

Potential Criminal Penalties if Carlos Santillan Is Convicted

Carlos Santillan has been charged with **four counts of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals**, each a felony under Georgia law.

Penalty for Each Felony Count

Under **O.C.G.A. § 16-12-4**, a person convicted of aggravated cruelty to animals may be sentenced to:

- **1 to 5 years in prison**
 - **A fine of up to \$15,000**
 - **Or both imprisonment and a fine**
-

Potential Sentence for Four Felony Counts

Because Mr. Santillan is charged with **four separate felony counts**, the court has discretion to impose sentences that run:

Concurrently (at the same time)

If all four sentences are ordered to run concurrently, the total prison sentence could be:

- **1 to 5 years**

Consecutively (one after another)

If the judge orders each sentence to run consecutively, the total prison sentence could be:

- **4 to 20 years**

Likewise, the court could impose fines of up to **\$15,000 per felony count**, for a potential maximum of **\$60,000** if the maximum fine were imposed on each count.

Other Sentencing Considerations

Before sentencing, Georgia law authorizes the judge to:

- Require a **psychological evaluation** of the defendant.
 - Consider the defendant's **entire criminal history** when determining an appropriate sentence.
-

Important Note

Mr. Santillan has **been charged but has not been convicted**. The court will determine guilt or innocence, and if convicted, the sentencing judge will decide the appropriate punishment based on the evidence, Georgia law, and all relevant circumstances.

