



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Fourth Legislature, First Regular Session*

**AMENDED**  
FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2671

~~law enforcement integrity database; appeal~~  
(NOW: animal cruelty; domestic animals; classification)

Purpose

Classifies, as a class 5 felony, cruelly mistreating or killing a domestic animal.

Background

*Cruel mistreatment* means to torture or otherwise inflict unnecessary serious physical injury on an animal or to kill an animal in a manner that causes protracted suffering. A person commits *cruelty to animals* and is subject to a class 1 misdemeanor if the person: 1) intentionally, knowingly or recklessly subjects any animal to cruel neglect or abandonment; 2) intentionally or knowingly interferes with, kills or harms a working or service animal; or 3) recklessly subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment. A person commits *cruelty to animals* and is subject to a class 6 felony if the person: 1) intentionally or knowingly subjects any animal to cruel neglect or abandonment that results in serious physical injury; 2) intentionally or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over a service animal with the intent to deprive the handler of the service animal; or 3) intentionally or knowingly subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment ([A.R.S. § 13-2910](#)).

The maximum term of imprisonment for a class 1 misdemeanor is six months ([A.R.S. § 13-707](#)). The term of imprisonment for a presumptive sentence is one year for a class 6 felony and one and a half years for a class 5 felony ([A.R.S. § 13-702](#)).

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

Provisions

1. Specifies that a person commits *cruelty to animals* if the person intentionally or knowingly:
  - a) subjects a domestic animal to cruel mistreatment; or
  - b) kills a domestic animal without legal privilege or consent of the domestic animal's owner or handler.
2. Classifies, as a class 5 felony, intentionally or knowingly:
  - a) subjecting a domestic animal to cruel mistreatment; or
  - b) killing a domestic animal without legal privilege or consent of the domestic animal's owner or handler.
3. Defines *domestic animal* as a mammal, not regulated by agriculture statutes, that is kept primarily as a pet or companion or that is bred to be a pet or companion.
4. Makes conforming changes.

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5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Adopted the strike-everything amendment.

Senate Action

COM            3/28/19    DPA/SE    4-3-1

Prepared by Senate Research

April 10, 2019

MG/AA/gs