

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Garrett, Hicks, Nolan, Olson, Schaufler, Tomei, Wand, Whisnant, Barker, Krieger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Aaron Knott, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/3, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to classify felony animal abuse in the first degree as crime category 6 of the sentencing guidelines grid.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of typical animal abuse cases
- The nexus between the abuse of animals and violence against humans
- Exclusions for hunting and fishing

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to classify aggravated animal abuse as crime category 6 of the sentencing guidelines grid.

BACKGROUND: ORS 167.320 defines animal abuse in the first degree as committed if a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes serious injury to an animal or cruelly causes the death of an animal. This crime is a Class A misdemeanor. The crime of animal abuse in the first degree becomes a Class C felony if the person has two or more previous convictions for animal abuse in the first degree or for any degree of assault if constituting domestic violence, or if the person knowingly commits the act of animal abuse in the immediate presence of a minor child.