

HOUSE BILL No. 1165

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 15-16-5-24; IC 34-30-30-3; IC 35-31.5-2; IC 35-43-4-2; IC 35-46-3.

Synopsis: Various animal related matters. Amends the definition of pest. Removes partial liability for damages when a person removes a domestic animal from a motor vehicle. Establishes an enhancement from a Class A misdemeanor to a Level 6 felony for the theft of a domestic animal. Sets forth new definitions and amends various definitions for offenses relating to animals. Increases the penalty for killing a law enforcement animal from a Level 6 felony to a Level 5 felony. Amends the crime of torture or mutilation of a vertebrate animal. Adds enhancements to abandonment or neglect of a vertebrate animal.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

McNamara, Baird, Bartels

January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Courts and Criminal Code.



Introduced

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1165

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 15-16-5-24, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2008,
2 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 24. As used in this chapter, "pest" means:

4 (1) any insect, ~~rodent~~, nematode, fungus, or weed; **or**
5 (2) any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or
6 virus, bacteria, or other microorganism (except viruses, bacteria,
7 or other microorganisms on or in living humans or other living
8 animals) that is declared to be a pest by the administrator of the
9 United States Environmental Protection Agency or by the board;
10 **or**
11 (3) any nuisance rodent subject to commonly accepted
12 abatement methods used by pest control professionals.

13 SECTION 2. IC 34-30-30-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.186-2017,
14 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
15 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) Except as provided in subsection (c), a
16 person who forcibly enters a motor vehicle to remove a domestic
17 animal from the motor vehicle



(+) is liable to the owner or lessee of the motor vehicle for one-half (1/2) of the cost of repairing the damage to the motor vehicle directly caused by the person's forcible entry, unless the owner or lessee of the motor vehicle waives the person's liability under this subdivision; and

(2) is immune from any other criminal or civil liability for other property damage resulting from the person's forcible entry of the motor vehicle

if all the conditions set forth in subsection (b) are satisfied.

(b) For subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2) (a) to apply to a person who forcibly enters a motor vehicle to remove a domestic animal from the motor vehicle, all the following conditions must be satisfied:

(1) A domestic animal must be present in the enclosed space of the motor vehicle, and the person must reasonably believe that the domestic animal is in imminent danger of suffering serious bodily harm if the domestic animal remains in the motor vehicle.

(2) The person must determine that:

(A) the motor vehicle is locked; and

(B) forcible entry of the motor vehicle is necessary to remove the domestic animal from the motor vehicle.

(3) The person must call telephone number 911 or otherwise attempt to contact:

(A) a law enforcement officer;

(B) a firefighter;

(C) an animal control officer; or

(D) another emergency responder.

(D) another emergency responder,
before the person forcibly enters the motor vehicle.

(4) The person must use no more force than is reasonably necessary to enter the motor vehicle and remove the domestic animal from the motor vehicle.

(5) The person must remain with the domestic animal until a law enforcement officer, firefighter, animal control officer, or other emergency responder arrives at the scene.

(c) If any of the following persons, acting in the course and scope of the person's employment, forcibly enters a motor vehicle to remove a domestic animal from the motor vehicle, the person is not liable for the cost of repairing damage to the motor vehicle caused by the person's forcible entry:

(1) A law enforcement officer.

(2) A firefighter.

(3) A government officer or employee whose primary duty is to ensure public safety.



(4) An emergency responder other than those identified in subdivisions (1) through (3).

(5) An animal control officer.

(6) A veterinarian who is licensed or otherwise authorized to practice veterinary medicine in Indiana under IC 25-38.1-3.

(7) A veterinary assistant, as defined in IC 25-38.1-1-14.7.

For the purposes of this subsection, a law enforcement officer may be considered to be acting in the course and scope of the law enforcement officer's employment even if the law enforcement officer is off duty.

SECTION 3. IC 35-31.5-2-51.3, AS ADDED BY P.L.37-2019, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 51.3. "Companion animal", for purposes of IC 35-38-2-2.8 **and IC 35-46-3**, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-38-2-2.8.

SECTION 4. IC 35-31.5-2-103, AS ADDED BY P.L.114-2012, SECTION 67, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 103. "Domestic animal", for purposes of ~~IC 35-46-3-12(d)~~ **IC 35-43-4-2 and IC 35-46-3** has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 35-46-3-12(d)~~, **IC 35-46-3-0.5**.

SECTION 5. IC 35-43-4-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.175-2022, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) A person who knowingly or intentionally exerts unauthorized control over property of another person, with intent to deprive the other person of any part of its value or use, commits theft, a Class A misdemeanor. However, the offense is:

(1) a Level 6 felony if:

(A) the value of the property is at least seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) and less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000);

(B) the property is a:

(i) motor vehicle (as defined in IC 9-13-2-105(a)); or

(ii) component part (as defined in IC 9-13-2-34) of a motor vehicle; or

(iii) domestic animal; or

(C) the person has a prior unrelated conviction for:

(i) theft under this section;

(ii) criminal conversion under section 3 of this chapter;

(iii) robbery under IC 35-42-5-1; or

(iv) burglary under IC 35-43-2-1;

(2) a Level 5 felony if:

(A) the value of the property is at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000);

(B) the property that is the subject of the theft is a valuable



1 metal (as defined in IC 25-37.5-1-1) and:
2 (i) relates to transportation safety;
3 (ii) relates to public safety; or
4 (iii) is taken from a hospital or other health care facility,
5 telecommunications provider, public utility (as defined in
6 IC 32-24-1-5.9(a)), or critical infrastructure facility;
7 and the absence of the property creates a substantial risk of
8 bodily injury to a person; **or**
9 (C) the property is a:
10 (i) motor vehicle (as defined in IC 9-13-2-105(a)); or
11 (ii) component part (as defined in IC 9-13-2-34) of a motor
12 vehicle; and
13 the person has a prior unrelated conviction for theft of a motor
14 vehicle (as defined in IC 9-13-2-105(a)) or theft of a
15 component part (as defined in IC 9-13-2-34); **and or**
16 **(D) the property is a domestic animal and the person has**
17 **a prior unrelated conviction for theft of a domestic animal;**
18 **and**
19 (3) a Level 5 felony if the property is a firearm.
20 (b) For purposes of this section, "the value of property" means:
21 (1) the fair market value of the property at the time and place the
22 offense was committed; or
23 (2) if the fair market value of the property cannot be satisfactorily
24 determined, the cost to replace the property within a reasonable
25 time after the offense was committed.
26 A price tag or price marking on property displayed or offered for sale
27 constitutes *prima facie* evidence of the value of the property.
28 (c) If the offense described in subsection (a) is committed by a
29 public servant who exerted unauthorized control over public funds (as
30 defined by IC 5-22-2-23) from the public servant's employer, the
31 employer may be reimbursed in accordance with IC 2-3.5-4-11,
32 IC 2-3.5-5-9, IC 5-10-5.5-19, IC 5-10.3-8-9, IC 5-10.4-5-14,
33 IC 10-12-2-10, IC 33-38-6-19.5, IC 33-39-7-10.5, IC 36-8-6-14,
34 IC 36-8-7-22, IC 36-8-7.5-19, or IC 36-8-8-17.
35 SECTION 6. IC 35-46-3-0.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.63-2012,
36 SECTION 70, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
37 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.1. The following amendments to this chapter
38 apply as follows:
39 (1) The amendments made to section 12 of this chapter by
40 P.L.7-2007 apply only to:
41 (A) offenses; and
42 (B) acts that would be a crime if committed by an adult;



1 that are committed after June 30, 2007.
2 (2) The amendments made to sections 8 and 12 of this chapter by
3 P.L.171-2007 apply only to crimes committed after June 30, 2007.
4 However, the amendments made to section 12(d) of this chapter
5 by P.L.171-2007 (**currently codified at section 12(f) of this**
6 **chapter**) apply only to:
7 (A) crimes; and
8 (B) delinquent acts that would be crimes if committed by an
9 adult;
10 that are committed after June 30, 2007.
11 SECTION 7. IC 35-46-3-0.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.52-2023,
12 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.5. The following definitions apply throughout
14 this chapter:
15 (1) "Abandon" means to desert an animal or to leave the animal
16 without making provision for adequate long term care of the
17 animal. The term does not include leaving an animal in a place
18 that is temporarily vacated for the protection of human life during
19 a disaster.
20 (2) "Abuse" means to ~~knowingly or intentionally~~ beat, torment,
21 injure, or otherwise harm an animal. The term ~~includes~~ ~~destruction of an animal by any means other than humane~~
22 ~~euthanasia if the person who destroys the animal is:~~
23 (A) a humane society;
24 (B) an animal control agency; or
25 (C) a governmental entity operating an animal shelter or other
26 animal impounding facility.
27 (3) "Companion animal" has the meaning set forth in
28 IC 35-38-2-2.8.
29 (4) "Domestic animal" means an animal that is not wild. The
30 term is limited to:
31 (A) cattle, calves, horses, mules, swine, sheep, goats, dogs,
32 cats, poultry, ostriches, rhea, and emus; and
33 (B) ~~an animal of the bovine, equine, ovine, caprine,~~
34 ~~porcine, canine, feline, camelid, cervidae, or bison species.~~
35 (3) (5) "Humane euthanasia" means the humane destruction of an
36 animal using sodium pentobarbital or a derivative, administered
37 in a manner that causes painless loss of consciousness and death.
38 The term does not include a method:
39 (A) prohibited by section 15 of this chapter; or
40 (B) involving the use of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, or
41 any nonanesthetic inhalant.
42



1 **(4) (6)** "Impound agency" means a state, county, municipal, or
2 township agency with the authority to impound animals for
3 violation of this chapter or IC 15-20-1-4. The term includes the
4 following:

5 (A) A law enforcement agency.
6 (B) An animal control agency.

7 **(5) (7)** "Mutilate" means to wound, injure, maim, or disfigure an
8 animal by damaging the animal's body parts or to render any part
9 of the animal's body useless. The term includes bodily injury
10 involving:

11 (A) serious permanent disfigurement;
12 (B) serious temporary disfigurement;
13 (C) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function
14 of a bodily part or organ; or
15 (D) a fracture.

16 **(6) (8)** "Neglect" means:

17 (A) endangering an animal's health by failing to provide or
18 arrange to provide the animal with **a sufficient quantity and**
19 **quality of food or drink, and unfrozen potable drinking**
20 **water that allows for the normal growth or maintenance of**
21 **an animal's age and species appropriate body weight**, if the
22 animal is dependent upon the person for the provision of food
23 or drink;

24 (B) restraining an animal for more than a brief period in a
25 manner that endangers the animal's life or health by the use of
26 a rope, chain, or tether that:

27 (i) is less than three (3) times the length of the animal;
28 (ii) is too heavy to permit the animal to move freely; or
29 (iii) causes the animal to choke;

30 (C) restraining an animal in a manner that seriously endangers
31 the animal's life or health;

32 (D) failing to:

33 (i) provide reasonable care for; or
34 (ii) seek veterinary care for;

35 an injury or illness to a dog or cat that seriously endangers the
36 life or health of the dog or cat; or

37 (E) **leaving a dog or cat outside and exposed to:**

38 (i) **excessive heat without providing the animal with a means**
39 **of shade from the heat; or**
40 (ii) **excessive cold if the animal is not provided with straw**
41 **or another means of protection from the cold;**
42 **regardless of whether the animal is restrained or kept in a**



kennel: failing to provide an animal with adequate bedding and adequate shelter.

(7) (9) "Reasonable expenses" includes the cost of:

- (A) medical care;
- (B) quarantine; and
- (C) shelter and board.

(8) (10) "Torture" means:

- (A) to inflict extreme physical pain or injury on an animal with the intent of increasing or prolonging the animal's pain;
- (B) to administer poison to a domestic animal (~~as defined in section 12(d) of this chapter~~) or expose a domestic animal to a poisonous substance with the intent that the domestic animal ingest the substance;
- (C) to destroy an animal by electrocution in a manner inconsistent with section 5 of this chapter; **or**
- (D) to intentionally freeze ~~or heat~~ an animal to death. **expose an animal to heat or cold beyond an animal's tolerance based on the animal's:**
 - (i) age;
 - (ii) health;
 - (iii) medical conditions;**or**

SECTION 8. IC 35-46-3-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.158-2013,

SECTION 558, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) A person who:

- (1) has a vertebrate animal in the person's custody; and
- (2) recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally abandons or neglects the animal;

commits cruelty to an animal, a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) However, except for a conviction under section 1 of this chapter, the ~~an~~ offense **under subsection (a)** is a Level 6 felony if the:

(1) the person has a prior unrelated conviction under this chapter;

(2) person commits the offense in the presence of a minor; or

(3) abandonment or neglect results in:

(A) serious permanent disfigurement;

(B) unconsciousness;

(C) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ; or

(D) death;



of the animal; or

(4) person has ten (10) or more vertebrate animals in the person's custody which results in the person:

(A) failing to provide adequate food, potable water, and adequate shelter to at least one (1) vertebrate animal;

(B) keeping at least one (1) vertebrate animal in an overcrowded environment; or

(C) disregarding the conditions under which at least one (1) vertebrate animal is living in and the harmful impact the conditions have on the health and well-being of the vertebrate animals.

(b) It is a defense to a prosecution for abandoning a vertebrate animal under this section that the person who had the animal in the person's custody reasonably believed that the vertebrate animal was capable of surviving on its own.

(c) For purposes of this section, an animal that is feral is not in a person's custody.

SECTION 9. IC 35-46-3-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.168-2014, SECTION 86, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) A person who knowingly or intentionally:

- (1) strikes, torments, injures, or otherwise mistreats a law enforcement animal; or
- (2) interferes with the actions of a law enforcement animal while the animal is engaged in assisting a law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's duties;

performance of the officer's duties.

commits a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) An offense under subsection (a)(1) is a Level 6 felony if the act

lts in:

(1) serious permanent di-

(2) unconsciousness; or
(3) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of

a bodily m-

(4) death;

(c) An offense under subsection (a)(1) is a level 5 felony if the act

results in the death of the law enforcement officer.

(1) engaged in a reasonable act of training, handling, or displaying a dog.

discipline; and
(2) acted as an employee or agent of a law enforcement agency



- (1) may order the person convicted to make restitution to the person or law enforcement agency owning the animal for reimbursement of veterinary bills; and
- (2) shall order the person convicted to make restitution to the person or law enforcement agency owning the animal for reimbursement of the cost of replacing the animal, which may include the cost of training the animal, if the animal is permanently disabled or killed.

SECTION 10. IC 35-46-3-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.141-2019, SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. (a) This section does not apply to a person who euthanizes an injured, a sick, a homeless, or an unwanted domestic animal if:

(1) the person is employed by a humane society, an animal control agency, or a governmental entity operating an animal shelter or other animal impounding facility; and

(2) the person euthanizes the domestic animal in accordance with guidelines adopted by the humane society, animal control agency, or governmental entity operating the animal shelter or other animal impounding facility.

(b) A person who knowingly or intentionally abuses a vertebrate animal commits cruelty to an animal, a Class A misdemeanor. However, the offense is a Level 6 felony if:

(1) the person has a previous, unrelated conviction under this section; or

(2) the person committed the offense with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family or household member;

(3) the offense is committed in the immediate presence of a minor; or

(4) the act results in:

- (A) serious permanent disfigurement;
- (B) unconsciousness;
- (C) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ; or
- (D) the death;

of the animal.

(c) A person who knowingly or intentionally tortures or mutilates a vertebrate animal commits torturing or mutilating a vertebrate animal, a Level 6 felony. **However, the offense is a Level 5 felony if the act results in:**

(1) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the





- 1 a vertebrate animal with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce,
- 2 harass, or terrorize a family or household member commits domestic
- 3 violence animal cruelty, a Level 6 felony.

