

GEORGIA'S PREDOMINANT ANIMAL WELFARE LAW SUMMARY "CHEAT SHEET"

MISDEMEANOR CRUELTY TO ANIMALS:

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.

FELONY AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS:

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 one litter or 30 adult pets a year must have a Georgia Dept. of Agriculture and/or USDA Pet Dealer license.

DOG FIGHTING*: (also prosecutable as a Federal offense)

GA Code § 16-12-37

Spectators:

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

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

Participants = 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*

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