

Comparison of Penalties for Harming Animals

Animal Type	Level of Harm & Penalty						Restitution	Civil Action
	Death	Great Bodily Harm	Substantial Bodily Harm	Demonstrable Bodily Harm	Bodily Harm	Rendering Unable to Perform Duties		
Public safety dogs (§ 609.596)	Felony (stat max of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine)	Gross misdemeanor	Gross misdemeanor	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	Permissive restitution that must be in lieu of a fine. Restitution amount capped at \$5,000. Note: This is applicable only to the felony-level crime (death).	Not addressed
Police horses (§ 609.597)	Felony (stat max of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$4,000 fine)	Felony (stat max of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$4,000 fine)	Not specifically addressed but would be a felony (stat max of a year and a day and/or \$3,000 fine)	Felony (stat max of a year and a day and/or \$3,000 fine)	Not specifically addressed but would be a misdemeanor	Not specifically addressed but would be a misdemeanor	Not addressed	Not addressed
Service animals (Harm caused by humans) (§ 343.21)	Felony (stat max of 4 years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine)	Felony (stat max of 4 years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine)	Felony (stat max of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine)	Not addressed	Not addressed	Gross misdemeanor	Mandatory restitution. No cap. Specifies what the costs and expenses include. Allows court to reduce the amount of restitution or order it paid in installments if the convicted person is indigent.	Provides that the restitution provision does not preclude a person from seeking any available civil remedies.
Service animals (Harm caused by dog) (§ 609.226)	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Not addressed	Mandatory restitution. No cap. Specifies what the costs and expenses include. Allows court to reduce the amount of restitution or order it paid in installments if the convicted person is indigent.	Provides that the restitution provision does not preclude a person from seeking any available civil remedies.
Pet or companion animals (Animal cruelty) (§ 343.21)	Felony (stat max of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine)	Felony (stat max of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine)	Gross misdemeanor. However, if the conviction occurs within 5 years of a previous gross misdemeanor or felony conviction for violating the animal cruelty law, the offense is a felony (stat max of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine).	Not specifically addressed. Presumably would be covered under general animal cruelty (see below).	Not specifically addressed. Presumably would be covered under general animal cruelty (see below).	Not applicable	Not addressed	Not addressed
Harm to pet or companion animals if the act is done to threaten, intimidate, or terrorize another person (Animal cruelty) (§ 343.21)	Felony (stat max of 4 years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine)	Felony (stat max of 4 years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine)	Felony (stat max of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine)	Not specifically addressed. Presumably would be covered under general animal cruelty (see below).	Not specifically addressed. Presumably would be covered under general animal cruelty (see below).	Not applicable	Not addressed	Not addressed
All other animals (Animal cruelty) (§ 343.21)	Misdemeanor. However, if the person had been convicted within the past 5 years of violating the animal cruelty law, the violation is a gross misdemeanor.	Misdemeanor. However, if the person had been convicted within the past 5 years of violating the animal cruelty law, the violation is a gross misdemeanor.	Misdemeanor. However, if the person had been convicted within the past 5 years of violating the animal cruelty law, the violation is a gross misdemeanor.	Misdemeanor. However, if the person had been convicted within the past 5 years of violating the animal cruelty law, the violation is a gross misdemeanor.	Misdemeanor. However, if the person had been convicted within the past 5 years of violating the animal cruelty law, the violation is a gross misdemeanor.	Not applicable	Not addressed	Not addressed