

SENATE FILE NO. SF0137

Protection of animals.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Burns and Representative(s)
Zwonitzer, Dn.

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to protection of animals; providing for
2 authority to prevent animal cruelty and to take charge of
3 certain animals as specified; making conforming changes;
4 and providing for an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 6-3-203(h) and by creating new
9 subsections (q) and (r) is amended to read:

10

11 **6-3-203. Cruelty to animals; penalties; limitation on**
12 **manner of destruction.**

13

14 (h) If a person convicted of a violation of this
15 section is also the owner of the animal, the court may
16 require the person to forfeit ownership of the animal to

1 the county in which the person is convicted. This
2 subsection shall not affect the interest of any secured
3 party or other person who has not participated in the
4 offense. Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to
5 affect any authority to prevent animal cruelty under
6 subsection (q) or (r) of this section.

7
8 (q) Any peace officer may lawfully interfere to
9 prevent the perpetration of any act of cruelty upon any
10 animal, including a household pet, in his presence. Any
11 person who interferes with, obstructs or resists any peace
12 officer in the discharge of his duty under this subsection
13 shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.00)
14 nor more than one thousand five hundred dollars
15 (\$1,500.00), or imprisoned not more than one (1) year, or
16 both. As used in this subsection "animal" shall not include
17 livestock as defined in W.S. 23-1-102(a)(xvi).

18
19 (r) Any peace officer may take charge of any animal
20 including a household pet found abandoned, neglected or
21 cruelly treated as defined in this section. He shall give
22 notice to the owner, if known, and may care and provide for
23 the animal until the animal is released or destroyed. The
24 expenses of care and provision is a charge against the

1 owner of the animal and collectible from the owner by the
2 local government employing the peace officer taking charge
3 of the animal in a civil action. The local government may
4 detain the animal until the expense for food, shelter and
5 care is paid and shall have a lien upon the animal
6 therefor. This lien shall be filed as provided pursuant to
7 W.S. 29-7-101 through 29-7-106. As used in this subsection
8 "animal" shall not include livestock as defined in W.S.
9 23-1-102(a)(xvi).

10

11 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
12 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
13 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
14 Constitution.

15

16

(END)