

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0049

Abuse of animals.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Berger, Edwards, Gentile,
Illoway, Jones and Warren and Senator(s)
Burns, Fecht, Job and Mockler

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to abuse of animals; increasing penalties
2 relating to cruelty to animal offenses; providing for
3 enforcement of animal abuse statutes by municipal animal
4 control officers; and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 6-3-203(e), 11-29-106, 11-29-108,
9 11-29-109 and 11-29-114(a) are amended to read:

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11 **6-3-203. Cruelty to animals; penalties; limitation on**
12 **manner of destruction.**

13

14 (e) Unless punishable under subsection (n) of this
15 section, a violation of this section is a misdemeanor
16 punishable by imprisonment for not more than six (6)

1 months, a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars
2 (\$750.00), or both except that a subsequent offense or
3 aggravated cruelty to animals as defined by subsection (c)
4 of this section is a ~~high misdemeanor~~ felony punishable by
5 not more than ~~one (1) year~~ two (2) years imprisonment, a
6 fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or
7 both.

8
9 **11-29-106. Livestock board; authority to prevent**
10 **cruelty; penalty for interference with officer.**

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12 Any peace officer, municipal animal control officer or
13 agent or officer of the board may lawfully interfere to
14 prevent the perpetration of any act of cruelty upon any
15 animal in his presence. Any person who interferes with,
16 obstructs or resists any peace officer, municipal animal
17 control officer or officer or agent of the board in the
18 discharge of his duty shall be fined not less than two
19 hundred dollars (\$200.00) nor more than one thousand five
20 hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), or imprisoned not more than
21 one (1) year, or both.

1 **11-29-108. Livestock board; seized animals and**
2 **vehicles; lien on seized chattels; civil action for unpaid**
3 **expenses.**

4
5 When any person arrested under this act is in charge of any
6 vehicle drawn by or containing any animal cruelly treated
7 at the time of arrest, any peace officer, municipal animal
8 control officer or agent or officer of the board may take
9 charge of the animal and vehicle and its contents, and give
10 notice thereof to the owner, if known, and shall provide
11 for them until their owner takes possession of them. The
12 board or local government shall have a lien on the animals,
13 the vehicle and its contents for the expense of the care
14 and provision. The expense or any part remaining unpaid
15 may be recovered by the board or local government in a
16 civil action.

17
18 **11-29-109. Livestock board; care of abandoned**
19 **animals; civil action for expenses; lien.**

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21 Any peace officer, municipal animal control officer or
22 agent or officer of the board may take charge of any animal
23 found abandoned, neglected or cruelly treated. He shall
24 give notice to the owner, if known, and may care and

1 provide for the animal until the owner takes charge of the
2 animal. The expenses of care and provision is a charge
3 against the owner of the animal and collectible from the
4 owner by the board or by the local government employing the
5 peace officer or municipal animal control officer taking
6 charge of the animal in a civil action. The board or local
7 government may detain the animals until the expense for
8 food, shelter and care is paid and shall have a lien upon
9 the animals therefor.

10
11 **11-29-114. Impoundment of animals; cost of care for**
12 **animals; providing for bond.**

13
14 (a) Any peace officer, municipal animal control
15 officer or agent or officer of the board may take
16 possession of any animal treated cruelly as determined by a
17 licensed veterinarian or veterinarian employed by the
18 board.

19
20 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2007.

21
22 (END)