



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

*Working together to stop violence
against people and animals*

State Statutes in Which Acts of Animal Abuse Constitute Acts of Domestic Violence

As of: February 2013

Arizona

Domestic violence; definition; classification; sentencing option; arrest and procedure for violation; weapon seizure

Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-3601.

A. “Domestic violence” means any act that is a dangerous crime against children as defined in [the following sections]: § 13-2910. Cruelty to animals; interference with working or service animal; classification; definitions

A. A person commits cruelty to animals if the person does any of the following:

8. Intentionally or knowingly subjects any animal under the person's custody or control to cruel neglect or abandonment that results in serious physical injury to the animal.

9. Intentionally or knowingly subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment.

Colorado

Offenses Involving the Family Relations, Domestic Violence

Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 18-6-800.3(1).

(1) “Domestic violence” means an act or threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship. “Domestic violence” also includes any other crime against a person, or against property, including an animal, or any municipal ordinance violation against a person, or against property, including an animal, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship.

Indiana

Crime involving domestic of family violence, Ind. Code Ann. § 31-9-2-29.5.

Sec. 29.5. “Crime involving domestic or family violence” means a crime that occurs when a family or household member commits, attempts to commit, or conspires to commit any of the following against another family or household member: ... (14) A crime involving animal cruelty and a family or household member under IC 35-46-3-12(b)(2) or IC 35-46-3-12.5.

Domestic violence animal cruelty, Ind. Code Ann. § 35-46-3-12.5.

Sec. 12.5. A person who knowingly or intentionally kills a vertebrate animal with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family or household member commits domestic violence animal cruelty, a Class D felony.

Maine

Stalking

Maine Revised Statutes § Title 17-A: Maine Criminal Code, Part 2: Substantive Offenses; Chap. 9: Offenses Against the Person

Sec. 201-A. Stalking. A person is guilty of stalking if the actor intentionally or knowingly engages in a course of conduct directed at or concerning a specific person that would cause a reasonable person: ... (5) To fear injury to or the death of an animal owned by or in the possession and control of that specific person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime.

Nebraska

Domestic Intimate Partner Abuse

Nebraska Revised Statutes § 43-2922

42-3922. Terms, defined . For purposes of the Parenting Act:

(8) Domestic intimate partner abuse means an act of abuse as defined in section 42-903 and a pattern or history of abuse evidenced by one or more of the following acts: Physical or sexual assault, threats of physical assault or sexual assault, stalking, harassment, mental cruelty, emotional abuse, intimidation, isolation, economic abuse, or coercion against any current or past intimate partner, or an abuser using a child to establish or maintain power and control over any current or past intimate partner, and, when they contribute to the coercion or intimidation of an intimate partner, acts of child abuse or neglect or threats of such acts, cruel mistreatment or cruel neglect of an animal as defined in section 28-1008, or threats of such acts, and other acts of abuse, assault, or harassment, or threats of such acts against other family or household members.

Nevada

Acts which constitute domestic violence,

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.018(1)(e)(7).

1. Domestic violence occurs when a person commits one of the following acts against or upon the person's spouse or former spouse, any other person to whom the person is related by blood or marriage, any other person with whom the person is or was actually residing, any other person with whom the person has had or is having a dating relationship, any other person with whom the person has a child in common, the minor child of any of those persons, the person's minor child or any other person who has been appointed the custodian or legal guardian for the person's minor child:...(e) A knowing, purposeful or reckless course of conduct intended to harass the other person. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to:...(7) Injuring or killing an animal.

Tennessee

Domestic Abuse,

Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-3-601(1) (West 2013).

(1) "Abuse" means inflicting, or attempting to inflict, physical injury on an adult or minor by other than accidental means, placing an adult or minor in fear of physical harm, physical restraint, malicious damage to the personal property of the abused party, including inflicting, or attempting to inflict, physical injury on any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by an adult or minor, or placing an adult or minor in fear of physical harm to any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the adult or minor.