

State Comparisons: Maximum Prison Sentences for Animal Cruelty  
 Requested by Senate Committee on Judiciary  
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State	Maximum Penalty First Offense	Maximum Penalty Second or Subsequent Offense	Statutory Provisions
<b>Connecticut</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cruelty to animals, misdemeanor (overworks, deprives of sustenance or shelter, beats, abandons, etc.): <b>1 year</b></li> <li>• Cruelty to animals, felony (intentionally maims, tortures, wounds, etc.): <b>5 years</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsequent offense becomes a felony: <b>5 years</b></li> <li>• Felony: <b>10 years</b> (minimum: not less than 1 year)</li> </ul>	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§ 53-247, § 53a-35a
<b>Maine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cruelty to animals (intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly kills without permission, injures, overworks, tortures; deprives of sustenance, medical attention, or shelter; etc.): <b>Less than 1 year</b></li> <li>• Abandonment: <b>5 years</b></li> <li>• Aggravated cruelty to animals (intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes extreme pain, death, or torture): <b>5 years</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two or more prior convictions (under multiple statutory provisions): <b>5 years</b></li> </ul>	<p>Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17, § 1031; <i>see also id.</i> §§ 1032–39 (less than 1 year for first violation of other provisions—i.e., necessary sustenance, necessary medical attention, proper shelter, cruelty to birds, etc.);</p> <p>Me. Rev. Stat. Ann 17-A, § 1252</p>
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cruelty to animals, misdemeanor (deprives of sustenance or shelter, or negligently beats, overworks, abandons, etc.): <b>\$1,200 fine</b></li> <li>• Cruelty to animals, felony (purposely beats, tortures, mutilates, etc.): <b>7 years</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second or subsequent offense becomes a felony: <b>7 years</b></li> </ul>	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 644:8, 625:9, 651:2
<b>New York</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overdrives, tortures, injures, deprives of sustenance; abandons; poisons; etc. (misdemeanors): <b>1 year</b></li> <li>• Aggravated cruelty to animals, felony (intentionally kills or injures companion animal): <b>2 years</b></li> </ul>		N.Y. Agriculture and Markets Law §§ 353, 353-a, 355, 360