

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0312

Cruelty to animals-minimum care.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Craft, Berger, Byrd and
Carson and Senator(s) Hastert

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to animal cruelty; providing a standard for
2 minimum care; providing a definition; and providing for an
3 effective date.

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5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

6

7 **Section 1.** W.S. 6-3-203(b) is amended to read:

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9 **6-3-203. Cruelty to animals; penalties; limitation on**
10 **manner of destruction.**

11

12 (b) A person commits cruelty to animals if he has the
13 charge and custody of any animal and unnecessarily fails to
14 provide it with ~~the proper food, drink or protection from~~
15 ~~the weather,~~ minimum care or cruelly abandons the animal..
16 ~~or in the case of immediate, obvious, serious illness or~~

1 ~~injury, fails to provide the animal with appropriate care.~~

2 For purposes of this subsection:

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4 (i) "Companion animal" means an animal normally
5 maintained in or near the residence of its owner or care
6 giver who is treated as a pet;

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8 (ii) "Minimum care" means care sufficient to
9 preserve the health and well-being of an animal and, except
10 for emergencies or circumstances beyond the reasonable
11 control of the owner, includes, but is not limited to, the
12 following requirements:

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14 (A) Food of sufficient quantity and quality
15 to allow for normal growth or maintenance of body weight;

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17 (B) Open or adequate access to potable
18 water of a drinkable temperature in sufficient quantity to
19 satisfy the animal's needs;

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21 (C) Veterinary care deemed necessary by a
22 reasonably prudent person to relieve distress from injury,
23 neglect or disease;

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1 (D) Adequate protection from the elements
2 and weather conditions suitable for the age, species and
3 physical condition of the animal so as to maintain the
4 animal in a state of good health. For companion animals
5 this includes access to a barn, house or other enclosed
6 structure sufficient to protect the animal from wind, rain,
7 snow or sun and which has adequate bedding to protect
8 against cold and dampness;

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10 (E) For companion animals, continuous
11 access to an area:

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13 (I) With air temperature suitable for
14 the health of the animal;

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16 (II) With adequate ventilation;

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18 (III) With regular diurnal lighting
19 cycles of either natural or artificial light;

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21 (IV) Kept reasonably clean and free
22 from excess waste or other contaminants that could affect
23 the animal's health; and

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1 (V) With adequate space for exercise
2 necessary for the health of the animal. Inadequate space
3 may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or
4 abnormal behavior patterns.

5

6 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2009.

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8

(END)