

GEORGIA's Predominant Companion Animal Statutes

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS = MISDEMEANOR:

GA Code § 16-12-4

1st offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$1,000 fine

2nd offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$5,000 fine

A person commits the offense of CRUELTY TO ANIMALS when he or she:

- 1) causes physical pain, suffering, or death to an animal by any unjustifiable act or omission, **OR**,
- 2) fails to provide to such animal the food, water, sanitary conditions, or ventilation consistent with what a reasonable person would believe is adequate for that animal.

AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS = FELONY:

GA Code § 16-12-4

1ST offense = up to 5 years in jail and/or \$15,000 fine

2nd offense = up to 10 years in jail and/or \$100,000 fine

A person commits the offense of AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS when he or she:

- 1) causes the death of an animal,
- 2) seriously disfigures an animal,
- 3) tortures an animal, subjecting it to severe or prolonged physical pain,
- 4) administers poison to an animal, **OR**
- 5) fails to provide an animal the food, water, sanitary conditions, or ventilation consistent with what a reasonable person would believe is adequate, resulting in death or disfigurement.

ABANDONMENT OF A PET = MISDEMEANOR:

GA Code § 4-11-15.1

1st offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$1,000 fine

2nd offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$5,000 fine

Knowingly and intentionally abandoning any domesticated animal.

UNLICENSED BREEDING = MISDEMEANOR:

GA Code § 4-11-2

1st offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$1,000 fine

2nd offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$5,000 fine

A person who sells or offers to sell more than 30 pets a year must have a Georgia Pet Dealer license.

DOG FIGHTING*:

GA Code § 16-12-37

Spectator

1st offense = **MISDEMEANOR of HIGH and AGGRAVATED NATURE**, up to 12 months in jail

2nd offense = **FELONY**, 1-5 years in jail and/or \$5,000 fine

Participant = FELONY

1st offense = 1-5 years in jail and/or minimum \$5,000 fine

2nd offense = 1-10 years in jail and/or minimum \$15,000 fine

- owning, possessing, training, transporting, or selling any dog with intent to fight another dog,
- wagering money or anything of value on a dogfight, or
- permitting dogfighting on his/her premises; promoting or advertising dogfighting.

**Cockfighting is prosecuted under Georgia's Cruelty Statute*