

# ANIMAL CRUELTY

## ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A CRIME

There are countless crimes against animals which cause pain, suffering or death. These crimes are more complicated than most due to the fact that they involve living, sentient beings and include a vast array of species. In 2016, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) started tracking certain crimes against animals. Criminal activity was expanded by the FBI to include the four categories below in the Uniform Crime Reports.

- **Simple and Gross Neglect**
- **Intentional Abuse and Torture**
- **Organized Animal Abuse** (i.e. dog-fighting, cock-fighting)
- **Animal Sexual Abuse** (also known as bestiality or zoophilia)

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) has been working with the FBI to assist and improve how Minnesota law enforcement agencies record and track animal maltreatment.



## DATABANK: MN Animal Cruelty Convictions

Animal Folks has collected and coded animal cruelty convictions in Minnesota from 2008-2018. This data allows us to assess patterns of criminal conduct, such as type of crimes committed, jurisdictions, and abuser type, as well as procedural actions, such as charging, sentencing, psychological evaluations, restitution, and other factors. This data is available for use by authorities.

**WE WELCOME** your stories and concerns about animal cruelty and ideas for improving enforcement of animal law. **CONTACT US** at [info@animalfolks.org](mailto:info@animalfolks.org) or 651-222-2821.

**ANIMALFOLKS**

# PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

## MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 343

**§343.20 subd. 2** defines an animal as:

“every living creature except members of the human race.”

**§343.20 subd. 3** defines torture and cruelty as:

“every act, omission, or neglect which causes or permits unnecessary or unjustifiable pain, suffering, or death.”

## 343.21 OVERWORKING OR MISTREATING ANIMALS; PENALTY

**Minn. Stat. §343.21** lists multiple criminal acts for charging and sentencing, including lack of necessary food, water, and shelter, lack of wholesome air and exercise, abandonment, and other acts (or omission or neglect).

As defined in **Minn. Stat. §343.21.9(a)**, this statute also enhances two of the subdivisions: “A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subdivision 1 or 7 within five years of a previous violation of subdivision 1 or 7 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.”

**Subdivision 1. Torture.** No person shall overdrive, overload, torture, cruelly beat, neglect, or unjustifiably injure, maim, mutilate, or kill any animal, or cruelly work any animal when it is unfit for labor, whether it belongs to that person or to another person.

**Subdivision 7. Cruelty.** No person shall willfully instigate or in any way further any act of cruelty to any animal or animals, or any act tending to produce cruelty to animals.



*Deceased dog due to severe temperatures.*

**LEARN MORE.** For additional information about the statute above and other laws applicable to animals, go to the website below or contact Animal Folks at [info@animalfolks.org](mailto:info@animalfolks.org) or 651-222-2821.

[www.animalfolks.org](http://www.animalfolks.org)