

## **Oklahoma Laws and Statutes**

**Cruelty, neglect, animal abandonment and poisoning are violations of Oklahoma statutes and include felony and misdemeanor level penalties.**

- **Any person who shall willfully or maliciously torture, destroy or kill, or cruelly beat or injure, maim or mutilate any animal in subjugation or captivity, whether wild or tame, and whether belonging to the person or to another, or deprived of necessary food, drink, shelter, or veterinary care to prevent suffering;**
- **or who shall willfully set on foot, instigate, engage in, or in any way further any act of cruelty to any animal, or any act tending to produce such cruelty, shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary not exceeding five (5) years, or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).**

**Any animal so maltreated or abused shall be considered an abused or neglected animal.**

### **Abandonment**

**Any person who deposits any live dog, cat, or other domestic animal along any private or public roadway, or in any other private or public place with the intention of abandoning the domestic animal upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.**

### **Cruelty**

**Under Oklahoma law, veterinarians must report suspected animal cruelty and are granted immunity for doing so**

### **Dog and Cat Sterilization Act**

**Chapter 14A - Section 499.2 - Neutering or Sterilization Required for Release of Dogs or Cats**

**No dog or cat may be released for adoption from a releasing agency unless said animal has been surgically spayed or neutered; or unless the adopting party signs an agreement to have the animal sterilized, and deposits funds with the releasing agency to ensure that the adopted animal will be spayed or neutered.**

**The amount of the deposit required shall be determined by each individual releasing agency. In no event shall the required deposit be less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00).**

#### *Historical Data*

- **Added by Laws 1986, c. 204, § 3, eff. November 1, 1986.**

**OK Title 21-1680.4. Protective custody of abused or neglected animals – Bond hearing.**

A. The purpose of this section is to provide a means by which any abused or neglected animal, as described in Section 1685 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, may:

1. Be removed from its present custody; or
2. Be made the subject of an order issued to the owner by the appropriate court to provide care to the animal by the owner of the animal or by another person at a location approved by the court, with the order setting forth the conditions under which the animal will be housed and cared for, and given protection and a humane disposition.

B. Any peace officer or animal control officer may:

1. Specify terms and conditions by which the owner or keeper may maintain custody of the animal at the expense of the owner to provide care for the animal. The specifications shall be counter-signed by the owner or keeper of the animal. Provided, however, that violation of the custody agreement of the animal may result in the impoundment of the animal; or

2. Obtain a court order to take custody of any animal found neglected or cruelly treated by removing the animal from its present location.

C. 1. After an animal has been seized and prior to any charges being filed, the agency that took custody of the animal shall, within seven (7) days from the date of seizure, petition the district court in the county in which the animal was seized for a bond hearing to determine the cost and care for the animal. The bond hearing shall be held as soon as practicable and not more than ten (10) business days from the date of application for the bond hearing. If the court finds that probable cause exists that an animal has been abused, the court may order immediate forfeiture of the animal to the agency that took custody of the animal. Provided, however, within seventy-two (72) hours of the order of forfeiture, the person owning or having charge or custody of the animal may post a security bond in an amount determined by the court that is sufficient to reimburse all reasonable and anticipated costs incurred by the agency caring for the animal from the date of seizure. Reasonable costs include, but are not limited to, medical care and boarding of the animal.

2. The bond shall be placed with the agency that took custody of the animal. The agency shall provide an accounting of expenses to the court when the animal is no longer in the custody of the agency or upon request by the court. The agency may petition the court for a subsequent bond hearing at any time. The bond hearing shall be held as soon as practicable and not more than ten (10) business days from the date of application for the bond hearing. When all expenses covered by the bond are exhausted and a subsequent bond has not been posted, the animal shall be forfeited to the agency.

3. If the animal is returned to the person who previously owned or had charge or custody of the animal, funds not used for the care of the animal shall be returned.

4. Nothing in this section shall prevent the euthanasia of a seized animal at any time as determined necessary by a licensed veterinarian of the state.

[1] Added by Laws 2006, c. 188, Â§ 2, eff. Nov. 1, 2006.