



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1047

animal cruelty; failure to treat

Purpose

Broadens the conditions that must be met for a person to commit cruelty to animals.

Background

Current statute outlines several conditions that are classified as cruelty to animals such as intentional neglect, intentional harm or intentional death of an animal. Current statute defines *cruel neglect* as failing to provide an animal with necessary food, water or shelter. A person who commits cruelty to animals or commits cruel neglect is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor ([A.R.S. § 13-2910](#)). Cases of animal cruelty can be reported to city or county police or to the Arizona Humane Society (AHS). In 2023, the AHS initiated nearly 10,000 animal abuse investigations, representing a 21 percent increase from the previous year ([AHS](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Broadens the condition of cruelty to animals to failing to provide medical attention necessary to prevent unreasonable, rather than protracted, suffering to any animal under the person's custody or control.
2. Adds to the definition of *cruel neglect* to fail to provide an animal with:
 - a) food, given daily, that is appropriate for the species and that is fit for consumption;
 - b) water that is suitable for drinking;
 - c) for an animal, other than a dog that primarily resides outdoors, access to shelter that is necessary and adequate; and
 - d) for a dog that primarily resides outdoors, except while a dog is engaged in or training for lawful hunting, police, military or patrol work, search and rescue, herding or livestock guarding, trials and other lawful competitions, service and assistance work and other working, sporting and competitive functions or is under the custody or control of a person who has no permanent place of residence, access to shelter that:
 - i. has a natural or artificial cover that is accessible throughout the year;
 - ii. is structurally sound, maintained in good repair and of sufficient size to protect the dog from injury, allows the dog to stand, turn around, lie down in a natural manner and allows the dog to maintain normal body temperature;
 - iii. has bedding material that protects the dog from extreme weather conditions and that has adequate ventilation and drainage; and
 - iv. is maintained in a manner that minimizes the risk of disease, infestation or parasites.

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3. Defines *extreme weather conditions* as:
 - a) the actual or effective outdoor temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or above 120 degrees Fahrenheit;
 - b) a heat advisory has been issued by a local, state or national authority for the area; and
 - c) a monsoon, hurricane, tropical storm, dust storm or tornado warning has been issued for the area by a local, state or national authority.
4. Makes conforming changes.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

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RA/KP/slp