



Compendium of U.S. Animal Protection Laws

Missouri



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This chapter contains Missouri’s general animal protection and related statutes with an effective date on or before September 1, 2025. It begins with a detailed overview of the provisions contained in these laws, followed by the full text of the statutes themselves. The various provisions are organized into categories with the relevant part of each statute italicized.

Missouri may employ similar provisions within other non-animal-specific criminal and civil statutes, may have other more specific statutes in addition to those included, and may have a variety of animal-related regulations in effect. Because the law is continually evolving, always review an official source for the most current language of any statute.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF MISSOURI

Missouri Laws

SUBSTANTIVE PROHIBITIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Definition of "Animal"	<p>"[E]very living vertebrate except a human being." MO. REV. STAT. § 578.005(3)</p>
2. General Cruelty	<p>Exemption to killing a dog: Self-defense or defense of other. MO. REV. STAT. § 273.033</p> <p>Cruelty to canines in large breeding operations. MO. REV. STAT. §§ 273.345, 273.347 <i>Violation: Civil penalty \$1,000</i> <i>Repeated violations posing a substantial risk to health and welfare of animals: Class C misdemeanor</i> <i>Subsequent convictions: Class A misdemeanor</i></p> <p>Exemptions: Veterinary practice, research animals, transportation, other. MO. REV. STAT. § 273.345(6)</p> <p>Adequate care. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.005(1)</p> <p>Animal neglect and abandonment. MO. REV. STAT. §§ 578.009, 578.014 <i>First offense: Class C misdemeanor</i> <i>Subsequent offenses: Class B misdemeanor</i></p> <p>Exemptions: Veterinary practices, research animals, lawful hunting, accepted farm animal husbandry practices, pest control, rodeo, zoos/circuses, other. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.007</p> <p>Animal abuse. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.012 <i>First offense: Class A misdemeanor</i> <i>Subsequent offenses, or for first offense if crime involved torture and mutilation while animal was alive: Class E felony</i></p>

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	<p>Causing a dog to pursue a live animal propelled by device. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.027 <i>Class A misdemeanor</i></p>
<p>3. Animal Fighting</p>	<p>NOTE: <i>Laws pertaining to the seizure and disposition of animals involved in animal fighting are located in the Seizure, Forfeiture, and Possession Bans sections of this document.</i></p> <p>Various dog fighting activities. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.025 <i>Class E felony</i></p> <p>Being a spectator at a dog fight. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.026 <i>Class A misdemeanor</i></p> <p>Non-dog animal fighting activities. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.050 <i>Class A misdemeanor</i></p> <p>Fighting terms defined. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.170</p> <p>Various animal fighting activities. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.173 <i>Class E felony</i></p> <p>Bear wrestling. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.176 <i>Class A misdemeanor</i></p> <p>Exemptions: Film industry, hunting/taking wildlife, agriculture, breeding, rodeos, other. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.182</p> <p>An injunction may enjoin a person from continuing violations of animal fighting laws. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.185</p>

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4. Sexual Assault	Engaging in sexual conduct with an animal. MO. REV. STAT. § 566.111 <i>First offense: Class A misdemeanor</i> <i>Subsequent offenses: Class E felony</i>
5. Cruelty to Working Animals	Injuring or killing a service dog. MO. REV. STAT. § 209.202 <i>Class A misdemeanor</i> Assault on a police animal. MO. REV. STAT. § 575.353 <i>Generally: Class C misdemeanor</i> <i>If death/disability preventing future service: Class E felony</i>
6. Laws Specific to Farmed Animals	[None]
7. Cruel Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing	General Prohibitions. MO. REV. STAT. § 252.040 <i>Misdemeanor</i> Use of explosives to kill, injure, or destroy fish. MO. REV. STAT. § 252.220 <i>Felony, imprisonment in state penitentiary for 2 years and/or \$1,000 fine</i>
REPORTING LAWS	
8. Cross Reporting	[None]
9. Veterinary Reporting	Veterinarians are responsible for reporting animal abuse and neglect cases that cannot be resolved through education. MO. CODE REGS. tit. 20, § 2270-6.011(11)
10. “Ag-Gag” Laws	Recordings of farm animal abuse or neglect by a farm animal professional shall be submitted to law enforcement within twenty-four hours of the recording’s creation. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.013
CIVIL AND CIVILIAN INTERVENTION	
11. Emergency Rescue and Relief	[None]
12. Civil Enforcement	[None]

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13. Domestic Relations	<p>Pets may be included in protection orders. MO. REV. STAT. §§ 455.010, 455.032, 455.045</p>
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERVENTION	
14. Maximum Penalties and Statute of Limitations	<p>Class C misdemeanor <i>15 days imprisonment and/or \$750 fine (waivable if remedies for neglect have been made)</i> MO. REV. STAT. §§ 558.011(1)(8), 558.002(1)(4)</p> <p>Class B misdemeanor <i>6 months imprisonment and/or \$1,000 fine</i> MO. REV. STAT. §§ 558.011(1)(7), 558.002(1)(3)</p> <p>Class A misdemeanor <i>1 year imprisonment and/or \$2,000 fine</i> MO. REV. STAT. §§ 558.011(1)(6), 558.002(1)(2)</p> <p>Class E felony <i>4 years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine</i> MO. REV. STAT. §§ 558.011(1)(5), 558.002(1)(1)</p> <p>Statute of limitations <i>Misdemeanor: 1 year</i> MO. REV. STAT. § 556.036(2)(2) <i>Felony: 3 years</i> MO. REV. STAT. § 556.036(2)(1)</p>
15. Law Enforcement Policies	[None]
16. Seizure	<p>Any authorized public health, law enforcement, or animal control officials can impound animals found outside, if there is evidence of abuse or neglect. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.016(1)</p> <p>Authorized public health and law enforcement officials may seek a search warrant for entry on to private property to inspect, care for, or impound animals the officials suspect are experiencing neglect or abuse. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.018(1)</p>

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	<p>Any member of the state highway patrol or other law enforcement officer may serve a search warrant and have the power to search and seize animals in cases involving animal fighting, or for violations of the prohibition against using dogs to pursue animals propelled by devices. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.030</p> <p>Seizures of animals who are used for fighting. MO. REV. STAT. §§ 578.179, 578.185</p>
17. Courtroom Animal Advocate Program	[None]
18. Restitution and Reimbursement	<p>Humane societies are entitled to a lien on an animal(s) for reasonable costs of care. MO. REV. STAT. § 430.165(2)</p> <p>Upon conviction, the court may order the defendant to pay all reasonable costs of care. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.009(4)</p> <p>The owner is liable for reasonable costs of care for their impounded animal(s); any person incurring costs of care for the impounded animal(s) shall have a lien on that animal(s). MO. REV. STAT. § 578.016(2)</p> <p>The court may order a bond or other security, to cover the costs of care for an impounded animal(s). MO. STAT. § 578.018(2)</p>
19. Forfeiture and Possession Bans	<p>After a conviction for sexual assault of an animal, the court may order any animals owned by the defendant to be forfeited and may prohibit the defendant from possessing any animals during probation. MO. REV. STAT. § 566.111</p> <p>If a cost of care bond is not posted, or not renewed, an impounded animal may be humanely disposed, unless the court order prohibits such disposition. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.018(2)</p> <p>Upon conviction, the court may order an animal forfeited if the court believes the animal may be subject to future abuse or neglect. MO. REV. STAT. § 578.021</p>

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	Injunctions and dispositions of animals involved in fighting. <i>MO. REV. STAT. §§ 578.179, 578.185</i>
20. Rehabilitative Sentencing	The court may order a psychological evaluation and counseling for a defendant who is convicted of unlawful sex with animals. <i>MO. REV. STAT. § 566.111(3)(3)</i>

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1. DEFINITION OF “ANIMAL”

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.005. Definitions.

As used in sections 578.005 to 578.023, the following terms shall mean:

- (1) **“Adequate care”**, normal and prudent attention to the needs of an animal, including wholesome food, clean water, shelter and health care as necessary to maintain good health in a specific species of animal;
- (2) **“Adequate control”**, to reasonably restrain or govern an animal so that the animal does not injure itself, any person, any other animal, or property;
- (3) **“Animal”**, every living vertebrate except a human being;
- (4) **“Animal shelter”**, a facility which is used to house or contain animals and which is owned, operated, or maintained by a duly incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or other not for profit organization devoted to the welfare, protection, and humane treatment of animals;
- (5) **“Farm animal”**, an animal raised on a farm or ranch and used or intended for use in farm or ranch production, or as food or fiber;
- (6) **“Farm animal professional”**, any individual employed at a location where farm animals are harbored;
- (7) **“Harbor”**, to feed or shelter an animal at the same location for three or more consecutive days;
- (8) **“Humane killing”**, the destruction of an animal accomplished by a method approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Panel on Euthanasia (JAVMA 173: 59-72, 1978); or more recent editions, but animals killed during the feeding of pet carnivores shall be considered humanely killed;
- (9) **“Owner”**, in addition to its ordinary meaning, any person who keeps or harbors an animal or professes to be owning, keeping, or harboring an animal;
- (10) **“Person”**, any individual, partnership, firm, joint stock company, corporation, association, trust, estate, or other legal entity;
- (11) **“Pests”**, birds, rabbits, or rodents which damage property or have an adverse effect on the public health, but shall not include any endangered species listed by the United States Department of the Interior nor any endangered species listed in the Wildlife Code of Missouri.

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2. GENERAL CRUELTY

Mo. REV. STAT. § 273.033. Killing or injuring a dog—reasonable apprehension of imminent harmful contact.

1. *In any action for damages or a criminal prosecution against any person for killing or injuring a dog, a showing by a preponderance of the evidence that such person was in reasonable apprehension of imminent harmful contact by the dog or was acting to prevent such imminent harmful contact against another person by the dog shall constitute an absolute defense to criminal prosecution or civil liability for the killing or injuring of such animal.*
2. If a person has, on at least two occasions, complained to the county sheriff or to the appropriate animal control authority in his or her jurisdiction that a dog, not on a leash, has trespassed on property that such person owns, rents, or leases or on any property that constitutes such person's residence, and when at least one of the prior two complaints was motivated by reasonable apprehension for such person's safety or the safety of another person or apprehension of substantial damage to livestock or property, then any subsequent trespass by such dog shall constitute prima facie evidence that such person was in reasonable apprehension of imminent harmful contact. The county sheriff or animal control authority to which any complaint under this section is made shall notify the owner of the alleged trespassing dog of such complaint. Failure by a county sheriff or animal control authority to notify a dog owner under this subsection shall not invalidate or be construed in any way to limit any other provision of this subsection.
3. The court shall award attorney's fees, court costs, and all reasonable expenses incurred by the defendant in defense of any criminal prosecution or in any civil action brought by a plaintiff if the court finds that the defendant has an absolute defense as provided in subsection 1 of this section.
4. *This section shall not be construed to provide an absolute defense to a person who is engaged in or attempting to engage in a criminal activity at the time of the apprehension of imminent harmful contact, or to a person for any damage or injury to any person or property other than the dog itself that may result from actions taken in an attempt to injure or kill such dog.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 273.345. Canine cruelty prevention act—citation of law—purpose—required care—definitions—veterinary records—space requirements—severability clause.

1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Canine Cruelty Prevention Act".
2. The purpose of this act is to prohibit the cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs bred in large operations by requiring large-scale dog breeding operations to provide each dog under their care with basic food and water, adequate shelter from the elements, necessary veterinary care, adequate space to turn around and stretch his or her limbs, and regular exercise.
3. *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person having custody or ownership of more than ten female covered dogs for the purpose of breeding those animals and selling any offspring for use as a pet shall provide each covered dog:*
 - (1) *Sufficient food and clean water;*

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- (2) *Necessary veterinary care;*
 - (3) *Sufficient housing, including protection from the elements;*
 - (4) *Sufficient space to turn and stretch freely, lie down, and fully extend his or her limbs;*
 - (5) *Regular exercise; and*
 - (6) *Adequate rest between breeding cycles.*
4. For purposes of this section and notwithstanding the provisions of section 273.325, the following terms have the following meanings:
- (1) ***“Adequate rest between breeding cycles”*** means, at minimum, ensuring that female dogs are not bred to produce more litters in any given period than what is recommended by a licensed veterinarian as appropriate for the species, age, and health of the dog;
 - (2) ***“Covered dog”*** means any individual of the species of the domestic dog, *Canis lupus familiaris*, or resultant hybrids, that is over the age of six months and has intact sexual organs;
 - (3) ***“Necessary veterinary care”*** means, at minimum, examination at least once yearly by a licensed veterinarian, prompt treatment of any serious illness or injury by a licensed veterinarian, and where needed, humane euthanasia by a licensed veterinarian using lawful techniques deemed acceptable by the American Veterinary Medical Association;
 - (4) ***“Person”*** means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, limited liability company, corporation, estate, trust, receiver, or syndicate;
 - (5) ***“Pet”*** means any species of the domestic dog, *Canis lupus familiaris*, or resultant hybrids, normally maintained in or near the household of the owner thereof;
 - (6) ***“Regular exercise”*** means the type and amount of exercise sufficient to comply with an exercise plan that has been approved by a licensed veterinarian, developed in accordance with regulations regarding exercise promulgated by the Missouri department of agriculture, and where such plan affords the dog maximum opportunity for outdoor exercise as weather permits;
 - (7) ***“Retail pet store”*** means a person or retail establishment open to the public where dogs are bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for retail sale directly to the public to be kept as pets, but that does not engage in any breeding of dogs for the purpose of selling any offspring for use as a pet;
 - (8) ***“Sufficient food and clean water”*** means access to appropriate nutritious food at least twice a day sufficient to maintain good health, and continuous access to potable water that is not frozen and is generally free of debris, feces, algae, and other contaminants;
 - (9) ***“Sufficient housing, including protection from the elements”*** means the continuous provision of a sanitary facility, the provision of a solid surface on which to lie in a recumbent position, protection from the extremes of weather conditions, proper ventilation, and appropriate space depending on the species of animal as required by regulations of the Missouri department of agriculture and in compliance with the provisions of subsection 7 of this section. No dog shall remain inside its enclosure while the enclosure is being cleaned. Dogs housed within the same enclosure shall be compatible, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Missouri department of agriculture;
 - (10) ***“Sufficient space to turn and stretch freely, lie down, and fully extend his or her limbs”*** means having:

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- (a) *Sufficient indoor space or shelter from the elements for each dog to turn in a complete circle without any impediment (including a tether);*
 - (b) *Enough indoor space or shelter from the elements for each dog to lie down and fully extend his or her limbs and stretch freely without touching the side of an enclosure or another dog;*
 - (c) *Appropriate space depending on the species of the animal, as specified in regulations by the Missouri department of agriculture, as revised, and in compliance with the provisions of subsection 7 of this section.*
5. Any person subject to the provisions of this section shall maintain all veterinary records and sales records for the most recent previous two years. These records shall be made available to the state veterinarian, a state or local animal welfare official, or a law enforcement agent upon request.
6. The provisions of this section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other state and federal laws protecting animal welfare. This section shall not be construed to limit any state law or regulation protecting the welfare of animals, nor shall anything in this section prevent a local governing body from adopting and enforcing its own animal welfare laws and regulations in addition to this section. This section shall not be construed to place any numerical limits on the number of dogs a person may own or control when such dogs are not used for breeding those animals and selling any offspring for use as a pet. This section shall not apply to a dog during examination, testing, operation, recuperation, or other individual treatment for veterinary purposes, during lawful scientific research, during transportation, during cleaning of a dog's enclosure, during supervised outdoor exercise, or during any emergency that places a dog's life in imminent danger. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit hunting or the ability to breed, raise, sell, control, train, or possess dogs with the intention to use such dogs for hunting or other sporting purposes.
7. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the following space requirements shall apply under this section:
 - (1) From January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2015, for any enclosure existing prior to April 15, 2011, the minimum allowable space shall:
 - (a) Be two times the space allowable under the department of agriculture's regulation that was in effect on April 15, 2011;
 - (b) Except as prescribed by rule, provide constant and unfettered access to an attached outdoor run; and
 - (c) Meet all other requirements set forth by rule of the Missouri department of agriculture;
 - (2) For any enclosure newly constructed after April 15, 2011, and for all enclosures as of January 1, 2016, the minimum allowable space shall:
 - (a) Be three times the space allowable under the department of agriculture's regulation that was in effect on April 15, 2011;
 - (b) Except as prescribed by rule, provide constant and unfettered access to an attached outdoor run; and
 - (c) Meet all other requirements set forth by rule of the Missouri department of agriculture;
 - (3) For any enclosure newly constructed after April 15, 2011, and for all enclosures as of January 1, 2016, wire strand flooring shall be prohibited and all enclosures shall meet the flooring standard set forth by rule of the Missouri department of agriculture.

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8. If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid or unconstitutional, that invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications of this section that can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 273.347. Court action for enforcement, when—crime of canine cruelty, penalty.

1. Whenever the state veterinarian or a state animal welfare official finds past violations of sections 273.325 to 273.357 have occurred and have not been corrected or addressed, including operating without a valid license under section 273.327, the director may request the attorney general or the county prosecuting attorney or circuit attorney to bring an action in circuit court in the county where the violations have occurred for a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, permanent injunction, or a remedial order enforceable in a circuit court to correct such violations and, in addition, *the court may assess a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation.* Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.
2. *A person commits the crime of canine cruelty if such person repeatedly violates sections 273.325 to 273.357 so as to pose a substantial risk to the health and welfare of animals in such person's custody, or knowingly violates an agreed-to remedial order involving the safety and welfare of animals under this section. The crime of canine cruelty is a class C misdemeanor, unless the person has previously pled guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a violation of this subsection, in which case, each such violation is a class A misdemeanor.*
3. The attorney general or the county prosecuting attorney or circuit attorney may bring an action under sections 273.325 to 273.357 in circuit court in the county where the crime has occurred for criminal punishment.
4. No action under this section shall prevent or preclude action taken under section 578.012 or under subsection 3 of section 273.329.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.005. Definitions.

As used in sections 578.005 to 578.023, the following terms shall mean:

- (1) **“Adequate care”**, normal and prudent attention to the needs of an animal, including wholesome food, clean water, shelter and health care as necessary to maintain good health in a specific species of animal;
- (2) **“Adequate control”**, to reasonably restrain or govern an animal so that the animal does not injure itself, any person, any other animal, or property;
- (3) **“Animal”**, every living vertebrate except a human being;
- (4) **“Animal shelter”**, a facility which is used to house or contain animals and which is owned, operated, or maintained by a duly incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or other not for profit organization devoted to the welfare, protection, and humane treatment of animals;

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- (5) **“Farm animal”**, an animal raised on a farm or ranch and used or intended for use in farm or ranch production, or as food or fiber;
- (6) **“Farm animal professional”**, any individual employed at a location where farm animals are harbored;
- (7) **“Harbor”**, to feed or shelter an animal at the same location for three or more consecutive days;
- (8) **“Humane killing”**, the destruction of an animal accomplished by a method approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Panel on Euthanasia (JAVMA 173: 59-72, 1978); or more recent editions, but animals killed during the feeding of pet carnivores shall be considered humanely killed;
- (9) **“Owner”**, in addition to its ordinary meaning, any person who keeps or harbors an animal or professes to be owning, keeping, or harboring an animal;
- (10) **“Person”**, any individual, partnership, firm, joint stock company, corporation, association, trust, estate, or other legal entity;
- (11) **“Pests”**, birds, rabbits, or rodents which damage property or have an adverse effect on the public health, but shall not include any endangered species listed by the United States Department of the Interior nor any endangered species listed in the Wildlife Code of Missouri.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.007. Acts and facilities to which sections 578.005 to 578.023 do not apply.

The provisions of section 574.130 and sections 578.005 to 578.023 shall not apply to:

- (1) *Care or treatment performed by a licensed veterinarian within the provisions of chapter 340;*
- (2) *Bona fide scientific experiments;*
- (3) *Hunting, fishing, or trapping as allowed by chapter 252, RSMo, including all practices and privileges as allowed under the Missouri Wildlife Code;*
- (4) *Facilities and publicly funded zoological parks currently in compliance with the federal “Animal Welfare Act” as amended;*
- (5) *Rodeo practices currently accepted by the Professional Rodeo Cowboy’s Association;*
- (6) *The killing of an animal by the owner thereof, the agent of such owner, or by a veterinarian at the request of the owner thereof;*
- (7) *The lawful, humane killing of an animal by an animal control officer, the operator of an animal shelter, a veterinarian, or law enforcement or health official;*
- (8) *With respect to farm animals, normal or accepted practices of animal husbandry;*
- (9) *The killing of an animal by any person at any time if such animal is outside of the owned or rented property of the owner or custodian of such animal and the animal is injuring any person or farm animal, but this exemption shall not include the killing or injuring of a law enforcement animal while working;*
- (10) *The killing of house or garden pests; or*
- (11) *Field trials, training and hunting practices as accepted by the Professional Houndsmen of Missouri.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.009. Animal neglect—penalties.

1. *A person commits the offense of animal neglect if he or she:*
 - (1) *Has custody or ownership of an animal and fails to provide adequate care; or*
 - (2) *Knowingly abandons an animal in any place without making provisions for its adequate care.*

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2. *The offense of animal neglect is a class C misdemeanor unless the person has previously been found guilty of an offense under this section, or an offense in another jurisdiction which would constitute an offense under this section, in which case it is a class B misdemeanor.*
3. All fines and penalties for a first finding of guilt under this section may be waived by the court if the person found guilty of animal neglect shows that adequate, permanent remedies for the neglect have been made. Reasonable costs incurred for the care and maintenance of neglected animals may not be waived. This section shall not apply to the provisions of section 578.007 or chapter 272.
4. In addition to any other penalty imposed by this section, the court may order a person found guilty of animal neglect to pay all reasonable costs and expenses necessary for:
 - (1) The care and maintenance of neglected animals within the person's custody or ownership;
 - (2) The disposal of any dead or diseased animals within the person's custody or ownership;
 - (3) The reduction of resulting organic debris affecting the immediate area of the neglect; and
 - (4) The avoidance or minimization of any public health risks created by the neglect of the animals.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.012. Animal abuse—penalties.

1. *A person commits the offense of animal abuse if he or she:*
 - (1) *Intentionally or purposely kills an animal in any manner not allowed by or expressly exempted from the provisions of sections 578.005 to 578.023 and 273.030;*
 - (2) *Purposely or intentionally causes injury or suffering to an animal; or*
 - (3) *Having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate care which results in substantial harm to the animal.*
2. *Animal abuse is a class A misdemeanor, unless the defendant has previously been found guilty of animal abuse or the suffering involved in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section is the result of torture or mutilation consciously inflicted while the animal was alive, in which case it is a class E felony.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.014. Responsibility of parent or guardian of minor owning.

The parent or guardian of a minor child is responsible for the adequate care of any animal owned by, in the control of, or harbored by that minor child.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.027. Causing a dog to pursue a live animal propelled by a device—penalty.

1. *A person commits the offense of causing a dog to pursue a live animal propelled by a device if he or she ties or attaches or fastens any live animal to any machine or device propelled by any power for the purpose of causing such animal to be pursued by a dog or dogs.*
2. *The offense of causing a dog to pursue a live animal propelled by a device is a class A misdemeanor.*

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3. ANIMAL FIGHTING

EDITOR'S NOTE: Laws pertaining to the seizure and disposition of animals involved in animal fighting located in Seizure and Forfeiture and Possession Bans sections of this document.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.025. Dogs, fighting, training to fight or injuring for amusement or gain, penalty—spectator, penalty.

1. *A person commits the offense of dogfighting if he or she:*
 - (1) *Owns, possesses, keeps, or trains any dog, with the intent that such dog shall be engaged in an exhibition of fighting with another dog;*
 - (2) *For amusement or gain, causes any dog to fight with another dog, or causes any dogs to injure each other; or*
 - (3) *Permits any act as described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection to be done on any premises under his or her charge or control, or aids or abets any such act.*
2. *The offense of dogfighting is a class E felony.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.026. Spectating dogfighting, penalty—exceptions.

1. *A person commits the offense of spectating dogfighting if he or she is knowingly present, as a spectator, at any place, building, or structure where preparations are being made for an exhibition of the fighting of dogs, with the intent to be present at such preparations, or is knowingly present at such exhibition or at any other fighting or injuring as described in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 578.025, with the intent to be present at such exhibition, fighting, or injuring.*
2. *The offense of spectating dogfighting is a class A misdemeanor.*
3. *Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit:*
 - (1) *The use of dogs in the management of livestock by the owner of such livestock, his or her employees or agents, or other persons in lawful custody of such livestock;*
 - (2) *The use of dogs in hunting; or*
 - (3) *The training of dogs or the use of equipment in the training of dogs for any purpose not prohibited by law.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.050. Bullbaiting and cockfighting—penalty.

1. *A person commits the offense of bullbaiting or cockfighting if he or she:*
 - (1) *Keeps, 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 fighting or baiting any bull, bear, cock, or other creature, except dogs;*
 - (2) *Encourages, aids, assists, or is present at any place kept or used for such purpose; or*

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- (3) *Permits or suffers any place belonging to him or her, or under his or her control, to be so kept or used.*
2. *The offense of bullbaiting or cockfighting is a class A misdemeanor.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.170. Definitions.

As used in sections 578.170 to 578.188, the following terms mean:

- (1) **“Animal,”** *every living vertebrate except a human being;*
- (2) **“Baiting,”** *to attack, provoke, or harass an animal with one or more animals for the purpose of training an animal for, or to cause an animal to engage in, fights with other animals for the purpose of amusement, entertainment, wagering or gain;*
- (3) **“Bear wrestling,”** *a contest of fighting or physical altercation between one or more persons and a bear for the purpose of amusement, entertainment, wagering or gain;*
- (4) **“Person,”** *any individual, partnership, firm, joint stock company, corporation, association, other business unit, society, trust, estate or other legal entity, or any public or private institution.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.173. Baiting or fighting animals—penalty.

1. *A person commits the offense of baiting or fighting animals if he or she:*
 - (1) *Baits or fights animals;*
 - (2) *Permits baiting or animal fighting to be done on any premises under his or her charge or control;*
 - (3) *Promotes, conducts, or stages a baiting or fight between two or more animals;*
 - (4) *Advertises a baiting or fight between two or more animals;*
 - (5) *Collects any admission fee for a baiting or fight between two or more animals;*
 - (6) *Knowingly attends the baiting or fighting of animals;*
 - (7) *Knowingly sells, offers for sale, ships, or transports any animal which has been bred or trained to bait or fight another animal;*
 - (8) *Owns or possesses any of the cockfighting implements, commonly known as gaffs and slashers, or any other sharp implement designed to be attached to the leg of a gamecock; or*
 - (9) *Manufactures, sells, barter, or exchanges any of the cockfighting implements, commonly known as gaffs and slashers, or any other sharp implement designed to be attached to the leg of a gamecock.*
2. *The offense of baiting or fighting animals is a class E felony*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.176. Bear wrestling—penalty.

1. *A person commits the offense of bear wrestling if he or she:*
 - (1) *Wrestles a bear;*
 - (2) *Permits bear wrestling to be done on any premises under his or her charge or control;*

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- (3) *Promotes, conducts, or stages bear wrestling;*
 - (4) *Advertises bear wrestling;*
 - (5) *Collects any admission fee for bear wrestling;*
 - (6) *Purchases, sells, or possesses a bear which he or she knows will be used for bear wrestling;*
 - (7) *Trains a bear for bear wrestling;*
 - (8) *Subjects a bear to surgical alteration for bear wrestling.*
2. *The offense of bear wrestling is a class A misdemeanor.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.182. Exemptions.

1. *The provisions of sections 578.173 and 578.176 shall not apply to:*
 - (1) *Any person simulating a fight for the purpose of using the simulated fight as part of a motion picture production or a motion picture production for television, provided sections 578.009 and 578.012 are not violated;*
 - (2) *Any person selling, offering for sale, shipping, transporting or using any animal, for the sole purpose of tracking, pursuing or taking wildlife, or to participate in any hunting, fishing or any other activity regulated by the Missouri wildlife code;*
 - (3) *Any person using animals to herd, work or identify livestock for agricultural purposes according to recognized animal husbandry.*
2. *Nothing in the provisions of sections 578.170, 578.173, and 578.176 shall be construed to:*
 - (1) *Prohibit breeding, rearing or slaughtering poultry pursuant to the provisions of chapters 196, 262, 265, 276 and 277, RSMo;*
 - (2) *Prohibit breeding or rearing game fowl when the game fowl are not intended for use in violation of the provisions of sections 578.170, 578.173 or 578.176;*
 - (3) *Prohibit professional or amateur rodeo practices, and skill events when the practices and skill events are not intended for use in violation of the provisions of sections 578.170, 578.173 and 578.176.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.185. Injunction.

A court of competent jurisdiction may enjoin a person from a continuing violation of section 578.173 or 578.176.

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4. SEXUAL ASSAULT

Mo. REV. STAT. § 566.111. Unlawful sex with an animal, penalties.

1. *A person commits the offense of sex with an animal if he or she engages in sexual conduct with an animal.*
2. *The offense of sex with an animal is a class A misdemeanor unless the person has previously been found guilty of an offense under this section or has previously been found guilty of an offense in another jurisdiction which would constitute an offense under this section, in which case the offense is a class E felony.*
3. *In addition to any penalty imposed or as a condition of probation the court may:*
 - (1) *Prohibit the offender from harboring animals or residing in any household where animals are present during the period of probation; or*
 - (2) *Order all animals in the offender's possession subject to a civil forfeiture action under chapter 513; or*
 - (3) *Order psychological evaluation and counseling of the offender at the offender's expense.*
4. *Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit generally accepted animal husbandry, farming and ranching practices or generally accepted veterinary medical practices.*
5. *For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:*
 - (1) ***“Animal”***, *every creature, either alive or dead, other than a human being;*
 - (2) ***“Sexual conduct with an animal”***, *any touching of an animal with the genitals or any touching of the genitals or anus of an animal for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the person's sexual desire.*

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5. CRUELTY TO WORKING ANIMALS

MO. REV. STAT. § 209.202. Crime of causing substantial injury or death of a service dog, penalty—failure to control an animal that causes substantial injury to or the death of a service dog, penalty—harassment of a service dog, penalty—damages.

1. *Any person who knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly causes substantial physical injury to or the death of a service dog is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.* The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the destruction of a service dog for humane purposes.
2. *Any person who knowingly or intentionally fails to exercise sufficient control over an animal such person owns, keeps, harbors, or exercises control over to prevent the animal from causing the substantial physical injury to or death of a service dog, or the subsequent inability to function as a service dog as a result of the animal's attacking, chasing, or harassing the service dog is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.*
3. *Any person who harasses or chases a dog known to such person to be a service dog is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.*
4. *Any person who owns, keeps, harbors, or exercises control over an animal and who knowingly or intentionally fails to exercise sufficient control over the animal to prevent such animal from chasing or harassing a service dog while such dog is carrying out the dog's function as a service dog, to the extent that the animal temporarily interferes with the service dog's ability to carry out the dog's function is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.*
5. An owner of a service dog or a person with a disability who uses a service dog may file a cause of action to recover civil damages against any person who:
 - (1) Violates the provisions of subsection 1 or 2 of this section; or
 - (2) Steals a service dog resulting in the loss of the services of the service dog.
6. Any civil damages awarded under subsection 5 of this section shall be based on the following:
 - (1) The replacement value of an equally trained service dog, without any differentiation for the age or experience of the service dog;
 - (2) The cost and expenses incurred by the owner of a service dog or the person with a disability who used the service dog, including:
 - (a) The cost of temporary replacement services, whether provided by another service dog or by a person;
 - (b) The reasonable costs incurred in efforts to recover a stolen service dog; and
 - (c) Court costs and attorney's fees incurred in bringing a civil action under subsection 5 of this section.
7. An owner of a service dog or a person with a disability who uses a service dog may file a cause of action to recover civil damages against a person who:
 - (1) Violates the provisions of subsections 1 to 4 of this section resulting in injury from which the service dog recovers to an extent that the dog is able to function as a service dog for the person with a disability; or

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- (2) Steals a service dog and the service dog is recovered resulting in the service dog being able to function as a service dog for the person with a disability.
8. Any civil damages awarded under subsection 7 of this section shall be based on the following:
 - (1) Veterinary medical expenses;
 - (2) Retraining expenses;
 - (3) The cost of temporary replacement services, whether provided by another service dog or by a person;
 - (4) Reasonable costs incurred in the recovery of the service dog; and
 - (5) Court costs and attorney's fees incurred in bringing the civil action under subsection 7 of this section.
9. The provisions of this section shall not apply if a person with a disability, an owner, or a person having custody or supervision of a service dog commits criminal or civil trespass.
10. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any other remedies available at law.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 575.353. Assault on a police animal—penalties.

1. *This section shall be known and may be cited as “Max’s Law”.*
2. *A person commits the offense of assault on a law enforcement animal if he or she knowingly attempts to kill or disable or knowingly causes or attempts to cause serious physical injury to a law enforcement animal when that animal is involved in law enforcement investigation, apprehension, tracking, or search, or the animal is in the custody of or under the control of a law enforcement officer, department of corrections officer, municipal police department, fire department or a rescue unit or agency.*
3. *The offense of assault on a law enforcement animal is a:*
 - (1) *Class A misdemeanor, if the law enforcement animal is not injured to the point of requiring veterinary care or treatment;*
 - (2) *Class E felony if the law enforcement animal is seriously injured to the point of requiring veterinary care or treatment; and*
 - (3) *Class D felony if the assault results in the death of such animal.*

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6. LAWS SPECIFIC TO FARMED ANIMALS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This section does **not** contain all state or territorial laws regarding farmed animals. This section contains only criminal statutes with the primary purpose of preventing individual farmed animals from suffering unnecessary pain or suffering.*

[None]

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7. CRUEL HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This section does **not** contain all state or territorial laws regarding hunting, trapping, and fishing. This section contains only criminal statutes with the primary purpose of preventing individual wild animals from suffering unnecessary pain or suffering.*

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 252.040. Taking of wildlife—violations, misdemeanor—fur dealers and buyers violating record keeping rules, fine.

No wildlife shall be pursued, taken, killed, possessed or disposed of except in the manner, to the extent and at the time or times permitted by such rules and regulations; and any pursuit, taking, killing, possession or disposition thereof, except as permitted by such rules and regulations, are hereby prohibited. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor except that any person violating any of the rules and regulations pertaining to record-keeping requirements imposed on licensed fur buyers and fur dealers shall be guilty of an infraction and shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 252.220. Explosives prohibited—penalty.

- 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to place any explosive substance or preparation in any of the waters of this state, whereby any fish which may inhabit said waters may be killed, injured or destroyed; and no person, by any such means, shall kill, catch or take any fish from said waters; provided, however, that explosive substances or preparations may be used in said waters, but only with the permission and under the supervision of the commission.*
- 2. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for not more than two years, or by both such fine and imprisonment, for each such offense.*

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8. CROSS REPORTING

[None]

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9. VETERINARY REPORTING

Mo. CODE REGS. tit. 20, § 2270-6.011. Rules of professional conduct.

NOTE: *Unrelated statutory text has been omitted.*

(11) Licensees shall not reveal confidential, proprietary or privileged facts or data or any other sensitive information contained in a patient's medical records or as otherwise obtained in a professional capacity without the prior consent of the client except as otherwise authorized or required by Chapter 340, RSMo, lawful rules as promulgated by the board, court order or any other state or federal law, or regulation. *However, this section shall not apply to cases in which the veterinarian may observe animal abuse or neglect. The board recognizes that veterinarians may observe cases of animal abuse or neglect as defined by federal or state laws, or local ordinances. When these situations cannot be resolved through education, the board considers it the responsibility of the veterinarian to report such cases to the appropriate authorities. Disclosures may be necessary to protect the health and welfare of animals and people. Veterinarians should be aware that accurate record keeping and documentation of these cases are invaluable.*

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10. "AG-GAG" LAWS

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.013. Recording of farm animals alleged to be abused or neglected, submission to law enforcement required—violation, penalty.

1. *Whenever any farm animal professional videotapes or otherwise makes a digital recording of what he or she believes to depict a farm animal subjected to abuse or neglect under sections 578.009 or 578.012, such farm animal professional shall have a duty to submit such videotape or digital recording to a law enforcement agency within twenty-four hours of the recording.*
2. *No videotape or digital recording submitted under subsection 1 of this section shall be spliced, edited, or manipulated in any way prior to its submission.*
3. *An intentional violation of any provision of this section is a class A misdemeanor.*

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11. EMERGENCY RESCUE AND RELIEF

[None]

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12. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT

[None]

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13. DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 455.010. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall mean:

- (1) **“Abuse”**, includes but is not limited to the occurrence of any of the following acts, attempts or threats against a person who may be protected pursuant to this chapter, except abuse shall not include abuse inflicted on a child by accidental means by an adult household member or discipline of a child, including spanking, in a reasonable manner:
 - (a) **“Abusing a pet”**, purposely or knowingly causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to a pet with the intent to control, punish, intimidate, or distress the petitioner;
 - (b) **“Assault”**, purposely or knowingly placing or attempting to place another in fear of physical harm;
 - (c) **“Battery”**, purposely or knowingly causing physical harm to another with or without a deadly weapon;
 - (d) **“Coercion”**, compelling another by force or threat of force to engage in conduct from which the latter has a right to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage;
 - (e) **“Harassment”**, engaging in a purposeful or knowing course of conduct involving more than one incident that alarms or causes distress to an adult or child and serves no legitimate purpose. The course of conduct must be such as would cause a reasonable adult or child to suffer substantial emotional distress and must actually cause substantial emotional distress to the petitioner or child. Such conduct might include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Following another about in a public place or places;
 - b. Peering in the window or lingering outside the residence of another; but does not include constitutionally protected activity;
 - (f) **“Sexual assault”**, causing or attempting to cause another to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force, threat of force, duress, or without that person's consent;
 - (g) **“Unlawful imprisonment”**, holding, confining, detaining or abducting another person against that person's will;
- (2) **“Adult”**, any person seventeen years of age or older or otherwise emancipated;
- (3) **“Child”**, any person under seventeen years of age unless otherwise emancipated;
- (4) **“Court”**, the circuit or associate circuit judge or a family court commissioner;
- (5) **“Domestic violence”**, abuse or stalking committed by a family or household member, as such terms are defined in this section;
- (6) **“Ex parte order of protection”**, an order of protection issued by the court before the respondent has received notice of the petition or an opportunity to be heard on it;
- (7) **“Family” or “household member”**, spouses, former spouses, any person related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, any person who is or has been in a continuing social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature

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- with the victim, and anyone who has a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have resided together at any time;
- (8) **“Full order of protection”**, an order of protection issued after a hearing on the record where the respondent has received notice of the proceedings and has had an opportunity to be heard;
 - (9) **“Order of protection”**, either an ex parte order of protection or a full order of protection;
 - (10) **“Pending”**, exists or for which a hearing date has been set;
 - (11) **“Pet”**, *a living creature maintained by a household member for companionship and not for commercial purposes*;
 - (12) **“Petitioner”**, a family or household member who has been a victim of domestic violence, or any person who has been the victim of stalking or sexual assault, or a person filing on behalf of a child pursuant to section 455.503 who has filed a verified petition pursuant to the provisions of section 455.020 or section 455.505;
 - (13) **“Respondent”**, the family or household member alleged to have committed an act of domestic violence, or person alleged to have committed an act of stalking or sexual assault, against whom a verified petition has been filed or a person served on behalf of a child pursuant to section 455.503;
 - (14) **“Sexual assault”**, as defined under subdivision (1) of this section;
 - (15) **“Stalking”**, is when any person purposely engages in an unwanted course of conduct that causes alarm to another person, or a person who resides together in the same household with the person seeking the order of protection when it is reasonable in that person's situation to have been alarmed by the conduct. As used in this subdivision:
 - (a) **“Alarm”**, to cause fear of danger of physical harm; and
 - (b) **“Course of conduct”**, two or more acts that serve no legitimate purpose including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through a third party follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to a person by any action, method, or device.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 455.032. Protection order, restraining respondent from abuse if petitioner is permanently or temporarily in state—evidence admissible of prior abuse in or out of state.

In addition to any other jurisdictional grounds provided by law, a court shall have jurisdiction to enter an order of protection restraining or enjoining the respondent from committing or threatening to commit domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, molesting or disturbing the peace of petitioner, or abusing a pet, pursuant to sections 455.010 to 455.085, if the petitioner is present, whether permanently or on a temporary basis within the state of Missouri and if the respondent's actions constituting domestic violence have occurred, have been attempted or have been or are threatened within the state of Missouri. For purposes of this section, if the petitioner has been the subject of domestic violence within or outside of the state of Missouri, such evidence shall be admissible to demonstrate the need for protection in Missouri.

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Mo. REV. STAT. § 455.045. Temporary relief available—ex parte orders.

Any ex parte order of protection granted pursuant to sections 455.010 to 455.085 shall be to protect the petitioner from domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault and may include:

- (1) Restraining the respondent from committing or threatening to commit domestic violence, molesting, stalking, sexual assault, or disturbing the peace of the petitioner;
- (2) Restraining the respondent from entering the premises of the dwelling unit of petitioner when the dwelling unit is:
 - (a) Jointly owned, leased or rented or jointly occupied by both parties; or
 - (b) Owned, leased, rented or occupied by petitioner individually; or
 - (c) Jointly owned, leased or rented by petitioner and a person other than respondent; provided, however, no spouse shall be denied relief pursuant to this section by reason of the absence of a property interest in the dwelling unit; or
 - (d) Jointly occupied by the petitioner and a person other than the respondent; provided that the respondent has no property interest in the dwelling unit;
- (3) Restraining the respondent from communicating with the petitioner in any manner or through any medium;
- (4) A temporary order of custody of minor children where appropriate;
- (5) *A temporary order of possession of pets where appropriate.*

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14. MAXIMUM PENALTIES AND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Mo. REV. STAT. § 558.002. Fines for felonies.

1. Except as otherwise provided for an offense outside this code, a person who has been convicted of an offense may be sentenced to pay a fine which does not exceed:
 - (1) *For a class C, D, or E felony, ten thousand dollars;*
 - (2) *For a class A misdemeanor, two thousand dollars;*
 - (3) *For a class B misdemeanor, one thousand dollars;*
 - (4) *For a class C misdemeanor, seven hundred fifty dollars;*
 - (5) *For a class D misdemeanor, five hundred dollars;*
 - (6) *For an infraction, four hundred dollars; or*
 - (7) If the person has gained money or property through the commission of the offense, to pay an amount, fixed by the court, not exceeding double the amount of the person's gain from the commission of the offense.
2. A sentence to pay a fine, when imposed on a corporation for an offense defined in this code or for any offense defined outside this code for which no specific corporate fine is specified, shall be a sentence to pay an amount, fixed by the court, which does not exceed:
 - (1) For a felony, twenty thousand dollars;
 - (2) For a misdemeanor, ten thousand dollars;
 - (3) For an infraction, one thousand dollars; or
 - (4) If the corporation has gained money or property through the commission of the offense, to pay an amount, fixed by the court, not exceeding double the amount of the corporation's gain from the commission of the offense.
3. As used in this section the term “**gain**” means the amount of money or the value of property derived from the commission of the offense. The amount of money or value of property returned to the victim of the offense or seized by or surrendered to lawful authority prior to the time sentence is imposed shall be deducted from the fine. When the court imposes a fine based on gain the court shall make a finding as to the amount of the offender's gain from the crime. If the record does not contain sufficient evidence to support such a finding, the court may conduct a hearing upon the issue.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 558.011. Sentence of imprisonment, terms—conditional release.

1. *The authorized terms of imprisonment, including both prison and conditional release terms, are:*
 - (1) *For a class A felony, a term of years not less than ten years and not to exceed thirty years, or life imprisonment;*
 - (2) *For a class B felony, a term of years not less than five years and not to exceed fifteen years;*
 - (3) *For a class C felony, a term of years not less than three years and not to exceed ten years;*
 - (4) *For a class D felony, a term of years not to exceed seven years;*
 - (5) *For a class E felony, a term of years not to exceed four years;*
 - (6) *For a class A misdemeanor, a term not to exceed one year;*

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- (7) *For a class B misdemeanor, a term not to exceed six months;*
- (8) *For a class C misdemeanor, a term not to exceed fifteen days.*
2. In cases of class D and E felonies, the court shall have discretion to imprison for a special term not to exceed one year in the county jail or other authorized penal institution, and the place of confinement shall be fixed by the court. If the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment for a term longer than one year upon a person convicted of a class D or E felony, it shall commit the person to the custody of the department of corrections.
 3.
 - (1) When a regular sentence of imprisonment for a felony is imposed, the court shall commit the person to the custody of the department of corrections for the term imposed under section 557.036, or until released under procedures established elsewhere by law.
 - (2) A sentence of imprisonment for a misdemeanor shall be for a definite term and the court shall commit the person to the county jail or other authorized penal institution for the term of his or her sentence or until released under procedure established elsewhere by law.
 4.
 - (1) A sentence of imprisonment for a term of years for felonies other than dangerous felonies as defined in section 556.061, and other than sentences of imprisonment which involve the individual's fourth or subsequent remand to the department of corrections shall consist of a prison term and a conditional release term. The conditional release term of any term imposed under section 557.036, shall be:
 - a. One-third for terms of nine years or less;
 - b. Three years for terms between nine and fifteen years;
 - c. Five years for terms more than fifteen years; and the prison term shall be the remainder of such term. The prison term may be extended by the parole board pursuant to subsection 5 of this section.
 - (2) **"Conditional release"** means the conditional discharge of an offender by the parole board, subject to conditions of release that the parole board deems reasonable to assist the offender to lead a law-abiding life, and subject to the supervision under the division of probation and parole. The conditions of release shall include avoidance by the offender of any other crime, federal or state, and other conditions that the parole board in its discretion deems reasonably necessary to assist the releasee in avoiding further violation of the law.
 5. The date of conditional release from the prison term may be extended up to a maximum of the entire sentence of imprisonment by the parole board. The director of any division of the department of corrections except the division of probation and parole may file with the parole board a petition to extend the conditional release date when an offender fails to follow the rules and regulations of the division or commits an act in violation of such rules. Within ten working days of receipt of the petition to extend the conditional release date, the parole board shall convene a hearing on the petition. The offender shall be present and may call witnesses in his or her behalf and cross-examine witnesses appearing against the offender. The hearing shall be conducted as provided in section 217.670. If the violation occurs in close proximity to the conditional release date, the conditional release may be held for a maximum of fifteen working days to permit necessary time for the division director to file a petition for an extension with the parole board and for the parole board to conduct a hearing, provided some affirmative manifestation of an intent to extend the conditional release has occurred prior to the

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conditional release date. If at the end of a fifteen-working-day period a parole board decision has not been reached, the offender shall be released conditionally. The decision of the parole board shall be final.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 556.036. Time limitations.

1. A prosecution for murder, rape in the first degree, forcible rape, attempted rape in the first degree, attempted forcible rape, sodomy in the first degree, forcible sodomy, attempted sodomy in the first degree, attempted forcible sodomy, or any class A felony may be commenced at any time.
2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, prosecutions for other offenses must be commenced within the following periods of limitation:
 - (1) *For any felony, three years, except as provided in subdivision (4) of this subsection;*
 - (2) *For any misdemeanor, one year;*
 - (3) For any infraction, six months;
 - (4) For any violation of section 569.040, when classified as a class B felony, or any violation of section 569.050 or 569.055, five years.
3. If the period prescribed in subsection 2 of this section has expired, a prosecution may nevertheless be commenced for:
 - (1) Any offense a material element of which is either fraud or a breach of fiduciary obligation within one year after discovery of the offense by an aggrieved party or by a person who has a legal duty to represent an aggrieved party and who is himself or herself not a party to the offense, but in no case shall this provision extend the period of limitation by more than three years. As used in this subdivision, the term “**person who has a legal duty to represent an aggrieved party**” shall mean the attorney general or the prosecuting or circuit attorney having jurisdiction pursuant to section 407.553, for purposes of offenses committed pursuant to sections 407.511 to 407.556; and
 - (2) Any offense based upon misconduct in office by a public officer or employee at any time when the person is in public office or employment or within two years thereafter, but in no case shall this provision extend the period of limitation by more than three years; and
 - (3) Any offense based upon an intentional and willful fraudulent claim of child support arrearage to a public servant in the performance of his or her duties within one year after discovery of the offense, but in no case shall this provision extend the period of limitation by more than three years.
4. An offense is committed either when every element occurs, or, if a legislative purpose to prohibit a continuing course of conduct plainly appears, at the time when the course of conduct or the person's complicity therein is terminated. Time starts to run on the day after the offense is committed.
5. A prosecution is commenced for a misdemeanor or infraction when the information is filed and for a felony when the complaint or indictment is filed.
6. The period of limitation does not run:
 - (1) During any time when the accused is absent from the state, but in no case shall this provision extend the period of limitation otherwise applicable by more than three years;

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- (2) During any time when the accused is concealing himself or herself from justice either within or without this state;
- (3) During any time when a prosecution against the accused for the offense is pending in this state;
- (4) During any time when the accused is found to lack mental fitness to proceed pursuant to section 552.020; or
- (5) During any period of time after which a DNA profile is developed from evidence collected in relation to the commission of a crime and included in a published laboratory report until the date upon which the accused is identified by name based upon a match between that DNA evidence profile and the known DNA profile of the accused. For purposes of this section, the term “DNA profile” means the collective results of the DNA analysis of an evidence sample.

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15. LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

[None]

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16. SEIZURE

MO. REV. STAT. § 578.016. Impoundment of animal found off property of owner or custodian, disposition, procedure—liability of owner or custodian for costs—lien rights of owner or custodian.

1. *Any duly authorized public health official, law enforcement official, or animal control officer may impound any animal found outside of the owned or rented property of the owner or custodian of such animal when such animal shows evidence of neglect or abuse. Any animal impounded pursuant to this section shall be:*
 - (1) If the owner can be ascertained and the animal is not diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose, held for recovery by the owner. The owner shall be notified within five business days of impoundment by phone or by mail of the animal's location and recovery procedures. The animal shall be held for ten business days. An animal unclaimed after ten business days may be put up for adoption or humanely killed;
 - (2) Placed in the care or custody of a veterinarian, the appropriate animal control authority or animal shelter. The animal shall not be disposed of, unless diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose, until after expiration of a minimum of five business days, during which time the public shall have clear access to inspect or recover the animal through time periods ordinarily accepted as usual business hours. After five business days, the animal may be put up for adoption or humanely killed; or
 - (3) If diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose as determined by a public health official, law enforcement official, veterinarian or animal control officer, humanely killed.
2. The owner or custodian of an animal impounded pursuant to this section shall be liable for reasonable costs for the care and maintenance of the animal. Any person incurring reasonable costs for the care and maintenance of such animal shall have a lien against such animal until the reasonable costs have been paid and may put up for adoption or humanely kill any animal if such costs are not paid within ten days after demand. Any moneys received for an animal adopted pursuant to this subsection in excess of costs shall be paid to the owner of such animal.
3. The owner or custodian of any animal killed pursuant to this section shall be entitled to recover the actual value of the animal up to but not to exceed six hundred dollars if the owner or custodian shows that such killing was unwarranted.

MO. REV. STAT. § 578.018. Warrant for entry on private property to inspect—impounded animals—compensation.

1. *Any duly authorized public health official or law enforcement official may seek a warrant from the appropriate court to enable him or her to enter private property in order to inspect, care for, or impound neglected or abused animals. All requests for such warrants shall be accompanied by an affidavit stating the probable cause to believe a violation of sections 578.005 to 578.023 has occurred. A person acting under the authority of a warrant shall:*

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- (1) *Be given a disposition hearing before the court through which the warrant was issued, within thirty days of the filing of the request for the purpose of granting immediate disposition of the animals impounded;*
 - (2) *Place impounded animals in the care or custody of a veterinarian, the appropriate animal control authority, or an animal shelter. If no appropriate veterinarian, animal control authority, or animal shelter is available, the animal shall not be impounded unless it is diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose;*
 - (3) *Humanely kill any animal impounded if it is determined by a licensed veterinarian that the animal is diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose;*
 - (4) *Not be liable for any necessary damage to property while acting under such warrant.*
2. The owner or custodian or any person claiming an interest in any animal that has been impounded because of neglect or abuse may prevent disposition of the animal by posting bond or security in an amount sufficient to provide for the animal's care and keeping for at least thirty days, inclusive of the date on which the animal was taken into custody. Notwithstanding the fact that bond may be posted pursuant to this subsection, the authority having custody of the animal may humanely dispose of the animal at the end of the time for which expenses are covered by the bond or security, unless there is a court order prohibiting such disposition. Such order shall provide for a bond or other security in the amount necessary to protect the authority having custody of the animal from any cost of the care, keeping or disposal of the animal. The authority taking custody of an animal shall give notice of the provisions of this section by posting a copy of this section at the place where the animal was taken into custody or by delivering it to a person residing on the property.
 3. The owner or custodian of any animal humanely killed pursuant to this section shall not be entitled to recover any damages related to nor the actual value of the animal if the animal was found by a licensed veterinarian to be diseased or disabled, or if the owner or custodian failed to post bond or security for the care, keeping and disposition of the animal after being notified of impoundment.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.030. State highway patrol, powers and duties to enforce animal protection.

1. *The provisions of section 43.200 notwithstanding, any member of the state highway patrol or other law enforcement officer may apply for and serve a search warrant, and shall have the power of search and seizure in order to enforce the provisions of sections 578.025 to 578.050.*
2. *Any member of the state highway patrol or other law enforcement officer making an arrest under section 578.025 shall lawfully take possession of all dogs or other animals and all paraphernalia, implements, or other property or things used or employed, or about to be employed, in the violation of any of the provisions of section 578.025. Such officer, after taking possession of such dogs, animals, paraphernalia, implements or other property or things, shall file with the court before whom the complaint is made against any person so arrested an affidavit stating therein the name of the person charged in such complaint, a description of the property so taken and the time and place of the taking thereof together with the name of the person from whom the same was taken and the name of the person who claims to own such property, if known, and that the affiant has reason to believe and does believe, stating the ground of such belief, that the property so taken was used or employed, or was about to be used or employed, in such violation of section 578.025. He or she shall thereupon deliver*

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the property so taken to the court, which shall, by order in writing, place the same in the custody of an officer or other proper person named and designated in such order, to be kept by him or her until the conviction or final discharge of such person complained against, and shall send a copy of such order without delay to the prosecuting attorney of the county. The officer or person so named and designated in such order shall immediately thereupon assume the custody of such property and shall retain the same, subject to the order of the court before which such person so complained against may be required to appear for trial. Upon the conviction of the person so charged, all property so seized shall be adjudged by the court to be forfeited and shall thereupon be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the court may order. In the event of the acquittal or final discharge without conviction of the person so charged, such court shall, on demand, direct the delivery of such property so held in custody to the owner thereof.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.179. Seizure and disposition of animals.

Whenever an indictment is returned or a complaint is filed alleging a violation of section 578.173 or 578.176 and, in the case of a complaint, a magistrate finds probable cause that a violation has occurred, the court shall order the animals seized and shall provide for appropriate and humane care or disposition of the animals pursuant to section 578.018. This provision shall not be construed as a limitation on the power to seize animals as evidence at the time of arrest.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.185. Injunction.

A court of competent jurisdiction may enjoin a person from a continuing violation of section 578.173 or 578.176.

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17. COURTROOM ANIMAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

[None]

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18. RESTITUTION AND REIMBURSEMENT

Mo. REV. STAT. § 430.165. Lien for the care of animals lawfully impounded, who entitled to.

1. Any animal lawfully impounded under the laws of this state or ordinances of any of its political subdivisions may be placed by the impounding officer in the care of any incorporated humane society or other responsible person designated by the impounding authority.
2. *Any incorporated humane society or other person designated to care for an animal under the provisions of subsection 1 shall be entitled to a lien on the animal for the reasonable cost of the care of the animal, as provided in sections 430.150 and 430.160.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.009. Animal neglect—penalties.

1. A person commits the offense of animal neglect if he or she:
 - (1) Has custody or ownership of an animal and fails to provide adequate care; or
 - (2) Knowingly abandons an animal in any place without making provisions for its adequate care.
2. The offense of animal neglect is a class C misdemeanor unless the person has previously been found guilty of an offense under this section, or an offense in another jurisdiction which would constitute an offense under this section, in which case it is a class B misdemeanor.
3. All fines and penalties for a first finding of guilt under this section may be waived by the court if the person found guilty of animal neglect shows that adequate, permanent remedies for the neglect have been made. Reasonable costs incurred for the care and maintenance of neglected animals may not be waived. This section shall not apply to the provisions of section 578.007 or chapter 272.
4. *In addition to any other penalty imposed by this section, the court may order a person found guilty of animal neglect to pay all reasonable costs and expenses necessary for:*
 - (1) *The care and maintenance of neglected animals within the person's custody or ownership;*
 - (2) *The disposal of any dead or diseased animals within the person's custody or ownership;*
 - (3) *The reduction of resulting organic debris affecting the immediate area of the neglect; and*
 - (4) *The avoidance or minimization of any public health risks created by the neglect of the animals.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.016. Impoundment of animal found off property of owner or custodian, disposition, procedure—liability of owner or custodian for costs—lien rights of owner or custodian.

1. Any duly authorized public health official, law enforcement official, or animal control officer may impound any animal found outside of the owned or rented property of the owner or custodian of such animal when such animal shows evidence of neglect or abuse. Any animal impounded pursuant to this section shall be:
 - (1) If the owner can be ascertained and the animal is not diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose, held for recovery by the owner. The owner shall be notified within five business days of impoundment by phone or by mail of the animal's location and recovery

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procedures. The animal shall be held for ten business days. An animal unclaimed after ten business days may be put up for adoption or humanely killed;

- (2) Placed in the care or custody of a veterinarian, the appropriate animal control authority or animal shelter. The animal shall not be disposed of, unless diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose, until after expiration of a minimum of five business days, during which time the public shall have clear access to inspect or recover the animal through time periods ordinarily accepted as usual business hours. After five business days, the animal may be put up for adoption or humanely killed; or
 - (3) If diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose as determined by a public health official, law enforcement official, veterinarian or animal control officer, humanely killed.
2. *The owner or custodian of an animal impounded pursuant to this section shall be liable for reasonable costs for the care and maintenance of the animal. Any person incurring reasonable costs for the care and maintenance of such animal shall have a lien against such animal until the reasonable costs have been paid and may put up for adoption or humanely kill any animal if such costs are not paid within ten days after demand. Any moneys received for an animal adopted pursuant to this subsection in excess of costs shall be paid to the owner of such animal.*
 3. The owner or custodian of any animal killed pursuant to this section shall be entitled to recover the actual value of the animal up to but not to exceed six hundred dollars if the owner or custodian shows that such killing was unwarranted.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 578.018. Warrant for entry on private property to inspect—impounded animals—compensation.

1. Any duly authorized public health official or law enforcement official may seek a warrant from the appropriate court to enable him or her to enter private property in order to inspect, care for, or impound neglected or abused animals. All requests for such warrants shall be accompanied by an affidavit stating the probable cause to believe a violation of sections 578.005 to 578.023 has occurred. A person acting under the authority of a warrant shall:
 - (1) Be given a disposition hearing before the court through which the warrant was issued, within thirty days of the filing of the request for the purpose of granting immediate disposition of the animals impounded;
 - (2) Place impounded animals in the care or custody of a veterinarian, the appropriate animal control authority, or an animal shelter. If no appropriate veterinarian, animal control authority, or animal shelter is available, the animal shall not be impounded unless it is diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose;
 - (3) Humanely kill any animal impounded if it is determined by a licensed veterinarian that the animal is diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose;
 - (4) Not be liable for any necessary damage to property while acting under such warrant.
2. *The owner or custodian or any person claiming an interest in any animal that has been impounded because of neglect or abuse may prevent disposition of the animal by posting bond or security in an amount sufficient to provide for the animal's care and keeping for at least thirty days, inclusive of the date on which the animal was taken into custody. Notwithstanding the fact that bond may be posted*

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pursuant to this subsection, the authority having custody of the animal may humanely dispose of the animal at the end of the time for which expenses are covered by the bond or security, unless there is a court order prohibiting such disposition. Such order shall provide for a bond or other security in the amount necessary to protect the authority having custody of the animal from any cost of the care, keeping or disposal of the animal. The authority taking custody of an animal shall give notice of the provisions of this section by posting a copy of this section at the place where the animal was taken into custody or by delivering it to a person residing on the property.

3. The owner or custodian of any animal humanely killed pursuant to this section shall not be entitled to recover any damages related to nor the actual value of the animal if the animal was found by a licensed veterinarian to be diseased or disabled, or if the owner or custodian failed to post bond or security for the care, keeping and disposition of the animal after being notified of impoundment.

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19. FORFEITURE AND POSSESSION BANS

Mo. REV. STAT. § 566.111. Unlawful sex with an animal, penalties.

1. A person commits the offense of sex with an animal if he or she engages in sexual conduct with an animal.
2. The offense of sex with an animal is a class A misdemeanor unless the person has previously been found guilty of an offense under this section or has previously been found guilty of an offense in another jurisdiction which would constitute an offense under this section, in which case the offense is a class E felony.
3. *In addition to any penalty imposed or as a condition of probation the court may:*
 - (1) *Prohibit the offender from harboring animals or residing in any household where animals are present during the period of probation; or*
 - (2) *Order all animals in the offender's possession subject to a civil forfeiture action under chapter 513; or*
 - (3) *Order psychological evaluation and counseling of the offender at the offender's expense.*
4. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit generally accepted animal husbandry, farming and ranching practices or generally accepted veterinary medical practices.
5. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:
 - (1) **“Animal”**, every creature, either alive or dead, other than a human being;
 - (2) **“Sexual conduct with an animal”**, any touching of an animal with the genitals or any touching of the genitals or anus of an animal for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the person's sexual desire.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.018. Warrant for entry on private property to inspect—impounded animals—compensation.

1. Any duly authorized public health official or law enforcement official may seek a warrant from the appropriate court to enable him or her to enter private property in order to inspect, care for, or impound neglected or abused animals. All requests for such warrants shall be accompanied by an affidavit stating the probable cause to believe a violation of sections 578.005 to 578.023 has occurred. A person acting under the authority of a warrant shall:
 - (1) Be given a disposition hearing before the court through which the warrant was issued, within thirty days of the filing of the request for the purpose of granting immediate disposition of the animals impounded;
 - (2) Place impounded animals in the care or custody of a veterinarian, the appropriate animal control authority, or an animal shelter. If no appropriate veterinarian, animal control authority, or animal shelter is available, the animal shall not be impounded unless it is diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose;
 - (3) Humanely kill any animal impounded if it is determined by a licensed veterinarian that the animal is diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose;

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- (4) Not be liable for any necessary damage to property while acting under such warrant.
2. *The owner or custodian or any person claiming an interest in any animal that has been impounded because of neglect or abuse may prevent disposition of the animal by posting bond or security in an amount sufficient to provide for the animal's care and keeping for at least thirty days, inclusive of the date on which the animal was taken into custody. Notwithstanding the fact that bond may be posted pursuant to this subsection, the authority having custody of the animal may humanely dispose of the animal at the end of the time for which expenses are covered by the bond or security, unless there is a court order prohibiting such disposition. Such order shall provide for a bond or other security in the amount necessary to protect the authority having custody of the animal from any cost of the care, keeping or disposal of the animal. The authority taking custody of an animal shall give notice of the provisions of this section by posting a copy of this section at the place where the animal was taken into custody or by delivering it to a person residing on the property.*
 3. *The owner or custodian of any animal humanely killed pursuant to this section shall not be entitled to recover any damages related to nor the actual value of the animal if the animal was found by a licensed veterinarian to be diseased or disabled, or if the owner or custodian failed to post bond or security for the care, keeping and disposition of the animal after being notified of impoundment.*

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.021. Neglected or abused animal not to be returned to owner or custodian, when.

If a person is found guilty of the offense of animal neglect or animal abuse and the court having jurisdiction is satisfied that an animal owned or controlled by such person would in the future be subject to such neglect or abuse, such animal shall not be returned to or allowed to remain with such person, but its disposition shall be determined by the court.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.179. Seizure and disposition of animals.

Whenever an indictment is returned or a complaint is filed alleging a violation of section 578.173 or 578.176 and, in the case of a complaint, a magistrate finds probable cause that a violation has occurred, the court shall order the animals seized and shall provide for appropriate and humane care or disposition of the animals pursuant to section 578.018. This provision shall not be construed as a limitation on the power to seize animals as evidence at the time of arrest.

Mo. REV. STAT. § 578.185. Injunction.

A court of competent jurisdiction may enjoin a person from a continuing violation of section 578.173 or 578.176.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF MISSOURI

20. REHABILITATIVE SENTENCING

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.111. Unlawful sex with an animal, penalties.

1. A person commits the offense of sex with an animal if he or she engages in sexual conduct with an animal.
2. The offense of sex with an animal is a class A misdemeanor unless the person has previously been found guilty of an offense under this section or has previously been found guilty of an offense in another jurisdiction which would constitute an offense under this section, in which case the offense is a class E felony.
3. *In addition to any penalty imposed or as a condition of probation the court may:*
 - (1) Prohibit the offender from harboring animals or residing in any household where animals are present during the period of probation; or
 - (2) Order all animals in the offender's possession subject to a civil forfeiture action under chapter 513; or
 - (3) *Order psychological evaluation and counseling of the offender at the offender's expense.*
4. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit generally accepted animal husbandry, farming and ranching practices or generally accepted veterinary medical practices.
5. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:
 - (1) **“Animal”**, every creature, either alive or dead, other than a human being;
 - (2) **“Sexual conduct with an animal”**, any touching of an animal with the genitals or any touching of the genitals or anus of an animal for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the person's sexual desire.