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States' Animal Cruelty Statutes: *Wyoming*



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States' Animal Cruelty Statutes: Wyoming

Wyo. Stat. § 11-29-101 through 115

Wyo. Stat. § 11-30-108 through 114

Wyo. Stat. § 11-31-104

Wyo. Stat. § 33-30-212

Current through 2023 General Session. Subject to revisions by LSO.

Wyo. Stat. § 6-3-203. Cruelty to animals; penalties; limitation on manner of destruction

-REPEALED 2021-

Wyo. Stat. § 11-29-101. Definitions

(a) As used in this act:

(i) Repealed by Laws 2011, ch. 100, § 3, eff. July 1, 2011.

(ii) "Owner" or "person" means any individual including the agents and employees of corporations;

(iii) "Torture" or "cruelty" means every act, omission or neglect whereby the willful and malicious infliction of pain or suffering is caused, permitted or allowed to continue when there is a reasonable remedy or relief;

(iv) "Disposal" means as defined in W.S. 11-24-101(a)(iv);

(v) "Livestock" means as defined in W.S. 23-1-102(a)(xvi);

(vi) "Livestock animal" means:



- (A) Any bovine, including domestic bison, equine, swine, sheep, goat, domesticated camelid animal, ratite bird, rabbit or poultry; or
 - (B) Any animal used or harvested for any good and proper purpose including but not limited to food, fiber, fur, leather, medical research and byproducts; or
 - (C) Any animal used or trained for work, sport, exhibit or entertainment.
- (vii) A “person with authority to enforce this chapter” means a peace officer, agent or officer of the board;
- (viii) “Reasonable costs of impoundment” means all costs incurred by the impounding entity in providing necessary food and water, veterinary attention and treatment for any animal which is impounded under this act;
- (ix) “This act” means W.S. 11-29-101 through 11-29-115.

Wyo. Stat. § 11-29-103. Livestock animals to be fed while confined; ownership; penalties.

- (a) Every person who confines or causes to be confined any livestock animal under the laws of this state, shall supply to the livestock animal during confinement a sufficient quantity of wholesome food and water.
- (b) A livestock animal is the private property of its owner.
- (c) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), or both except that a subsequent offense is a high misdemeanor punishable by not more than one (1) year imprisonment, a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or both.

Wyo. Stat. § 11-29-106. Livestock board; authority to prevent cruelty; penalty for interference with officer.



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

Wyo. Stat. § 11-29-115. Use of agricultural and livestock management practices.

(a) Nothing in this chapter prohibits:

- (i) The use of Wyoming industry accepted agricultural or livestock management practices or any other commonly practiced animal husbandry procedure used on livestock animals, as defined by W.S. 11-29-101(a)(vi);
- (ii) A Wyoming licensed veterinarian from treating a livestock animal as authorized by the Wyoming Veterinary Medical Practice Act;
- (iii) Any rodeo event employing animal care practices generally accepted within the rodeo industry, whether the event is performed in a rodeo, jackpot or similar arena;
- (iv) A person from humanely destroying a livestock animal.

Wyo. Stat. § 11-30-108. Desertion and abandonment of sheep by herders.

It is unlawful for any person having charge as herder of any sheep to willfully desert and abandon the sheep upon the open range and leave them without care or attention. The herder shall in all cases give the owner or his employer not less than five (5) days notice prior to the time at which he intends to abandon the sheep. Any person who violates this section shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), imprisoned not more than six (6) months, or both.

Wyo. Stat. § 11-30-113. Unlawful cutting of ears of sheep.

(a) It is unlawful for any person willfully to cut, sever, detach or mutilate more than one-half (1/2) of either ear of any sheep or to unlawfully have in his possession or under his control any sheep which have more than one-



half (1/2) of either ear removed or mutilated unless the same are so described in a bill of sale or other certificate of title covering the sheep. Sheep afflicted by bighead are exempt from the provisions of this section.

(b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than five (5) years.

Wyo. Stat. § 11-30-114. Tampering with or drugging livestock prohibited; definitions; penalty.

(a) No person shall tamper with or sabotage any livestock which has been registered, entered or exhibited in any exhibition in this state.

(b) No person shall administer, dispense, distribute, manufacture, sell or use any drug to or for livestock which has been registered, entered or exhibited in any exhibition in this state unless the drug is approved for such use by the United States Food and Drug Administration or the United States Department of Agriculture. However, nothing shall prevent any person from using a drug on livestock owned by him if either federal agency has approved an application submitted for investigational use in accordance with the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

(c) Any person who violates this section shall be punished as provided by W.S. 11-1-103.

(d) As used in this section:

(i) "Drug" means as defined by W.S. 35-7-110(a)(x);

(ii) "Exhibition" means a show or sale of livestock at a fair or elsewhere in this state that is sponsored by or under the authority of the state or any political subdivision, local government, or any agricultural, horticultural or livestock society, association or corporation;

(iii) "Livestock" means any animal generally used for food or in the production of food, including, but not limited to, horses, mules and asses, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, swine, rabbits or llamas;

(iv) "Sabotage" means to intentionally tamper with any livestock belonging to or owned by another person that has been registered,



entered or exhibited in any exhibition or raised for the apparent purpose of being entered in an exhibition;

(v) “Tamper” shall not include any action taken or activity performed or administered by a licensed veterinarian or in accordance with instructions of a licensed veterinarian if the action or activity was undertaken for accepted medical purposes or any action taken as part of accepted grooming, commercial or medical practices, but shall include any of the following:

(A) Treatment of livestock in such a manner that food derived from the livestock would be considered adulterated under the Wyoming Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, W.S. 35-7-109 et seq.;

(B) The injection, use or administration of any drug that is prohibited by any federal, state or local law or any drug that is used in a manner prohibited by any federal, state or local law;

(C) The injection or other internal administration of any product or material, whether gas, solid or liquid, to any livestock for the purposes of deception including concealing, enhancing or transforming the true conformation, configuration, color, breed, condition or age of the livestock or making the livestock appear more sound than the livestock would otherwise appear;

(D) The use or administration for cosmetic purposes of steroids, illegal growth stimulants or internal artificial filling, including paraffin, silicone injection, or any other substance;

(E) The use or application of any drug or feed additive affecting the central nervous system of the livestock;

(F) The use or administration of diuretics for cosmetic purposes;

(G) The manipulation or removal of tissue, by surgery or otherwise, so as to change, transform or enhance the true conformation or configuration of the livestock. Nothing in this subparagraph shall prohibit generally accepted management practices including but not limited to the dehorning, castration or spaying, corrective shoeing or trimming of any livestock;



(H) Subjecting the livestock to inhumane conditions or procedures for the purpose of concealing, enhancing or transforming the true conformation, configuration, condition or age of the livestock or making the livestock appear more sound than the livestock would otherwise appear;

(J) Substituting any different livestock for the livestock registered or entered in the exhibition without the permission of a responsible official of the exhibition.

Wyo. Stat. § 11-31-104. Penalties for poisoning or killing with ground glass.

Whoever within the limits of any incorporated city or town willfully poisons or kills any dog by means of ground glass is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisoned not less than one (1) month nor more than one (1) year, or both.

Wyo. Stat. § 33-30-212. Denial, suspension and revocation of licenses

(a) Upon written complaint sworn to by any person, the board may after a fair hearing and by a concurrence of all members, deny, revoke or suspend for a certain time the license of, or reprimand, any applicant or licensed veterinarian who upon proof to the satisfaction of the board:

(i) Has employed fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in obtaining a license;

(ii) Has been adjudicated insane;

(iii) Has habitually used drugs or intoxicants;

(iv) Has been convicted of a felony that relates to the practice of veterinary medicine or to the ability to practice veterinary medicine or has entered a plea of nolo contendere upon being charged with commission of such a felony;

(v) Has been convicted of a violation of any federal or state law relating to narcotic drugs;



- (vi) Has used advertising or solicitation deemed unprofessional by the board;
- (vii) Has been guilty of gross malpractice or gross neglect in the practice of veterinary medicine which has endangered the health or life of any person or animal;
- (viii) Has had professional association with or employed any person practicing veterinary medicine unlawfully;
- (ix) Has committed acts of fraud or dishonesty; especially in the application or reporting of any test for disease in animals;
- (x) Has failed to report, if required by law, or made false report of, any contagious or infectious disease;
- (xi) Has been guilty of gross negligence in the inspection of foodstuffs or the issuance of health certificate, inspection certificate or vaccination certificate or other form used in the practice of veterinary medicine contributing to the dissemination of animal disease, transportation of diseased animals, or the sale of products of animal origin not fit for human consumption;
- (xii) Has had a license to practice veterinary medicine by another state, territory, or district of the United States revoked or suspended on grounds other than nonpayment of registration fee;
- (xiii) Has been guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined in regulations adopted by the board;
- (xiv) Has been guilty of willful or repeated violation of any provision of this act [§§ 33-30-201 through 33-30-215];
- (xv) Has willfully failed to display a license to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Wyoming;
- (xvi) Has failed to keep the equipment and premises of the business establishment in a clean and sanitary condition as established by rules of the board;
- (xvii) Has refused to permit the board to inspect the business premises of the licensee during regular business hours;



- (xviii) Has been convicted of a charge of cruelty to animals;
 - (xix) Has failed to answer to the board, when so requested in writing, in regard to information relating to any of the violations listed under this section.
- (b) Upon receipt from the department of family services of a certified copy of an order from a court to withhold, suspend or otherwise restrict a license issued by the board, the board shall notify the party named in the court order of the withholding, suspension or restriction of the license in accordance with the terms of the court order. No appeal under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act shall be allowed for a license withheld, suspended or restricted under this subsection.

