

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0046

Abuse of animals.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Berger, Blake, Brown,
Craft, Edwards, Gingery, Illoway, Martin,
Millin, Warren and Zwonitzer, Dn. and
Senator(s) Aullman, Burns, Fecht, Hastert,
Larson, Massie 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 and
4 county animal control officers; and providing for an
5 effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 6-3-203(e), 11-29-106, 11-29-109 and
10 11-29-114(a) are amended to read:

11

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

14

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

10
11 (i) A subsequent offense under subsection (a),
12 (b), (d) or (g) of this section or an initial offense of
13 aggravated cruelty to animals as defined by subsection (c)
14 of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by not more
15 than one (1) year imprisonment, a fine of not more than
16 five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or both;

17
18 (ii) A subsequent offense of aggravated cruelty
19 to animals as defined by subsection (c) of this section is
20 a felony punishable by not more than two (2) years
21 imprisonment, a fine of not more than five thousand dollars
22 (\$5,000.00), or both.

23

1 **11-29-106. Livestock board; authority to prevent**
2 **cruelty; penalty for interference with officer.**

3
4 Any peace officer, municipal or county animal control
5 officer or agent or officer of the board may lawfully
6 interfere to prevent the perpetration of any act of cruelty
7 upon any animal in his presence. Any person who interferes
8 with, obstructs or resists any peace officer, municipal or
9 county animal control officer or officer or agent of the
10 board in the discharge of his duty shall be fined not less
11 than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) nor more than one
12 thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), ~~or~~ imprisoned
13 not more than one (1) year, or both.

14
15 **11-29-109. Livestock board; care of abandoned**
16 **animals; civil action for expenses; lien.**

17
18 Any peace officer, municipal or county animal control
19 officer or agent or officer of the board may take charge of
20 any animal found abandoned, neglected or cruelly treated.
21 He shall give notice to the owner, if known, and may care
22 and provide for the animal until the owner takes charge of
23 the animal. The expenses of care and provision is a charge
24 against the owner of the animal and collectible from the

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

7

8 **11-29-114. Impoundment of animals; cost of care for**
9 **animals; providing for bond.**

10

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

16

17 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2008.

18

19 (END)