a gasoline engine. This subsection is uniformly applicable to all cities and towns.
- (e) Unless punishable under subsection (n) of this section, a violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), or both except that a subsequent offense or aggravated cruelty to animals as defined by subsection (c) of this section is a high misdemeanor punishable by not more than one (1) year imprisonment, a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or both.
- (f) Nothing in subsection (c) of this section may be construed to prohibit:
- (i) The use of dogs in the management of livestock by the owner of the livestock, his employees or agents or other persons in lawful custody of the livestock;

- (ii) The use of dogs or raptors in hunting; or
- (iii) The training of dogs or raptors or the use of equipment in the training of dogs or raptors for any purpose not prohibited by law;
- (iv- vi) Repealed by Laws 2000, ch. 86, § 2.

(g) A person commits cruelty to animals if he is knowingly present at any place where an exhibition of fighting of fowls or dogs is occurring for amusement or gain.

(h) If a person convicted of a violation of this section is also the owner of the animal, the court may require the person to forfeit ownership of the animal to the county in which the person is convicted.

This subsection shall not affect the interest of any secured party or other person who has not participated in the offense.

(j) In addition to any sentence and penalties imposed under subsections (e), (h) and (n) of this section, the court may:

- (i) Require the defendant to pay all reasonable costs incurred in providing necessary food and water, veterinary attention and treatment for any animal affected; and
- (ii) Prohibit or limit the defendant's ownership, possession or custody of animals, as the court deems appropriate.

(k) Each animal affected by the defendant's conduct may constitute a separate count for the purposes of prosecution, conviction, sentencing and penalties under this section.

(m) Nothing in subsection (a), (b) or (n) of this section shall be construed to prohibit:

- (i) A person from humanely destroying an animal;
- (ii) The use of industry accepted agricultural and livestock practices on livestock;
- (iii) Rodeo events, whether the event is performed in a rodeo, jackpot or otherwise; or
- (iv) The hunting, capture or destruction of any predatory animal or other wildlife in any manner not otherwise prohibited by law.

(n) A person commits a felony if he knowingly and with intent to cause death, injury or undue suffering, cruelly beats, tortures, torments, injures or mutilates an animal resulting in the death or required euthanasia of the animal. A felony under this subsection is punishable by not more than two (2) years imprisonment, a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or both.