



# The National Agricultural Law Center

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States' Animal Cruelty Statutes:

*Oregon*



This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

# A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication

## States' Animal Cruelty Statutes: Oregon

OR Rev. Stat. § 133.377 & 133.379  
OR Rev. Stat. § 167.305 through 167.439  
OR Rev. Stat. § 609.140 through 609.994

*Current through amendments effective on March 12, 2024.*

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 133.377. Animal abuse; animal care**

(1) Any person violating ORS 167.315 to 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428 may be arrested and held without warrant, in the same manner as in the case of persons found breaking the peace.

(2) The person making the arrest, with or without warrant, shall use reasonable diligence to give notice thereof to the owners of the animals found in the charge of the person arrested, and shall properly care and provide for such animals until the owners or their duly authorized agents take charge of them; provided, such owners or agents shall claim and take charge of the animals within 60 days from the date of said notice.

(3) The person making such arrest shall have a lien upon the animals for the expense of such care and provisions.

(4) Any peace officer who cares or provides for an animal pursuant to this section and any person into whose care an animal is delivered by a peace officer acting under this section shall be immune from civil or criminal liability based upon an allegation that such care was negligently provided.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 133.379. Duty to arrest and prosecute animal abusers**

It shall be the duty of any peace officer to arrest and prosecute any violator of ORS 167.315 to 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428 for any violation which comes to the knowledge or notice of the officer.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.305. Legislative findings and declarations**



The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:

- (1) Animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, stress and fear;
- (2) Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize pain, stress, fear and suffering;
- (3) The suffering of animals can be mitigated by expediting the disposition of abused animals that would otherwise languish in cages while their defendant owners await trial;
- (4) The suffering of animals at the hands of unlicensed animal rescue organizations that are unable to provide sufficient food and care for the animals can be reduced by requiring such organizations to comply with regulations;
- (5) The State of Oregon has an interest in facilitating the mitigation of costs of care incurred by a government agency, a humane investigation agency or its agent or a person that provides treatment for impounded animals;
- (6) A government agency, a humane investigation agency or its agent or a person that provides care and treatment for impounded or seized animals:
  - (a) Has an interest in mitigating the costs of the care and treatment in order to ensure the swift and thorough rehabilitation of the animals; and
  - (b) May mitigate the costs of the care and treatment through funding that is separate from, and in addition to, any recovery of reasonable costs that a court orders a defendant to pay while a forfeiture proceeding is pending or subsequent to a conviction;
- (7) Use of preconviction civil remedies is not an affront to the presumption of innocence; and
- (8) Amendments to current law are needed to ensure that interested parties are afforded adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard and thus cannot unduly delay or impede animal lien foreclosure and preconviction forfeiture processes through unfounded due process claims.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.310. Definitions**



As used in ORS 167.310 to 167.351:

(1) “Adequate bedding” means bedding of sufficient quantity and quality to permit a domestic animal to remain dry and reasonably clean and maintain a normal body temperature.

(2)

(a) “Adequate shelter” includes a barn, doghouse or other enclosed structure sufficient to protect a domestic animal from wind, rain, snow or sun, that has adequate bedding to protect against cold and dampness and that is maintained to protect the domestic animal from weather and physical injury.

(b) “Adequate shelter” does not include:

(A) Crawl spaces under buildings or parts of buildings, such as steps, decks or stoops;

(B) The space under a vehicle;

(C) The inside of a vehicle if the domestic animal is kept in the vehicle in a manner or for a length of time that is likely to be detrimental to the domestic animal's health or safety;

(D) Shelters made from cardboard or other materials that are easily degraded by the elements;

(E) Animal carriers or crates that are designed to provide temporary housing;

(F) Shelters with wire or chain-link floors, unless the domestic animal is a bird; or

(G) Shelters surrounded by waste, debris, obstructions or impediments that could adversely affect an animal's health.

(3) “Animal” means any nonhuman mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish.

(4) “Domestic animal” means an animal, other than livestock or equines, that is owned or possessed by a person.



(5) “Equine” means a horse, pony, donkey, mule, hinny, zebra or a hybrid of any of these animals.

(6) “Good animal husbandry” includes, but is not limited to, the dehorning of cattle, the docking of horses, sheep or swine, and the castration or neutering of livestock, according to accepted practices of veterinary medicine or animal husbandry.

(7) “Law enforcement animal” means a dog or horse used in law enforcement work under the control of a corrections officer, parole and probation officer, police officer or youth correction officer, as those terms are defined in ORS 181A.355, who has successfully completed at least 360 hours of training in the care and use of a law enforcement animal, or who has passed the demonstration of minimum standards established by the Oregon Police Canine Association or other accredited and recognized animal handling organization.

(8)

(a) “Livestock,” except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, has the meaning provided in ORS 609.125.

(b) “Livestock” does not include psittacines.

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

(a) Food of sufficient quantity and quality to allow for normal growth or maintenance of body weight.

(b) Open or adequate access to potable water in sufficient quantity to satisfy the animal's needs. Access to snow or ice is not adequate access to potable water.

(c) For a domestic animal other than a dog engaged in herding or protecting livestock, access to adequate shelter.

(d) Veterinary care deemed necessary by a reasonably prudent person to relieve distress from injury, neglect or disease.

(e) For a domestic animal, continuous access to an area:



(A) With adequate space for exercise necessary for the health of the animal;

(B) With air temperature suitable for the animal; and

(C) Kept reasonably clean and free from excess waste or other contaminants that could affect the animal's health.

(f) For a livestock animal that cannot walk or stand without assistance:

(A) Humane euthanasia; or

(B) The provision of immediate and ongoing care to restore the animal to an ambulatory state.

(10) “Physical injury” means physical trauma, impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

(11) “Physical trauma” means fractures, cuts, punctures, bruises, burns or other wounds.

(12) “Possess” has the meaning provided in ORS 161.015.

(13) “Serious physical injury” means physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a limb or bodily organ.

(14)

(a) “Tethering” means to restrain a domestic animal by tying the domestic animal to any object or structure by any means.

(b) “Tethering” does not include using a handheld leash for the purpose of walking a domestic animal.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.312. Research and animal interference**

(1) A person commits the crime of research and animal interference if the person:



(a) With the intent to interfere with research, releases, steals or otherwise causes the death, injury or loss of any animal at or from an animal research facility.

(b) With the intent to interfere with research, damages, vandalizes or steals any property in or on an animal research facility.

(c) With the intent to interfere with research, obtains access to an animal research facility to perform acts not authorized by that facility.

(d) Obtains or exerts unauthorized control over records, data, materials, equipment or animals of any animal research facility with the intent to interfere with research by concealing, abandoning or destroying such records, data, materials, equipment or animals.

(e) With the intent to interfere with research, possesses or uses equipment or animals that the person reasonably believes have been obtained by theft or deception from an animal research facility or without the authorization of an animal research facility.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "animal research facility" means any facility engaging in legal scientific research or teaching involving the use of animals.

(3) Research and animal interference is a:

(a) Class C felony if damage to the animal research facility is \$2,500 or more; or

(b) Class A misdemeanor if there is no damage to the facility or if damage to the animal research facility is less than \$2,500.

(4) Determination of damages to an animal research facility shall be made by the court. In making its determination, the court shall consider the reasonable costs of:

(a) Replacing lost, injured or destroyed animals;

(b) Restoring the animal research facility to the approximate condition of the facility before the damage occurred; and



(c) Replacing damaged or missing records, data, material or equipment.

(5) In addition to any other penalty imposed for violation of this section, a person convicted of such violation is liable:

(a) To the owner of the animal for damages, including the costs of restoring the animal to confinement and to its health condition prior to commission of the acts constituting the violation;

(b) For damages to real and personal property caused by acts constituting the violation; and

(c) For the costs of repeating an experiment, including the replacement of the animals, labor and materials, if acts constituting the violation cause the failure of an experiment.

#### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.315. Animal abuse in the second degree**

(1) A person commits the crime of animal abuse in the second degree if, except as otherwise authorized by law, the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes physical injury to an animal.

(2) Any practice of good animal husbandry is not a violation of this section.

(3) Animal abuse in the second degree is a Class B misdemeanor.

#### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.320. Animal abuse in the first degree**

(1) A person commits the crime of animal abuse in the first degree if, except as otherwise authorized by law, the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly:

(a) Causes serious physical injury to an animal; or

(b) Cruelly causes the death of an animal.

(2) Any practice of good animal husbandry is not a violation of this section.

(3) Animal abuse in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, animal abuse in the first degree is a Class C felony if:



(a) The person committing the animal abuse has previously been convicted of two or more of the following offenses:

(A) Any offense under ORS 163.160, 163.165, 163.175, 163.185 or 163.187 or the equivalent laws of another jurisdiction, if the offense involved domestic violence as defined in ORS 135.230 or the offense was committed against a minor child; or

(B) Any offense under this section or ORS 167.322, or the equivalent laws of another jurisdiction; or

(b) The person knowingly commits the animal abuse in the immediate presence of a minor child. For purposes of this paragraph, a minor child is in the immediate presence of animal abuse if the abuse is seen or directly perceived in any other manner by the minor child.

(5) When animal abuse in the first degree is a felony, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission shall classify the offense as crime category 6 of the sentencing guidelines grid.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.322. Aggravated animal abuse in the first degree**

(1) A person commits the crime of aggravated animal abuse in the first degree if the person:

(a) Maliciously kills an animal; or

(b) Intentionally or knowingly tortures an animal.

(2) Aggravated animal abuse in the first degree is a Class C felony and the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission shall classify the offense as crime category 6 of the sentencing guidelines grid.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Maliciously" means intentionally acting with a depravity of mind and reckless and wanton disregard of life.



(b) "Torture" means an action taken for the primary purpose of inflicting pain.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.325. Animal neglect in the second degree**

(1) A person commits the crime of animal neglect in the second degree if, except as otherwise authorized by law, the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence:

(a) Fails to provide minimum care for an animal in such person's custody or control; or

(b) Tethers a domestic animal in the person's custody or control and the tethering results in physical injury to the domestic animal.

(2) Animal neglect in the second degree is a Class B misdemeanor.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, animal neglect in the second degree is a Class C felony if:

(a) The person committing the offense has previously been convicted of two or more offenses under this section, ORS 167.330 or the equivalent laws of another jurisdiction;

(b) The offense was part of a criminal episode involving 11 or more animals; or

(c) The person knowingly commits the offense in the immediate presence of a minor child and the person has one or more previous convictions for an offense involving domestic violence as defined in ORS 135.230. For purposes of this paragraph, a minor child is in the immediate presence of animal neglect if the neglect is seen or directly perceived in any other manner by the minor child.

(4) The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission shall classify animal neglect in the second degree under subsection (3) of this section:

(a) As crime category 6 if 11 to 40 animals were the subject of the neglect.



(b) As crime category 7 if more than 40 animals were the subject of the neglect or if the offense is a felony because of circumstances described in subsection (3)(a) or (c) of this section.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.330. Animal neglect in the first degree**

(1) A person commits the crime of animal neglect in the first degree if, except as otherwise authorized by law, the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence:

(a) Fails to provide minimum care for an animal in the person's custody or control and the failure to provide care results in serious physical injury or death to the animal; or

(b) Tethers a domestic animal in the person's custody or control and the tethering results in serious physical injury or death to the domestic animal.

(2) Animal neglect in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, animal neglect in the first degree is a Class C felony if:

(a) The person committing the offense has previously been convicted of one or more offenses under this section, ORS 167.325 or the equivalent laws of another jurisdiction;

(b) The offense was part of a criminal episode involving 10 or more animals; or

(c) The person knowingly commits the offense in the immediate presence of a minor child. For purposes of this paragraph, a minor child is in the immediate presence of animal neglect if the neglect is seen or directly perceived in any other manner by the minor child.

(4) The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission shall classify animal neglect in the first degree under subsection (3) of this section:

(a) As crime category 6 if 10 to 40 animals were the subject of the neglect.



(b) As crime category 7 if more than 40 animals were the subject of the neglect or if the offense is a felony because of circumstances described in subsection (3)(a) or (c) of this section.

**OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.332. Prohibition against possession of same genus or domestic animal; prohibition period reduction; waiver procedure.**

(1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section:

(a) In addition to any other penalty imposed by law, a person convicted of violating ORS 167.315, 167.340 or 167.355 or of a misdemeanor under ORS 167.320, 167.325 or 167.330 may not possess any animal of the same genus against which the crime was committed or any domestic animal for a period of five years following entry of the conviction.

(b) In addition to any other penalty imposed by law, a person convicted of violating ORS 167.322, 167.333, 167.365 or 167.428 or of a felony under ORS 167.320, 167.325 or 167.330 may not possess any animal of the same genus against which the crime was committed or any domestic animal for a period of 15 years following entry of the conviction. However, the sentencing court may reduce the prohibition period if the person successfully completes mental health treatment approved by the court.

(2) A person who possesses an animal in violation of this section commits a Class C misdemeanor. When a person is convicted of possessing an animal in violation of this section, as part of the sentence the court may order the removal of that animal from the person's residence and as a condition of the person's probation may prohibit the person from possessing any animal of the same genus that the person unlawfully possessed under this section or against which the underlying violation of ORS 167.315, 167.320, 167.322, 167.325, 167.330, 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428 was committed.

(3) The animal possession prohibition described in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to a person's first conviction if the person is the owner of a commercial livestock operation and the underlying violation of ORS 167.315, 167.320, 167.322, 167.325, 167.330, 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428 was committed against livestock.

(4)



(a) A person subject to an animal possession prohibition described in subsection (1) of this section may file a motion with the sentencing court requesting a waiver of the prohibition. The person must file a sworn affidavit in support of the motion stating that:

(A) The person's conviction leading to the possession prohibition involved only livestock;

(B) During the two years before the conviction triggering the prohibition, the person was the owner of a commercial livestock operation;

(C) The person has not been convicted, in the previous five years of a crime involving animals or domestic violence or a crime where the victim was under 18 years of age; and

(D) The person's conviction was the result of:

(i) Criminal liability for the conduct of another person under ORS 161.155 (2)(c);

(ii) Criminal liability of a corporation as described in ORS 161.170, and the person is a corporation; or

(iii) Animal neglect as described in ORS 167.325 or 167.330 and the person's criminal conduct was not knowing or intentional.

(b) When a person files a motion and affidavit described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the sentencing court shall hold a hearing. At the hearing, the sentencing court shall grant the motion if the person proves by clear and convincing evidence that:

(A) Continued enforcement of the prohibition against possessing livestock would result in substantial economic hardship that cannot otherwise be mitigated;

(B) The person no longer poses any risk to animals; and

(C) The person is capable of providing and willing to provide necessary, adequate and appropriate levels of care for all



livestock that would come within the person's custody or control if the petition is granted.

(c) When deciding a motion filed under this subsection, the sentencing court may consider the person's financial circumstances and mental health in determining whether the person is capable of adequately caring for livestock.

(d) If the sentencing court grants the motion described in this subsection, the waiver of the prohibition against possessing animals shall apply only to livestock. The sentencing court shall further order that for five years the person must consent to reasonable inspections by law enforcement and the United States Department of Agriculture to ensure the welfare of the livestock under the person's custody or control. A refusal to consent to a reasonable inspection described in this paragraph is contempt of court and, if the person is found in contempt, shall result in the sentencing court revoking the waiver of the possession prohibition.

(e) As used in this subsection, “commercial livestock operation” means a business engaged in the raising, breeding or selling of livestock for profit.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.333. Sexual assault of animal**

(1) A person commits the crime of sexual assault of an animal if the person:

(a) Touches or contacts, or causes an object or another person to touch or contact, the mouth, anus or sex organs of an animal or animal carcass for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of a person; or

(b) Causes an animal or animal carcass to touch or contact the mouth, anus or sex organs of a person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of a person.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to the use of products derived from animals.

(3) Sexual assault of an animal is a Class C felony.



**OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.334. Evaluation of person convicted of violating ORS 167.333**

Upon the conviction of a defendant for violation of ORS 167.333, the court may order a psychiatric or psychological evaluation of the defendant for inclusion in the presentence report as described in ORS 137.077.

**OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.335. Exemption from ORS 167.315 to 167.333**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, unless gross negligence can be shown, the provisions of ORS 167.315 to 167.333 do not apply to:

- (a) The treatment of livestock being transported by owner or common carrier;
- (b) Animals involved in rodeos or similar exhibitions;
- (c) Commercially grown poultry;
- (d) Animals subject to good animal husbandry practices;
- (e) The killing of livestock according to the provisions of ORS 603.065;
- (f) Animals subject to good veterinary practices as described in ORS 686.030;
- (g) Lawful fishing, hunting and trapping activities;
- (h) Wildlife management practices under color of law;
- (i) Lawful scientific or agricultural research or teaching that involves the use of animals;
- (j) Reasonable activities undertaken in connection with the control of vermin or pests; and
- (k) Reasonable handling and training techniques.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not create an exemption from ORS 167.332.



### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.337. Interfering with police animal**

(1) A person commits the crime of interfering with a law enforcement animal if the person intentionally or knowingly injures or attempts to injure an animal the person knows or reasonably should know is a law enforcement animal while the law enforcement animal is being used in the lawful discharge of its duty.

(2) Interfering with a law enforcement animal is a Class A misdemeanor.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.339. Assault of a law enforcement animal**

(1) A person commits the crime of assaulting a law enforcement animal if:

(a) The person knowingly causes serious physical injury to or the death of a law enforcement animal, knowing that the animal is a law enforcement animal; and

(b) The injury or death occurs while the law enforcement animal is being used in the lawful discharge of the animal's duties.

(2) Assaulting a law enforcement animal is a Class C felony.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.340. Animal abandonment**

(1) A person commits the crime of animal abandonment if the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence leaves a domestic animal at a location without providing for the animal's continued care.

(2) It is no defense to the crime defined in subsection (1) of this section that the defendant abandoned the animal at or near an animal shelter, veterinary clinic or other place of shelter if the defendant did not make reasonable arrangements for the care of the animal.

(3) Animal abandonment is a Class B misdemeanor.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.341. Encouraging sexual assault of an animal**

(1) A person commits the crime of encouraging sexual assault of an animal if the person:



(a) Knowingly possesses or controls, for the purpose of arousing or satisfying the sexual desires of the person or another person, a visual recording of a person engaged in sexual conduct with an animal; and

(b) Knows or is aware of and consciously disregards the fact that the creation of the visual recording involved the sexual assault of an animal as described in ORS 167.333.

(2) Encouraging sexual assault of an animal is a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) “Sexual conduct” means touching or contacting the mouth, anus or sex organs of an animal or animal carcass, or causing an animal or animal carcass to touch or contact the mouth, anus or sex organs of a person, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of a person.

(b) “Visual recording” includes, but is not limited to, photographs, films, videotapes and computer and other digital pictures, regardless of the manner in which the recording is stored.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § Unlawful tethering**

(1) A person commits the offense of unlawful tethering if the person tethers a domestic animal in the person's custody or control:

(a) With a tether that is not a reasonable length given the size of the domestic animal and available space and that allows the domestic animal to become entangled in a manner that risks the health or safety of the domestic animal;

(b) With a collar that pinches or chokes the domestic animal when pulled;

(c) For more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period; or

(d) For more than 15 hours in a 24-hour period if the tether is attached to a running line, pulley or trolley system.



(2) A person does not violate this section if the person tethers a domestic animal:

(a) While the domestic animal remains in the physical presence of the person who owns, possesses, controls or otherwise has charge of the domestic animal;

(b) Pursuant to the requirements of a campground or other recreational area;

(c) For the purpose of engaging in an activity that requires licensure in this state, including but not limited to hunting;

(d) To allow the person to transport the domestic animal; or

(e) That is a dog kept for herding, protecting livestock or dogsledding.

(3) Unlawful tethering is a Class B violation.

**OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.345. Authority to enter premises or motor vehicle; search warrant; notice of impoundment; damage resulting from entry.**

(1) As used in this section, "peace officer" has the meaning given that term in ORS 161.015.

(2) If there is probable cause to believe that any animal is being subjected to treatment in violation of ORS 167.315 to 167.333 or 167.340, a peace officer, after obtaining a search warrant or in any other manner authorized by law, may enter the premises where the animal is located to provide the animal with food, water and emergency medical treatment and may impound the animal. If after reasonable effort the owner or person having custody of the animal cannot be found and notified of the impoundment, the notice shall be conspicuously posted on the premises and within 72 hours after the impoundment the notice shall be sent by certified mail to the address, if any, where the animal was impounded.

(3) A peace officer is not liable for any damages for an entry under subsection (2) of this section, unless the damages were caused by the unnecessary actions of the peace officer that were intentional or reckless.

(4)



(a) A court may order an animal impounded under subsection (2) of this section to be held at any animal care facility in the state. A facility receiving the animal shall provide adequate food and water and may provide veterinary care.

(b) A court may order a fighting bird impounded under subsection (2) of this section to be held on the property of the owner, possessor or keeper of the fighting bird in accordance with ORS 167.433.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.347. Forfeiture of impounded animal**

(1)

(a) If an animal is impounded pursuant to ORS 167.345 and is being held by a county animal shelter or other animal care agency pending outcome of a criminal action charging a violation of ORS 167.315 to 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428, prior to the final disposition of the criminal action, the county or other animal care agency or, on behalf of the county or other animal care agency, the district attorney, may file a petition in the criminal action requesting that the court issue an order forfeiting the animal to the county or other animal care agency prior to the final disposition of the criminal action. The petitioner shall serve a true copy of the petition upon the defendant and, unless the district attorney has filed the petition on behalf of the county or other animal care agency, the district attorney.

(b) A petition may be filed in the criminal action under paragraph (a) of this subsection concerning any animal impounded under ORS 167.345 and held pending the outcome of the criminal action, regardless of whether the specific animal is the subject of a criminal charge, or named in the charging instrument, in the criminal action.

(2)

(a) Upon receipt of a petition pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the court shall set a hearing on the petition. The hearing shall be conducted within 14 days after the filing of the petition, or as soon as practicable.



(b) To provide notice on any potential claimant who may have an interest in any animals impounded pursuant to ORS 167.345 and as an alternate form of service upon a defendant who cannot be personally served as required in subsection (1) of this section, a petitioner may publish notice of the filing of the petition, printed twice weekly for up to 14 consecutive days in a daily or weekly newspaper, as defined in ORS 193.010, published in the county in which the hearing is to be held or, if there is none, in a daily or weekly newspaper, as defined in ORS 193.010, generally circulated in the county in which the hearing is to be held. The notice of the filing of the petition required under this subsection shall contain a description of the impounded animal or animals, the name of the owner or reputed owner thereof, the location from which the animal or animals were impounded and the time and place of the hearing if the hearing has been set at the time of publication, or otherwise the name, address and phone number for the attorney for the petitioner, who shall upon request provide further details on the hearing date, place and time.

(3) At a hearing conducted pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the petitioner shall have the burden of establishing probable cause to believe that the animal was subjected to a violation of ORS 167.315 to 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428. The defendant or any other claimant shall have an opportunity to be heard before the court makes its final finding. If the court finds that probable cause exists, the court shall order immediate forfeiture of the animal to the petitioner, unless the defendant or any other claimant, within 72 hours of the hearing, posts a security deposit or bond with the court clerk in an amount determined by the court to be sufficient to repay all reasonable costs incurred, and anticipated to be incurred, by the petitioner in caring for the animal from the date of initial impoundment to the date of trial.

(4) If a security deposit or bond has been posted in accordance with subsection (3) of this section, and the trial in the action is continued at a later date, any order of continuance shall require the defendant or any other claimant to post an additional security deposit or bond in an amount determined by the court that shall be sufficient to repay all additional reasonable costs anticipated to be incurred by the petitioner in caring for the animal until the new date of trial.

(5) If a security deposit or bond has been posted in accordance with subsection (4) of this section, the petitioner may draw from that security deposit or bond the actual reasonable costs incurred by the petitioner in caring for any impounded animal from the date of initial impoundment to the date of final disposition of the animal in the related criminal action.



(6) The provisions of this section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, the provisions of ORS 167.350 and 167.435 and ORS chapters 87 and 88.

**OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.348.Placement of forfeited animal; preference**

(1) If an animal is forfeited according to the provisions of ORS 167.347 or 167.350, the agency to which the animal was forfeited may place the animal with a new owner. The agency may give placement preference to any person or persons who had prior contact with the animal, including but not limited to family members and friends of the former owner whom the agency determines are capable of providing necessary, adequate and appropriate levels of care for the animal. The agency may not, however, place the animal with family members or friends of the former owner who aided or abetted the criminal conduct underlying the forfeiture or had knowledge of the criminal conduct and failed to intervene. As a condition of placement, the agency shall require the new owner to execute an agreement to provide minimum care to the animal. The agreement must indicate that allowing the former owner to possess the animal constitutes a crime.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the agency may not place the animal with any person who resides with the former owner.

**OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.349.Encouraging animal abuse**

(1) A person commits the crime of encouraging animal abuse if the person:

(a) Obtains a previously abused, neglected or abandoned animal from an animal care agency under ORS 167.348 or the court under ORS 167.350; and

(b) Knowingly allows the person from whom the animal was forfeited to possess the animal.

(2) Encouraging animal abuse is a Class C misdemeanor.

**OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.350.Forfeiture of rights in mistreated animal; costs; penalty**

(1)

(a) In addition to and not in lieu of any other sentence it may impose, a court may require a defendant convicted under ORS



167.315 to 167.333, 167.340, 167.355 or 167.365 to forfeit any rights of the defendant in the animal subjected to the violation, and to repay the reasonable costs incurred by a government agency, a humane investigation agency or its agent or a person prior to judgment in caring for each animal associated with the criminal proceeding.

(b) If a government agency or a humane investigation agency or its agent provides care and treatment for impounded or seized animals, a court that orders a defendant to repay reasonable costs of care under paragraph (a) of this subsection may not reduce the incurred cost amount based on the agency having received donations or other funding for the care.

(2)

(a) When the court orders the defendant's rights in the animal to be forfeited, the court may further order that those rights be given over to an appropriate person or agency demonstrating a willingness to accept and care for the animal or to the county or an appropriate animal care agency for further disposition in accordance with accepted practices for humane treatment of animals. The court may not transfer the defendant's rights in the animal to any person who resides with the defendant.

(b) This subsection does not limit the right of the person or agency to whom rights are granted to resell or otherwise make disposition of the animal. A transfer of rights under this subsection constitutes a transfer of ownership. The court shall require a person to whom rights are granted to execute an agreement to provide minimum care to the animal. The agreement must indicate that allowing the defendant to possess the animal constitutes a crime.

(3) In addition to and not in lieu of any other sentence it may impose, a court may order the owner or person having custody of an animal to repay any reasonable costs incurred by a government agency, a humane investigation agency or its agent or a person in providing minimum care to the animal that are not included in a repayment order under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) A court may order a person convicted under ORS 167.315 to 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428 to participate in available animal cruelty prevention programs or education programs, or both, or to obtain psychological counseling for treatment of mental health disorders that,



in the court's judgment, contributed to the commission of the crime. The person shall bear any costs incurred by the person for participation in counseling or treatment programs under this subsection.

(5) ORS 131.550 to 131.600 do not apply to the forfeiture of an animal subjected to a violation of ORS 167.315 to 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428. Any such animal is subject to forfeiture as provided in subsections (1) to (3) of this section or, if the animal is a fighting bird, as provided in ORS 167.435.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.351. Trading in nonambulatory livestock.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Nonambulatory" means unable to stand or walk unassisted.

(b) "Livestock auction market" has the meaning given that term in ORS 599.205.

(2) A person commits the crime of trading in nonambulatory livestock if the person knowingly delivers or accepts delivery of a nonambulatory livestock animal at a livestock auction market. This subsection does not apply to the delivery to, or acceptance by, a licensed veterinarian at a livestock auction market for the purpose of humanely euthanizing or providing appropriate medical care to the animal.

(3) The crime of trading in nonambulatory livestock is a Class A misdemeanor.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.352. Interfering with assistance, search and rescue or therapy animal**

(1) A person commits the crime of interfering with an assistance, a search and rescue or a therapy animal if the person intentionally or knowingly:

(a) Injures or attempts to injure an animal the person knows or reasonably should know is an assistance animal, a search and rescue animal or a therapy animal;

(b) Interferes with an assistance animal while the assistance animal is being used to provide assistance to a person with a physical impairment;  
or



(c) Interferes with a search and rescue animal or a therapy animal while the animal is being used for search and rescue or therapy purposes.

(2) As used in this section, "assistance animal" and "person with a physical impairment" have the meanings given those terms in ORS 346.680.

(3) As used in this section and ORS 30.822:

(a) "Search and rescue animal" means that the animal has been professionally trained for, and is actively used for, search and rescue purposes.

(b) "Therapy animal" means that the animal has been professionally trained for, and is actively used for, therapy purposes.

(4) Interfering with an assistance, a search and rescue or a therapy animal is a Class A misdemeanor.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.355. Involvement in animal fighting**

(1) A person commits the crime of involvement in animal fighting if the person:

(a) Owns or trains an animal with the intention that the animal engage in an exhibition of fighting;

(b) Promotes, conducts, participates in or is present as a spectator at an exhibition of fighting or preparations thereto;

(c) Keeps or uses, or in any way is connected with or interested in the management of, or receives money for the admission of any person to any place kept or used for the purpose of an exhibition of fighting; or

(d) Knowingly suffers or permits any place over which the person has possession or control to be occupied, kept or used for the purpose of an exhibition of fighting.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Animal" means any bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or nonhuman mammal, other than a dog or a fighting bird as defined in ORS 167.426.



(b) "Exhibition of fighting" means a public or private display of combat between two or more animals in which the fighting, killing, maiming or injuring of animals is a significant feature. "Exhibition of fighting" does not include demonstrations of the hunting or tracking skills of an animal or the lawful use of animals for hunting, tracking or self-protection.

(3) Involvement in animal fighting is a Class C felony.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.360. Definitions**

As used in ORS 167.360 to 167.372:

(1) "Breaking stick" means a device designed for insertion behind the molars of a dog for the purpose of breaking the dog's grip on another animal or object.

(2) "Cat mill" means a device that rotates around a central support with one arm designed to secure a dog and one arm designed to secure a cat, rabbit or other small animal beyond the grasp of the dog.

(3) "Dogfight" means a fight, arranged by any person, between two or more dogs the purpose or probable result of which fight is the infliction of injury by one dog upon another.

(4) "Dogfighting paraphernalia" means:

(a) A breaking stick;

(b) A springpole;

(c) A cat mill;

(d) A treadmill;

(e) A fighting pit;

(f) A leather or mesh collar with a strap more than two inches in width;

(g) A weighted or unweighted chain collar weighing 10 pounds or more;  
or



(h) An unprescribed veterinary medicine that is a prescription drug as defined in ORS 689.005.

(5) “Fighting dog” means a dog that is intentionally bred or trained to be used in, or that is actually used in, a dogfight. A dog does not constitute a fighting dog solely on account of its breed.

(6) “Fighting pit” means a walled area designed to contain a dogfight.

(7) “Springpole” means a biting surface attached to a stretchable device, suspended at a height sufficient to prevent a dog from reaching the biting surface while touching the ground.

(8) “Treadmill” means:

(a) A carpet mill made of narrow sections of carpet;

(b) A modified electric treadmill for the purpose of conditioning dogs; or

(c) A slat mill with a running surface constructed of slats made of wood, fiberglass, plastic or other similar material.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.365. Dogfighting**

(1) A person commits the crime of dogfighting if the person knowingly does any of the following:

(a) Owns, possesses, keeps, breeds, trains, buys, sells or offers to sell a fighting dog, including but not limited to any advertisement by the person to sell such a dog.

(b) Promotes, conducts or participates in, or performs any service in the furtherance of, an exhibition of dogfighting, including but not limited to refereeing of a dogfight, handling of dogs at a dogfight, transportation of spectators to a dogfight, organizing a dogfight, advertising a dogfight, providing or serving as a stakes holder for any money wagered on a fight.

(c) Keeps, uses or manages, or accepts payment of admission to, any place kept or used for the purpose of dogfighting.



(d) Suffers or permits any place over which the person has possession or control to be occupied, kept or used for the purpose of an exhibition of dogfighting.

(2) Dogfighting is a Class C felony.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.370. Participation in dogfighting**

(1) A person commits the crime of participation in dogfighting if the person knowingly:

(a) Attends or has paid admission at any place for the purpose of viewing or betting upon a dogfight.

(b) Advertises or otherwise offers to sell equipment that the person knows or reasonably should know will be used for the purpose of training and handling a fighting dog.

(2) Participation in dogfighting is a Class C felony.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.372. Possessing dogfighting paraphernalia**

(1) A person commits the crime of possessing dogfighting paraphernalia if the person owns or possesses dogfighting paraphernalia with the intent that the paraphernalia be used to train a dog as a fighting dog or be used in the furtherance of a dogfight.

(2) Possessing dogfighting paraphernalia is a Class C felony.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.374. Breeding dogs; possession; records**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) “Boarding kennel” means a facility that provides care for a fee to dogs that stay at the facility an average of less than 30 days.

(b) “Dog” means a member of the subspecies *Canis lupus familiaris* or a hybrid of that subspecies.



(c) “Litter” means one or more dogs, sold individually or together, that are all or part of a group of dogs born to the same mother at the same time.

(2) A person may not possess, control or otherwise have charge of at the same time more than 50 sexually intact dogs that are two years of age or older for the primary purpose of reproduction. It is prima facie evidence that a person possesses dogs for the primary purpose of reproduction if during a 12-month period the person sells, offers for sale, barter or exchanges more than three litters of dogs that are less than eight months of age.

(3) A person that possesses, controls or otherwise has charge of 50 or more sexually intact dogs that are eight months of age or older shall maintain a record for each of those dogs that identifies:

(a) The date of birth for the dog or, if the date of birth is unknown, the date the person acquired possession, control or charge of the dog and the source of the dog;

(b) The dates on which the dog has been bred;

(c) For a female, the number of dogs in each litter produced; and

(d) The disposition the person makes of each dog possessed by, controlled by or in the charge of the person, including the date of disposition, manner of disposition and the name and address information for any person taking possession, control or charge of a dog.

(4) A person shall retain a record required under subsection (3) of this section for a period of three years following the death of the dog or a date on which the person permanently ceased to have possession, control or charge of the dog.

(5) Subsections (2) to (4) of this section do not apply to:

(a) An animal control agency, humane society or animal shelter;

(b) A person who provides care for dogs at the request of a unit of government, government agency, humane society or animal shelter;

(c) A veterinary facility;

(d) A person that is transporting dogs; or



(e) A boarding kennel.

(6) A violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor. However, a court shall suspend sentence under this subsection for a violation of subsection (2) of this section if the person agrees to have a sufficient number of dogs spayed or neutered to remedy the violation.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.376. Breeding dogs; standard of care**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) “Boarding kennel” means a facility that provides care for a fee to dogs that stay at the facility an average of less than 30 days.

(b) “Dog” means a member of the subspecies *Canis lupus familiaris* or a hybrid of that subspecies.

(c) “Litter” means one or more dogs, sold individually or together, that are all or part of a group of dogs born to the same mother at the same time.

(d) “Regular exercise” means the removal of the dog from the dog's primary enclosure and:

(A) Walking the dog on a leash;

(B) Allowing the dog to move about freely within a building or an outdoor space at least one hour per day; or

(C) Allowing the dog to walk on a treadmill, jenny mill, slat mill or similar device, if use of the device is prescribed for the dog by a veterinarian to accommodate a specific medical condition.

(2) A person that possesses, controls or otherwise has charge of at the same time 10 or more sexually intact dogs that are eight months of age or older shall, in addition to providing minimum care as defined in ORS 167.310:

(a) Provide each dog with sufficient space to turn about freely, stand and sit and to lie down without the head, face, tail, legs or feet of the dog touching the sides of the enclosure or touching any other dog.



(b) Provide each dog with an enclosure that:

(A) Has a solid floor without slats or gaps;

(B) Is six inches higher than the head of the tallest dog in that enclosure when the tallest dog is in a normal standing position;

(C) If elevated above the floor of a room, is placed so that the floor of the enclosure is no more than 42 inches above the floor of the room; and

(D) Is not stacked or otherwise placed above or below any other dog enclosure.

(c) Provide each dog that is more than four months of age with at least one hour of regular exercise each day, unless a veterinarian has certified that the dog is medically precluded from exercise.

(d) Remove waste and contaminants from the enclosure at least once each day.

(e) Remove the dog from the enclosure when cleaning the enclosure of waste and contaminants.

(f) Maintain a record for each sexually intact dog that is eight months of age or older that identifies:

(A) The date of birth for the dog or, if the date of birth is unknown, the date on which the person acquired possession, control or charge of the dog and the source of the dog;

(B) Any veterinary care provided for the dog; and

(C) The disposition the person makes of each dog possessed by, controlled by or in the charge of the person, including the date of disposition, manner of disposition and the name and address information for any person taking possession, control or charge of a dog.

(3) A person shall retain a record required under subsection (2) of this section for a period of three years following the death of the dog or a date



on which the person permanently ceased to have possession, control or charge of the dog.

(4) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to:

- (a) An animal control agency, humane society or animal shelter;
- (b) A person who provides care for dogs at the request of a unit of government, government agency, humane society or animal shelter;
- (c) A veterinary facility;
- (d) A person that is transporting dogs; or
- (e) A boarding kennel.

(5) violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

#### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.383. Equine tripping**

(1) As used in this section, “equine” means any member of the family Equidae.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person commits the offense of equine tripping if, for purposes of a rodeo, contest, exhibition, entertainment or sport or as practice for a rodeo, contest, exhibition, entertainment or sport, the person intentionally ropes or lassos the legs of an equine, intentionally causing the equine to trip or fall.

(3) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply to a person who causes an equine to trip or fall for the purpose of allowing veterinary care for the equine.

(4) The offense of equine tripping is a Class B misdemeanor.

#### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.385. Unauthorized use of livestock animal**

(1) A person commits the crime of unauthorized use of a livestock animal when the person knowingly:

- (a) Takes, appropriates, obtains or withholds a livestock animal from the owner thereof or derives benefit from a livestock animal without the consent of the owner of the animal; or



(b) Takes or holds a livestock animal and thereby obtains the use of the animal to breed, bear or raise offspring without the consent of the owner of the animal.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by law, offspring born to a female livestock animal or hatched from the egg of a female livestock animal belong to the owner of the female livestock animal until the owner transfers ownership of the offspring.

(3) As used in this section, "livestock animal" has the same meaning given that term in ORS 164.055.

(4) Unauthorized use of a livestock animal is a Class A misdemeanor.

(5) In addition to any criminal sanctions, if a defendant is convicted of the crime of unauthorized use of a livestock animal under this section, the court shall order the defendant to pay restitution to the owner of the animal.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.387. Definitions for ORS 167.387 and 167.388.**

As used in this section and ORS 167.388:

(1) "Livestock" has the meaning given in ORS 609.125.

(2) "Livestock production facility" means:

(a) Any facility or organization engaged in animal breeding, production or processing; or

(b) Any facility or institution whose primary purpose is to impound stray animals, as that term is defined in ORS 607.007.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.388. Interference with livestock production**

(1) A person commits the crime of interference with livestock production when the person, with the intent to interfere with livestock production:

(a) Takes, appropriates, obtains or withholds livestock from the owner thereof, or causes the loss, death or injury of any livestock maintained at a livestock production facility;



(b) Damages, vandalizes or steals any property located on a livestock production facility; or

(c) Obtains access to a livestock production facility to perform any act contained in this subsection or any other act not authorized by the livestock production facility.

(2) The crime of interference with livestock production is:

(a) A Class C felony if damage to the livestock production facility is \$2,500 or more; or

(b) A Class A misdemeanor if there is no damage to the livestock production facility or if damage to the facility is less than \$2,500.

(3) Determination of damages to a livestock production facility shall be made by the court. In making its determination, the court shall consider the reasonable costs of:

(a) Replacing lost, injured or destroyed livestock;

(b) Restoring the livestock production facility to the approximate condition of the facility before the damage occurred; and

(c) Replacing damaged or missing records, data, material, equipment or substances used in the breeding and production of livestock.

(4) In addition to any criminal sanctions, if a defendant is convicted of the crime of interference with livestock production under subsection (1) of this section, the court shall order the defendant to pay restitution to the owner of the animal or the owner of the livestock production facility.

#### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.390. Commerce in fur of domestic cats and dogs**

(1) A person may not take, buy, sell, barter or otherwise exchange for commerce in fur purposes the raw fur or products that include the fur of a domestic cat or dog if the fur is obtained through a process that kills or maims the cat or dog. As used in this section, "domestic cat or dog" does not include coyote, fox, lynx, bobcat or any other wild or commercially raised wild feline or



wild canine species or a hybrid thereof that is not recognized as an endangered species by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) Violation of subsection (1) of this section, or any rule promulgated pursuant thereto, is a Class A misdemeanor when the offense is committed with a culpable mental state as defined in ORS 161.085.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.426. Definitions**

As used in ORS 167.426 to 167.439:

(1) “Cockfight” means a fight between two or more birds that is arranged by a person and that has the purpose or probable result of one bird inflicting injury to another bird.

(2) “Constructive possession” means an exercise of dominion and control over the location and treatment of property without taking physical possession of the property.

(3) “Fighting bird” means a bird that is intentionally reared or trained for use in, or that actually is used in, a cockfight.

(4) “Gaff” means an artificial steel spur designed for attachment to the leg of a fighting bird in replacement of the bird's natural spurs.

(5) “Slasher” means a steel weapon resembling a curved knife blade designed for attachment to the foot of a fighting bird.

(6) “Source bird” means:

(a) A hen used to produce one or more chicks intended for eventual use as fighting birds; or

(b) A chick being reared with the intent that the chick eventually be used as a fighting bird or as a hen described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.428. Crime of cockfighting**

(1) A person commits the crime of cockfighting if the person knowingly:



(a) Owns, possesses, keeps, rears, trains, buys, sells or advertises or otherwise offers to sell a fighting bird.

(b) Promotes or participates in, or performs services in furtherance of, the conducting of a cockfight. As used in this paragraph, “services in furtherance” includes, but is not limited to, transporting spectators to a cockfight, handling fighting birds, organizing, advertising or refereeing a cockfight and providing, or acting as stakeholder for, money wagered on a cockfight.

(c) Keeps, uses or manages, or accepts payment of admission to, a place for the conducting of a cockfight.

(d) Suffers or permits a place in the possession or control of the person to be occupied, kept or used for the conducting of a cockfight.

(2) Subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply to the owning, possessing, keeping, rearing, buying, selling, advertising or otherwise offering for sale of a bird for purposes other than training the bird as a fighting bird, using or intending to use the bird in cockfighting or supplying the bird knowing that the bird is intended to be used in cockfighting.

(3) Cockfighting is a Class C felony.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.431. Crime of participation in cockfighting**

(1) A person commits the crime of participation in cockfighting if the person knowingly:

(a) Attends a cockfight or pays admission at any location to view or bet on a cockfight; or

(b) Manufactures, buys, sells, barter, exchanges, possesses, advertises or otherwise offers to sell a gaff, slasher or other sharp implement designed for attachment to a fighting bird, or other equipment, with the intent that the gaff, slasher, implement or equipment be used in training or handling a fighting bird or for enhancing the fighting ability of a fighting bird.

(2) Participation in cockfighting is a Class C felony.



## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.433. Seizure of an alleged fighting bird or source bird**

(1) Pursuant to ORS 133.525 to 133.703, a judge may order the seizure of an alleged fighting bird or source bird owned, possessed or kept by any person.

(2) A judge ordering the seizure of an alleged fighting bird or source bird under subsection (1) of this section may order that the bird be impounded on the property of the owner, possessor or keeper of the bird. If a judge orders an alleged fighting bird or source bird impounded on the property of the owner, possessor or keeper of the bird, the court shall order the owner, possessor or keeper to provide all necessary care for the bird and to allow regular and continuing inspection of the bird by a person designated by the court, or the agent of a person designated by the court. The owner, possessor or keeper shall pay the costs of conducting the inspections. The court shall further order the owner, possessor or keeper not to sell or otherwise dispose of the bird unless the court authorizes the sale or disposition, or until the seized bird is forfeited pursuant to an order under ORS 167.435 or restored to the person pursuant to an order under ORS 133.643.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.435. Penalties**

(1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other penalty the court may impose upon a person convicted of cockfighting under ORS 167.428 or participation in cockfighting under ORS 167.431, the court shall include in the judgment an order for forfeiture to the city or county where the crime occurred of the person's rights in any property proved to have been used by the person as an instrumentality in the commission of the crime, including any fighting bird or source bird. This subsection does not limit the ability of the court to dispose of a fighting bird or source bird as provided under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) A fighting bird is a public nuisance, regardless of whether a person has been convicted of cockfighting or participation in cockfighting. If a fighting bird is ordered forfeited under subsection (1) of this section or is proved by a preponderance of the evidence in a forfeiture proceeding to be a fighting bird, the court shall order that the bird be destroyed or be otherwise disposed of. Upon the conviction of the person charged, the court shall adjudge all of the seized property of the person to be forfeited and shall order that the property be destroyed or otherwise disposed of. The court shall provide for a humane disposition of any source birds included in the forfeited property.



## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.437. Constructive possession of bird by peace officer**

(1) A peace officer having jurisdiction may, upon probable cause to believe that a bird is a fighting bird or source bird, take constructive possession of the bird on behalf of the law enforcement agency employing the officer.

(2) A peace officer who takes constructive possession of an alleged fighting bird or source bird pursuant to this section must do the following:

(a) Place a tag or other device approved by the law enforcement agency on the cage or other enclosure where the alleged fighting bird or source bird is located. The tag or other device must clearly state that it is unlawful to conceal, remove or release the bird for purposes of interfering with law enforcement agency control over the bird.

(b) Notify the owner, possessor or keeper of the bird that the bird has been seized by the law enforcement agency and may not be concealed, removed or released until authorized by a court or as provided in this section.

(c) Promptly apply to an appropriate court for an order described in ORS 167.433.

(3) If a law enforcement agency takes constructive possession of an alleged fighting bird or source bird under this section, the owner, possessor or keeper of the bird shall provide all necessary care for the bird.

(4) Constructive possession of an alleged fighting bird or source bird pursuant to this section terminates when a court order described in ORS 167.433 is served on the owner, possessor or keeper of the bird, or after 24 hours, whichever occurs first.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 167.439. Forcible recovery of fighting bird**

(1) A person commits the crime of forcible recovery of a fighting bird if the person knowingly dispossesses, or knowingly attempts to dispossess, a law enforcement agency of constructive possession of a fighting bird, a source bird or an alleged fighting bird or source bird.

(2) Forcible recovery of a fighting bird is a Class C felony.



## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.140. Action by owner of damaged livestock**

(1) The owner of any livestock which has been damaged by being injured, chased, wounded or killed by any dog shall have a cause of action against the owner of such dog for the damages resulting therefrom, including double the value of any livestock killed and double the amount of any damage to the livestock.

(2) If one or more of several dogs owned by different persons participate in damaging any livestock, the owners of the respective dogs shall be jointly and severally liable under this section. The owners of dogs jointly or severally liable under this section have a right of contribution among themselves. The right exists only in favor of an owner who has paid more than the pro rata share of the owner, determined by dividing the total damage by the number of dogs involved, of the common liability, and the total recovery of the owner is limited to the amount paid by the owner in excess of the pro rata share of the owner.

(3) An action brought under this section may be tried as an action at law in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) “Owner” means the head of the family of the home where the dog is cared for at the time of the damage.

(b) “Head of the family” means any person who has charge or manages the affairs of a collective body of persons residing together, the relations between whom are of a permanent and domestic character.

## **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.150. Destruction of dog that harms or chases livestock, exemptions**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, any dog, whether licensed or not, which, while off the premises owned or under control of its owner, kills, wounds, or injures any livestock not belonging to the master of such dog, is a public nuisance and may be killed immediately by any person. However, nothing in this section applies to any dog acting under the direction of its master, or the agents or employees of such master.

(2) If any dog, not under the control of its owner or keeper, is found chasing or feeding upon the warm carcass of livestock not the property of



such owner or keeper it shall be deemed, prima facie, as engaged in killing, wounding or injuring livestock.

(3) No person shall kill any dog for killing, wounding, injuring or chasing chickens upon a public place, highway or within the corporate limits of any city.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.169. Prohibition of keeping dog with knowledge that it has harmed livestock; exemptions**

(1) Except as provided under subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a person may not own, harbor or keep any dog with knowledge that it has killed, wounded or injured livestock within this state or, with knowledge that, while off the premises owned or under the control of its owner and while not acting under the direction of its master or the agents or employees of such master, it has killed or seriously injured any person.

(2) A person is not prohibited from owning, harboring or keeping a dog pursuant to a county approved adoption or relocation of a dog under ORS 609.162 (1)(b) or (c).

(3) A person is not prohibited from owning, harboring or keeping a dog, with knowledge that it has killed or wounded chickens, unless the dog owner fails to pay full damages for the killed or wounded chickens within three days after receipt of a demand for those damages from the owner of the chickens.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.205. Prohibitions**

Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS chapters 496, 497 and 498 relating to wildlife, and ORS 609.305 to 609.355 and 609.992 relating to exotic animals, a city or county may prohibit by ordinance the keeping of wildlife, as defined in ORS 496.004, and may prohibit by ordinance the keeping of exotic animals as defined in ORS 609.305.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.305. “Exotic animal” defined**

As used in ORS 609.305 to 609.355 and 609.992, “exotic animal” means:

(1) Any member of the family Felidae not indigenous to Oregon, except the species *Felis catus* (domestic cat);

(2) Any nonhuman primate;



(3) Any nonwolf member of the family Canidae not indigenous to Oregon, except the species *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog);

(4) Any bear, except the black bear (*Ursus americanus*); and

(5) Any member of the order Crocodylia.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.309. Policy on regulation of exotic animals**

It is the policy of this state to protect the public against health and safety risks that exotic animals pose to the community, ensure the health, welfare and safety of exotic animals and ensure the security of facilities in which exotic animals are kept, so as to avoid undue physical or financial risk to the public.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.312. Provision of informational materials required**

A person who sells an exotic animal must, prior to accepting the offer to purchase, provide the prospective purchaser of the exotic animal with informational material approved by the State Department of Agriculture regarding the care, husbandry, health and nutritional needs of the exotic animal. This section does not allow the sale of an exotic animal to a person located in this state other than an entity described in ORS 609.345.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.325. Conditions for keeping exotic animal**

Any person who keeps an exotic animal shall keep the animal under conditions of confinement or control that, given the nature of the animal, would be imposed by a reasonable and prudent keeper to avoid physical or financial risk to the public as a result of escape of the animal or otherwise.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.329. Liability of keeper for escape or injury**

(1) A keeper of an exotic animal is strictly liable for:

(a) Costs incurred by any person or city, county or state agency in attempting to remedy the animal's escape from custody;

(b) Personal injury, property damage or similar loss directly or indirectly caused by the animal's escape from custody, the lack of custody over the animal or efforts to remedy the animal's escape from custody; and



(c) Personal injury directly caused by the animal while in custody.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if an injury or escape by an exotic animal is in whole or in part the result of a willful unlawful act by a person other than the keeper, the keeper's liability for damages resulting from the escape or injury is the amount of total damages multiplied by the percentage of fault attributable to the keeper's negligence.

#### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.405. Methods for destruction of dogs and cats**

(1) No city or county or any facility with which the city or county has contracted to perform animal control functions and no humane society shall cause a dog or cat to be destroyed except by lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital or other substance approved by the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board.

(2) If a particular dog or cat to be destroyed poses an imminent threat to human or animal life, making use of lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital inappropriate, a reasonable and appropriate alternative may be used. The alternative method may be subject to review by the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board.

#### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.410. Disposition of dogs and cats by research facility**

(1)

(a) A research facility that uses dogs or cats for laboratory research, before euthanizing a dog or cat that is no longer needed for research purposes, shall offer the dog or cat for adoption, provided that euthanizing the dog or cat is not required for health or safety reasons or is not necessary to complete laboratory research.

(b) The research facility shall use a veterinarian or similarly qualified staff to determine whether the dog or cat is healthy and safe for adoption.

(c) The research facility may consider and determine if other animals used by the research facility are adoptable.

(d) To carry out the duties described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, a research facility may:



(A) Establish and maintain a private adoption process.

(B) Offer the dog or cat to an animal shelter approved by the research facility that is willing to accept the dog or cat, if the research facility is unable to place the dog or cat through its private adoption process.

(C) Enter into a written agreement with an animal shelter to facilitate the adoption process.

(2) A research facility that provides a dog or cat to an animal shelter pursuant to subsection (1) of this section is immune from civil liability for or resulting from the transfer of the dog or cat, provided that the research facility acted in good faith concerning the health and physical condition of the dog or cat.

(3)

(a) Not later than December 31 of each year, all research facilities described in subsection (1) of this section that are not public bodies as defined in ORS 192.311 shall submit to the Secretary of State an annual report that includes the following information for the preceding year:

(A) The total number of dogs and cats owned by the research facility;

(B) The total number of dogs and cats that are used for research that is conducted at the facility;

(C) The total number of dogs and cats released to animal shelters for adoption;

(D) The name and address of each animal shelter to which a dog or cat was released; and

(E) The name and address of each animal shelter with which the research facility has entered into an agreement under subsection (1) of this section.

(b) Reports received by the Secretary of State under this subsection are confidential and exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.311 to 192.478 except that the Secretary of State shall make the aggregate data available to the public upon request.



(4) As used in this section:

(a) “Animal shelter” means an organization or facility, in this or another state, that:

(A) Is maintained by or under contract with a state, county or city or is tax- exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

(B) Is operated for the primary purpose of:

(i) Providing shelter and other care for lost, homeless or injured animals; or

(ii) Placing animals into permanent homes or rescue organizations.

(b) “Laboratory research” means research, tests or experiments conducted for educational, scientific, medical or experimental purposes.

(c) “Research facility” means any institution of higher education or any facility, whether privately or publicly owned, leased or operated, where laboratory research is performed.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.415. Record-keeping requirements; licensing requirements; inspections; civil penalties**

(1) As used in this section and ORS 609.420:

(a) “Animal” means any nonhuman mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish.

(b) “Animal rescue entity” means an individual or organization, including but not limited to an animal control agency, humane society, animal shelter, animal sanctuary or boarding kennel not subject to ORS 167.374, but excluding a veterinary facility, that keeps, houses and maintains in the individual's or organization's legal custody 10 or more animals, whether physically located at a facility operated by the individual or organization or kept, housed or maintained elsewhere, and that solicits or accepts donations in any form.



(c) “Enforcing agency” means the State Veterinarian.

(2) Any animal rescue entity shall comply with all of the following record-keeping requirements:

(a) Maintain a record for each animal that identifies:

(A) The date of birth for the animal or, if the date of birth is unknown, the approximate age of the animal;

(B) The date the animal rescue entity acquired possession, control or charge of the animal and the source of the animal;

(C) The number of offspring the animal produced while in the possession or control of the animal rescue entity, if applicable;

(D) The disposition the animal rescue entity makes of each animal possessed by, controlled by or in the charge of the animal rescue entity, including the date of disposition, manner of disposition and the name and address for any individual or organization taking possession, control or charge of an animal;

(E) The source of the animal, date of acquisition, age, sex, breed type and weight of the animal at intake; and

(F) A photograph of the animal taken within 24 hours of intake by the animal rescue entity.

(b) Permit an authorized representative of the enforcing agency to inspect records of the animal rescue entity required by this subsection and furnish reports and information required by the enforcing agency, as provided under ORS 609.420.

(3) An animal rescue entity shall comply with the following licensing requirements:

(a) The entity shall obtain a license issued by the enforcing agency in accordance with this section and any rules or policies adopted by the enforcing agency; and



(b) The entity shall pay a reasonable fee, as determined by the enforcing agency, for a license or an annual renewal of the license to provide for the actual cost of enforcing this section and ORS 609.420.

(4) The enforcing agency may not issue or renew a license under this section unless the animal rescue entity is in compliance with this section and ORS 609.420.

(5) An animal rescue entity may transfer a license issued under this section to another person with the written consent of the enforcing agency, provided that the transferee otherwise qualifies to be licensed as an animal rescue entity under this section and rules applicable to the transferee and does not have a certified unpaid debt to the state. The transferee shall submit a signed release to the enforcing agency permitting the performance of a background investigation of the transferee, and the enforcing agency shall conduct the background investigation.

(6) An applicant for a license issued under this section shall demonstrate that the animal rescue entity that is the subject of the application complies with all standards imposed under applicable law.

(7) Any animal rescue entity is subject to inspection by the enforcing agency as provided in ORS 609.420.

(8)

(a) A violation of this section may result in imposition of civil penalties to be determined by the enforcing agency, including but not limited to impoundment of all animals under the animal rescue's control, the revocation of the animal rescue's license to operate animal rescue operations and a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for each violation.

(b) Before a civil penalty may be imposed under this section, the enforcing agency shall adopt rules or policies that:

(A) Ensure that a person who is the subject of an alleged violation receives notice of the allegations and potential imposition of civil penalties;

(B) Allow for an opportunity for a hearing prior to the imposition of civil penalties; and



(C) Allow for the opportunity for judicial review of the imposition of civil penalties.

(9) Moneys raised by the enforcing agency under this section are dedicated to and shall be used for enforcing agency operations undertaken pursuant to this section and ORS 609.420.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.420. Investigation of licensed animal rescue entities**

(1) Whenever an authorized representative of an enforcing agency is advised or has reason to believe that an animal rescue entity is operating without a license, the authorized representative may visit and conduct an on-site investigation of the premises of the animal rescue entity. The purpose of an investigation under this section is to determine whether the animal rescue entity is subject to the requirements of ORS 609.415.

(2) At any reasonable time, an authorized representative of an enforcing agency, a law enforcement agency or the United States Department of Agriculture may conduct an on-site investigation of the premises of any licensed animal rescue entity to determine whether the entity is in compliance with ORS 609.415.

(3) An authorized representative of the enforcing agency or a law enforcement agency shall conduct an on-site investigation of the premises of any licensed animal rescue entity if the agency receives a complaint about the animal rescue entity related to the failure to comply with the requirements of ORS 609.415 that the agency determines is credible and serious. The investigation by the agency shall be limited to determining if the animal rescue entity has failed to comply with the requirements of ORS 609.415.

(4) Any state agency that receives a complaint about a licensed animal rescue entity shall notify the enforcing agency about the complaint and any subsequent action taken by the state agency based on that complaint.

(5) A licensed animal rescue entity shall permit an authorized representative of the enforcing agency to inspect records of the animal rescue entity and shall furnish any reports and information required by the enforcing agency.

(6) If, during the course of an inspection made under this section, the enforcing agency finds evidence of animal cruelty in violation of ORS 167.310 to 167.351, 167.352, 167.355 or 167.360 to 167.372, the enforcing agency shall



seize the evidence and report the violation to law enforcement. Evidence of animal cruelty found through a valid inspection under this section shall be presumed admissible in any subsequent criminal proceeding.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.505. “Crime of unlawfully obtaining dog or cat” defined; affirmative defense**

(1) A person commits the crime of unlawfully obtaining a dog or cat if the person:

(a) Is an animal dealer; and

(b) Obtains a companion animal or the offspring of a companion animal from a person who has not raised the companion animal or the offspring of the companion animal on the person's own premises.

(2) Unlawfully obtaining a dog or cat is a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of violating subsections (1) and (2) of this section that an animal dealer, having received a companion animal or the offspring of a companion animal in violation of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, delivers the companion animal or the offspring of the companion animal to an animal shelter within 24 hours of acquisition.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.650. Legislative findings on relation between animal cruelty and domestic violence**

The Legislative Assembly finds that:

(1) There is a clear link between animal cruelty and crimes of domestic violence, including child abuse; and

(2) It is in the public interest to enact legislation to encourage the permissive reporting of animal cruelty.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.652. Definitions**

As used in ORS 609.654:

(1)



(a) “Aggravated animal abuse” means any animal abuse as described in ORS 167.322.

(b) “Aggravated animal abuse” does not include:

(A) Good animal husbandry, as defined in ORS 167.310; or

(B) Any exemption listed in ORS 167.335.

(2) “Law enforcement agency” means:

(a) Any city or municipal police department.

(b) A police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125.

(c) Any county sheriff's office.

(d) The Oregon State Police.

(e) A law enforcement division of a county or municipal animal control agency that employs sworn officers.

(f) A humane investigation agency as defined in ORS 181A.340 that employs humane special agents commissioned under ORS 181A.340.

(3) “Public or private official” means:

(a) A physician, including any intern or resident.

(b) A dentist.

(c) A school employee.

(d) A licensed practical nurse or registered nurse.

(e) An employee of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning Division, Youth Development Division, the Oregon Youth Authority, a local health department, a community mental health program, a community developmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a child-caring agency as defined in ORS 418.205 or an alcohol and drug treatment program.



- (f) A peace officer.
- (g) A psychologist.
- (h) A member of the clergy.
- (i) A regulated social worker.
- (j) An optometrist.
- (k) A chiropractor.
- (L) A certified provider of foster care, or an employee thereof.
- (m) An attorney.
- (n) A naturopathic physician.
- (o) A licensed professional counselor.
- (p) A licensed marriage and family therapist.
- (q) A firefighter or emergency medical services provider.
- (r) A court appointed special advocate, as defined in ORS 419A.004.
- (s) A child care provider registered or certified under 329A.250 to 329A.450.
- (t) A member of the Legislative Assembly.

**OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.654. Suspected aggravated animal abuse**

(1) Notwithstanding ORS 40.225 to 40.295, a public or private official who has reasonable cause to believe that an animal with which the official has come in contact has suffered aggravated animal abuse, or that any person with whom the official has come in contact has committed aggravated animal abuse, may immediately report the suspected aggravated animal abuse in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) of this section.



(2) A report of suspected aggravated animal abuse authorized under subsection (1) of this section may be made to a law enforcement agency, either orally or in writing, and may include, if known:

- (a) The name and description of each animal involved;
- (b) The address and telephone number of the owner or other person responsible for the care of the animal;
- (c) The nature and extent of the suspected abuse;
- (d) Any evidence of previous aggravated animal abuse;
- (e) Any explanation given for the suspected abuse; and
- (f) Any other information that the person making the report believes may be helpful in establishing the cause of the suspected abuse or the identity of the person causing the abuse.

(3) A public or private official who acts in good faith and has reasonable grounds for making a report of suspected aggravated animal abuse under this section is not liable in any civil or criminal proceeding brought as a result of making the report.

**OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.656. Suspected animal abuse or neglect; reporting by regulated social worker**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) “Abuse or neglect” means:

- (A) Animal abuse in the second degree as described in ORS 167.315;
- (B) Animal abuse in the first degree as described in ORS 167.320;
- (C) Aggravated animal abuse in the first degree as described in ORS 167.322;
- (D) Animal neglect in the second degree as described in ORS 167.325; or



(E) Animal neglect in the first degree as described in ORS 167.330.

(b) “Regulated social worker” means a person authorized under ORS 675.510 to 675.600 to perform regulated social work.

(2) Notwithstanding ORS 40.250, in addition to the authorization under ORS 609.654 to report aggravated animal abuse in the first degree, a regulated social worker who is an employee of the Department of Human Services and has reasonable cause to believe that an animal with which the social worker has come in contact as an employee of the department has suffered abuse or neglect, or that any person with whom the social worker has come in contact as an employee of the department has committed abuse or neglect of an animal, may immediately report the suspected abuse or neglect in the manner prescribed in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) A report under subsection (2) of this section may be made to a law enforcement agency, either orally or in writing, and may include, if known:

- (a) The name and description of each animal involved;
- (b) The address and telephone number of the owner or other person responsible for the care of the animal;
- (c) The nature and extent of the suspected abuse or neglect;
- (d) Any evidence of previous abuse or neglect or of previous aggravated animal abuse in the first degree as described in ORS 167.322;
- (e) Any explanation given for the suspected abuse or neglect; and
- (f) Any other information that the regulated social worker believes may be helpful in establishing the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect or the identity of a person causing abuse or neglect.

(4) A regulated social worker who acts in good faith and has reasonable grounds for making a report under this section of suspected abuse or neglect is not liable in any civil or criminal proceeding brought as a result of making the report.



**OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.990. Penalties for violations of ORS 609.060, 609.095, 609.098, 609.100, 609.169 and 609.405; disposition of dog by court**

(1) Violation of ORS 609.060 (2), 609.100 or 609.169 is a Class B violation.

(2) Maintaining a public nuisance in violation of ORS 609.095 (2) or (3) is a Class B violation.

(3)

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, violation of ORS 609.098 is a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) If a dog kills a person, violation of ORS 609.098 is a Class C felony.

(c) If a keeper violates ORS 609.098, the court shall order the dangerous dog killed in a humane manner.

(4) Violation of ORS 609.405 constitutes a Class C misdemeanor.

(5) In addition to any fine or sentence imposed under this section, a court may order a person who violates ORS 609.060 (2), 609.095, 609.098, 609.100, 609.169 or 609.405 to pay restitution for any physical injury, death or property damage caused by the dog as a result of the keeper's violation of ORS 609.060 (2), 609.095, 609.098, 609.100, 609.169 or 609.405. The court may also order the person to pay the cost of keeping the dog in impoundment.

(6) In addition to any fine imposed or restitution ordered of a keeper for a violation of ORS 609.060 (2), 609.095, 609.100, 609.169 or 609.405, the court may impose reasonable restrictions on the keeping of the dog to ensure the safety or health of the public. The keeper must pay the cost of complying with reasonable restrictions. As used in this subsection, “reasonable restrictions” may include, but is not limited to, sterilization. If the dog is a potentially dangerous dog, the court may order the dog killed in a humane manner. In determining whether to have the dog killed, the court shall give consideration to the factors described in ORS 609.093 and issue written findings on those factors.

(7) Notwithstanding ORS 19.270 and 19.330, subject to periodic advance payment of the cost of keeping the dog in impoundment, the killing of a dog pursuant to an order under subsection (3) or (6) of this section may



not be carried out during the period that the order is subject to the appeal process. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court of Appeals, the dog may be killed during the appeal period if the keeper fails to maintain advance payment of the cost of keeping the dog impounded.

(8) If a court orders a dog killed under subsection (6) of this section and the keeper does not make the dog available for that purpose, the court may issue a search warrant for a property upon probable cause to believe that the dog is located at that property.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.992. Penalties for violation of ORS 609.341**

(1) Violation of ORS 609.341 is a Class B misdemeanor.

(2) In addition to and not in lieu of any jail sentence or fine it may impose, a court may require a defendant convicted under ORS 609.341 to forfeit any rights of the defendant in any exotic animal kept in violation thereof and to repay reasonable costs incurred by any person, city, county or state agency in caring for the animal prior to judgment.

(3) When the court orders the defendant's rights in the exotic animal to be forfeited, the court may further order that those rights be given over to an appropriate person or agency demonstrating a willingness to accept and care for the animal or to the county or an appropriate animal care agency for further disposition in accordance with accepted practices for humane treatment of animals. This subsection shall not constitute or authorize any limitation upon the right of the person or agency to whom rights are granted to resell or otherwise make disposition of the animal. A transfer of rights under this subsection constitutes a transfer of ownership.

### **OR. Rev. Stat. § 609.994. Penalties for violations of ORS 609.510 to 609.520; cause of action for damages; injunctions**

(1) Violation of ORS 609.510, 609.515 or 609.520 is a specific fine violation punishable by a fine of not more than \$50,000.

(2) A person has a cause of action for the recovery of compensatory damages from any person violating ORS 164.055 (1)(e), 164.085, 609.510, 609.515 or 609.520. In the action, the minimum pecuniary value of any companion animal is \$250.



(3) The circuit court for each county has the authority to enjoin any violation of ORS 609.510, 609.515 or 609.520, to issue warrants and to take such other actions as equity or justice may require.

