



Table of penalties for animal cruelty in other countries

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Examples of countries and their maximum sentences for animal cruelty

Country	Maximum sentence	Comments
Australia	Up to 5 years	Legislation is different in each state. NSW and WA both carry up to 5 years imprisonment.
Austria	1 year	Animal protection Act 2004 Federal Act on the Protection of Animals. Currently reviewing penal code, looking for a 2 year sentence
Belgium	6 months	Belgian Ministry of Health
Bulgaria	3 years	Art.325b of Bulgaria's Penal Code
Canada	5 years	Criminal Code of Canada, 445 + 445.1
Croatia	6 months	Animal Protection Act 1999
Cyprus	1 year	Animal Welfare Act
Czech Republic	3 years	Act No 246/1992 Coll., on the Protection of Animals Against Cruelty 1992
Denmark	2 years	Act on the Protection of Animals 1991
Estonia	1 year	Article 264 of Penal Code
Finland	4 years	Penal Code of Finland 17:14A1
France	2 years	Penal Code Art 521-1 & 521-2 1992
Germany	3 years	Animal Protection Act (Last revised in 2010)
Greece	2 years	Law is the 4039/2012
Hungary	3 years	Act XXVIII of 1998 on the Protection and Humane Treatment of Animals
India	5 years	Under section 428 + 429 of the Indian Penal Code
Ireland	5 years	Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013
Italy	3 years ¹	Italian Penal code 'offences against the feelings of animals' 2004
Latvia	5 years	Range of legislation
Lithuania	1 year	New Animal Welfare Legislation 2012
Malta	1 year	Animal Welfare Act 2002

¹ For animal fighting offences

Netherlands	3 years	Animal Health and Welfare Act 1992
New Zealand	5 years	Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2010
Northern Ireland	5 years ²	Welfare of Animals Act 2011
Poland	3 years	Animal Protection Act 1998
Portugal	1 year	Thirty-third amendment to the Penal Code, approved by Decree-Law No. 400/82 of and the second amendment to Law No. 92/95 2014
Romania	3 years	Law on the Protection of Animals 2004
Slovenia	2 years	Animal Protection Act
Spain	18 months	Animal Protection Law 2007 & newly updated criminal code
Sweden	2 years	'Cruelty to animals' under the Criminal Statute
UK	6 Months	Animal Welfare Act 2006

²For indictable offences

Last updated 04.02.20	C. McParland, R Williams, M. Flower, D. Bowles
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