This chapter contains D.C.’s general animal protection and related statutes with an effective date on or before September 1, 2020. It begins with a detailed overview of the provisions contained in these laws, followed by the full text of the statutes themselves. The various provisions are organized into categories with the relevant part of each statute italicized.

D.C. may employ similar provisions within other non-animal-specific criminal and civil statutes; may have other more specific statutes in addition to those included; and may have a variety of animal-related regulations in effect. Because the law is continually evolving, always review an official source for the most current language of any statute.
### 1. Definition of “Animal”

“[A]ll living and sentient creatures (human beings excepted)”

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1013

### 2. General Cruelty *

#### Definitions

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1801

#### Animal hobby permit (to prevent keeping 7 or more animals)

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1804.01; D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1811

$500 fine

#### Leaving an animal unattended outside in extreme weather for more than 15 minutes

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1808(c); D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1811

$500 fine

#### Separating puppies or kittens from mothers before 6 weeks of age, selling rabbits under 16 weeks, selling chicks or ducks under 8 weeks

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1808(f),(i); D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1811

$500 fine

#### Dying chicks, fowl, or rabbits

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1808(h); D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1811

$500 fine

#### Sponsoring, promoting, training an animal for, or being a participant at an activity or event where an animal engages in unnatural behavior, is wrestled or fought, mentally/physically harassed/stressed/traumatized

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1808(k); D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1811

$500 fine

#### Failure to provide adequate care, feed, shelter, space, and water

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1808(n); D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1811

$1,000 fine

#### Intentionally harming an animal

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1808(o); D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1811
Abandonment
D.C. Code Ann. § 8-1808(p); D.C. Code Ann. § 8-1811
$1,000 fine

General cruelty to animals
D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1001
Generally: 180 days imprisonment and/or $250 fine
If with intent to cause serious bodily injury or death, or while manifesting extreme indifference to animal life commits an act resulting in serious bodily harm or death: 5 years imprisonment and/or $25,000 fine

Cruelly transporting
D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1002; § 22-1001
Generally: 180 days imprisonment and/or $250 fine
If with intent to cause serious bodily injury or death, or while manifesting extreme indifference to animal life commits an act resulting in serious bodily harm or death: 5 years imprisonment and/or $25,000 fine

Care for animals transported by railroad
D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1003
$1-$500 fine

Care for impounded animals
D.C. Code Ann. § -22-1007; § 22-1001
Generally: 180 days imprisonment and/or $250 fine
If with intent to cause serious bodily injury or death, or while manifesting extreme indifference to animal life commits an act resulting in serious bodily harm or death: 5 years imprisonment and/or $25,000 fine

Neglect of sick or disabled animals
D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1011; § 22-1001
Generally: 180 days imprisonment and/or $250 fine
If with intent to cause serious bodily injury or death, or while manifesting extreme indifference to animal life commits an act resulting in serious bodily harm or death: 5 years imprisonment and/or $25,000 fine
| 3. **Exemptions** | Abandonment of maimed or diseased animals  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1012  
180 days imprisonment and/or $10-$1,000 fine  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-3571.01  
Research animals  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1012(b)  
Other  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1001(d) |
| 4. **Fighting & Racketeering** | Sponsoring, promoting, training an animal for, or being a participant at an activity or event where an animal engages in unnatural behavior, is wrestled or fought, mentally/physically harassed/stressed/traumatized  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1808(k); D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1811  
$500 fine  
Any person who keeps or uses, or is in any way connected with or interested in the management of, or shall receive money for the admission of any person to, any place kept for animal fighting or baiting, may be arrested and punished for animal cruelty.  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1001; D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1009  
Generally: 180 days imprisonment and/or $250 fine  
If with intent to cause serious bodily injury or death, or while manifesting extreme indifference to animal life commits an act resulting in serious bodily harm or death: 5 years imprisonment and/or $25,000 fine  
Various animal fighting activities, including spectatorship  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1006.01  
5 years imprisonment and/or $12,500 fine  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-3571.01  
Urging or causing dogs to fight  
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1310  
$1,000 fine |
| 5. **Sexual Assault** | ----- |
### 6. Cruelty to Working Animals

#### 7. Maximum Penalties & Statute of Limitations**

**NOTE:** all penalties defined in substantive statutes, available in the General Cruelty, Fighting & Racketeering, and Sexual Assault sections of this document.

Statute of limitations

*Misdemeanor or felony: 3 years*

D.C. CODE ANN. § 23-113

#### 8. Cross Enforcement & Reporting

Humane officers must report suspected child abuse or neglect and any adults in need of protective services due to abuse or neglect.

D.C. CODE ANN. §§ 4-1321.02, 7-1903(a)

Any law enforcement or child or protective services employee shall report suspected animal cruelty, abandonment, or neglect, and the observation of an animal at the home of a person reasonably suspected of child, adult, or animal abuse. No civil or criminal liability for reports made in good faith.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1002.01

Humane society agents may act to protect children.

D.C. CODE ANN. §§ 44-1508, 44-1509

### 9. Veterinarian Reporting & Immunity

#### 10. Law Enforcement Policies

Mayor may delegate animal control duties including issuing fines/citations to a humane organization

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1802

It shall be the duty of all marshals, deputy marshals, police officers, or any humane officer of the Washington Humane Society, to prosecute all animal protection violations that come to their notice or knowledge.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1006

Police shall arrest law violators at request of humane society members who have witnessed animal abuse.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 44-1505
| **11. SEIZURE** | Mayor may appoint police officials to enforce cruelty laws.  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 44-1510 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | Mayor shall impound any dogs, cats, rabbits, or ferrets if combination exceeds 4 animals.  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1805 |
|                  | A humane officer of the Washington Humane Society may take possession of any animal to protect it from neglect or cruelty.  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1004(b) |
|                  | Person making arrest shall care and provide for mistreated animals.  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1004(a) |
|                  | Search warrants shall be issued to humane society members or law enforcers for reasonable cause.  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1005 |
|                  | Humane officers may enter pounds and care and provide for impounded animals.  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1008 |
|                  | Humane officers may seize any animals in the charge of a person who is arrested.  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1012 |
|                  | Any person who shall impound any animal shall supply the animal, during confinement, with sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water.  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1007 |
| **12. COURTROOM ANIMAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM** | ----- |
| **13. PROTECTION ORDERS†** | Court may grant petitioner care/custody/control of domestic animal  
   D.C. CODE ANN. § 16-1005 |
### 14. Restitution †

Court may order offender to repay the reasonable costs of care incurred prior to judgment by any agency caring for the animal or animals subjected to cruelty.

*D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1001(a)(2)(C)*

Reimbursement for costs of care is a lien.

*D.C. Code Ann. §§ 22-1004, 22-1008, 22-1012*

Certain fines collected go to humane society.

*D.C. Code Ann. §§ 22-1006, 44-1506*

### 15. Forfeiture & Possession Bans †

Court may order the forfeiture of animal victim(s) upon conviction and may order offender not to own or possess an animal for a specified period of time.


If the owner or custodian of an animal impounded to protect it from neglect or cruelty fails to respond to notice of impound after 20 days, the animal shall become the property of the Washington Humane Society.

*D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1004(b)*

Humane society may euthanize injured or abandoned animals.

*D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1012*

### 16. Court-Ordered Treatment †

The court may order an adult or youth offender to obtain psychological counseling, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in an animal cruelty prevention or education program, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the offender.


### 17. Hot Cars

If an animal is left in a vehicle and the animal’s health is in danger, an animal control officer, firefighters, or law enforcement officer may use reasonable force to remove the animal from the vehicle after making a reasonable attempt to contact the owner or custodian.

*D.C. Code Ann. § 8-1808.02*

### 18. Civil Nuisance Abatement

-----
### Animal Protection Laws of the District of Columbia

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>19. Ag-Gag Laws</strong></td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20. Breed Specific Legislation</strong></td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* States may have other more specific statutes in addition to the general animal protection statutes referenced in this table.

** Despite statutory maximums, states often employ sentencing guidelines that may significantly alter the allowable sentence.

† This table generally references only those provisions that are within each state’s animal protection statutes. States may employ similar provisions within other non-animal-specific criminal and civil statutes, and may also have a variety of animal-related regulations in effect.
1. Definition of “Animal”


In §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009, inclusive, and § 22-1011, the word “animals” or “animal” shall be held to include all living and sentient creatures (human beings excepted), and the words “owner,” “persons,” and “whoever” shall be held to include corporations and incorporated companies as well as individuals.
2. General Cruelty


For the purposes of this subchapter, the term:

(1) “Abandon” means to desert, forsake, or give up an animal without having secured another owner or custodian for the animal or having transferred the animal to the Animal Care and Control Agency.

(2) “Adequate care” means the responsible practice of animal husbandry, handling, confinement, protection, transportation, treatment, and, when necessary, euthanasia, appropriate for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal, and the provision of veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, impairment of health, or the treatment of illness or injury.

(3) “Adequate feed” means the provision of and access to food that is sufficient in quantity, prepared and provided in a manner so that the animal can consume it, and provided in a manner sanitary for the animal.

(4)

(A) “Adequate shelter” means the provision of and access to shelter that is safe and protects each animal from injury, rain, sleet, snow, hail, the adverse effects of heat or cold, and physical suffering, and that is of a size sufficient for the animal to stand up and turn around.

(B) For a dog confined outside, the term “adequate shelter” shall additionally mean that:

(i) When the temperature is at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the dog has access to a shelter that has an entrance covered by a flexible wind-proofing material or self-closing door, that contains a platform for the dog at least 4 inches off the ground, and that contains dry bedding, which shall consist of an insulating material that does not retain moisture, such as straw, and is of a sufficient depth for the dog to burrow; and

(ii) When the temperature is at or above 80 degrees Fahrenheit, the dog has access to a shelter shaded by trees, a roof, a tarp, or a tarp-like device.

(5)

(A) “Adequate space” means sufficient space to allow each animal to easily stand, sit, lie, turn, and make all other normal body movements in a comfortable, normal position for the animal, while allowing the animal to interact safely with other animals.

(B) Where freedom of movement would endanger or harm the animal, temporarily and appropriately restricting movement of the animal according to veterinary standards for the species is considered the provision of adequate space.

(6) “Adequate water” means the provision of and access to clean, fresh, potable water, provided in a suitable manner for proper hydration for the age, species, condition, size,
and type of each animal.

(7) “Animal Care and Control Agency” means the District of Columbia humane organization
the Mayor contracts with to manage animal care and control.

(8) “Animal shelter” means a privately- or government-owned facility established for the
impoundment of stray, diseased, dangerous, sick, injured, abused, neglected, unwanted,
abandoned, orphaned, lost, or otherwise displaced animals, with the intent to care for,
quarantine, return to an owner, place for adoption, or euthanize the animals.

(9)
(A) “At large” means any animal found off the premises of its owner or custodian
and not leashed, tethered, or otherwise under adequate means of control of a
person capable of physically restraining it.
(B) The term “at large” shall not include a dog in a dog park pursuant to § 8-1808.01.
(C) The term “at large” shall not include cats.

(10) “Custodian” means a person who has assumed responsibility for the care and well-being
of an animal in the place of the animal's owner with the owner's knowledge and permission.

(11) “Dangerous animal” means an animal that because of specific training or demonstrated
behavior threatens the health or safety of the public. The term “dangerous animal” shall
not include a dangerous dog as defined in § 8-1901(1).

(12) “Dog park” means an off-leash dog exercise area officially established pursuant to § 8-
1808.01.

(13) “Extreme weather” means temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or above 90
degrees Fahrenheit.

(14) “Leash” means a line held by a person on one end that is for leading or restraining an
animal.

(15) “Mayor” means the Mayor of the District of Columbia or his or her designee.

(16) “Owner” means a person in the District of Columbia who purchases or keeps an animal
in temporary or permanent custody, except as provided in § 8-1804.

(17) “Tether” means a line connected to a stationary object by which an animal is fastened so
as to restrict its range of movement.

(18) “Vaccinated” means protected by a documented inoculation that the Mayor, consistent
with the practices of veterinary medicine, determines is currently effective.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 8-1804.01. Animal hobby permit.

(a) No person shall own or keep 7 or more animals, larger than a guinea pig and over the
age of 4 months, without obtaining an animal hobby permit; provided, that this section
shall not apply to a licensed pet shop, licensed veterinary hospital, circus or traveling
exhibition.

(b) An owner of 7 or more animals shall before July 1st of each year or within 10 days of
acquiring 7 or more animals obtain the permit required by this section.

(c) An owner applying for an animal hobby permit shall fully describe the kind and number
of animals to be maintained and the premises where the animals are to be kept.
(d) No animal hobby permit shall be issued to:
   (1) An owner unless the owner has obtained the necessary animal licenses as required by law;
   (2) An owner who maintains animals for commercial purposes. For purposes of this section, “commercial purposes” shall not include the sale of offspring if such sales are occasional and are not the primary purpose for maintaining the animals.

(e) The Mayor shall collect the fees and issue the permits as provided in this section.

(f) A holder of an animal hobby permit shall provide his or her animals with adequate care, adequate feed, adequate shelter, adequate space, adequate water, and appropriate veterinary care.

(g) A holder of an animal hobby permit shall not permit objectionable odors or noises to disturb the comfort or quiet of any neighborhood. A holder of an animal hobby permit shall not permit a animal to commit a nuisance on public space or property owned by others.

(h) The Mayor may revoke an animal hobby permit for failure to comply with the provisions of this section.


(a) An owner or custodian shall not allow his or her animal to go at large.
   (1) If a dog injures a person while at large, lack of knowledge of the dog’s vicious propensity standing alone shall not absolve the owner from a finding of negligence.

(b) A person shall not knowingly and falsely deny ownership or custodianship of an animal.

(c) An owner or custodian shall not leave his or her animal outdoors without human accompaniment or adequate shelter for more than 15 minutes during periods of extreme weather, unless the age, condition, and type of each animal allows the animal to withstand extreme weather.
   (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to cats.

(d) A person shall not remove the license of a dog without the permission of its owner.

(e) A dog shall not be permitted on any school ground or on any public recreation area, other than a dog park, unless the dog is on a leash, tether, or otherwise under adequate means of control of a person capable of physically restraining it.

(f) A person shall not separate a puppy or a kitten from its mother until the puppy or kitten is at least 6 weeks of age.
   (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply in cases where a mother poses a danger to its offspring.

(g) A person shall not give, sell, or offer for sale a puppy or kitten under 6 weeks of age,
unless the puppy's or kitten's mother is given or sold to the same person as the puppy or kitten.

(h) A person shall not change the natural color of a baby chicken, duckling, other fowl, or rabbit.
(2) A person shall not sell or offer for sale a baby chicken, duckling, other fowl, or rabbit that has had its natural color changed.

(i) A person shall not sell or offer for sale a rabbit under the age of 16 weeks or a chick or duck under the age of 8 weeks except for agricultural or scientific purposes.

(j) Except as provided in this subsection, a person shall not import into the District, possess, display, offer for sale, trade, barter, exchange, or adopt, or give as a household pet, any living member of the animal kingdom, including those born or raised in captivity, except the following:
(A) Domestic dogs, excluding hybrids with wolves, coyotes, or jackals;
(B) Domestic cats, excluding hybrids with ocelots or margays;
(C) Domesticated rodents and rabbits;
(D) Captive-bred species of common cage birds, including chickens;
(E) Non-venomous snakes, fish, and turtles, traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes;
(F) Ferrets; and
(G) Racing pigeons, when kept in compliance with permit requirements.
(2) A person may offer any of the species enumerated in paragraph (1) of this subsection to a public zoo, park, or museum for exhibition purposes.

(3) This section shall not apply to federally licensed animal exhibitors; provided, that the Mayor shall retain the authority to restrict the movement of any prohibited animal into the District and the conditions under which those movements are made.

(4) The Mayor may allow a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, licensed veterinarian, or licensed animal shelter to maintain an animal prohibited in this subsection for treatment or pending appropriate disposition.

(5) The Mayor shall allow goats and sheep to be temporarily imported into the District and possessed for the purposes of eating grass, milking and shearing demonstrations, participating in yoga or similar activities, being on display in temporary petting zoos for the enjoyment and education of District youth, and any other activities approved by the Department of Health through regulation. The Department of Health may issue rules to protect the safety of the goats and sheep

(k) A person shall not sponsor, promote, train an animal to participate in, contribute to the involvement of an animal in, or attend as a spectator, any activity or event in which any animal engages in unnatural behavior, is wrestled or fought, mentally or physically harassed, or displayed in such a way that the animal is
struck, abused, or mentally or physically stressed or traumatized, or is induced, goaded, or encouraged to perform or react through the use of chemical, mechanical, electrical, or manual devices, in a manner that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical or other injury or suffering.

(2) The prohibitions set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply to any event or activity at a public or private facility or property, and are applicable regardless of the purpose of the event or activity and whether a fee is charged to spectators of the event or activity.

(l)

(1) An owner or custodian of a dog shall not direct, encourage, cause, allow, aid, or assist that dog to threaten, charge, bite, or attack a person or other animal, except that an owner or custodian may keep a properly trained dog on private property to defend the property and its occupants from intruders, and may order a dog to defend a person under attack.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to dogs that work for the Metropolitan Police Department or any other law enforcement agency.

(m) A person shall not display, exhibit, or otherwise move animals in the District as part of a circus, carnival, or other special performance or event, without first obtaining a permit, issued by the Mayor, that governs the care and management of the animals.

(n) An owner or custodian shall not neglect to provide his or her animal with adequate care, adequate feed, adequate shelter, adequate space, and adequate water.

(o) A person shall not take actions that intentionally harm, or that the person should know are likely to cause harm to, an animal.

(p)

(1) An owner or custodian shall not abandon an animal in his or her possession.

(2) An owner who transfers ownership of an animal or releases the animal to the Animal Care and Control Agency shall not be liable for abandonment.


(a) The Mayor, pursuant to subchapter I of Chapter 5 of Title 2, shall issue rules to set specific fine amounts for violations of each provision of this subchapter; provided, that the fines shall not exceed the following amounts:

(1) $500 for each offense, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) $1000 for each offense for violations of § 8-1808(n), (o) or (p)(1).

(b) Fines issued under this section shall not preclude any other criminal or civil penalty or enforcement action provided by District law.
ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA


(a)

(1) Whoever knowingly overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, tortments, deprives of necessary sustenance, cruelly chains, cruelly beats or mutilates, any animal, or knowingly causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, cruelly chained, cruelly beaten, or mutilated, and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, knowingly inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the same, or unnecessarily fails to provide the same with proper food, drink, air, light, space, veterinary care, shelter, or protection from the weather, shall for every such offense be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding 180 days, or by fine not exceeding $250, or by both.

(2) The court may order a person convicted of cruelty to animals:
   (A) To obtain psychological counseling, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in an animal cruelty prevention or education program, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person convicted;
   (B) To forfeit any rights in the animal or animals subjected to cruelty;
   (C) To repay the reasonable costs incurred prior to judgment by any agency caring for the animal or animals subjected to cruelty; and
   (D) Not to own or possess an animal for a specified period of time.

(3) The court may order a child adjudicated delinquent for cruelty to animals to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in appropriate treatment programs or counseling, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person adjudicated delinquent.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “cruelly chains” means attaching an animal to a stationary object or a pulley by means of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or similar restraint under circumstances that may endanger its health, safety, or well-being. Cruelly chains includes, but is not limited to, the use of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable or similar restraint that:
   (1) Exceeds 1/8 the body weight of the animal;
   (2) Causes the animal to choke;
   (3) Is too short for the animal to move around or for the animal to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area where it must eat, drink, or lie down;
   (4) Is situated where it can become entangled;
   (5) Does not permit the animal access to food, water, shade, dry ground, or shelter; or
   (6) Does not permit the animal to escape harm.

(c) For the purposes of this section, “serious bodily injury” means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, mutilation, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a
bodily member or organ. Serious bodily injury includes, but is not limited to, broken bones, burns, internal injuries, severe malnutrition, severe lacerations or abrasions, and injuries resulting from untreated medical conditions.

(d) Except where the animal is an undomesticated and dangerous animal such as rats, bats, and snakes, and there is a reasonable apprehension of an imminent attack by such animal on that person or another, whoever commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section with the intent to commit serious bodily injury or death to an animal, or whoever, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to animal life, commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section which results in serious bodily injury or death to the animal, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or by a fine not exceeding $25,000, or both.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1002. Other cruelties to animals.

Every owner, possessor, or person having the charge or custody of any animal, who cruelly drives or works the same when unfit for labor, or cruelly abandons the same, or who carries the same, or causes the same to be carried, in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, in an unnecessarily cruel or inhuman manner, or knowingly and wilfully authorizes or permits the same to be subjected to unnecessary torture, suffering, or cruelty of any kind, shall be punished for every such offense in the manner provided in § 22-1001.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1003. Rest, water and feeding for animals transported by railroad company.

No railroad company, in the carrying or transportation of animals, shall permit the same to be confined in cars for a longer period than 24 hours, without unloading the same, for rest, water, and feeding, for a period of at least 5 consecutive hours, unless prevented from so unloading by storm or other accidental causes. In estimating such confinement the time during which such animals have been confined without such rest on connecting roads from which they are received shall be included; it being the intent of this section to prohibit their continuous confinement beyond the period of 24 hours, except upon contingencies hereinbefore stated. Animals so unloaded shall be properly fed, watered, and sheltered during such rest by the owner or person having the custody thereof, or in case of his default in so doing, then by the railroad company transporting the same, at the expense of said owner or persons in custody thereof. And said company shall, in such case, have a lien upon such animals for food, care, and custody furnished, and shall not be liable for any detention of such animals authorized by this section. Any company, owner, or custodian of such animals who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall, for each and every such offense, be liable for and forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than $1 nor more than $500; provided, however, that when animals shall be carried in
cars in which they can and do have proper food, water, space, and opportunity for rest, the foregoing provisions in regard to their being unloaded shall not apply.

D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1007. Impounded animals to be supplied with food and water.

Any person who shall impound, or cause to be impounded in any pound, any creature, shall supply the same, during such confinement, with a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water; and in default thereof shall, upon conviction, be punished for every such offense in the same manner provided in § 22-1001.


If any maimed, sick, infirm, or disabled animal shall fail to receive proper food or shelter from said owner or person in charge of the same for more than 5 consecutive hours, such person shall, for every such offense, be punished in the same manner provided in § 22-1001.

D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1012. Abandonment of maimed or diseased animal; destruction of diseased animals; disposition of animal or vehicle on arrest of driver; scientific experiments.

(a) A person being the owner or possessor or having charge or custody of a maimed, diseased, disabled, or infirm animal who abandons such animal, or leaves it to lie in the street or road, or public place, more than 3 hours after he or she receives notice that it is left disabled, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $10 and not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01, or by imprisonment in jail not more than 180 days, or both. Any agent or officer of the Washington Humane Society may lawfully destroy, or cause to be destroyed, any animal found abandoned and not properly cared for, appearing, in the judgment of 2 reputable citizens called by such officer to view the same in such officer’s presence, to be glandered, injured, or diseased past recovery for any useful purpose. When any person arrested is, at the time of such arrest, in charge of any animal, or of any vehicle drawn by any animal, or containing any animal, any agent of said society may take charge of such animal and such vehicle and its contents and deposit the same in a place of safe custody or deliver the same into the possession of the police authorities, who shall assume the custody thereof; and all necessary expenses incurred in taking charge of such property shall be a lien thereon.

(b) Nothing contained in §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009, inclusive, and §§ 22-1011 and 22-1309 shall be construed to prohibit or interfere with any properly conducted scientific experiments or investigations, which experiments shall be performed only under the authority of the faculty of some regularly incorporated medical college, university, or scientific society.
D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-3571.01. Fines for criminal offenses.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, and except as provided in § 22-3571.02, a defendant who has been found guilty of an offense under the District of Columbia Official Code punishable by imprisonment may be sentenced to pay a fine as provided in this section.

(b) An individual who has been found guilty of such an offense may be fined not more than the greatest of:

1. $100 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 10 days or less;
2. $250 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 30 days, or one month, or less but more than 10 days;
3. $500 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 90 days, or 3 months, or less but more than 30 days;
4. $1,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 180 days, or 6 months, or less but more than 90 days;
5. $2,500 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for one year or less but more than 180 days;
6. $12,500 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 5 years or less but more than one year;
7. $25,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 10 years or less but more than 5 years;
8. $37,500 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 15 years or less but more than 10 years;
9. $50,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 20 years or less but more than 15 years;
10. $75,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 30 years or less but more than 20 years;
11. $125,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for more than 30 years;
12. $250,000 if the offense resulted in death.

(c) An organization that has been found guilty of an offense punishable by imprisonment for 6 months or more may be fined not more than the greatest of:

1. Twice the maximum amount specified in the law setting forth the penalty for the offense;
2. Twice the applicable amount under subsection (b) of this section; or
3. Twice the applicable amount under § 22-3571.02(a).
ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

3. EXEMPTIONS


(a)

(1) Whoever knowingly overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, cruelly chains, cruelly beats or mutilates, any animal, or knowingly causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, cruelly chained, cruelly beaten, or mutilated, and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, knowingly inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the same, or unnecessarily fails to provide the same with proper food, drink, air, light, space, veterinary care, shelter, or protection from the weather, shall for every such offense be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding 180 days, or by fine not exceeding $250, or by both.

(2) The court may order a person convicted of cruelty to animals:
   (A) To obtain psychological counseling, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in an animal cruelty prevention or education program, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person convicted;
   (B) To forfeit any rights in the animal or animals subjected to cruelty;
   (C) To repay the reasonable costs incurred prior to judgment by any agency caring for the animal or animals subjected to cruelty; and
   (D) Not to own or possess an animal for a specified period of time.

(3) The court may order a child adjudicated delinquent for cruelty to animals to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in appropriate treatment programs or counseling, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person adjudicated delinquent.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “cruelly chains” means attaching an animal to a stationary object or a pulley by means of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or similar restraint under circumstances that may endanger its health, safety, or well-being. Cruelly chains includes, but is not limited to, the use of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable or similar restraint that:
   (1) Exceeds 1/8 the body weight of the animal;
   (2) Causes the animal to choke;
   (3) Is too short for the animal to move around or for the animal to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area where it must eat, drink, or lie down;
   (4) Is situated where it can become entangled;
   (5) Does not permit the animal access to food, water, shade, dry ground, or shelter; or
   (6) Does not permit the animal to escape harm.

(c) For the purposes of this section, “serious bodily injury” means bodily injury that involves
a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, mutilation, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ. Serious bodily injury includes, but is not limited to, broken bones, burns, internal injuries, severe malnutrition, severe lacerations or abrasions, and injuries resulting from untreated medical conditions.

(d) Except where the animal is an undomesticated and dangerous animal such as rats, bats, and snakes, and there is a reasonable apprehension of an imminent attack by such animal on that person or another, whoever commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section with the intent to commit serious bodily injury or death to an animal, or whoever, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to animal life, commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section which results in serious bodily injury or death to the animal, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or by a fine not exceeding $25,000, or both.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1012. Abandonment of maimed or diseased animal; destruction of diseased animals; disposition of animal or vehicle on arrest of driver; scientific experiments.

(a) A person being the owner or possessor or having charge or custody of a maimed, diseased, disabled, or infirm animal who abandons such animal, or leaves it to lie in the street or road, or public place, more than 3 hours after he or she receives notice that it is left disabled, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $10 and not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01, or by imprisonment in jail not more than 180 days, or both. Any agent or officer of the Washington Humane Society may lawfully destroy, or cause to be destroyed, any animal found abandoned and not properly cared for, appearing, in the judgment of 2 reputable citizens called by such officer to view the same in such officer’s presence, to be glandered, injured, or diseased past recovery for any useful purpose. When any person arrested is, at the time of such arrest, in charge of any animal, or of any vehicle drawn by any animal, or containing any animal, any agent of said society may take charge of such animal and such vehicle and its contents and deposit the same in a place of safe custody or deliver the same into the possession of the police authorities, who shall assume the custody thereof; and all necessary expenses incurred in taking charge of such property shall be a lien thereon.

(b) Nothing contained in §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009, inclusive, and §§ 22-1011 and 22-1309 shall be construed to prohibit or interfere with any properly conducted scientific experiments or investigations, which experiments shall be performed only under the authority of the faculty of some regularly incorporated medical college, university, or scientific society.

(a) 
   (1) An owner or custodian shall not allow his or her animal to go at large.
   (2) If a dog injures a person while at large, lack of knowledge of the dog’s vicious
       propensity standing alone shall not absolve the owner from a finding of
       negligence.

(b) A person shall not knowingly and falsely deny ownership or custodianship of an animal.

(c) 
   (1) An owner or custodian shall not leave his or her animal outdoors without human
       accompaniment or adequate shelter for more than 15 minutes during periods of
       extreme weather, unless the age, condition, and type of each animal allows the
       animal to withstand extreme weather.
   (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to cats.

(d) A person shall not remove the license of a dog without the permission of its owner.

(e) A dog shall not be permitted on any school ground or on any public recreation area,
    other than a dog park, unless the dog is on a leash, tether, or otherwise under adequate
    means of control of a person capable of physically restraining it.

(f) 
   (1) A person shall not separate a puppy or a kitten from its mother until the puppy
       or kitten is at least 6 weeks of age.
   (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply in cases where a mother poses a
       danger to its offspring.

(g) A person shall not give, sell, or offer for sale a puppy or kitten under 6 weeks of age,
    unless the puppy's or kitten's mother is given or sold to the same person as the puppy
    or kitten.

(h) 
   (1) A person shall not change the natural color of a baby chicken, duckling, other
       fowl, or rabbit.
   (2) A person shall not sell or offer for sale a baby chicken, duckling, other fowl, or
       rabbit that has had its natural color changed.

(i) A person shall not sell or offer for sale a rabbit under the age of 16 weeks or a chick or
    duck under the age of 8 weeks except for agricultural or scientific purposes.

(j) 
   (1) Except as provided in this subsection, a person shall not import into the District,
       possess, display, offer for sale, trade, barter, exchange, or adoption, or give as a
       household pet, any living member of the animal kingdom, including those born
       or raised in captivity, except the following:
       (A) Domestic dogs, excluding hybrids with wolves, coyotes, or jackals;
       (B) Domestic cats, excluding hybrids with ocelots or margays;
       (C) Domesticated rodents and rabbits;
(D) Captive-bred species of common cage birds, including chickens;
(E) Non-venomous snakes, fish, and turtles, traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes;
(F) Ferrets; and
(G) Racing pigeons, when kept in compliance with permit requirements.

(2) A person may offer any of the species enumerated in paragraph (1) of this subsection to a public zoo, park, or museum for exhibition purposes.

(3) This section shall not apply to federally licensed animal exhibitors; provided, that the Mayor shall retain the authority to restrict the movement of any prohibited animal into the District and the conditions under which those movements are made.

(4) The Mayor may allow a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, licensed veterinarian, or licensed animal shelter to maintain an animal prohibited in this subsection for treatment or pending appropriate disposition.

(5) The Mayor shall allow goats and sheep to be temporarily imported into the District and possessed for the purposes of eating grass, milking and shearing demonstrations, participating in yoga or similar activities, being on display in temporary petting zoos for the enjoyment and education of District youth, and any other activities approved by the Department of Health through regulation. The Department of Health may issue rules to protect the safety of the goats and sheep.

(k) A person shall not sponsor, promote, train an animal to participate in, contribute to the involvement of an animal in, or attend as a spectator, any activity or event in which any animal engages in unnatural behavior, is wrestled or fought, mentally or physically harassed, or displayed in such a way that the animal is struck, abused, or mentally or physically stressed or traumatized, or is induced, goaded, or encouraged to perform or react through the use of chemical, mechanical, electrical, or manual devices, in a manner that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical or other injury or suffering.

(2) The prohibitions set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply to any event or activity at a public or private facility or property, and are applicable regardless of the purpose of the event or activity and whether a fee is charged to spectators of the event or activity.

(l) An owner or custodian of a dog shall not direct, encourage, cause, allow, aid, or assist that dog to threaten, charge, bite, or attack a person or other animal, except that an owner or custodian may keep a properly trained dog on private property to defend the property and its occupants from intruders, and may order a dog to defend a person under attack.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to dogs that work for the Metropolitan Police Department or any other law enforcement agency.

(m) A person shall not display, exhibit, or otherwise move animals in the District as part of a
circus, carnival, or other special performance or event, without first obtaining a permit, issued by the Mayor, that governs the care and management of the animals.

(n) An owner or custodian shall not neglect to provide his or her animal with adequate care, adequate feed, adequate shelter, adequate space, and adequate water.

(o) A person shall not take actions that intentionally harm, or that the person should know are likely to cause harm to, an animal.

(p) (1) An owner or custodian shall not abandon an animal in his or her possession.

2. An owner who transfers ownership of an animal or releases the animal to the Animal Care and Control Agency shall not be liable for abandonment.


(a) The Mayor, pursuant to subchapter I of Chapter 5 of Title 2, shall issue rules to set specific fine amounts for violations of each provision of this subchapter; provided, that the fines shall not exceed the following amounts:

1. $500 for each offense, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

2. $1000 for each offense for violations of § 8-1808(n), (o) or (p)(1).

(b) Fines issued under this section shall not preclude any other criminal or civil penalty or enforcement action provided by District law.


(a) (1) Whoever knowingly overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, cruelly chains, cruelly beats or mutilates, any animal, or knowingly causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, cruelly chained, cruelly beaten, or mutilated, and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, knowingly inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the same, or unnecessarily fails to provide the same with proper food, drink, air, light, space, veterinary care, shelter, or protection from the weather, shall for every such offense be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding 180 days, or by fine not exceeding $250, or by both.

2. The court may order a person convicted of cruelty to animals:

(A) To obtain psychological counseling, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in an animal cruelty prevention or education program, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person convicted;
(B) To forfeit any rights in the animal or animals subjected to cruelty;
(C) To repay the reasonable costs incurred prior to judgment by any agency caring for the animal or animals subjected to cruelty; and
(D) Not to own or possess an animal for a specified period of time.

(3) The court may order a child adjudicated delinquent for cruelty to animals to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in appropriate treatment programs or counseling, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person adjudicated delinquent.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “cruelly chains” means attaching an animal to a stationary object or a pulley by means of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or similar restraint under circumstances that may endanger its health, safety, or well-being. Cruelly chains includes, but is not limited to, the use of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable or similar restraint that:
   (1) Exceeds 1/8 the body weight of the animal;
   (2) Causes the animal to choke;
   (3) Is too short for the animal to move around or for the animal to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area where it must eat, drink, or lie down;
   (4) Is situated where it can become entangled;
   (5) Does not permit the animal access to food, water, shade, dry ground, or shelter;
   or
   (6) Does not permit the animal to escape harm.

(c) For the purposes of this section, “serious bodily injury” means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, mutilation, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ. Serious bodily injury includes, but is not limited to, broken bones, burns, internal injuries, severe malnutrition, severe lacerations or abrasions, and injuries resulting from untreated medical conditions.

(d) Except where the animal is an undomesticated and dangerous animal such as rats, bats, and snakes, and there is a reasonable apprehension of an imminent attack by such animal on that person or another, whoever commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section with the intent to commit serious bodily injury or death to an animal, or whoever, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to animal life, commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section which results in serious bodily injury or death to the animal, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or by a fine not exceeding $25,000, or both.


(a) Any person who:
   (1) organizes, sponsors, conducts, stages, promotes, is employed at, collects an admission fee for, or bets or wagers any money or other valuable consideration
on the outcome of an exhibition between two or more animals of fighting,
baiting, or causing injury to each other;
(2) any person who owns, trains, buys, sells, offers to buy or sell, steals, transports,
or possesses any animal with the intent that it engage in any such exhibition;
(3) any person who knowingly allows any animal used for such fighting or baiting to
be kept, boarded, housed, or trained on, or transported in, any property owned
or controlled by him;
(4) any person who owns, manages, or operates any facility and knowingly allows
that facility to be kept or used for the purpose of fighting or baiting any animal;
(5) any person who knowingly or recklessly permits any act described in this
subsection, to be done on any premises under his or her ownership or control, or
who aids or abets that act; or
(6) any person who is knowingly present as a spectator at any
such exhibition, is
guilty of a felony, punishable by a fine of not more than the amount set forth in §
22-3571.01, imprisonment not to exceed 5 years, or both. The court may also
impose any penalties listed in § 22-1001(a).

(b) Repealed.
(c) For the purposes of this section, the term:
(1) “Animal” means a vertebrate other than a human, including, but not limited to,
dogs and cocks.
(2) “Baiting” means to attack with violence, to provoke, or to harass an animal with
one or more animals for the purpose of training an animal for, or to cause an
animal to engage in, fights with or among other animals.
(3) “Fighting” means an organized event wherein there is a display of combat
between 2 or more animals in which the fighting, killing, maiming, or injuring of
an animal is a significant feature, or main purpose, of the event.

D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1009. Keeping or using place for fighting or baiting of fowls or animals;
arrest without warrant.

Any person or persons who shall keep or use, or in any way be connected with or interested in
the management of, or shall receive money for the admission of any person to any place kept or
used for the purpose of fighting or baiting of fowls or animals, may be arrested without a
warrant, as provided in § 44-1505, and for every such offense be punished in the same manner
provided in § 22-1001.

D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1310. Urging dogs to fight or create disorder.

It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to entice, induce, urge, or cause any dogs to
engage in a fight in any street, alley, road, or highway, open space, or public square in the
District of Columbia, or to urge, entice, or cause such dogs to continue or prolong such fight,
under a penalty of not more than $1,000 for each and every offense; and any person or persons who shall induce or cause any animal of the dog kind to run after, bark at, frighten, or bite any person, horse, or horses, cows, cattle of any kind, or other animals lawfully passing along or standing in or on any street, avenue, road, or highway, or alley in the District of Columbia, shall forfeit and pay for such offense a sum not exceeding $1,000.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-3571.01. Fines for criminal offenses.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, and except as provided in § 22-3571.02, a defendant who has been found guilty of an offense under the District of Columbia Official Code punishable by imprisonment may be sentenced to pay a fine as provided in this section.

(b) An individual who has been found guilty of such an offense may be fined not more than the greatest of:
   (1) $100 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 10 days or less;
   (2) $250 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 30 days, or one month, or less but more than 10 days;
   (3) $500 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 90 days, or 3 months, or less but more than 30 days;
   (4) $1,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 180 days, or 6 months, or less but more than 90 days;
   (5) $2,500 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for one year or less but more than 180 days;
   (6) $12,500 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 5 years or less but more than one year;
   (7) $25,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 10 years or less but more than 5 years;
   (8) $37,500 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 15 years or less but more than 10 years;
   (9) $50,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 20 years or less but more than 15 years;
   (10) $75,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for 30 years or less but more than 20 years;
   (11) $125,000 if the offense is punishable by imprisonment for more than 30 years;
   or
   (12) $250,000 if the offense resulted in death.

(c) An organization that has been found guilty of an offense punishable by imprisonment for 6 months or more may be fined not more than the greatest of:
   (1) Twice the maximum amount specified in the law setting forth the penalty for the offense;
   (2) Twice the applicable amount under subsection (b) of this section; or
   (3) Twice the applicable amount under § 22-3571.02(a).
5. SEXUAL ASSAULT
## 6. Cruelty to Working Animals

---
7. **MAXIMUM PENALTIES & STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS**

*Note:* all penalties defined in substantive statutes, available in the [General Cruelty, Fighting & Racketeering](#), and [Sexual Assault](#) sections of this document.

**D.C. Code Ann. § 23-113. Statute of limitations for felonies or misdemeanors.**

(a) *Time Limitations.* –

(1) A prosecution for the following crimes may be commenced at any time:

(A) murder in the first or second degree (D.C. Official Code §§ 22-2101 and 2102);
(B) murder in the second degree (D.C. Official Code § 22-2103);
(C) murder of a law enforcement officer or public safety employee (D.C. Official Code § 22-2106);
(D) first degree murder that constitutes an act of terrorism (D.C. Official Code § 22-3153(a));
(E) second degree murder that constitutes an act of terrorism (D.C. Official Code § 22-3153(c));
(F) murder of a law enforcement officer or public safety employee that constitutes an act of terrorism (D.C. Official Code § 22-3153(b));
(G) first degree sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3002);
(H) second degree sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3003);
(I) third degree sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3004);
(J) fourth degree sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3005);
(K) first degree child sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3008)
(L) second degree child sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3009);
(M) first degree sexual abuse of a minor (D.C. Official Code § 22-3009.01);
(N) second degree sexual abuse of a minor (D.C. Official Code § 22-3009.02);
(O) first degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student (D.C. Official Code § 22-3009.03);
(P) second degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student (D.C. Official Code § 22-3009.04);
(Q) first degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, or prisoner (D.C. Official Code § 22-3013);
(R) second degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, or prisoner (D.C. Official Code § 22-3014);
(S) first degree sexual abuse of a patient or client (D.C. Official Code § 22-3015);
(T) second degree sexual abuse of a patient or client (D.C. Official Code § 22-3016); and
(U) incest.
(2) Repealed

(3) A prosecution for the following crimes and any offense that is properly joinable with any of the following crimes is barred if not commenced within ten (10) years after it is committed:
   (A) Repealed.
   (B) Repealed.
   (C) enticing a child for the purpose of committing felony sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3010);
   (D) Repealed.
   (E) Repealed.
   (F) Repealed.
   (G) Repealed.
   (H) using a minor in a sexual performance or promoting a sexual performance by a minor (D.C. Official Code § 22-3102);
   (I) Repealed.
   (J) Trafficking in labor or commercial sex and sex trafficking of children as prohibited by [D.C. Official Code §§ 22-1833 and 22-1834], respectively;
   (K) abducting or enticing child from his or her home for purposes of prostitution, or harboring such child (D.C. Official Code § 22-2704);
   (L) pandering, or inducing or compelling an individual to engage in prostitution (D.C. Official Code § 22-2705);
   (M) compelling an individual to live life of prostitution against his or her will (D.C. Official Code § 22-2706); and

(4) Except as provided in paragraph (6), a prosecution for a felony other than those crimes enumerated in paragraphs (1) or paragraph (3) is barred if not commenced within six (6) years after it is committed.

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (6) and (7), a prosecution for any other criminal offense is barred if not commenced within three (3) years after it is committed.

(6) A prosecution for a felony or a misdemeanor may be brought within three (3) years:
   (A) after a public officer or employee has left office, for any completed offense based on official conduct; or
   (B) after a fraud or breach of fiduciary trust has been, or reasonably should have been, discovered for any completed offense based on that fraud or breach of fiduciary trust; even if barred by the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (5):
   Provided, that, in no case shall this provision extend the period of limitations to more than nine (9) years in the case of a felony nor more than six (6) years in the case of a misdemeanor.

(7) A prosecution for a violation of subchapter II of Chapter 13 of Title 4 [D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.07] is barred if not commenced within 6 years after it is
ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

committed.

(b) **Time when offense committed.** -- An offense is committed either when every element occurs, or, if a legislative purpose to prohibit a continuing course of conduct plainly appears, at the time when the course of conduct, or the defendant's complicity therein, is terminated. Time starts to run on the day after the offense is committed or completed.

(c) **Commencement of prosecution.** -- A prosecution is commenced when:

1. an indictment is entered;
2. an information is filed; or
3. a complaint is filed before a judicial officer empowered to issue an arrest warrant; provided, that such warrant is issued without unreasonable delay. A prosecution for an offense necessarily included in the offense charged shall be considered to have been timely commenced, even though the period of limitation for such included offense has expired, if the period of limitation has not expired for the offense charged and if there was, after the close of the evidence at trial, sufficient evidence as a matter of law to sustain a conviction for the offense charged.

(d) **Suspension of period of limitation.** –

1. The period of limitation for an offense, and any necessarily included offense, does not run during any time when a prosecution against the defendant for that offense is pending in the courts of the District of Columbia.

2. The period of limitation shall not begin to run until the victim reaches 21 years of age for the following offenses:
   
   A) Repealed.
   
   B) Repealed.
   
   C) enticing a child for the purpose of committing felony sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3010);
   
   D) using a minor in a sexual performance or promoting a sexual performance by a minor (D.C. Official Code § 22-3102);
   
   E) Repealed.
   
   F) Repealed.
   
   G) Section [D.C. Official Code 22-2704];
   
   H) Section [D.C. Official Code 22-2705];
   
   I) Section [D.C. Official Code 22-2706], where the victim is a minor; and
   
   J) Forced labor, trafficking in labor or commercial sex, sex trafficking of children, and benefitting financially from human trafficking as prohibited by the Human Trafficking Act [D.C. Law 18-239], where the victim is a minor.

3. Repealed.

4. Repealed.

5. The period of limitation shall not begin to run for forced labor, trafficking in labor or commercial sex, sex trafficking of children, and benefitting financially from human trafficking until the victim is no longer subject to the means used to
(e) *Extended period for commencement of new prosecution.* -- If a timely complaint, indictment, or information is dismissed for any error, defect, insufficiency, or irregularity, a new prosecution may be commenced within three (3) months after the dismissal becomes final even though the period of limitation has expired at the time of the dismissal or will expire within three (3) months thereafter.

(f) *Fugitives from justice.* -- No statute of limitations shall extend to any person fleeing from justice.
D.C. Code Ann. § 4-1321.02. Persons required to make reports; procedure.

(a) Notwithstanding § 14-307, any person specified in subsection (b) of this section who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to him or her in his or her professional or official capacity has been or is in immediate danger of being a mentally or physically abused or neglected child, as defined in § 4-1301.02(15)), shall immediately report or have a report made of such knowledge or suspicion to either the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia or the Child and Family Services Agency.

(a-1) A person specified in subsection (b) of this section shall report to the Child and Family Services Agency any child who is age 5 through 13 years and who has 10 or more days of unexcused absences within a school year, as that term is defined in § 38-201(4).

(a-2) [Expired]

(b) Persons required to report such abuse or neglect shall include Child and Family Services Agency employees, agents, and contractors, and every physician, psychologist, medical examiner, dentist, chiropractor, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, person involved in the care and treatment of patients, law-enforcement officer, humane officer of any agency charged with the enforcement of animal cruelty laws, school official, teacher, athletic coach, Department of Parks and Recreation employee, public housing resident manager, social service worker, day care worker, human trafficking counselor as defined in § 14-311(2), and domestic violence counselor as defined in § 7-1201.01(11). Such persons are not required to report when employed by a lawyer who is providing representation in a criminal, civil, including family law, or delinquency matter and the basis for the suspicion arises solely in the course of that representation. Whenever a person is required to report in his or her capacity as a member of the staff of a hospital, school, social agency or similar institution, he or she shall immediately notify the person in charge of the institution or his or her designated agent who shall then be required to make the report. The fact that such a notification has been made does not relieve the person who was originally required to report from his or her duty under subsection (a) of this section of having a report made promptly to the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia or the Child and Family Services Agency.

(c) In addition to those persons who are required to make a report, any other person may make a report to the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia or the Child and Family Services Agency.

(d) In addition to the requirements in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, any health professional licensed pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 3, or a law-enforcement officer, [or] humane officer of any agency charged with the enforcement of animal cruelty laws, except an undercover officer whose identity or investigation might be jeopardized, shall report immediately, in writing, to the Child and Family Services Agency, that the law-enforcement officer or health professional has reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused as a result of inadequate care, control, or subsistence in the home.
environment due to exposure to drug-related activity. The report shall be in accordance with the provisions of § 4-1321.03.

(e) Notwithstanding § 14-307, any person specified in subsection (b) of this section who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to him or her in his or her professional or official capacity has been, or is in immediate danger of being, the victim of “sexual abuse” or “attempted sexual abuse” prohibited by § 22-3001 et seq.; or that the child was assisted, supported, caused, encouraged, commanded, enabled, induced, facilitated, or permitted to become a prostitute, as that term is defined in § 22-2701.01(3); or that the child has an injury caused by a bullet; or that the child has an injury caused by a knife or other sharp object which has been caused by other than accidental means, shall immediately report or have a report made of such knowledge, information, or suspicion to the Metropolitan Police Department or the Child and Family Services Agency.

(f) A health professional licensed pursuant to the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code Section 3-1201.01 et seq.), who in his or her own professional or official capacity knows that a child under 12 months of age is diagnosed as having a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, shall immediately report or have a report made to the Child and Family Services Agency.

(g) A person who violates this section shall not be prosecuted under subchapter II-A of Chapter 30 of Title 22 [§ 22-3020.51 et seq.].

(h) The Metropolitan Police Department shall immediately report or have a report made to the Child and Family Services Agency of any knowledge, information, or suspicion of a child engaging in or offering to engage in a sexual act, as defined in § 22–3001(8)), or sexual contact, as defined in § 22–3001(9), in return for receiving anything of value.


(a)

(1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, whenever a conservator, court-appointed mental retardation advocate, guardian, health-care administrator, licensed health professional, police officer, humane officer of any agency charged with the enforcement of animal cruelty laws, bank manager, financial manager, or social worker has as a result of his or her appointment, employment, or practice substantial cause to believe that an adult is in need of protective services because of abuse, neglect, or exploitation by another, he or she shall immediately report this belief in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(2) Any person may voluntarily report an alleged case of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation when he or she has reason to believe that an adult is in need of protective services. Voluntary reporting shall also be effected in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(b) The duty to report established by subsection (a)(1) of this section shall not apply to a
social worker or licensed health professional who has as a client or patient, or is employed by a lawyer representing, a third person who is allegedly responsible for the abuse or neglect.

(c) A report made pursuant to this section may be either oral or written and shall be transmitted to the division within the Department designated by the Mayor to receive these reports. Each report shall include, if known: The name, age, physical description, and location of the adult alleged to be in need of protective services; the name and location of the person(s) allegedly responsible for the abuse, neglect, or exploitation; the nature and extent of the abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation; the basis of the reporter's knowledge; and any other information the reporter believes might be helpful to an investigation. A reporter may be required to identify himself or herself only when obliged to report under subsection (a)(1) of this section.

(d) (1) The Department shall maintain a record of all reports received and be capable of receiving reports 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including holidays). Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, the Department may release reports and investigative information acquired pursuant to this chapter only:

(A) To another public or private agency, only to the minimal extent required to conduct an investigation, provide services under this chapter, or petition the court for appointment of a guardian of the person or conservatorship of the estate of the person (or a limited guardianship or conservatorship) under Chapter 20 of Title 21;

(B) To the Attorney General for the District of Columbia or United States Attorney if requested for an investigation, prosecution, or civil or administrative enforcement action;

(B-1) To the Metropolitan Police Department

(C) If directed by court order;

(D) For the purposes of and in accordance with Chapter 2A of this title; or

(E) To a court-appointed representative of an adult in need of protective services or an adult in need of protective services or his or her legal representative, upon receipt of a verbal or written request for access to reports and investigative information, including health information; provided, that:

(i) The Department shall release reports and investigative information under this subparagraph only to the extent permitted by District or federal law or regulation; and

(ii) The Department shall not release under this subparagraph:

(I) The identity and other personal information of reporters, witnesses, and interviewees, other than interviewees who are District government employees;

(II) Other information which could reasonably be used
to identify a reporter, witness, or interviewee, other than an interviewee who is a District government employee;

(III) Psychotherapy and personal notes; and

(IV) Information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or for use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding.

(2) A recipient of a report or investigative information released pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be subject to the same restrictions on disclosure applicable to the Department under that paragraph.

(3) Any person possessing a report or investigative information acquired pursuant to this chapter shall take reasonable steps to prevent the disclosure of information that might reveal the reporter's identity to the person(s) allegedly responsible for the abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

(4) The Department may release statistics and other data acquired pursuant to this chapter for research, reporting, or educational purposes provided all identifying references to individuals are deleted.

(d-1) The Department may provide outreach and training on the requirements of this section to members of the public and to appropriate governmental personnel, including law enforcement officers, social services personnel, judicial officers, guardians and conservators for incapacitated adults, and others as may be determined by the Mayor.

(e) The Mayor shall widely publicize the phone number and mailing address of the division within the Department designated to receive reports under this section, and may conduct educational programs for those persons required to report under subsection (a)(1) of this section.


(a)

(1) Any law enforcement or child or protective services employee who knows of or has reasonable cause to suspect an animal has been the victim of cruelty, abandonment, or neglect, or observes an animal at the home of a person reasonably suspected of child, adult, or animal abuse, shall provide a report within 2 business days to the Mayor. If the health and welfare of the animal is in immediate danger, the report shall be made within 6 hours.

(2) The report shall include:

(A) The name, title, and contact information of the individual making the report;

(B) The name and contact information, if known, of the owner or custodian of the animal;

(C) The location, along with a description, of where the animal was observed; and

The Washington Humane Society is authorized to extend its operations to the protection of children as well as animals from cruelty and abuse. In pursuance thereof the said Society may cause its proper officers or agents to prefer complaints, before any court in the District of Columbia having jurisdiction, for the violation of any law relating to or affecting the protection of children in said District, and by its proper attorney may aid in bringing the facts before such court in any proceeding taken.


The Mayor of the District of Columbia shall, by the police force of said District, aid the said Society, its officers and agents, in the enforcement of all laws relating to or affecting the protection of children; and the Mayor of the said District, and his successors, are authorized, in their discretion, to detail, from time to time, an officer or officers to aid specially in the work of said Society, or they may commission any duly appointed agents of said Society special police officers, without compensation; and such agents or officers shall have power to arrest, without warrant, all persons violating in their presence or sight any law relating to or affecting the protection of children, or other parties so offending by virtue of a warrant issued by the Family Division of the Superior Court, which offenders shall be taken by such agents or officers before the said Family Division of the Superior Court for trial. Said agents or officers are also hereby empowered to bring before the said Court any child who is subjected to cruel treatment, willful abuse, or neglect, or any child under 17 years of age found in a house of ill fame; and said Court may commit such child to an orphan asylum or other public charitable institution in the District of Columbia, with the consent of the constituted authorities of such asylum or institution, or
ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*make such other disposition thereof as provided by law in cases of vagrant, destitute, or abandoned children.*
9. VETERINARY REPORTING & IMMUNITY
10. LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICIES


(a) The Mayor may contract, either by negotiation or competitive bid, with a District of Columbia humane organization to serve as the Animal Care and Control Agency. The Mayor may delegate all or part of his authority under this chapter, including the issuance of notices of violations, to the Animal Care and Control Agency.

(b) The Animal Care and Control Agency shall:
   (1) Pursuant to this subchapter, issue fines and citations for violations and deliver all fees collected to the Mayor.
   (2) Allow the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to inspect the Animal Care and Control Agency to determine compliance with District laws, regulations, policies, and contractual obligations;
   (3) Ensure that all contractually required records are accurate, easily accessible, and available at all times;
   (4) Immediately inform the Mayor or the Mayor's designee of any significant changes in its operations or leadership;
   (5) Respond to all animal calls and emergencies in the District; and
   (6) Perform any other duties the Mayor designates that are consistent with the provisions of this subchapter.

(c) The Animal Care and Control Agency shall promote:
   (1) The reduction of euthanasia of animals for which medical treatment or adoption is possible; and
   (2) The utilization of trap, spay or neuter, and return practices as a means of controlling the feral cat population; provided, that all efforts shall be made to adopt out a trapped, tamable kitten.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1006. Prosecution of offenders; disposition of fines.

It shall be the duty of all marshals, deputy marshals, police officers, or any humane officer of the Washington Humane Society, to prosecute all violations of the provisions of §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009 and §§ 22-1011, 22-1013, and 22-1014 [repealed], which shall come to their notice or knowledge, and fines and forfeitures collected upon or resulting from the complaint or information of any humane officer of the Washington Humane Society under §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009 and §§ 22-1011, 22-1013, and 22-1014 [repealed] shall inure and be paid over to said association, in aid of the benevolent objects for which it was incorporated.
ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

D.C. CODE ANN. § 44-1505. Police to arrest law violators at request of member; evidence of membership.

Members of the Metropolitan Police force of the District of Columbia, upon application of a member of the Washington Humane Society who has viewed a violation of a law or regulation of the District for the prevention of cruelty to animals, shall arrest the offending party without a warrant, and take him before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for trial. Proper evidence of membership to a police officer shall be the exhibition of a badge or certificate of membership in the Society.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 44-1510. Enforcement of laws by Mayor—Cruelty to animals.

The Mayor of the District of Columbia is authorized, in his discretion, to detail from time to time 1 or more members of the Metropolitan Police force to aid the Washington Humane Society in the enforcement of laws relating to cruelty to animals as well as of the laws relating to cruelty to children.
11. SEIZURE


(a) The Mayor shall impound any dogs, cats, rabbits, or ferrets, the combination of which exceeds 4 animals, or any dogs, cats, rabbits, or ferrets beyond the number authorized in an animal hobby permit issued pursuant to § 8-1804.01.
(b) Upon impounding an animal, the Mayor shall make a prompt and reasonable attempt to locate and notify the owner of the impounded animal, including scanning the animal for a microchip.
(c) The Mayor may dispose of any wild, sick, or badly injured animal upon its impoundment.
(d) The Mayor shall provide appropriate vaccinations for each animal upon its impoundment.
(e) The Mayor shall provide appropriate veterinary services for each dog wearing a valid license upon its impoundment.
(f) The Mayor shall deem abandoned any animal impounded and not redeemed by its owner within 7 days of impoundment if such animal is wearing identification. If notice is given under subsection (b) of this section, the owner has 7 days from the date of the notice to claim the animal. Any animal impounded not wearing identification shall be deemed abandoned if not redeemed by its owner within 5 days of impoundment. An animal deemed abandoned shall become the property of the District of Columbia and may be adopted or disposed of in a humane manner.

(g)
(1) The Mayor shall not release an animal unless it has received a rabies vaccination in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s rabies vaccination schedule.
(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to puppies or kittens under 4 months of age.
(h) The Mayor shall not release a sick or dangerous animal to anyone other than a licensed veterinarian until reasonably satisfied that it is safe to do so.
(i) The Mayor shall adopt rules for disposing of animals impounded under this section in accordance with § 2-505.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1004. Arrests without warrant authorized; notice to owner.

(a) Any person found violating the laws in relation to cruelty to animals may be arrested and held without a warrant, in the manner provided by § 44-1505 and the person making an arrest, with or without a warrant, shall use reasonable diligence to give notice thereof to the owner of animals found in the charge or custody of the person arrested, and shall properly care and provide for such animals until the owner thereof shall take charge of the same; provided, the owner shall take charge of the same within 20 days from the
date of said notice. The person making the arrest or the humane officer taking possession of an animal shall have a lien on said animals for the expense of such care and provisions.

(b)

(1) A humane officer of the Washington Humane Society may take possession of any animal to protect it from neglect or cruelty. The person taking possession of the animal or animals, shall use reasonable diligence to give notice thereof to the owner of animals found in the charge or custody of the person arrested, and shall properly care and provide for the animals until the owner shall take charge of the animals; provided that, the owner shall take charge of the animals within 20 days from the date of the notice.

(2) If the owner or custodian of the animal or animals fails to respond after 20 days, the animal or animals shall become the property of the Washington Humane Society and the Washington Humane Society shall have the authority to:

(A) Place the animal or animals up for adoption in a suitable home;
(B) Retain the animal or animals, or
(C) Humanely destroy the animal or animals.

(c)

(1) The Mayor shall establish by rulemaking a notice and hearing process for the owner of the animal to contest the seizure, detention, and terms of release and treatment of the animal, the allegation of cruelty, abandonment, or neglect, and the imposition of the lien and costs assessed for caring and providing for the animal.

(2) Within 30 days of December 5, 2008, the proposed rules shall be submitted to the Council for a 45-day period of review, excluding weekends, legal holidays, and days of Council recess. If the Council does not approve or disapprove of the proposed rules, by resolution, within the 45-day review period, the rules shall be deemed approved.


When complaint is made by any humane officer of the Washington Humane Society on oath or affirmation, to any magistrate authorized to issue warrants in criminal cases, that the complainant believes, and has reasonable cause to believe, that the laws in relation to cruelty to animals have been or are being violated in any particular building or place, such magistrate, if satisfied that there is reasonable cause for such belief, shall issue a search warrant, authorizing any marshal, deputy marshal, police officer, or any humane officer of the Washington Humane Society to search such building or place.
ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1008. Relief of impounded animals.

In case any creature shall be at any time impounded as aforesaid, and shall continue to be without necessary food and water for more than 12 successive hours, it shall be lawful for any officer of the Washington Humane Society, from time to time, and as often as it shall be necessary, to enter into and upon any pound in which such creature shall be so confined, and supply it with necessary food and water so long as it shall remain so confined; such person shall not be liable to any action for such entry, and the reasonable cost for such food and water may be collected of the owner of such creature, and the said creature shall not be exempt from levy and sale upon execution issued upon a judgment thereof.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1012. Abandonment of maimed or diseased animal; destruction of diseased animals; disposition of animal or vehicle on arrest of driver; scientific experiments.

(a) A person being the owner or possessor or having charge or custody of a maimed, diseased, disabled, or infirm animal who abandons such animal, or leaves it to lie in the street or road, or public place, more than 3 hours after he or she receives notice that it is left disabled, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $10 and not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01, or by imprisonment in jail not more than 180 days, or both. Any agent or officer of the Washington Humane Society may lawfully destroy, or cause to be destroyed, any animal found abandoned and not properly cared for, appearing, in the judgment of 2 reputable citizens called by such officer to view the same in such officer’s presence, to be glandered, injured, or diseased past recovery for any useful purpose. When any person arrested is, at the time of such arrest, in charge of any animal, or of any vehicle drawn by any animal, or containing any animal, any agent of said society may take charge of such animal and such vehicle and its contents and deposit the same in a place of safe custody or deliver the same into the possession of the police authorities, who shall assume the custody thereof; and all necessary expenses incurred in taking charge of such property shall be a lien thereon.

(b) Nothing contained in §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009, inclusive, and §§ 22-1011 and 22-1309 shall be construed to prohibit or interfere with any properly conducted scientific experiments or investigations, which experiments shall be performed only under the authority of the faculty of some regularly incorporated medical college, university, or scientific society.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1007. Impounded animals to be supplied with food and water.

Any person who shall impound, or cause to be impounded in any pound, any creature, shall supply the same, during such confinement, with a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water; and in default thereof shall, upon conviction, be punished for every such offense in the same manner provided in § 22-1001.
12. COURTROOM ANIMAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

-----
13. **Protection Orders**


(a) Individuals served with notice in accordance with § 16-1004 shall appear at the hearing.

(a-1) (1) In a case where the Attorney General files the petition on behalf of a petitioner pursuant to § 16-1003(c), the petitioner is not a required party.

(2) In a case where a parent, guardian, custodian, or other appropriate adult files a petition on behalf of a minor petitioner under the age of 12, the minor petitioner is not a required party.

(3) In a hearing under this section, if a parent, guardian, custodian, or other appropriate adult has petitioned for civil protection on behalf of a minor petitioner 12 years of age or older, the court shall consider the expressed wishes of the minor petitioner in deciding whether to issue an order pursuant to this section and in determining the contents of such an order.

(4) If a respondent is a minor, or if the petitioner is a minor and at least 12 years of age, and if the minor is not accompanied by a parent, guardian, custodian, other appropriate adult, or represented by an attorney, the court may appoint an attorney to represent the minor if such an appointment would not unduly delay the issuance or denial of a protection order. The court may promulgate rules for the appointment of attorneys.

(b) Notwithstanding section 14-306, in a hearing under this section, one spouse shall be a competent and compellable witness against the other and may testify as to confidential communications, but testimony compelled over a claim of a privilege conferred by such section shall be inadmissible in evidence in a criminal trial over the objection of a spouse entitled to claim that privilege.

(c) *If, after hearing, the judicial officer finds that there is good cause to believe the respondent has committed or threatened to commit a criminal offense against the petitioner or against petitioner’s animal or an animal in petitioner’s household, the judicial officer may issue a protection order that:*

   (1) Directs the respondent to refrain from committing or threatening to commit criminal offenses against the petitioner and other protected persons;

   (2) Requires the respondent to stay away from or have no contact with the petitioner and any other protected persons or locations;

   (3) Requires the respondent to participate in psychiatric or medical treatment or appropriate counseling programs;

   (4) Directs the respondent to refrain from entering, or to vacate, the dwelling unit of the petitioner when the dwelling is:

      (A) Marital property of the parties;

      (B) Jointly owned, leased, or rented and occupied by both parties; provided, that joint occupancy shall not be required if the respondent’s actions caused the petitioner to relinquish occupancy;
(C) Owned, leased, or rented by the petitioner individually; or
(D) Jointly owned, leased, or rented by the petitioner and a person other than the respondent;
(5) Directs the respondent to relinquish possession or use of certain personal property owned jointly by the parties or by the petitioner individually;
(6) Awards temporary custody of a minor child or children of the parties;
(7) Provides for visitation rights with appropriate restrictions to protect the safety of the petitioner;
(8) Awards costs and attorney fees;
(9) Orders the Metropolitan Police Department to take such action as the judicial officer deems necessary to enforce its orders;
(10) Directs the respondent to relinquish possession of any firearms;
(10A) Directs the care, custody, or control of a domestic animal that belongs to petitioner or respondent or lives in his or her household;
(11) Directs the respondent to perform or refrain from other actions as may be appropriate to the effective resolution of the matter; or
(12) Combines 2 or more of the preceding provisions.
(c-1) For the purposes of subsection (c)(6) and (7) of this section, if the judicial officer finds by a preponderance of evidence that a contestant for custody has committed an intrafamily offense, any determination that custody or visitation is to be granted to the abusive parent shall be supported by a written statement by the judicial officer specifying factors and findings which support that determination. In determining visitation arrangements, if the judicial officer finds that an intrafamily offense has occurred, the judicial officer shall only award visitation if the judicial officer finds that the child and custodial parent can be adequately protected from harm inflicted by the other party. The party found to have committed an intrafamily offense has the burden of proving that visitation will not endanger the child or significantly impair the child’s emotional development.
(d) A protection order issued pursuant to this section shall be effective for such period up to one year as the judicial officer may specify, but the judicial officer may, upon motion of any party to the original proceeding, extend, rescind, or modify the order for good cause shown.
(e) Any final order issued pursuant to this section and any order granting or denying extension, modification, or rescission of such order shall be appealable.
(f) Violation of any temporary or final order issued under this subchapter, or violation in the District of Columbia of any valid foreign protection order, as that term is defined in subchapter IV of this chapter, or respondent’s failure to appear as required by subsection (a) of this section, shall be punishable as contempt. Upon conviction, criminal contempt shall be punished by a fine of not more than the amount set forth in [§ 22-3571.01] or imprisonment for not more than 180 days, or both.
(g) Any person who violates any protection order issued under this subchapter, or any person who violates in the District of Columbia any valid foreign protection order, as that term is defined in subchapter IV of this chapter, shall be chargeable with a
ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

misdeemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than the amount set forth in [§ 22-3571.01] or by imprisonment for not more than 180 days, or both.

(g-1) Enforcement proceedings under subsections (f) and (g) of this section in which the respondent is a child as defined by § 16-2301(3) shall be governed by subchapter I of Chapter 23 of this title.

(h) For purposes of establishing a violation under subsections (f) and (g) of this section, an oral or written statement made by a person located outside the District of Columbia to a person located in the District of Columbia by means of telecommunication, mail, or any other method of communication shall be deemed to be made in the District of Columbia.

(i) Orders entered with the consent of the respondent but without an admission that the conduct occurred shall be punishable under subsection (f), (g), or (g-1) of this section.

(a) Whoever knowingly overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, cruelly chains, cruelly beats or mutilates, any animal, or knowingly causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, cruelly chained, cruelly beaten, or mutilated, and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, knowingly inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the same, or unnecessarily fails to provide the same with proper food, drink, air, light, space, veterinary care, shelter, or protection from the weather, shall for every such offense be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding 180 days, or by fine not exceeding $250, or by both.

(2) The court may order a person convicted of cruelty to animals:
   (A) To obtain psychological counseling, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in an animal cruelty prevention or education program, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person convicted;
   (B) To forfeit any rights in the animal or animals subjected to cruelty;
   (C) To repay the reasonable costs incurred prior to judgment by any agency caring for the animal or animals subjected to cruelty; and
   (D) Not to own or possess an animal for a specified period of time.

(3) The court may order a child adjudicated delinquent for cruelty to animals to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in appropriate treatment programs or counseling, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person adjudicated delinquent.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “cruelly chains” means attaching an animal to a stationary object or a pulley by means of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or similar restraint under circumstances that may endanger its health, safety, or well-being. Cruelly chains includes, but is not limited to, the use of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable or similar restraint that:
   (1) Exceeds 1/8 the body weight of the animal;
   (2) Causes the animal to choke;
   (3) Is too short for the animal to move around or for the animal to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area where it must eat, drink, or lie down;
   (4) Is situated where it can become entangled;
   (5) Does not permit the animal access to food, water, shade, dry ground, or shelter; or
   (6) Does not permit the animal to escape harm.

(c) For the purposes of this section, “serious bodily injury” means bodily injury that involves
a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, mutilation, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ. Serious bodily injury includes, but is not limited to, broken bones, burns, internal injuries, severe malnutrition, severe lacerations or abrasions, and injuries resulting from untreated medical conditions.

(d) Except where the animal is an undomesticated and dangerous animal such as rats, bats, and snakes, and there is a reasonable apprehension of an imminent attack by such animal on that person or another, whoever commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section with the intent to commit serious bodily injury or death to an animal, or whoever, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to animal life, commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section which results in serious bodily injury or death to the animal, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or by a fine not exceeding $25,000, or both.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1004. Arrests without warrant authorized; notice to owner.

(a) Any person found violating the laws in relation to cruelty to animals may be arrested and held without a warrant, in the manner provided by § 44-1505 and the person making an arrest, with or without a warrant, shall use reasonable diligence to give notice thereof to the owner of animals found in the charge or custody of the person arrested, and shall properly care and provide for such animals until the owner thereof shall take charge of the same; provided, the owner shall take charge of the same within 20 days from the date of said notice. The person making the arrest or the humane officer taking possession of an animal shall have a lien on said animals for the expense of such care and provisions.

(b)  
(1) A humane officer of the Washington Humane Society may take possession of any animal to protect it from neglect or cruelty. The person taking possession of the animal or animals, shall use reasonable diligence to give notice thereof to the owner of animals found in the charge or custody of the person arrested, and shall properly care and provide for the animals until the owner shall take charge of the animals; provided that, the owner shall take charge of the animals within 20 days from the date of the notice.

(2) If the owner or custodian of the animal or animals fails to respond after 20 days, the animal or animals shall become the property of the Washington Humane Society and the Washington Humane Society shall have the authority to:
   (A) Place the animal or animals up for adoption in a suitable home;
   (B) Retain the animal or animals, or
   (C) Humanely destroy the animal or animals.

(c)  
(1) The Mayor shall establish by rulemaking a notice and hearing process for the
owner of the animal to contest the seizure, detention, and terms of release and treatment of the animal, the allegation of cruelty, abandonment, or neglect, and the imposition of the lien and costs assessed for caring and providing for the animal.

(2) Within 30 days of December 5, 2008, the proposed rules shall be submitted to the Council for a 45-day period of review, excluding weekends, legal holidays, and days of Council recess. If the Council does not approve or disapprove of the proposed rules, by resolution, within the 45-day review period, the rules shall be deemed approved.


It shall be the duty of all marshals, deputy marshals, police officers, or any humane officer of the Washington Humane Society, to prosecute all violations of the provisions of §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009 and §§ 22-1011, 22-1013, and 22-1014 [repealed], which shall come to their notice or knowledge, and fines and forfeitures collected upon or resulting from the complaint or information of any humane officer of the Washington Humane Society under §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009 and §§ 22-1011, 22-1013, and 22-1014 [repealed] shall inure and be paid over to said association, in aid of the benevolent objects for which it was incorporated.


In case any creature shall be at any time impounded as aforesaid, and shall continue to be without necessary food and water for more than 12 successive hours, it shall be lawful for any officer of the Washington Humane Society, from time to time, and as often as it shall be necessary, to enter into and upon any pound in which such creature shall be so confined, and supply it with necessary food and water so long as it shall remain so confined; such person shall not be liable to any action for such entry, and the reasonable cost for such food and water may be collected of the owner of such creature, and the said creature shall not be exempt from levy and sale upon execution issued upon a judgment thereof.

D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1012. Abandonment of maimed or diseased animal; destruction of diseased animals; disposition of animal or vehicle on arrest of driver; scientific experiments.

(a) A person being the owner or possessor or having charge or custody of a maimed, diseased, disabled, or infirm animal who abandons such animal, or leaves it to lie in the street or road, or public place, more than 3 hours after he or she receives notice that it is left disabled, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $10 and not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01, or by imprisonment in jail not more than 180 days, or both. Any agent or officer of the Washington Humane Society
Animal Protection Laws of the District of Columbia

may lawfully destroy, or cause to be destroyed, any animal found abandoned and not properly cared for, appearing, in the judgment of 2 reputable citizens called by such officer to view the same in such officer’s presence, to be glandered, injured, or diseased past recovery for any useful purpose. When any person arrested is, at the time of such arrest, in charge of any animal, or of any vehicle drawn by any animal, or containing any animal, any agent of said society may take charge of such animal and such vehicle and its contents and deposit the same in a place of safe custody or deliver the same into the possession of the police authorities, who shall assume the custody thereof; and all necessary expenses incurred in taking charge of such property shall be a lien thereon.

(b) Nothing contained in §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009, inclusive, and §§ 22-1011 and 22-1309 shall be construed to prohibit or interfere with any properly conducted scientific experiments or investigations, which experiments shall be performed only under the authority of the faculty of some regularly incorporated medical college, university, or scientific society.


One half of all the fines collected through the instrumentality of the Society or its agents, for violations of such laws shall accrue to the benefit of said Society.
15. **FORFEITURE & POSSESSION BANS**


(a)

(1) Whoever knowingly overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, cruelly chains, cruelly beats or mutilates, any animal, or knowingly causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, cruelly chained, cruelly beaten, or mutilated, and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, knowingly inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the same, or unnecessarily fails to provide the same with proper food, drink, air, light, space, veterinary care, shelter, or protection from the weather, shall for every such offense be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding 180 days, or by fine not exceeding $250, or by both.

(2) The court may order a person convicted of cruelty to animals:

(A) To obtain psychological counseling, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in an animal cruelty prevention or education program, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person convicted;

(B) To forfeit any rights in the animal or animals subjected to cruelty;

(C) To repay the reasonable costs incurred prior to judgment by any agency caring for the animal or animals subject to cruelty; and

(D) Not to own or possess an animal for a specified period of time.

(3) The court may order a child adjudicated delinquent for cruelty to animals to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in appropriate treatment programs or counseling, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person adjudicated delinquent.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “cruelly chains” means attaching an animal to a stationary object or a pulley by means of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or similar restraint under circumstances that may endanger its health, safety, or well-being. Cruelly chains includes, but is not limited to, the use of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable or similar restraint that:

(1) Exceeds 1/8 the body weight of the animal;

(2) Causes the animal to choke;

(3) Is too short for the animal to move around or for the animal to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area where it must eat, drink, or lie down;

(4) Is situated where it can become entangled;

(5) Does not permit the animal access to food, water, shade, dry ground, or shelter; or

(6) Does not permit the animal to escape harm.
(c) For the purposes of this section, “serious bodily injury” means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, mutilation, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ. Serious bodily injury includes, but is not limited to, broken bones, burns, internal injuries, severe malnutrition, severe lacerations or abrasions, and injuries resulting from untreated medical conditions.

(d) Except where the animal is an undomesticated and dangerous animal such as rats, bats, and snakes, and there is a reasonable apprehension of an imminent attack by such animal on that person or another, whoever commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section with the intent to commit serious bodily injury or death to an animal, or whoever, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to animal life, commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section which results in serious bodily injury or death to the animal, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or by a fine not exceeding $25,000, or both.

D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-1004. Arrests without warrant authorized; notice to owner.

(a) Any person found violating the laws in relation to cruelty to animals may be arrested and held without a warrant, in the manner provided by § 44-1505 and the person making an arrest, with or without a warrant, shall use reasonable diligence to give notice thereof to the owner of animals found in the charge or custody of the person arrested, and shall properly care and provide for such animals until the owner thereof shall take charge of the same; provided, the owner shall take charge of the same within 20 days from the date of said notice. The person making the arrest or the humane officer taking possession of an animal shall have a lien on said animals for the expense of such care and provisions.

(b) (1) A humane officer of the Washington Humane Society may take possession of any animal to protect it from neglect or cruelty. The person taking possession of the animal or animals, shall use reasonable diligence to give notice thereof to the owner of animals found in the charge or custody of the person arrested, and shall properly care and provide for the animals until the owner shall take charge of the animals; provided that, the owner shall take charge of the animals within 20 days from the date of the notice.

(2) If the owner or custodian of the animal or animals fails to respond after 20 days, the animal or animals shall become the property of the Washington Humane Society and the Washington Humane Society shall have the authority to:
   (A) Place the animal or animals up for adoption in a suitable home;
   (B) Retain the animal or animals, or
   (C) Humanely destroy the animal or animals.

(c)
(1) The Mayor shall establish by rulemaking a notice and hearing process for the owner of the animal to contest the seizure, detention, and terms of release and treatment of the animal, the allegation of cruelty, abandonment, or neglect, and the imposition of the lien and costs assessed for caring and providing for the animal.

(2) Within 30 days of December 5, 2008, the proposed rules shall be submitted to the Council for a 45-day period of review, excluding weekends, legal holidays, and days of Council recess. If the Council does not approve or disapprove of the proposed rules, by resolution, within the 45-day review period, the rules shall be deemed approved.

D.C. Code Ann. § 22-1012. Abandonment of maimed or diseased animal; destruction of diseased animals; disposition of animal or vehicle on arrest of driver; scientific experiments.

(a) A person being the owner or possessor or having charge or custody of a maimed, diseased, disabled, or infirm animal who abandons such animal, or leaves it to lie in the street or road, or public place, more than 3 hours after he or she receives notice that it is left disabled, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $10 and not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01, or by imprisonment in jail not more than 180 days, or both. Any agent or officer of the Washington Humane Society may lawfully destroy, or cause to be destroyed, any animal found abandoned and not properly cared for, appearing, in the judgment of 2 reputable citizens called by such officer to view the same in such officer’s presence, to be glandered, injured, or diseased past recovery for any useful purpose. When any person arrested is, at the time of such arrest, in charge of any animal, or of any vehicle drawn by any animal, or containing any animal, any agent of said society may take charge of such animal and such vehicle and its contents and deposit the same in a place of safe custody or deliver the same into the possession of the police authorities, who shall assume the custody thereof; and all necessary expenses incurred in taking charge of such property shall be a lien thereon.

(b) Nothing contained in §§ 22-1001 to 22-1009, inclusive, and §§ 22-1011 and 22-1309 shall be construed to prohibit or interfere with any properly conducted scientific experiments or investigations, which experiments shall be performed only under the authority of the faculty of some regularly incorporated medical college, university, or scientific society.
16. COURT-ORDERED TREATMENT


(a)

(1) Whoever knowingly overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, cruelly chains, cruelly beats or mutilates, any animal, or knowingly causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, cruelly chained, cruelly beaten, or mutilated, and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, knowingly inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the same, or unnecessarily fails to provide the same with proper food, drink, air, light, space, veterinary care, shelter, or protection from the weather, shall for every such offense be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding 180 days, or by fine not exceeding $250, or by both.

(2) The court may order a person convicted of cruelty to animals:

(A) To obtain psychological counseling, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in an animal cruelty prevention or education program, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person convicted;

(B) To forfeit any rights in the animal or animals subjected to cruelty;

(C) To repay the reasonable costs incurred prior to judgment by any agency caring for the animal or animals subjected to cruelty; and

(D) Not to own or possess an animal for a specified period of time.

(3) The court may order a child adjudicated delinquent for cruelty to animals to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation, or to participate in appropriate treatment programs or counseling, and may impose the costs of the program or counseling on the person adjudicated delinquent.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “cruelly chains” means attaching an animal to a stationary object or a pulley by means of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or similar restraint under circumstances that may endanger its health, safety, or well-being. Cruelly chains includes, but is not limited to, the use of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable or similar restraint that:

(1) Exceeds 1/8 the body weight of the animal;

(2) Causes the animal to choke;

(3) Is too short for the animal to move around or for the animal to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area where it must eat, drink, or lie down;

(4) Is situated where it can become entangled;

(5) Does not permit the animal access to food, water, shade, dry ground, or shelter; or

(6) Does not permit the animal to escape harm.

(c) For the purposes of this section, “serious bodily injury” means bodily injury that involves
a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, mutilation, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ. Serious bodily injury includes, but is not limited to, broken bones, burns, internal injuries, severe malnutrition, severe lacerations or abrasions, and injuries resulting from untreated medical conditions.

(d) Except where the animal is an undomesticated and dangerous animal such as rats, bats, and snakes, and there is a reasonable apprehension of an imminent attack by such animal on that person or another, whoever commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section with the intent to commit serious bodily injury or death to an animal, or whoever, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to animal life, commits any of the acts or omissions set forth in subsection (a) of this section which results in serious bodily injury or death to the animal, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or by a fine not exceeding $25,000, or both.

(a) An owner or custodian shall not leave an animal alone in a vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal’s health or safety.

(b) After making a reasonable attempt to contact the owner or custodian, an animal control officer, firefighter, or law enforcement officer may use reasonable force to remove the animal from the vehicle whenever it appears that the animal’s health is endangered; provided, that no attempt to contact the owner or custodian is required if the animal is in immediate danger or appears in distress.

(c) Following an animal’s removal from a vehicle by an animal control officer, firefighter, or law enforcement officer, the animal shall be impounded and medical care shall be provided if needed. A written notice shall be left attached to the vehicle identifying the responding animal control officer, firefighter, or law enforcement officer, and providing a phone number, time, date, and the location where the animal is being held.

(d)

(1) Any person found in violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be responsible for all expenses incurred by the District in the care, medical treatment, and impound cost of the animal.

(2) The District shall not be responsible for the:

   (A) Injury or death to an animal due to enforcement of subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

   (B) Cost of any damage to a vehicle due to enforcement of subsections (b) and (c) of this section.
18. CIVIL NUISANCE ABATEMENT

-----
19. AG-GAG LAWS
20. BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

-----