

## PIMA County Animal Protection LAWS:

[https://webcms.pima.gov/community/animal\\_care/animal\\_protection\\_services/](https://webcms.pima.gov/community/animal_care/animal_protection_services/)

Unlike dogs, cats are protected by law and are free to roam meaning they might go into other people's gardens or allotments. Otherwise, cats enjoy and deserve the same protection under Arizona's laws that covers dogs -- as well as other domestic animals, including livestock and exotic pets. However, there are very specific laws in regards to what can and cannot be done by those who wish to deter pet cats from those areas.

### Trapping & Dumping Cats (or Any Animal) Is ILLEGAL!!

We regularly receive reports from people concerned that neighbors are trapping cats and dumping them in another area. This is actually considered animal "abandonment" and is ILLEGAL in the state of Arizona. [Arizona Criminal Code § 13-2910]

*Pet cats, and even feral cats, are covered by Arizona Statute ARS 13-2910 A-1, which states that, "A person commits cruelty to animals if the person does any of the following: 1. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly subjects any animal under the person's custody or control to cruel neglect or abandonment. Persons violating this Statute are guilty of animal cruelty. It's illegal to abandon an animal, whether by dumping it in a public place or leaving it anywhere without providing for its needs.*

It is illegal to trap a pet cat, even if it is on your property. Also, if you know it is a pet, warn your neighbor that you plan to trap their cat if they refuse to control it.

Intentionally poisoning a cat is a felony in Arizona. [Arizona Criminal Code § 13-2910]

### What to Do About Animal Cruelty

If you see or suspect that someone is mistreating animals, **contact PIMA ANIMAL CARE PROTECTION 520-724-5900 (option 4)**; agents have the authority to investigate complaints and even seize animals that are being abused. Please note, not all police officers are aware that this is illegal and are not all informed the statute mentioned above so if you call 911 and report someone doing this, and are told that it is ok or that is legal, then you have the right to advocate for the animals and tell the officer that it's ILLEGAL per Arizona Statute ARS 13-2910 A-1. However, **PACC knows it's illegal and you won't have trouble reporting it PACC or the Animal Cruelty Taskforce. (can be anonymous)**

- 911 (if emergency animal situation)
- PIMA Animal Care Center (PACC) 520-724-5900 (4000 N Silverbell Rd, Tucson 85745)
- Animal Cruelty Taskforce: 520-547-0620
- PIMA Sheriff 520-352-4600 (general reporting)
- LOST OR FOUND PETS: <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/one.aspx?objectId=995>

[Arizona Revised Statutes Title 13. Criminal Code § 13-2910. Cruelty to animals;](#)

[13-2910. Cruelty to animals; interference with working or service animal; classification; definitions](#)

A. A person commits cruelty to animals if the person does any of the following:

- 1. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly subjects any animal under the person's custody or control to cruel neglect or abandonment.**
- 2. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly fails to provide medical attention necessary to prevent protracted suffering to any animal under the person's custody or control.**
- 3. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly inflicts unnecessary physical injury to any animal.**
- 4. Recklessly subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment.**
- 5. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly kills any animal under the custody or control of another person without either legal privilege or consent of the owner.**
6. Recklessly interferes with, kills or harms a working or service animal without either legal privilege or consent of the owner.
7. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly leaves an animal unattended and confined in a motor vehicle and physical injury to or death of the animal is likely to result.
- 8. Intentionally or knowingly subjects any animal under the person's custody or control to cruel neglect or abandonment that results in serious physical injury to the animal.**
- 9. Intentionally or knowingly subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment.**
10. Intentionally or knowingly interferes with, kills or harms a working or service animal without either legal privilege or consent of the owner.
11. Intentionally or knowingly allows any dog that is under the person's custody or control to interfere with, kill or cause physical injury to a service animal.
12. Recklessly allows any dog that is under the person's custody or control to interfere with, kill or cause physical injury to a service animal.
13. Intentionally or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over a service animal with the intent to deprive the service animal handler of the service animal.
- 14. Intentionally or knowingly subjects a domestic animal to cruel mistreatment.**

**15. Intentionally or knowingly kills a domestic animal without either legal privilege or consent of the domestic animal's owner or handler.**

16. Intentionally or knowingly harasses a working animal that is in a law enforcement vehicle or trailer without either legal privilege or consent of the owner.

B. It is a defense to subsection A of this section if:

1. Any person exposes poison to be taken by a dog that has killed or wounded livestock or poison to be taken by predatory animals on premises owned, leased or controlled by the person for the purpose of protecting the person or the person's livestock or poultry, the treated property is kept posted by the person who authorized or performed the treatment until the poison has been removed and the poison is removed by the person exposing the poison after the threat to the person or the person's livestock or poultry has ceased to exist. The posting required shall provide adequate warning to persons who enter the property by the point or points of normal entry. The warning notice that is posted shall be readable at a distance of fifty feet, shall contain a poison statement and symbol and shall state the word "danger" or "warning".

2. Any person uses poisons in and immediately around buildings owned, leased or controlled by the person for the purpose of controlling wild and domestic rodents as otherwise allowed by the laws of the state, excluding any fur-bearing animals as defined in section 17-101.

C. This section does not prohibit or restrict:

1. The taking of wildlife or other activities permitted by or pursuant to title 17.

2. Activities permitted by or pursuant to title 3.

3. Activities regulated by the Arizona game and fish department or the Arizona department of agriculture.

D. A peace officer, animal control enforcement agent or animal control enforcement deputy may use reasonable force to open a vehicle to rescue an animal if the animal is left in the vehicle as prescribed in subsection A, paragraph 7 of this section.

E. A person who is convicted of a violation of subsection A, paragraph 6 or 10 of this section is liable as follows:

1. If the working or service animal was killed or disabled, to the owner or agency that owns the working or service animal and that employs the handler or to the owner or handler for the replacement and training costs of the working or service animal and for any veterinary bills.

2. To the owner or agency that owns a working or service animal for the salary of the handler for the period of time that the handler's services are lost to the owner or agency.
3. To the owner for the owner's contractual losses with the agency.

F. An incorporated city or town or a county may adopt an ordinance with misdemeanor provisions at least as stringent as the misdemeanor provisions of this section, except that any ordinance adopted shall not prohibit or restrict any activity involving a dog, whether the dog is restrained or not, if the activity is directly related to the business of shepherding or herding livestock and the activity is necessary for the safety of a human, the dog or livestock or is permitted by or pursuant to title 3.

G. A person who violates subsection A, paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12 or 16 of this section is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor. **A person who violates subsection A, paragraph 8, 9, 10, 11 or 13 of this section is guilty of a class 6 felony.** A person who violates subsection A, paragraph 14 or 15 of this section is guilty of a class 5 felony.

H. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Animal" means a mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian.
2. "Cruel mistreatment" means to torture or otherwise inflict unnecessary serious physical injury on an animal or to kill an animal in a manner that causes protracted suffering to the animal.
3. "Cruel neglect" means to fail to provide an animal with necessary food, water or shelter.
4. **"Domestic animal" means a mammal, not regulated by title 3, that is kept primarily as a pet or companion or that is bred to be a pet or companion.**
5. "Handler" means a law enforcement officer or any other person who has successfully completed a course of training prescribed by the person's agency or the service animal owner and who used a specially trained animal under the direction of the person's agency or the service animal owner.
6. "Harass" means to engage in conduct that a reasonable person would expect to impede or interfere with a working animal's performance of its duties.
7. "Service animal" means an animal that has completed a formal training program, that assists its owner in one or more daily living tasks that are associated with a productive lifestyle and that is trained to not pose a danger to the health and safety of the general public.
8. "Working animal" means a horse or dog that is used by a law enforcement agency, that is specially trained for law enforcement work and that is under the control of a handler.