

Five key components of the legislation include:

1. Improved tethering conditions for outside dogs

- No more than 9 hours tethered in 24-hour period.
- Tether must be the longer of 3 times length of dog or 10 feet.
- No more than 30 minutes in 90+ or -30-degree weather.
- Must have water and shade.
- Must be secured by an appropriate collar — no tow or log chain, nor choke, pinch, prong, or chain collars.
- Tethered space must be clear of excessive waste.
- No open sores or wounds on the dog's body.

2. Added protections for horses

- Currently, most crimes against horses are graded as summary offenses — similar to traffic and littering violations.
- This law aligns penalties for crimes against horses with penalties for crimes against dogs and cats.

3. Increased penalties for animal abuse

Neglect

- Penalties: Summary offense (up to 90 days in jail and/or a \$300 fine) OR misdemeanor of the third degree (up to 1 year in jail and/or \$2,000 fine) if neglect causes bodily injury or places the animal at imminent risk

Cruelty

- Penalty: Misdemeanor of the second degree (up to 2 years in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine)

Aggravated cruelty

- Penalty: Felony of the third degree (up to 7 years in jail and/or a \$15,000 fine)

4. Ensures convicted animal abusers forfeit abused animals to a shelter

- Requires forfeiture of animal of anyone convicted of a felony violation and allows for forfeiture upon other convictions.

5. Grants civil immunity for veterinarians and veterinary technicians

- Shields licensed doctors of veterinary medicine, technicians, and assistants who report animal cruelty in good faith from lawsuits.