

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0275

Treatment of animals.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Byron, Schmid, Singh and
Williams and Senator(s) Barlow, Hutchings,
Landen, Nethercott and Olsen

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to crimes and offenses; amending the
2 offense of felony animal cruelty to address actions where
3 wildlife is reduced to possession; prohibiting the torture
4 of wildlife as specified; specifying penalties; providing
5 for license revocation and suspension and forfeiture of
6 devices and equipment for specified felony animal cruelty
7 convictions; clarifying trapping requirements; removing a
8 reporting requirement; providing definitions; making
9 conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date.

10

11 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

12

13 **Section 1.** W.S. 6-3-1001(a) by creating new
14 paragraphs (iv) through (vi), 6-3-1005(a)(i), (ii), by
15 creating a new paragraph (iii) and by creating a new

1 subsection (c), 23-3-103(a) and by creating a new
2 subsection (d), 23-3-306 by creating a new subsection (j),
3 23-6-206(a)(intro) and (ii) and 23-6-208 are amended to
4 read:

5

6 **6-3-1001. Definitions.**

7

8 (a) As used in this article:

9

10 (iv) "Predacious bird" means as defined in W.S.

11 23-1-101(a)(vii);

12

13 (v) "Predatory animal" means as defined in W.S.

14 23-1-101(a)(viii);

15

16 (vi) "Wildlife" means as defined in W.S.

17 23-1-101(a)(xiii).

18

19 **6-3-1005. Felony cruelty to animals; penalty.**

20

21 (a) A person commits felony cruelty to animals if the
22 person:

23

1 (i) Commits cruelty to animals as defined in
2 W.S. 6-3-1002(a)(v) through (ix), that results in the death
3 or required euthanasia of the animal;~~or~~

4
5 (ii) Knowingly, and with intent to cause death
6 or undue suffering, beats with cruelty, tortures, torments
7 or mutilates an animal; or

8
9 (iii) Knowingly, and with intent to cause undue
10 suffering, tortures, torments or mutilates any living
11 wildlife, including predatory animals and predacious birds,
12 after reducing the living wildlife to possession. For
13 purposes of this paragraph:

14
15 (A) The immediate killing of living
16 wildlife reduced to possession shall not be a violation of
17 this paragraph;

18
19 (B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be
20 construed to require an owner of a trap or snare to check
21 the trap or snare before the time required in title 23 of
22 the Wyoming statutes and rules promulgated by the game and
23 fish commission. Wildlife discovered in a snare or trap

1 shall be considered within the possession of the owner of
2 the snare or trap upon discovery by the owner.

3
4 (c) Upon a conviction of this section and in addition
5 to any penalty specified in subsection (b) of this section,
6 the court may revoke any license available under title 23
7 of the Wyoming statutes and suspend a person's privilege to
8 purchase or receive any other license under title 23 of the
9 Wyoming statutes or to take any wildlife under W.S.
10 23-6-206.

11
12 **23-3-103. Taking predatory animals, predacious birds**
13 **and trophy animals; taking furbearing animals and game**
14 **birds without license prohibited.**

15
16 (a) Predatory animals and predacious birds may be
17 taken without a license in any manner and at any time
18 except as provided by W.S. 6-3-1005(a)(iii), 23-2-303(d)
19 and (e), 23-3-112, 23-3-304(b), 23-3-305, 23-3-306(b) and
20 23-3-307, ~~. The department shall report annually to the~~
21 ~~Wyoming department of agriculture the number of predatory~~
22 ~~animals and predacious birds taken by the department's~~
23 ~~animal damage control agents, and include in the report the~~

1 ~~area where taken and the control method used~~ provided that
2 any predatory animal or predacious bird reduced to
3 possession shall be promptly killed or released.

4
5 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
6 require an owner of a trap or snare to check the trap or
7 snare before the time required in title 23 of the Wyoming
8 statutes and rules promulgated by the game and fish
9 commission. Wildlife discovered in a snare or trap shall be
10 considered within the possession of the owner of the snare
11 or trap upon discovery by the owner.

12
13 **23-3-306. Use of aircraft, automobiles, motorized and**
14 **snow vehicles and artificial light for hunting or fishing**
15 **prohibited; exceptions; penalties.**

16
17 (j) Any person who pursues a predatory animal or
18 predacious bird by use of any vehicle or other conveyance
19 specified in subsection (a) of this section and injures or
20 incapacitates the predatory animal or predacious bird shall
21 make a reasonable effort to immediately kill the injured or
22 incapacitated animal. As used in this subsection,
23 "incapacitate" means injury or a state of physical

1 exhaustion to the point the animal has ceased to attempt to
2 elude the vehicle or other conveyance.

3

4 **23-6-206. Revocation of license; hunting after**
5 **suspended license.**

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7 (a) The court may, in its discretion, revoke any
8 license issued under this act to any person convicted of a
9 violation of this act or W.S. 6-3-1005(a)(iii), for the
10 remainder of the year in which the conviction occurs, and
11 may suspend the person's privilege to purchase or receive
12 any other license under this act, or to take any wildlife
13 for the following time periods provided in paragraphs (i)
14 through (iii) and shall suspend the person's privilege to
15 purchase or receive any other license under this act for
16 the time period provided in paragraph (iv) of this
17 subsection:

18

19 (ii) Up to six (6) years for conviction of a
20 high misdemeanor as provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(ii) or for
21 conviction of a violation of W.S. 6-3-1005(a)(iii);

22

1 **23-6-208. Forfeiture of devices and equipment used in**
2 **taking game illegally; procedure.**

3
4 Devices and equipment, including any firearm, weapon,
5 ammunition, trap, snare, vessel, motorized vehicle,
6 aircraft, explosive, poisonous substance, electronic device
7 or optical equipment, used in, or in aid of, a violation of
8 W.S. 6-3-1005(a)(iii), 23-3-102(d) or 23-3-107 may be
9 seized by any law enforcement officer of the state after
10 hearing and upon order issued by the court of original
11 jurisdiction when the value of the devices or equipment is
12 one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or less or by the district
13 court for the county in which the offense was charged when
14 the value of the devices or equipment is more than one
15 thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Any device or equipment
16 seized under this section shall be forfeited to the state
17 in accordance with W.S. 7-2-105, provided the device or
18 equipment is not subject to forfeiture under this section
19 by reason of any unlawful act committed without the
20 knowledge or consent of the owner. A device or equipment
21 seized under this section shall not be forfeited as
22 provided under this section until after the person has been

1 convicted under W.S. 6-3-1005(a)(iii), 23-3-102(d) or
2 23-3-107 and the time for appeal has expired.

3

4 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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(END)