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Miss. Code Ann. § 97-41-16 [\(Copy w/ Cite\)](#)

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-41-16

MISSISSIPPI CODE of 1972

*** Current through the 2016 Regular and 1st and 2nd Extraordinary Sessions of the Legislature ***

TITLE 97. CRIMES
CHAPTER 41. CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-41-16 (2016)

§ 97-41-16. Mississippi Dog and Cat Pet Protection Law of 2011; legislative intent; simple cruelty; aggravated cruelty; penalty; restitution; activities no immunity for good faith reporting of suspected cruelty; registration of organizations that have purpose of protection of or prevention of cruelty to dogs

(1) (a) The provisions of this section shall be known and may be cited as the "Mississippi Dog and **Cat** Pet Protection Law of 2011."

(b) The intent of the Legislature in enacting this law is to provide only for the protection of domesticated dogs and **cats**, as these are the animals most often seen by citizens of this state. Animals other than domesticated dogs and **cats** are specifically excluded from the enhanced protection described in this section for dogs and cats, and shall not be construed as applying, to any animal other than a domesticated dog or **cat**.

(2) (a) If a person shall intentionally or with criminal negligence wound, deprive of adequate shelter, food or water, or carry or confine in a cruel manner, any dog or cat, do the same, then he or she shall be guilty of the offense of simple cruelty to a dog or **cat**. A person who is convicted of the offense of simple cruelty to a dog or cat shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$ 1,000.00), or imprisoned not more than six (6) months, or both.

(b) If a person with malice shall intentionally torture, mutilate, maim, burn, starve or disfigure any domesticated dog or **cat**, or cause any person to do the same, then he or she shall be guilty of the offense of aggravated cruelty to a dog or **cat**.

(i) A person who is convicted of a first offense of aggravated cruelty to a dog or **cat** shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$ 2,000.00), or imprisoned for not more than six (6) months, or both.