

**ANIMAL SHELTER REVISIONS**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Gene Davis**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends cruelty to animal provisions.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▶ makes it a crime to leave an animal tethered and unattended, under certain conditions, in a manner that prevents the animal from reaching shelter; and

▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**76-9-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 329

**76-9-301.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 292

**76-9-301.6**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 292

**76-10-1602**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 167

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **76-9-301** is amended to read:



28 **76-9-301. Cruelty to animals.**

29 (1) As used in this section:

30 (a) (i) "Abandon" means to intentionally deposit, leave, or drop off any live animal:

31 (A) without providing for the care of that animal, in accordance with accepted animal  
32 husbandry practices or customary farming practices; or

33 (B) in a situation where conditions present an immediate, direct, and serious threat to  
34 the life, safety, or health of the animal.

35 (ii) "Abandon" does not include returning wildlife to its natural habitat.

36 (b) (i) "Animal" means, except as provided in [~~Subsection~~] Subsections (1)(b)(ii) and  
37 (1)(b)(iii), a live, nonhuman vertebrate creature.

38 (ii) "Animal" does not include[:(~~A~~)] a live, nonhuman vertebrate creature, if[:(~~F~~)] the  
39 conduct toward the creature, and the care provided to the creature, is in accordance with  
40 accepted animal husbandry practices[;] and [~~H~~] the creature is:

41 [~~Aa~~] (A) owned or kept by a zoological park that is accredited by, or a member of,  
42 the American Zoo and Aquarium Association;

43 [~~Bb~~] (B) kept, owned, or used for the purpose of training hunting dogs or raptors; or

44 [~~Cc~~] (C) temporarily in the state as part of a circus or traveling exhibitor licensed by  
45 the United States Department of Agriculture under 7 U.S.C. 2133[;].

46 (iii) "Animal" does not include:

47 [~~D~~] (A) a live, nonhuman vertebrate creature that is owned, kept, or used for rodeo  
48 purposes, if the conduct toward the creature, and the care provided to the creature, is in  
49 accordance with accepted rodeo practices;

50 [~~E~~] (B) livestock, if the conduct toward the creature, and the care provided to the  
51 creature, is in accordance with accepted animal husbandry practices or customary farming  
52 practices; or

53 [~~F~~] (C) wildlife, as defined in Section [23-13-2](#), including protected and unprotected  
54 wildlife, if the conduct toward the wildlife is in accordance with lawful hunting, fishing, or  
55 trapping practices or other lawful practices.

56 (c) "Companion animal" means an animal that is a domestic dog or a domestic cat.

57 (d) "Custody" means ownership, possession, or control over an animal.

58 (e) "Legal privilege" means an act that:

59 (i) is authorized by state law, including Division of Wildlife Resources rules; and  
60 (ii) is not in violation of a local ordinance.

61 (f) "Livestock" means:

62 (i) domesticated:

63 (A) cattle;

64 (B) sheep;

65 (C) goats;

66 (D) turkeys;

67 (E) swine;

68 (F) equines;

69 (G) camelidae;

70 (H) ratites; or

71 (I) bison;

72 (ii) domesticated elk, as defined in Section [4-39-102](#); or

73 (iii) any domesticated nonhuman vertebrate creature, domestic furbearer, or domestic  
74 poultry, raised, kept, or used for agricultural purposes.

75 (g) "Necessary food, water, care, or shelter" means the following, taking into account  
76 the species, age, and physical condition of the animal:

77 (i) appropriate and essential food and water;

78 (ii) adequate protection, including appropriate shelter, against extreme weather  
79 conditions; and

80 (iii) other essential care.

81 (h) (i) "Shelter," as the term relates to an animal other than a dog or cat, means natural  
82 or artificial protection against inclement weather and direct sunlight.

83 (ii) "Shelter," as it relates to a dog or cat, means a barn, dog house, or other enclosed  
84 structure that:

85 (A) is sufficiently sound to protect against inclement weather and extreme  
86 temperatures;

87 (B) prevents penetration by moisture;

88 (C) includes, in an appropriate size for the dog or cat, a floor with a solid surface, a  
89 roof, coverage on all sides, a door or entry portal, and sufficient space to allow for freedom of

90 movement;

91 (D) contains hay, straw, bedding, or a safe, artificial heat source, that allows the dog or  
92 cat to maintain a normal body temperature; and

93 (E) is adequately ventilated and clean.

94 (iii) "Shelter" does not include:

95 (A) a crawl space under a building or a part of a building;

96 (B) steps, a deck, or a stoop;

97 (C) a vehicle or the space under a vehicle;

98 (D) an animal carrier or crate designed for temporary transport or temporary housing;

99 (E) a structure made of cardboard or another material that is easily degradable; or

100 (F) a structure with a wire or chain link floor.

101 ~~(h)~~ (i) "Torture" means intentionally or knowingly causing or inflicting extreme  
102 physical pain to an animal in an especially heinous, atrocious, cruel, or exceptionally deprived  
103 manner.

104 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (4) or (6), a person is guilty of cruelty to an  
105 animal if the person, without legal privilege to do so, intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or  
106 with criminal negligence:

107 (a) fails to provide necessary food, water, care, or shelter for an animal in the person's  
108 custody;

109 (b) abandons an animal in the person's custody;

110 (c) injures an animal;

111 (d) leaves an animal in the person's custody tethered and unattended in a manner that  
112 prevents the animal from reaching shelter:

113 (i) when the temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or above 85 degrees  
114 Fahrenheit; or

115 (ii) when the animal is exposed to rain, hail, snow, or wind above 40 miles per hour;

116 ~~(d)~~ (e) causes any animal, not including a dog or game fowl, to fight with another  
117 animal of like kind for amusement or gain; or

118 ~~(e)~~ (f) causes any animal, including a dog or game fowl, to fight with a different kind  
119 of animal or creature for amusement or gain.

120 (3) Except as provided in Section 76-9-301.7, a violation of Subsection (2) is:

- 121 (a) a class B misdemeanor if committed intentionally or knowingly; and
- 122 (b) a class C misdemeanor if committed recklessly or with criminal negligence.
- 123 (4) A person is guilty of aggravated cruelty to an animal if the person:
- 124 (a) tortures an animal;
- 125 (b) administers, or causes to be administered, poison or a poisonous substance to an
- 126 animal; or
- 127 (c) kills an animal or causes an animal to be killed without having a legal privilege to
- 128 do so.
- 129 (5) Except as provided in Subsection (6) or Section 76-9-301.7, a violation of
- 130 Subsection (4) is:
- 131 (a) a class A misdemeanor if committed intentionally or knowingly;
- 132 (b) a class B misdemeanor if committed recklessly; and
- 133 (c) a class C misdemeanor if committed with criminal negligence.
- 134 (6) A person is guilty of a third degree felony if the person intentionally or knowingly
- 135 tortures a companion animal.
- 136 (7) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the conduct of the actor towards
- 137 the animal was:
- 138 (a) by a licensed veterinarian using accepted veterinary practice;
- 139 (b) directly related to bona fide experimentation for scientific research, provided that if
- 140 the animal is to be destroyed, the manner employed will not be unnecessarily cruel unless
- 141 directly necessary to the veterinary purpose or scientific research involved;
- 142 (c) permitted under Section 18-1-3;
- 143 (d) by a person who humanely destroys any animal found suffering past recovery for
- 144 any useful purpose; or
- 145 (e) by a person who humanely destroys any apparently abandoned animal found on the
- 146 person's property.
- 147 (8) For purposes of Subsection (7)(d), before destroying the suffering animal, the
- 148 person who is not the owner of the animal shall obtain:
- 149 (a) the judgment of a veterinarian of the animal's nonrecoverable condition;
- 150 (b) the judgment of two other persons called by the person to view the unrecoverable
- 151 condition of the animal in the person's presence;

152 (c) the consent from the owner of the animal to the destruction of the animal; or

153 (d) a reasonable conclusion that the animal's suffering is beyond recovery, through the  
154 person's own observation, if the person is in a location or circumstance where the person is  
155 unable to contact another person.

156 (9) This section does not affect or prohibit:

157 (a) the training, instruction, and grooming of animals, if the methods used are in  
158 accordance with accepted animal husbandry practices or customary farming practices;

159 (b) the use of an electronic locating or training collar by the owner of an animal for the  
160 purpose of lawful animal training, lawful hunting practices, or protecting against loss of that  
161 animal; or

162 (c) the lawful hunting of, fishing for, or trapping of, wildlife.

163 (10) County and municipal governments may not prohibit the use of an electronic  
164 locating or training collar.

165 (11) Upon conviction under this section, the court may in its discretion, in addition to  
166 other penalties:

167 (a) order the defendant to be evaluated to determine the need for psychiatric or  
168 psychological counseling, to receive counseling as the court determines to be appropriate, and  
169 to pay the costs of the evaluation and counseling;

170 (b) require the defendant to forfeit any rights the defendant has to the animal subjected  
171 to a violation of this section and to repay the reasonable costs incurred by any person or agency  
172 in caring for each animal subjected to violation of this section;

173 (c) order the defendant to no longer possess or retain custody of any animal, as  
174 specified by the court, during the period of the defendant's probation or parole or other period  
175 as designated by the court; and

176 (d) order the animal to be placed for the purpose of adoption or care in the custody of a  
177 county or municipal animal control agency or an animal welfare agency registered with the  
178 state to be sold at public auction or humanely destroyed.

179 (12) This section does not prohibit the use of animals in lawful training.

180 (13) A veterinarian who, acting in good faith, reports a violation of this section to law  
181 enforcement may not be held civilly liable for making the report.

182 Section 2. Section **76-9-301.5** is amended to read:

183 **76-9-301.5. Spectator at organized animal fighting exhibitions.**

184 It is unlawful for a person to knowingly be present as a spectator at any place, building,  
185 or tenement where preparations are being made for an exhibition of the fighting of animals, as  
186 prohibited by Subsections ~~76-9-301(2)(d) and~~ (e) and (f), or to be present at such exhibition,  
187 regardless of whether any entrance fee has been charged. A person who violates this section is  
188 guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

189 Section 3. Section **76-9-301.6** is amended to read:

190 **76-9-301.6. Dog fighting exhibition -- Authority to arrest and take possession of**  
191 **dogs and property.**

192 (1) A peace officer as defined in Title 53, Chapter 13, Peace Officer Classifications,  
193 may enter any place, building, or tenement where an exhibition of dog fighting is occurring, or  
194 where preparations are being made for such an exhibition and, without a warrant, arrest all  
195 persons present.

196 (2) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section ~~76-9-305~~, any authorized officer who  
197 makes an arrest under Subsection (1) may lawfully take possession of all dogs, paraphernalia,  
198 implements, or other property or things used or employed, or to be employed, in an exhibition  
199 of dog fighting prohibited by Subsection ~~76-9-301(2)(e)~~ (f) or Section ~~76-9-301.1~~.

200 (b) The officer, at the time of the taking of property pursuant to Subsection (2)(a), shall  
201 state his name and provide other identifying information to the person in charge of the dogs or  
202 property taken.

203 (3) (a) After taking possession of dogs, paraphernalia, implements, or other property or  
204 things under Subsection (2), the officer shall file an affidavit with the judge or magistrate  
205 before whom a complaint has been made against any person arrested under this section.

206 (b) The affidavit shall include:

207 (i) the name of the person charged in the complaint;

208 (ii) a description of all property taken;

209 (iii) the time and place of the taking of the property;

210 (iv) the name of the person from whom the property was taken;

211 (v) the name of the person who claims to own the property, if known; and

212 (vi) a statement that the officer has reason to believe and believes that the property

213 taken was used or employed, or was to be used or employed, in violation of Section ~~76-9-301~~

214 or 76-9-301.1, and the grounds for the belief.

215 (4) (a) The officer shall deliver the confiscated property to the judge or magistrate who  
216 shall, by order, place the property in the custody of the officer or any other person designated in  
217 the order, and that person shall keep the property until conviction or final discharge of the  
218 person against whom the complaint was made.

219 (b) The person designated in Subsection (4)(a) shall assume immediate custody of the  
220 property, and retain the property until further order of the court.

221 (c) Upon conviction of the person charged, all confiscated property shall be forfeited  
222 and destroyed or otherwise disposed of, as the court may order.

223 (d) If the person charged is acquitted or discharged without conviction, the court shall,  
224 on demand, order the property to be returned to its owner.

225 Section 4. Section **76-10-1602** is amended to read:

226 **76-10-1602. Definitions.**

227 As used in this part:

228 (1) "Enterprise" means any individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation,  
229 business trust, association, or other legal entity, and any union or group of individuals  
230 associated in fact although not a legal entity, and includes illicit as well as licit entities.

231 (2) "Pattern of unlawful activity" means engaging in conduct which constitutes the  
232 commission of at least three episodes of unlawful activity, which episodes are not isolated, but  
233 have the same or similar purposes, results, participants, victims, or methods of commission, or  
234 otherwise are interrelated by distinguishing characteristics. Taken together, the episodes shall  
235 demonstrate continuing unlawful conduct and be related either to each other or to the  
236 enterprise. At least one of the episodes comprising a pattern of unlawful activity shall have  
237 occurred after July 31, 1981. The most recent act constituting part of a pattern of unlawful  
238 activity as defined by this part shall have occurred within five years of the commission of the  
239 next preceding act alleged as part of the pattern.

240 (3) "Person" includes any individual or entity capable of holding a legal or beneficial  
241 interest in property, including state, county, and local governmental entities.

242 (4) "Unlawful activity" means to directly engage in conduct or to solicit, request,  
243 command, encourage, or intentionally aid another person to engage in conduct which would  
244 constitute any offense described by the following crimes or categories of crimes, or to attempt

245 or conspire to engage in an act which would constitute any of those offenses, regardless of  
246 whether the act is in fact charged or indicted by any authority or is classified as a misdemeanor  
247 or a felony:

248 (a) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of Title 13, Chapter 10, Unauthorized  
249 Recording Practices Act;

250 (b) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of Title 19, Environmental Quality  
251 Code, Sections 19-1-101 through 19-7-109;

252 (c) taking, destroying, or possessing wildlife or parts of wildlife for the primary  
253 purpose of sale, trade, or other pecuniary gain, in violation of Title 23, Wildlife Resources  
254 Code of Utah, or Section 23-20-4;

255 (d) false claims for medical benefits, kickbacks, and any other act prohibited by Title  
256 26, Chapter 20, Utah False Claims Act, Sections 26-20-1 through 26-20-12;

257 (e) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of Title 32B, Chapter 4, Criminal  
258 Offenses and Procedure Act;

259 (f) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of Title 57, Chapter 11, Utah Uniform  
260 Land Sales Practices Act;

261 (g) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of Title 58, Chapter 37, Utah  
262 Controlled Substances Act, or Title 58, Chapter 37b, Imitation Controlled Substances Act,  
263 Title 58, Chapter 37c, Utah Controlled Substance Precursor Act, or Title 58, Chapter 37d,  
264 Clandestine Drug Lab Act;

265 (h) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of Title 61, Chapter 1, Utah Uniform  
266 Securities Act;

267 (i) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah  
268 Procurement Code;

269 (j) assault or aggravated assault, Sections 76-5-102 and 76-5-103;

270 (k) a threat of terrorism, Section 76-5-107.3;

271 (l) criminal homicide, Sections 76-5-201, 76-5-202, and 76-5-203;

272 (m) kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping, Sections 76-5-301 and 76-5-302;

273 (n) human trafficking, human smuggling, or aggravated human trafficking, Sections  
274 76-5-308, 76-5-309, and 76-5-310;

275 (o) sexual exploitation of a minor, Section 76-5b-201;

- 276 (p) arson or aggravated arson, Sections 76-6-102 and 76-6-103;
- 277 (q) causing a catastrophe, Section 76-6-105;
- 278 (r) burglary or aggravated burglary, Sections 76-6-202 and 76-6-203;
- 279 (s) burglary of a vehicle, Section 76-6-204;
- 280 (t) manufacture or possession of an instrument for burglary or theft, Section 76-6-205;
- 281 (u) robbery or aggravated robbery, Sections 76-6-301 and 76-6-302;
- 282 (v) theft, Section 76-6-404;
- 283 (w) theft by deception, Section 76-6-405;
- 284 (x) theft by extortion, Section 76-6-406;
- 285 (y) receiving stolen property, Section 76-6-408;
- 286 (z) theft of services, Section 76-6-409;
- 287 (aa) forgery, Section 76-6-501;
- 288 (bb) fraudulent use of a credit card, Sections 76-6-506.2, 76-6-506.3, 76-6-506.5, and
- 289 76-6-506.6;
- 290 (cc) deceptive business practices, Section 76-6-507;
- 291 (dd) bribery or receiving bribe by person in the business of selection, appraisal, or
- 292 criticism of goods, Section 76-6-508;
- 293 (ee) bribery of a labor official, Section 76-6-509;
- 294 (ff) defrauding creditors, Section 76-6-511;
- 295 (gg) acceptance of deposit by insolvent financial institution, Section 76-6-512;
- 296 (hh) unlawful dealing with property by fiduciary, Section 76-6-513;
- 297 (ii) bribery or threat to influence contest, Section 76-6-514;
- 298 (jj) making a false credit report, Section 76-6-517;
- 299 (kk) criminal simulation, Section 76-6-518;
- 300 (ll) criminal usury, Section 76-6-520;
- 301 (mm) fraudulent insurance act, Section 76-6-521;
- 302 (nn) retail theft, Section 76-6-602;
- 303 (oo) computer crimes, Section 76-6-703;
- 304 (pp) identity fraud, Section 76-6-1102;
- 305 (qq) mortgage fraud, Section 76-6-1203;
- 306 (rr) sale of a child, Section 76-7-203;

- 307 (ss) bribery to influence official or political actions, Section 76-8-103;
- 308 (tt) threats to influence official or political action, Section 76-8-104;
- 309 (uu) receiving bribe or bribery by public servant, Section 76-8-105;
- 310 (vv) receiving bribe or bribery for endorsement of person as public servant, Section
- 311 76-8-106;
- 312 (ww) official misconduct, Sections 76-8-201 and 76-8-202;
- 313 (xx) obstruction of justice, Section 76-8-306;
- 314 (yy) acceptance of bribe or bribery to prevent criminal prosecution, Section 76-8-308;
- 315 (zz) false or inconsistent material statements, Section 76-8-502;
- 316 (aaa) false or inconsistent statements, Section 76-8-503;
- 317 (bbb) written false statements, Section 76-8-504;
- 318 (ccc) tampering with a witness or soliciting or receiving a bribe, Section 76-8-508;
- 319 (ddd) retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, Section 76-8-508.3;
- 320 (eee) extortion or bribery to dismiss criminal proceeding, Section 76-8-509;
- 321 (fff) tampering with evidence, Section 76-8-510.5;
- 322 (ggg) falsification or alteration of government record, Section 76-8-511, if the record is
- 323 a record described in Title 20A, Election Code, or Title 36, Chapter 11, Lobbyist Disclosure
- 324 and Regulation Act;
- 325 (hhh) public assistance fraud in violation of Section 76-8-1203, 76-8-1204, or
- 326 76-8-1205;
- 327 (iii) unemployment insurance fraud, Section 76-8-1301;
- 328 (jjj) intentionally or knowingly causing one animal to fight with another, Subsection
- 329 76-9-301(2)[~~(d)~~ or (e) or (f), or Section 76-9-301.1;
- 330 (kkk) possession, use, or removal of explosives, chemical, or incendiary devices or
- 331 parts, Section 76-10-306;
- 332 (lll) delivery to common carrier, mailing, or placement on premises of an incendiary
- 333 device, Section 76-10-307;
- 334 (mmm) possession of a deadly weapon with intent to assault, Section 76-10-507;
- 335 (nnn) unlawful marking of pistol or revolver, Section 76-10-521;
- 336 (ooo) alteration of number or mark on pistol or revolver, Section 76-10-522;
- 337 (ppp) forging or counterfeiting trademarks, trade name, or trade device, Section

338 76-10-1002;  
339 (qqq) selling goods under counterfeited trademark, trade name, or trade devices,  
340 Section 76-10-1003;  
341 (rrr) sales in containers bearing registered trademark of substituted articles, Section  
342 76-10-1004;  
343 (sss) selling or dealing with article bearing registered trademark or service mark with  
344 intent to defraud, Section 76-10-1006;  
345 (ttt) gambling, Section 76-10-1102;  
346 (uuu) gambling fraud, Section 76-10-1103;  
347 (vvv) gambling promotion, Section 76-10-1104;  
348 (www) possessing a gambling device or record, Section 76-10-1105;  
349 (xxx) confidence game, Section 76-10-1109;  
350 (yyy) distributing pornographic material, Section 76-10-1204;  
351 (zzz) inducing acceptance of pornographic material, Section 76-10-1205;  
352 (aaaa) dealing in harmful material to a minor, Section 76-10-1206;  
353 (bbbb) distribution of pornographic films, Section 76-10-1222;  
354 (cccc) indecent public displays, Section 76-10-1228;  
355 (dddd) prostitution, Section 76-10-1302;  
356 (eeee) aiding prostitution, Section 76-10-1304;  
357 (ffff) exploiting prostitution, Section 76-10-1305;  
358 (gggg) aggravated exploitation of prostitution, Section 76-10-1306;  
359 (hhhh) communications fraud, Section 76-10-1801;  
360 (iiii) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of Part 19, Money Laundering and  
361 Currency Transaction Reporting Act;  
362 (jjjj) vehicle compartment for contraband, Section 76-10-2801;  
363 (kkkk) any act prohibited by the criminal provisions of the laws governing taxation in  
364 this state; and  
365 (llll) any act illegal under the laws of the United States and enumerated in 18 U.S.C.  
366 Sec. 1961(1)(B), (C), and (D).

**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**