



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 47 - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

N.C.G.S. § 14-360.

Cruelty to animals; construction of section.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2015-286, s. 4.32(a) — eighteenth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 03:32 UTC	7fcd40d88aaa8010d42c1233 - de58f3938bef7f0483ee5de9 - 65730cbc02e17b43

§ 14-360(a) If any person shall intentionally overdrive, overload, wound, injure, torment, kill, or deprive of necessary sustenance, or cause or procure to be overdriven, overloaded, wounded, injured, tormented, killed, or deprived of necessary sustenance, any animal, every such offender shall for every such offense be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

§ 14-360(a1)
CLASS H FELONY If any person shall maliciously kill, or cause or procure to be killed, any animal by intentional deprivation of necessary sustenance, that person shall be guilty of a Class H felony.

§ 14-360(b)
CLASS H FELONY If any person shall maliciously torture, mutilate, maim, cruelly beat, disfigure, poison, or kill, or cause or procure to be tortured, mutilated, maimed, cruelly beaten, disfigured, poisoned, or killed, any animal, every such offender shall for every such offense be guilty of a Class H felony. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to increase the penalty for cockfighting provided for in G.S. 14-362.

§ 14-360(c) As used in this section, the words "torture", "torment", and "cruelly" include or refer to any act, omission, or neglect causing or permitting unjustifiable pain, suffering, or death. As used in this section, the word "intentionally" refers to an act committed knowingly and without justifiable excuse, while the word "maliciously" means an act committed intentionally and with malice or bad motive. As used in this section, the term "animal" includes every living vertebrate in the classes Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves, and Mammalia except human beings. However, this section shall not apply to the following activities:

- (1) The lawful taking of animals under the jurisdiction and regulation of the Wildlife Resources Commission, except that this section shall apply to those birds other than pigeons exempted by the Wildlife Resources Commission from its definition of "wild birds" pursuant to G.S. 113-129(15a).
- (2) Lawful activities conducted for purposes of biomedical research or training or for purposes of production of livestock, poultry, or aquatic species.
- (2a) Lawful activities conducted for the primary purpose of providing food for human or animal consumption.
- (3) Activities conducted for lawful veterinary purposes.
- (4) The lawful destruction of any animal for the purposes of protecting the public, other animals, property, or the public health.
- (5) The physical alteration of livestock or poultry for the purpose of conforming with breed or show standards.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I

18 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1881	c. 34, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1881	c. 368, ss. 1, 15	AMENDED
03	1881	Code, ss. 2482, 2490	AMENDED
04	1891	c. 65	AMENDED
05	Rev.	s. 3299	RECODIFIED
06	1907	c. 42	AMENDED
07	C.S.	s. 4483	RECODIFIED
08	1969	c. 1224, s. 2	AMENDED
09	1979	c. 641	AMENDED

10	1979	1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 967, s. 1	AMENDED
11	1989	c. 670, s. 1	AMENDED
12	1993	c. 539, s. 239	AMENDED
13	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c)	AMENDED
14	1998	S.L. 1998-212, s. 17.16(c)	AMENDED
15	1999	S.L. 1999-209, s. 8	AMENDED
16	2007	S.L. 2007-211, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
17	2010	S.L. 2010-16, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
18	2015	S.L. 2015-286, s. 4.32(a)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
2 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 14-362	(b)	<i>"penalty for cockfighting provided for in"</i>
G.S. 113-129(15a)	(c)(1)	<i>"definition of "wild birds" pursuant to"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-360 (2015).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-360(a) (2015).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1881, c. 34, s. 1; c. 368, ss. 1, 15; Code, ss. 2482, 2490; 1891, c. 65; Rev., s. 3299; 1907, c. 42; C.S., s. 4483; 1969, c. 1224, s. 2; 1979, c. 641; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 967, s. 1; 1989, c. 670, s. 1; 1993, c. 539, s. 239; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1998-212, s. 17.16(c); 1999-209, s. 8; 2007-211, ss. 1, 2; 2010-16, ss. 1, 2; 2015-286, s. 4.32(a).)

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