

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

District Attorney Action Center

718.250.2340

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CHARLES J. HYNES

ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A CRIME

Aggravated Animal Cruelty

Intentionally killing or seriously injuring a pet with aggravated cruelty is a Class E Felony, punishable by up to 2 years in jail. (AML 353a)

Animal Cruelty

Injuring an animal is Animal Cruelty.

Animal Cruelty includes Neglect: Failure to provide proper food and water.

It is Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail (AML 353)

Animal Fighting

Includes fights between dogs, cocks or any other animals.

Causing an animal to fight; training an animal to fight; breeding or selling an animal to fight; and permitting animal fighting on the premises are Class E Felonies, each punishable by up to 4 years in jail and a \$25,000 fine (AML 351)

Owning or keeping an animal for fighting is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$15,000 fine

Placing a bet on animal fighting or paying admission to watch a fight is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail

Even just being a spectator at an Animal Fighting event is illegal and can result in a fine.

Abandonment

Abandoning an animal is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail (AML 355)

Shelter

The law requires appropriate shelter for dogs who are outdoors (AML 353-b)

and prohibits dogs from being left in an automobile during extreme temperatures without proper heat or ventilation





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ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A WARNING

A WARNING OF THINGS TO COME

Children allowed to be cruel to animals without intervention may commit other crimes as they get older

Serial Killers begin by torturing and abusing animals

Many students who commit school shootings have a history of killing animals

A WARNING THAT OTHER HELP IS NEEDED

Children who are cruel to animals may be victims of abuse themselves

Other acts of family violence may accompany animal cruelty

Neglected animals may indicate neglected children or elders in the home

Animal Hoarding is having more animals than the owner can care for.

Aged, ill or overwhelmed neighbors may no longer be able to care for their pets or themselves.



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