

Potential Penalties Under Michigan Law

Charge: Animals – Killing/Torturing – Third Degree (Michigan)

Henry Bernard Montgomery has been charged with **one count of Animals – Killing/Torturing – Third Degree** in connection with the alleged torture and burning of a raccoon.

A criminal charge is an allegation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in court.

If Convicted

Under Michigan law, a conviction for **Third-Degree Animal Killing/Torturing** is a **felony** that carries potential penalties of:

- **Up to 7 years in prison**
- **A fine of up to \$5,000**
- **Or both imprisonment and a fine**

In addition to imprisonment and fines, the court may also impose other conditions permitted under Michigan law, such as:

- Restitution for costs associated with the investigation or care of the animal, when applicable.
- Counseling or psychological evaluation if deemed appropriate by the court.
- Restrictions on possessing or owning animals in the future, depending on the circumstances of the case and the court's orders.
- Probation and other court-ordered conditions following any period of incarceration.

Why This Case Matters

According to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Montgomery is accused of intentionally torturing and burning a raccoon alive and allegedly posting video of the incident on social media. The prosecutor's office further stated that additional facts and evidence are expected to be presented during the preliminary examination.

Intentional acts of extreme cruelty toward animals are among the most serious animal cruelty offenses prosecuted under Michigan law. Animal welfare advocates believe meaningful penalties are important to reflect the severity of these crimes and to deter similar acts of violence.