

**21-6414. Unlawful conduct of dog fighting; unlawful attendance of dog fighting; unlawful possession of dog fighting paraphernalia.**

(a) Unlawful conduct of dog fighting is:

- (1) Causing, for amusement or gain, any dog to fight with or injure another dog, with no requirement of culpable mental state;
- (2) knowingly permitting such fighting or injuring on premises under one's ownership, charge or control; or
- (3) training, owning, keeping, transporting or selling any dog with the intent of having it fight with or injure another dog.

(b) Unlawful possession of dog fighting paraphernalia is possession, with the intent to use in the unlawful conduct of dog fighting, any breaking stick, treadmill, wheel, hot walker, cat mill, cat walker, jenni, or other paraphernalia.

(c) Unlawful attendance of dog fighting is, entering or remaining on the premises where the unlawful conduct of dog fighting is occurring, whether the person knows or has reason to know that dog fighting is occurring on the premises.

(d)(1) Unlawful conduct of dog fighting is a severity level 10, nonperson felony.

(2) Unlawful possession of dog fighting paraphernalia is a class A nonperson misdemeanor.

(3) Unlawful attendance of dog fighting is a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

(e) When a person is arrested under this section, a law enforcement agency may take into custody any dog on the premises where the dog fight is alleged to have occurred and any dog owned or kept on the premises of any person arrested for unlawful conduct of dog fighting, unlawful attendance of dog fighting, or unlawful possession of dog fighting paraphernalia.

(f) When a law enforcement agency takes custody of a dog under this section, such agency may place the dog in the care of a duly incorporated humane society or licensed veterinarian for boarding, treatment or other care. If it appears to a licensed veterinarian that the dog is diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose, such dog may be humanely killed. The dog may be sedated, isolated or restrained if such officer, agent or veterinarian determines it to be in the best interest of the dog, other animals at the animal shelter or personnel of the animal shelter. If the dog is placed in the care of an animal shelter, the board of county commissioners in the county where the animal was taken into custody shall establish and approve procedures whereby the animal shelter may petition the district court to be allowed to place the dog for adoption or euthanize the dog at any time after 21 days after the dog is taken into custody, unless the owner or custodian of the dog files a renewable cash or performance bond with the county clerk of the county where the dog is being held, in an amount equal to not less than the cost of care and treatment of the dog for 30 days. Upon receiving such petition, the court shall determine whether the dog may be placed for adoption or euthanized. The board of county commissioners in the county where the animal was taken into custody shall review the cost of care and treatment being charged by the animal shelter maintaining the animal. Except as provided in subsection (g), if it appears to the licensed veterinarian by physical examination that the dog has not been trained for aggressive conduct or is a type of dog that is not commonly bred or trained for aggressive conduct, the district or county attorney shall order that the dog be returned to its owner when the dog is not needed as evidence in a case filed under this section or K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 21-6412, and amendments thereto. The owner or keeper of a dog placed for adoption or humanely killed under this subsection shall not be entitled to damages unless the owner or keeper proves that such placement or killing was unwarranted.

(g) If a person is convicted of unlawful conduct of dog fighting, unlawful attendance of dog fighting or unlawful possession of dog fighting paraphernalia, a dog taken into custody pursuant to subsection (e) shall not be returned to such person and the court shall order the owner or keeper to pay to the animal shelter all expenses incurred for the care, treatment and boarding of such dog, including any damages caused by such dog, prior to conviction of the owner or keeper. Disposition of such dog shall be in accordance with K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 21-6412, and amendments thereto. If no such conviction results, the dog shall be returned to the owner or keeper and the court shall order the county where the dog was taken into custody to pay to the animal shelter all expenses incurred by the shelter for the care, treatment and boarding of such dog, including any damages caused by such dog, prior to its return.

(h) A person who violates the provisions of this section may also be prosecuted for, convicted of, and punished for cruelty to animals.

**History:** L. 2010, ch. 136, § 225; L. 2011, ch. 30, § 59; July 1.