

IOWA ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS

Cruelty Provisions—Livestock

717.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Department” means the department of agriculture and land stewardship.
2. “Electronic mail” means any message transmitted through the internet including but not limited to messages transmitted from or to any address affiliated with an internet site.
3. “Law enforcement officer” means a regularly employed member of a police force of a city or county, including a sheriff, who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the criminal laws of this state.
4. “Livestock” means an animal belonging to the bovine, caprine, equine, ovine, or porcine species, ostriches, rheas, emus; farm deer as defined in section 170.1; or poultry.
5. “Livestock care provider” means a person designated by a local authority to provide care to livestock which is rescued by the local authority pursuant to section 717.2A.
6. “Local authority” means a city as defined in section 362.2 or a county as provided in chapter 331.
7. “Maintenance” means to provide on-site or off-site care to neglected livestock.
8. “Sustenance” means food, water, or a nutritional formulation customarily used in the production of livestock.

717.1A Livestock abuse.

A person is guilty of livestock abuse if the person intentionally injures or destroys livestock owned by another person, in any manner, including, but not limited to, intentionally doing any of the following: administering drugs or poisons to the livestock, or disabling the livestock by using a firearm or trap. A person guilty of livestock abuse commits an aggravated misdemeanor. This section shall not apply to any of the following:

1. A person acting with the consent of the person owning the livestock, unless the action constitutes livestock neglect as provided in section 717.2.
2. A person acting to carry out an order issued by a court.
3. A licensed veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine as provided in chapter 169.
4. A person acting in order to carry out another provision of law which allows the conduct.
5. A person reasonably acting to protect the person’s property from damage caused by stray livestock.
6. A person reasonably acting to protect a person from injury or death caused by stray livestock.
7. A research facility, as defined in section 162.2, provided that the research facility performs functions within the scope of accepted practices and disciplines associated with the research facility.

717.2 Livestock neglect.

1. A person who impounds or confines livestock, in any place, and does any of the following commits the offense of livestock neglect:
 - a. Fails to provide livestock with care consistent with customary animal husbandry practices.

b. Deprives livestock of necessary sustenance.

c. Injures or destroys livestock by any means which causes pain or suffering in a manner inconsistent with customary animal husbandry practices.

2. A person who commits the offense of livestock neglect is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. A person who intentionally commits the offense of livestock neglect which results in serious injury to or the death of livestock is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. However, a person shall not be guilty of more than one offense of livestock neglect punishable as a serious misdemeanor, when care or sustenance is not provided to multiple head of livestock during any period of uninterrupted neglect.

3. This section does not apply to a research facility, as defined in section 162.2, provided that the research facility performs functions within the scope of accepted practices and disciplines associated with the research facility.