Iowa

Overall Ranking: Middle Tier

Iowa Research Facility Protection Law

**IOWA CODE ANN. 717A.2 (2010). Animal facilities--civil action--criminal penalties.**

1. A person shall not, without the consent of the owner, do any of the following:

   a. Willfully destroy property of an animal facility, or kill or injure an animal maintained at an animal facility, including by an act of violence or the transmission of a disease including but not limited to any disease designated by the department of agriculture and land stewardship pursuant to section 163.2.

   b. Exercise control over an animal facility including property of the animal facility, or an animal maintained at an animal facility, with intent to deprive the animal facility of an animal or property.

   c. Enter onto or into an animal facility, or remain on or in an animal facility, if the person has notice that the facility is not open to the public, if the person has an intent to do one of the following:

      (1) Disrupt operations conducted at the animal facility, if the operations directly relate to agricultural production, animal maintenance, educational or scientific purposes, or veterinary care.

      (2) Kill or injure an animal maintained at the animal facility.

A person has notice that an animal facility is not open to the public if the person is provided notice before
4. This section does not prohibit any conduct of a person holding a legal interest in an animal or property which is superior to the interest held by a person suffering from damages resulting from the conduct.

b. This section does not apply to a governmental agency that is taking lawful action against an animal or animal facility.

c. This section does not apply to a licensed veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine as provided in chapter 169 and according to customary standards of care.

Iowa Animal Cruelty Law


A person is guilty of animal abuse if the person intentionally injures, maims, disfigures, or destroys an animal owned by another person, in any manner, including intentionally poisoning the animal. A person guilty of animal abuse is
guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. This section shall not apply to any of the following:

...  

3. A licensed veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine as provided in chapter 169.

...  

11. A research facility, as defined in section 162.2, provided that the research facility performs functions within the scope of accepted practices and disciplines associated with the research facility.


1. A person who impounds or confines, in any place, an animal is guilty of animal neglect, if the person does any of the following: fails to supply the animal during confinement with a sufficient quantity of food or water; fails to provide a confined dog or cat with adequate shelter; or tortures, deprives of necessary sustenance, mutilates, beats, or kills an animal by any means which causes unjustified pain, distress, or suffering.

2. This section does not apply to a research facility, as defined in section 162.2, provided that the research facility performs functions within the scope of accepted practices and disciplines associated with the research facility.


1. A person is guilty of animal torture, regardless of whether the person is the owner of the animal, if the person inflicts upon the animal severe physical pain with a depraved or sadistic intent to cause prolonged suffering or death.

2. This section shall not apply to any of the following:

...  

b. A licensed veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine as provided in chapter 169.

...  

k. A research facility, as defined in section 162.2, provided that the research facility performs functions within the scope of accepted practices and disciplines associated with the research facility.

Iowa Public Records Law

1. Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record. Unless otherwise provided for by law, the right to examine a public record shall include the right to examine a public record without charge while the public record is in the physical possession of the custodian of the public record. The right to copy a public record shall include the right to make photographs or photographic copies while the public record is in the possession of the custodian of the public record. All rights under this section are in addition to the right to obtain a certified copy of a public record under section 622.46.

**IOWA CODE ANN. § 22.7 (2010). Confidential records.**

The following public records shall be kept confidential, unless otherwise ordered by a court, by the lawful custodian of the records, or by another person duly authorized to release such information:

...

2. Hospital records, medical records, and professional counselor records of the condition, diagnosis, care, or treatment of a patient or former patient or a counselee or former counselee, including outpatient. However, confidential communications between a crime victim and the victim’s counselor are not subject to disclosure except as provided in section 915.20A. However, the Iowa department of public health shall adopt rules which provide for the sharing of information among agencies and providers concerning the maternal and child health program including but not limited to the statewide child immunization information system, while maintaining an individual's confidentiality.

3. Trade secrets which are recognized and protected as such by law.

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**Iowa Harassment Law**

**IOWA CODE ANN. § 708.7 (2010). Harassment.**

1. a. A person commits harassment when, with intent to intimidate, annoy, or alarm another person, the person does any of the following:

   (1) Communicates with another by telephone, telegraph, writing, or via electronic communication without legitimate purpose and in a manner likely to cause the other person annoyance or harm.

   (2) Places a simulated explosive or simulated incendiary device in or near a building, vehicle, airplane, railroad engine or railroad car, or boat occupied by another person.

   (3) Orders merchandise or services in the name of another, or to be delivered to another, without the other
person's knowledge or consent.

(4) Reports or causes to be reported false information to a law enforcement authority implicating another in some criminal activity, knowing that the information is false, or reports the alleged occurrence of a criminal act, knowing the act did not occur.

b. A person commits harassment when the person, purposefully and without legitimate purpose, has personal contact with another person, with the intent to threaten, intimidate, or alarm that other person. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, “personal contact” means an encounter in which two or more people are in visual or physical proximity to each other. “Personal contact” does not require a physical touching or oral communication, although it may include these types of contacts.

2. a. A person commits harassment in the first degree when the person commits harassment involving a threat to commit a forcible felony, or commits harassment and has previously been convicted of harassment three or more times under this section or any similar statute during the preceding ten years.

b. Harassment in the first degree is an aggravated misdemeanor.

3. a. A person commits harassment in the second degree when the person commits harassment involving a threat to commit bodily injury, or commits harassment and has previously been convicted of harassment two times under this section or any similar statute during the preceding ten years.

b. Harassment in the second degree is a serious misdemeanor.

4. a. Any other act of harassment is harassment in the third degree.

b. Harassment in the third degree is a simple misdemeanor.

Notice: These statutes are provided only for reference purposes and are current through the 2010 legislative session. Every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy, however they will not contain information that has been inserted after their preparation. The National Association for Biomedical Research makes no warranty, express or implied, of the accuracy of these statutes. To be certain of the current version of the statutes and regulations, please refer to the official printed version of the statutes and regulations.