

House File 2348 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2348
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 557)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to animal torture, and providing penalties.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 717B.3A, subsections 1, 4, and 5, Code
2 2025, are amended to read as follows:

3 1. A person is guilty of animal torture if the person
4 intentionally or knowingly ~~inflicts on an animal severe and~~
5 ~~prolonged or repeated physical pain that causes the animal's~~
6 ~~serious injury or death~~ crushes, burns, drowns, suffocates,
7 impales, or otherwise subjects an animal to serious injury or
8 death or causes, directs, or provides anything of value to
9 another person to do the same.

10 4. A person who commits animal torture is guilty of an
11 ~~aggravated misdemeanor~~ a class "D" felony.

12 5. Notwithstanding subsection 4, a person who commits animal
13 torture is guilty of a class "~~D~~" "C" felony if the person
14 has previously been convicted of committing animal abuse
15 pursuant to section 717B.2, animal neglect punishable as a
16 serious misdemeanor or aggravated misdemeanor pursuant to section
17 717B.3, animal torture pursuant to this section, injury to or
18 interference with a police service dog pursuant to section
19 717B.9, bestiality pursuant to section 717C.1, or an act
20 involving a contest event prohibited in section 717D.2.

21 EXPLANATION

22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill relates to animal torture.

25 The bill provides that a person is guilty of animal torture
26 if the person intentionally or knowingly crushes, burns, drowns,
27 suffocates, impales, or otherwise subjects an animal to serious
28 injury or death or causes, directs, or provides anything of value
29 to another person to do the same. Current law provides that
30 animal torture is an aggravated misdemeanor. The bill increases
31 the penalty to a class "D" felony. A class "D" felony is
32 punishable by confinement for no more than five years and a fine
33 of at least \$1,025 but not more than \$10,245.

34 The bill provides that a person who has previously been
35 convicted of committing animal abuse (Code section 717B.2),

1 animal neglect punishable as a serious misdemeanor or aggravated
2 misdemeanor (Code section 717B.3), animal torture pursuant to the
3 bill, injury to or interference with a police service dog (Code
4 section 717B.9), bestiality (Code section 717C.1), or an act
5 involving a prohibited animal contest (Code section 717D.2) is
6 guilty of a class "C" felony. A class "C" felony is punishable
7 by confinement for no more than 10 years and a fine of at least
8 \$1,370 but not more than \$13,660.

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