

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Animal abuse-predatory animals.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Storer

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to crimes and offenses; providing for a new
2 criminal offense of cruelty to animals; increasing the
3 maximum fine for a misdemeanor first offense cruelty to
4 animals conviction; making a conforming amendment;
5 specifying applicability; and providing for an effective
6 date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 6-3-1002 by creating a new subsection
11 (b), 6-3-1004(a) and 6-3-1008(a)(vii) are amended to read:

12

13 **6-3-1002. Cruelty to animals.**

1

2 (b) Any person who intentionally injures or disables
3 a predatory animal as defined by W.S. 23-1-101(a)(viii) by
4 use of an automotive vehicle, motor-propelled wheeled
5 vehicle, or vehicle designed for travel over snow shall
6 upon inflicting the injury or disability immediately use
7 all reasonable efforts to kill the injured or disabled
8 predatory animal. Any person who fails to immediately use
9 all reasonable efforts to kill an injured or disabled
10 predatory animal as required by this subsection commits
11 cruelty to animals.

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13 *****
14 *****

STAFF COMMENT

17 The newly created subsection (b), above, uses the language
18 for "automotive vehicle, motor-propelled wheeled vehicle,
19 or vehicle designed for travel over snow" from W.S. 23-3-
20 306(a), which is the only place in statute where that
21 language is used. The Working Group may wish to consider
22 whether the terms need defined. "Vehicle" is defined under
23 W.S. 6-1-104(a)(xi) as "any device by which persons or
24 property may be moved, carried or transported over land,
25 water or air". Alternatively "motor vehicle" is defined
26 under W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xv) which includes "off-road
27 recreational vehicle". The definition is as follows:

28

29 (a) Except as otherwise provided, as used in this
30 act:

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32 (xv) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which
33 is self-propelled except vehicles moved solely by human

1 power, electric bicycles or motorized skateboards. The
2 term includes the following vehicles as hereafter defined:

3

4 (K) "Off-road recreational vehicle" means:

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6 (I) A recreational vehicle primarily
7 designed for off-road use that is fifty (50) inches or less
8 in width measured from the outside of one (1) tire rim to
9 the outside of the opposite tire rim and that has an
10 unladen weight of one thousand one hundred (1,100) pounds
11 or less;

12

13 (II) Any motorcycle not required by
14 law to be licensed that has an unladen weight of six
15 hundred (600) pounds or less, is designed to be ridden off-
16 road with the operator astride upon a seat or saddle and
17 travels on two (2) tires; and

18

19 (III) Any multi-wheeled motorized
20 vehicle not required by law to be licensed and is designed
21 for cross-country travel on or over land, sand, snow, ice
22 or other natural terrain and which has an unladen weight of
23 more than nine hundred (900) pounds.

24

25 Additionally, "snowmobile" is defined under W.S. 32-2-
26 401(a)(ii) as "any mechanically driven vehicle of a type
27 which utilizes sled type runners, or skis, or any endless
28 belt tread or combination of these, designed primarily for
29 operation over snow".

30

31 The Working Group may also wish to consider providing
32 definitions for other terms in the newly created subsection
33 (b) on the previous page for clarity in the criminal
34 statute. Notably, the working group may wish to consider if
35 the term "use all reasonable efforts" should be further
36 defined.

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38 *****
39 *****
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41 6-3-1004. Penalties, misdemeanor offenses.

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1 (a) A first offense of cruelty to animals or of a
2 violation of W.S. 6-3-1003 is a misdemeanor punishable by
3 imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, a fine of
4 not more than ~~seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00)~~one
5 thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or both.

6

7 **6-3-1008. Use of agricultural and livestock**
8 **management practices, wildlife management and humane**
9 **destruction not prohibited.**

10

11 (a) Nothing in this article may be construed to
12 prohibit:

13

14 (vii) The hunting, capture, killing or
15 destruction of any predatory animal, pest or other wildlife
16 in any humane manner not otherwise prohibited by law.

17

18 **Section 2.** This act shall apply to any person who
19 intentionally injures or disables a predatory animal by use
20 of an automotive vehicle, motor-propelled wheeled vehicle,
21 or vehicle designed for travel over snow on and after July
22 1, 2025.

23

1 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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3

(END)