

## North Dakota Animal Cruelty Laws

Class A misdemeanor maximum penalty - *360 days imprisonment and/or \$3,000 fine.* N.D. CENT. CODE § 12.1-32-01(5)

Class B misdemeanor – maximum penalty- *30 days imprisonment and/or \$1,500 fine.* N.D. CENT. CODE § 12.1-32-01(6)

Class C felony - *5 years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine.* N.D. CENT. CODE § 12.1-32-01(4)

**Animal neglect** N.D. CENT. CODE § 36-21.2-01 *Class A misdemeanor*

**Animal abuse** N.D. CENT. CODE § 36-21.2-02 *1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Class A misdemeanor  
Subsequent offense: Class C felony*

**Animal cruelty** N.D. CENT. CODE § 36-21.2-03 *Class C felony*

**Pursuant to N.D. CENT. CODE § 36-21.2-01.** *Any person that willfully engages in animal neglect is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.*

*For purposes of this chapter, “neglect” with respect to **horses** means the failure to provide:*

*Food and water that is: Appropriate for the species and the breed; and Sufficient to sustain the animal’s health; Minimal protection from adverse weather conditions, as appropriate for the species and the breed; and Medical attention in the event of an injury or illness, as appropriate for the species and the breed.*

**N.D. CENT. CODE § 36-21.2-02.** *Any person that willfully engages in animal abuse is guilty of a class A misdemeanor for a first or a second offense and a class C felony for a third or subsequent offense occurring within ten years.*

*For purposes of this chapter, “animal abuse” means any act or omission that results in physical injury to an animal or that causes the death of an animal but does not include any act that falls within the definition of animal cruelty, as set forth in section 36-21.2- 03.*

**N.D. CENT. CODE § 36-21.2-03.** *Any person that intentionally engages in animal cruelty is guilty of a class C felony.*

*For purposes of this chapter, “animal cruelty” means:*

*Breaking an animal’s bones;*

*Causing the prolonged impairment of an animal’s health;*

*Mutilating an animal; or*

*Physically torturing an animal.*

**N.D. CENT. CODE § 36-21.2-15. Multiple animals – Enhancement of offense.** *If a violation of this chapter involves multiple animals, whether of the same species or not, the violation is deemed to be a singular offense for purposes of enhancement.*