



Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

Penalties for animal cruelty

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 2003 substantially increased monetary penalties for acts of cruelty to animals.

The stated objects of the Act are to prevent cruelty to animals, promote the welfare of animals by requiring a person in charge of an animal to provide care for the animal, treat the animal in a humane manner and ensure the welfare of the animal.

Offences under the Act are enforced primarily by Officers of the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League.

The penalties for aggravated cruelty, coursing (one animal, like a greyhound, chasing down another) and baiting (poisoning) of domestic animals can be up to \$11,000, or two years imprisonment, or both for an individual.

For failure to provide food, drink or shelter and abandoning animals, the penalty can be up to \$5,500, or six months imprisonment, or both for an individual.

The most serious offences under the Act are:

- Acts of aggravated cruelty by which an animal that has been cruelly treated is killed, deformed or seriously disabled, or is left in such a condition that it would be cruel to keep it alive.
- Administration of a poison or other bait to a domestic animal, and possession of a poison with the intention of using it to injure or kill a domestic animal.
- Involvement of a person in coursing or any activity where an animal is chased or confined by a dog.



This document contains important information. If you do not understand it, contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450.



Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

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Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am-12:30pm and 2pm-4:30pm
Saturday 9:30am-11:30am
Sunday 7am-9am
Public Holidays 7am-9am

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