



Compendium of U.S. Animal Protection Laws

Northern Mariana Islands



SUBSTANTIVE PROHIBITIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Definition of “animal”
2. General Cruelty
3. Animal Fighting
4. Sexual Assault
5. Cruelty to Working Animals
6. Laws Specific to Farmed Animals
7. Cruel Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing

REPORTING LAWS

8. Cross Reporting
9. Veterinary Reporting
10. “Ag-Gag” Laws

CIVIL AND CIVILIAN INTERVENTION

11. Emergency Rescue and Relief
12. Civil Enforcement
13. Domestic Violence and Protection Orders

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERVENTION

14. Maximum Penalties and Statute of Limitations
15. Law Enforcement Policies
16. Seizure
17. Courtroom Animal Advocate Program
18. Restitution
19. Forfeiture and Possession Bans
20. Rehabilitative Sentencing

This chapter contains Northern Mariana Islands’ general animal protection and related statutes with an effective date on or before September 1, 2023. It begins with a detailed overview of the provisions contained in these laws, followed by the full text of the statutes themselves. The various provisions are organized into categories with the relevant part of each statute italicized.

Northern Mariana Islands may employ similar provisions within other non-animal-specific criminal and civil statutes, may have other more specific statutes in addition to those included, and may have a variety of animal-related regulations in effect. Because the law is continually evolving, always review an official source for the most current language of any statute.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Northern Mariana Islands Laws

SUBSTANTIVE PROHIBITIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Definition of "Animal"	<p>"Animal" means a vertebrate living creature, including a non-human mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian. The term "animal" does not include livestock, game fowl/roosters used in legal exhibition (as defined, authorized, and licensed by each municipality) or in bona fide experimentation for scientific research.</p> <p>6 CMC § 3191</p>
2. General Cruelty	<p>Definitions 6 CMC § 3191</p> <p>First degree cruelty (death, torture, or extreme malice) 6 CMC § 3192 <i>Violation: Misdemeanor, \$500-\$1,000 fine and/or 500 hours community service</i></p> <p>Second degree cruelty (cruelly mistreats, abandons, or neglects) 6 CMC § 3193 <i>Violation: Misdemeanor, up to \$500 fine and/or 250 hours community service</i> <i>Second or subsequent violations: charged as first-degree cruelty</i></p> <p>Exemptions: Veterinary practice, accepted husbandry, slaughter, lawful hunting, defense, research, pest control 6 CMC § 3197</p>
3. Animal Fighting	<p>Definitions 6 CMC § 3191</p> <p>Dogfighting 6 CMC § 3192 <i>Violation: Misdemeanor, \$500-\$1,000 fine and/or 500 hours community service</i></p>
4. Sexual Assault	[None]
5. Cruelty to Working Animals	[None]
6. Laws Specific to Farmed Animals	[None]
7. Cruel Hunting,	Cyanide fishing definitions

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

<p>Trapping, and Fishing</p>	<p>2 CMC § 5621</p> <p>Cyanide fishing prohibited 2 CMC § 5622 <i>3 years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine</i></p> <p>Non-traditional fishing methods prohibited 2 CMC § 5631 <i>First violation \$200 fine</i> <i>Second violation \$400 fine</i> <i>Third violation \$1,000 fine</i> <i>Subsequent violations: \$1,000 and 10 days imprisonment</i></p> <p>Exceptions with permit 2 CMC § 5632</p> <p>Unlawful to take rays 2 CMC § 5641 <i>First offense: 6 months imprisonment and/or \$1,000 fine</i> <i>Subsequent offenses: 1 year imprisonment and/or \$3,000 fine</i></p>
REPORTING LAWS	
<p>8. Cross Reporting</p>	<p>[None]</p>
<p>9. Veterinary Reporting</p>	<p>[None]</p>
<p>10. “Ag-Gag” Laws</p>	<p>[None]</p>
CIVIL AND CIVILIAN INTERVENTION	
<p>11. Emergency Rescue and Relief</p>	<p>[None]</p>
<p>12. Civil Enforcement</p>	<p>[None]</p>
<p>13. Domestic Violence and Protection Orders</p>	<p>[None]</p>
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERVENTION	

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

<p>14. Maximum Penalties and Statute of Limitations</p>	<p>Note: All penalties are provided in the substantive statutes, located in the General Cruelty and Animal Fighting sections of this document.</p> <p>Fines and fees resulting from violations shall be paid into an Animal Protection and Control Revolving Fund 6 CMC § 3198</p>
<p>15. Law Enforcement Policies</p>	<p>Animal control may capture any animals who are abandoned, unattended, emaciated or in severe bad health, and may adopt out or humanely euthanize those animals. 6 CMC § 3196</p>
<p>16. Seizure</p>	<p>Seizure provisions, with and without a warrant 6 CMC § 3195(a)</p> <p>Notice requirements 6 CMC § 3195(b)</p> <p>Placement with caregiving agency 6 CMC § 3195(c)</p>
<p>17. Courtroom Animal Advocate Program</p>	<p>[None]</p>
<p>18. Restitution</p>	<p>After conviction, defendant is liable for all costs of care from seizure to disposition 6 CMC § 3195(f)</p>
<p>19. Forfeiture and Possession Bans</p>	<p>Permissive post-conviction possession ban, time length at court's discretion 6 CMC § 3194</p> <p>If the owner fails to request and attend a post-seizure hearing within 10 days the animal is forfeited 6 CMC § 3195(d)</p>
<p>20. Rehabilitative Sentencing</p>	<p>Permissive post-conviction psychological counseling or animal cruelty prevention program 6 CMC § 3194</p>

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

1. DEFINITION OF “ANIMAL”

6 CMC § 3191. Definitions.

In this article, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) *“Animal” means a vertebrate living creature, including a non-human mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian. The term “animal” does not include livestock, game fowl/roosters used in legal exhibition (as defined, authorized, and licensed by each municipality) or in bona fide experimentation for scientific research.*
- (b) *“Cruel mistreatment” means to knowingly torture or otherwise inflict unnecessary physical injury upon an animal or to kill an animal in a manner that causes suffering to the animal. Cruel mistreatment includes but is not limited to torturing, mutilating, maiming, stabbing, burning, drowning, beating, suffocating, tormenting, crushing, or otherwise harming or inflicting physical injury upon an animal.*
- (c) *“Cruel neglect” or “cruelly neglect” means to knowingly, intentionally or recklessly fail to provide an animal with: necessary food, water, or shelter sufficient to maintain the animal’s normal health; protection from adverse weather conditions. “Cruelly neglect” includes but is not limited to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly failing to provide an animal, within the owner’s care and control, with reasonable care, including tethering an animal on a leash for prolonged periods without adequate food, water, or shelter, or during severe weather conditions.*
- (d) *“Dog fighting” means a fight, arranged by any person, between two (2) or more dogs the purpose or probable result of which fight is the infliction of injury by one (1) dog upon another.*
- (e) *“Officer” means a member of the Department of Public Safety, an animal control officer at the Office of the Mayor or any person authorized by law by the Department of Public Safety.*
- (f) *“Livestock animal” means:*
 - (1) *cattle, sheep, swine, goats, ratites, or poultry commonly raised for human consumption;*
 - (2) *a horse, pony, mule, donkey, or hinny;*
 - (3) *native or nonnative hoof stock raised under agriculture practices; or*
 - (4) *native or nonnative fowl commonly raised under agricultural practices.*
- (g) *“Reasonable Care” means:*
 - (1) *housing that is regularly cleaned and kept free of waste, debris or excrement; provided that if housing is not available, there is shelter such as a garage, pavilion or open-air structure with a roof that is accessible to the animal;*
 - (2) *if confined in an enclosure, an enclosure large enough to allow the animal to stand up fully, turn around and fully extend his limbs without touching any walls of the enclosure or other animals kept therein;*
 - (3) *nutritious food at least once daily, sufficient to maintain the animal’s normal health;*
 - (4) *continuous access to clean, potable water that is free of debris, waste, or excrement;*
 - (5) *protection from adverse weather conditions, including continuous access to shelter from sun and rain.*
- (h) *“Serious bodily injury” means injury which involves substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.*

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

2. GENERAL CRUELTY

6 CMC § 3191. Definitions.

In this article, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) “Animal” means a vertebrate living creature, including a non-human mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian. The term “animal” does not include livestock, game fowl/roosters used in legal exhibition (as defined, authorized, and licensed by each municipality) or in bona fide experimentation for scientific research.
- (b) “Cruel mistreatment” means to knowingly torture or otherwise inflict unnecessary physical injury upon an animal or to kill an animal in a manner that causes suffering to the animal. Cruel mistreatment includes but is not limited to torturing, mutilating, maiming, stabbing, burning, drowning, beating, suffocating, tormenting, crushing, or otherwise harming or inflicting physical injury upon an animal.
- (c) “Cruel neglect” or “cruelly neglect” means to knowingly, intentionally or recklessly fail to provide an animal with: necessary food, water, or shelter sufficient to maintain the animal’s normal health; protection from adverse weather conditions. “Cruelly neglect” includes but is not limited to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly failing to provide an animal, within the owner’s care and control, with reasonable care, including tethering an animal on a leash for prolonged periods without adequate food, water, or shelter, or during severe weather conditions.
- (d) “Dog fighting” means a fight, arranged by any person, between two (2) or more dogs the purpose or probable result of which fight is the infliction of injury by one (1) dog upon another.
- (e) “Officer” means a member of the Department of Public Safety, an animal control officer at the Office of the Mayor or any person authorized by law by the Department of Public Safety.
- (f) “Livestock animal” means:
 - (1) cattle, sheep, swine, goats, ratites, or poultry commonly raised for human consumption;
 - (2) a horse, pony, mule, donkey, or hinny;
 - (3) native or nonnative hoof stock raised under agriculture practices; or
 - (4) native or nonnative fowl commonly raised under agricultural practices.
- (g) “Reasonable Care” means:
 - (1) housing that is regularly cleaned and kept free of waste, debris or excrement; provided that if housing is not available, there is shelter such as a garage, pavilion or open-air structure with a roof that is accessible to the animal;
 - (2) if confined in an enclosure, an enclosure large enough to allow the animal to stand up fully, turn around and fully extend his limbs without touching any walls of the enclosure or other animals kept therein;
 - (3) nutritious food at least once daily, sufficient to maintain the animal’s normal health;
 - (4) continuous access to clean, potable water that is free of debris, waste, or excrement;
 - (5) protection from adverse weather conditions, including continuous access to shelter from sun and rain.
- (h) “Serious bodily injury” means injury which involves substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

6 CMC § 3192. Cruelty to Animals; First Degree.

- (a) A person commits the crime of animal cruelty in the first degree if the person:
- (1) causes serious physical injury to the animal(s), cruelty causes the death of the animal(s) or tortures the animal(s);
 - (2) the violation involves extreme malice;
 - (3) the person has a prior conviction for cruelty to animals in the first or second degree; or
 - (4) the person engages or promotes the activity of dog fighting.
- (b) A person convicted under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of at least \$500 but not more than \$1,000 or perform 500 community work service hours, or both.
- (c) For purposes of this section, when more than one animal is involved in a violation, each act may comprise a separate offense.

6 CMC § 3193. Cruelty to Animals; Second Degree.

- (a) A person commits the crime of animal cruelty in the second degree if the person:
- (1) cruelly mistreats any animal, whether belonging to that person or another;
 - (2) knowingly or intentionally abandons or deserts an animal being kept by or under the control of said person; or
 - (3) cruelly neglects any animal being kept by or under the control of said person.
- (b) A person convicted under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or perform 250 community work service hours, or both.
- (c) For purposes of this section, when more than one animal is involved in a violation, each act may comprise a separate offense.

6 CMC § 3197. Animal Cruelty; Exemptions.

The following conduct is exempt from prosecution under this article:

- (a) The conduct was an accepted veterinary practice performed by a veterinarian licensed to practice in the Commonwealth in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association standards;
- (b) The conduct was consistent with traditional customs or cultural practices or an accepted farming or husbandry practice, including slaughter for personal consumption and cockfighting;
- (c) The conduct was a lawful hunting, fishing or trapping practice;
- (d) The conduct was in defense of a person or person's property from the reasonable threat of an attack by an animal;
- (e) The conduct was lawful research or teaching; or
- (f) The conduct was an accepted method of control of rodents, pests or snakes by trapping or killing.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

3. ANIMAL FIGHTING

6 CMC § 3191. Definitions.

In this article, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) “Animal” means a vertebrate living creature, including a non-human mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian. The term “animal” does not include livestock, game fowl/roosters used in legal exhibition (as defined, authorized, and licensed by each municipality) or in bona fide experimentation for scientific research.
- (b) “Cruel mistreatment” means to knowingly torture or otherwise inflict unnecessary physical injury upon an animal or to kill an animal in a manner that causes suffering to the animal. Cruel mistreatment includes but is not limited to torturing, mutilating, maiming, stabbing, burning, drowning, beating, suffocating, tormenting, crushing, or otherwise harming or inflicting physical injury upon an animal.
- (c) “Cruel neglect” or “cruelly neglect” means to knowingly, intentionally or recklessly fail to provide an animal with: necessary food, water, or shelter sufficient to maintain the animal’s normal health; protection from adverse weather conditions. “Cruelly neglect” includes but is not limited to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly failing to provide an animal, within the owner’s care and control, with reasonable care, including tethering an animal on a leash for prolonged periods without adequate food, water, or shelter, or during severe weather conditions.
- (d) *“Dog fighting” means a fight, arranged by any person, between two (2) or more dogs the purpose or probable result of which fight is the infliction of injury by one (1) dog upon another.*
- (e) “Officer” means a member of the Department of Public Safety, an animal control officer at the Office of the Mayor or any person authorized by law by the Department of Public Safety.
- (f) “Livestock animal” means:
 - (1) cattle, sheep, swine, goats, ratites, or poultry commonly raised for human consumption;
 - (2) a horse, pony, mule, donkey, or hinny;
 - (3) native or nonnative hoof stock raised under agriculture practices; or
 - (4) native or nonnative fowl commonly raised under agricultural practices.
- (g) “Reasonable Care” means:
 - (1) housing that is regularly cleaned and kept free of waste, debris or excrement; provided that if housing is not available, there is shelter such as a garage, pavilion or open-air structure with a roof that is accessible to the animal;
 - (2) if confined in an enclosure, an enclosure large enough to allow the animal to stand up fully, turn around and fully extend his limbs without touching any walls of the enclosure or other animals kept therein;
 - (3) nutritious food at least once daily, sufficient to maintain the animal’s normal health;
 - (4) continuous access to clean, potable water that is free of debris, waste, or excrement;
 - (5) protection from adverse weather conditions, including continuous access to shelter from sun and rain.
- (h) “Serious bodily injury” means injury which involves substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

6 CMC § 3192. Cruelty to Animals; First Degree.

- (a) *A person commits the crime of animal cruelty in the first degree if the person:*
- (1) causes serious physical injury to the animal(s), cruelty causes the death of the animal(s) or tortures the animal(s);
 - (2) the violation involves extreme malice;
 - (3) the person has a prior conviction for cruelty to animals in the first or second degree; or
 - (4) *the person engages or promotes the activity of dog fighting.*
- (b) A person convicted under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of at least \$500 but not more than \$1,000 or perform 500 community work service hours, or both.
- (c) For purposes of this section, when more than one animal is involved in a violation, each act may comprise a separate offense.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

4. SEXUAL ASSAULT

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

5. CRUELTY TO WORKING ANIMALS

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

6. LAWS SPECIFIC TO FARMED ANIMALS

Editor's Note: *This section does **not** contain all state or territorial laws regarding farmed animals. This section contains only criminal statutes with the primary purpose of preventing individual farmed animals from suffering unnecessary pain or suffering.*

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

7. CRUEL HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING

Editor's Note: *This section does **not** contain all state or territorial laws regarding hunting, trapping, and fishing. This section contains only criminal statutes with the primary purpose of preventing individual wild animals from suffering unnecessary pain or suffering.*

2 CMC § 5621. Definition.

- (a) "Cyanide" means compounds that include cyanide salts, such as sodium cyanide or potassium cyanide, which can be solids or in solutions, and the gas hydrogen cyanide (HCN), also known as hydrocyanic acid gas.
- (b) "Cyanide fishing" means a fishing method by use of cyanide compounds.

2 CMC § 5622. Prohibited Acts.

It is hereby prohibited in the waters of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the fishing method known as, cyanide fishing. The Division of Fish and Wildlife shall promulgate rules and regulations to enforce the intent of this article

2 CMC § 5623. Penalty.

Any individual in violation of this article shall be fined not less than \$10,000.00, imprisoned for not more than three years, or both.

2 CMC § 5631. Non-traditional Fishing Methods Prohibited.

- (a) *Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), it shall be unlawful for any commercial and non-commercial fishermen to use explosives, poisons, electric shocking devices, scuba tank or hookah when fishing for reef fish and harvesting other marine life within waters of the Commonwealth, provided whoever, that the use of throw nets (talaya), or the use of the following types of nets provided the net mesh size are no smaller than two inches, drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) shall be legal in the waters surrounding the First Senatorial District when used for noncommercial purposes only. Non-commercial purpose means fish caught for personal or immediate family use. Any sales or distribution beyond ones immediate family shall be a violation of this law.*
- (b) *The use of the following types of nets, drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) shall be legal in the waters surrounding the First Senatorial District when used for noncommercial purposes to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during its*

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

seasonal run provided the net mesh size is not less than one-half inch. The fee for the mesh net under this subsection shall be \$25.00 for every 50-foot net in length for each Atulai seasonal run.

- (c) The use of the following types of nets drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) shall be legal in the waters surrounding the First Senatorial District when used for noncommercial purposes to catch Juvenile Goat Fish (Tiao) during its seasonal run provided the net mesh size is not less than one-half inch. The fee for the mesh net under this subsection shall be \$25.00 for every 50-foot net in length for each Tiao seasonal run.
- (d) Except as provided in subsection (e), the use of the following types of nets, provided the net mesh size are no smaller than three inches, drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) shall be legal in the waters surrounding the Second Senatorial District when used for non-commercial purposes only. Noncommercial purpose means fish caught for personal or immediate family use. Any sales or distribution beyond ones immediate family shall be a violation of this law.
- (e) The use of drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) with the net mesh size no smaller than one and one-half inches shall be legal in the waters surrounding the Second Senatorial District when used for non-commercial purposes to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during its seasonal run.

2 CMC § 5632. Exceptions.

The use of explosives, poisons, electric shocking devices, SCUBA or hookah is allowed when authorized by the Director of Fish and Wildlife strictly for scientific collections and other purpose as determined by the Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources and the Director of Fish and Wildlife. Special permit shall be issued by the Director of Fish and Wildlife for all exceptions.

2 CMC § 5634. Penalty.

All violations of this law shall be punished as follows, first violation, \$200 fine, second violation \$400 fine, and the third violation up to \$1000 fine, all subsequent violations shall be punished by up to a \$1000 fine and up to 10 days in jail.

2 CMC § 5641. Protection of Rays.

- (a) *Prohibited Acts.* It shall be unlawful for any person, within the CNMI or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to knowingly, or with wanton disregard for the consequences of his act, feed, take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or in any manner any ray, alive or dead, or any part thereof, without being permitted to do so as provided in this section, or to violate any permit or regulation issued pursuant to this section.
- (b) *Criminal Penalties.* A person convicted under this section shall be punishable as follows:

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

- (1) *First Offense.* A person may be punished by imprisonment of not more than six months, or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.
 - (2) *Second or Subsequent Offense.* A person convicted of a second or subsequent offense may be punished by imprisonment of not more than one year, or a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.
 - (3) *The commission of each taking or other act prohibited by this section with respect to a ray shall constitute a separate violation of this section.*
- (c) **Civil Penalties.** It shall be unlawful for any person, within the Commonwealth or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or in any manner, any ray, alive or dead, or any part thereof, without being permitted to do so as provided in this section, or violates any permit or regulation issued pursuant to this section, may be assessed a civil penalty by the Director of not more than \$5,000 for each such violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense. No penalty shall be assessed unless such person is given notice and opportunity for a hearing with respect to such violation. Upon any failure to pay the penalty assessed under this subsection, the Director shall request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in a court of the Commonwealth to collect the penalty and such court shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide any such action. In hearing any such action, the court must sustain the Director's action if supported by substantial evidence.
- (d) **Application.** Nothing herein shall be construed to apply to any employee of the governments of the United States or the Commonwealth acting within the scope of their employment.
- (e) **Taking and Using for Scientific or Exhibition Purposes.** (1) Whenever, after investigation, the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife shall determine that it is compatible with the preservation of rays to permit the taking, possession, and transportation of specimens thereof for scientific investigations or the educational purposes of museums, aquaria, scientific societies, or zoological parks, or that it is necessary to permit the taking of such fishes for the protection of aquacultural or other interests in any particular locality, he may authorize the taking of such fishes pursuant to regulations which he is hereby authorized to prescribe: Provided, that said fishes may not be taken for any purpose unless, prior to such taking, a permit to do so is procured from the Director. TITLE 2: NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION 5: ANIMALS, PLANTS AND FOOD (2) The regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection (e)(1) above shall include provisions regulating the interaction with including feeding of rays by commercial tour operators, and the interaction of SCUBA divers and snorkelers with said fishes. The Division of Fish and Wildlife shall promulgate the said regulations within 120 days of the effective date of this article.
- (f) **Definitions.** As used in this section, the following terms have the following definitions:
- (1) "Person" includes natural persons, associations, partnerships, corporations and any legal entity whatsoever.
 - (2) "Ray" means animals in the Order Myliobatiformes, including but not limited to: Eagle Rays (*Aetobatus narinari*); Manta Rays (*Manta birostris*); and Blue-spotted Rays (*Taeniura lymma*).
 - (3) "Take" means to pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, or molest. The accidental catching of a ray by a person fishing with hook and line does not amount to a taking if the ray is immediately returned to the water.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

8. CROSS REPORTING

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

9. VETERINARY REPORTING

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

10. "AG-GAG" LAWS

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

11. EMERGENCY RESCUE AND RELIEF

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

12. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

13. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PROTECTION ORDERS

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

14. MAXIMUM PENALTIES AND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Note: All penalties are provided in the substantive statutes, located in the Substantive Prohibitions and Exemptions sections of this document.

CMC § 3198. Disposition of Fines and Fees.

There is established in the Commonwealth Treasury an “Animal Protection and Control Revolving Fund” (hereafter referred to in this article as the “fund”), with sub-accounts for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, respectively, which shall be nonlapsing, separate and apart from the General Fund. All collections from penalties, fees or fines collected under this article shall be deposited into the fund. The Secretary of the Department of Finance shall administer the fund and shall expend moneys from the fund sub-accounts without further appropriation, pursuant to regularly established accounting and control procedures, on the order of the respective mayor of each municipality or his or her authorized designee only for the purpose of the administration of the animal protection and control programs under the Office of the Mayor or respective Department of Public Safety in each municipality.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

15. LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

CMC § 3196. Animal Overpopulation Control.

To curb the overpopulation of stray animals in the CNMI, all animals that are found abandoned, unattended, emaciated or in severe bad health may be lawfully captured by the animal control office at the Mayor's Office and be adopted out, or, if necessary, humanely euthanized in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association standards.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

16. SEIZURE

CMC § 3195. Animal Seizure, Court Hearing, and Disposition.

- (a) *If there is probable cause to believe that any animal has been involved in a violation of 6 CMC §§ 3192 or 3193, any officer may, after obtaining a proper search warrant from a judge for the premises where the animal is located, enter the premises and impound the animal, as well as any other animals found on the premises which reasonably appear to have been involved in a violation of 6 CMC §§ 3192 or 3193 and use reasonable force to enter private property including a vehicle with or without a warrant to enter said vehicle, for the sole purpose of rescuing an animal from inhumane or cruel conditions.*
- (b) *If after reasonable effort the owner or keeper of the animal cannot be found and notified of the impoundment, the notice shall be conspicuously posted on the premises and, within 24 hours after the impoundment, the notice shall be sent by certified mail, return-receipt requested, to the address, if any, where the animal was impounded. If it is determined after the impoundment that the owner of the animal is separate and distinct from the person from whose custody the animal was impounded, the owner shall be provided notice of and opportunity to participate in all proceedings under this section. The notice shall include:*
- (1) the name, business address, and telephone number of the officer providing the notice;*
 - (2) a description of the animal seized and the circumstances under which the animal was seized;*
and
 - (3) a statement that, in order to receive a post-impoundment hearing, the owner and/or keeper shall request the hearing by signing and returning an enclosed declaration of ownership or right to keep the animal to the court within 10 days, including weekends and holidays, of the date of the notice. The declaration shall include current contact information for the owner and/or keeper. The declaration may be returned by personal delivery or mail.*
- (c) *Any animal so impounded shall be placed with a local animal control facility or humane society on a temporary basis until forfeited to that agency, euthanized, or returned to its owner or keeper.*
- (d) **Post Impoundment Hearing.**
- (1) The post-impoundment hearing shall be conducted within 48 hours of the request, excluding weekends and holidays. Immediately upon receipt of the request, the court shall contact the impounding officer and the owner and/or keeper in order to notify them of the time and date of the hearing.
 - (2) Failure of the owner and/or keeper to request or to attend a scheduled hearing shall result in a forfeiture of any right to a post-impoundment hearing and forfeiture of the impounded animal(s).
 - (3) If it is determined in the hearing that the probable cause required for impoundment pursuant to subsection (a) above did not exist, the animal shall be returned to the owner and/or keeper. If it is determined the impoundment was justified, no further challenge to the impoundment shall be permitted.
- (e) An officer is not liable for any damages for an entry under this section unless the damages were caused by reckless behavior.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

- (f) A person convicted of a violation of this article shall be liable for all impounding costs, including any veterinary care expenses, from the time of seizure to the time of proper disposition.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

17. COURTROOM ANIMAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

[None]

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**18. RESTITUTION****CMC § 3195. Animal Seizure, Court Hearing, and Disposition.**

- (a) If there is probable cause to believe that any animal has been involved in a violation of 6 CMC §§ 3192 or 3193, any officer may, after obtaining a proper search warrant from a judge for the premises where the animal is located, enter the premises and impound the animal, as well as any other animals found on the premises which reasonably appear to have been involved in a violation of 6 CMC §§ 3192 or 3193 and use reasonable force to enter private property including a vehicle with or without a warrant to enter said vehicle, for the sole purpose of rescuing an animal from inhumane or cruel conditions.
- (b) If after reasonable effort the owner or keeper of the animal cannot be found and notified of the impoundment, the notice shall be conspicuously posted on the premises and, within 24 hours after the impoundment, the notice shall be sent by certified mail, return-receipt requested, to the address, if any, where the animal was impounded. If it is determined after the impoundment that the owner of the animal is separate and distinct from the person from whose custody the animal was impounded, the owner shall be provided notice of and opportunity to participate in all proceedings under this section. The notice shall include:
- (1) the name, business address, and telephone number of the officer providing the notice;
 - (2) a description of the animal seized and the circumstances under which the animal was seized; and
 - (3) a statement that, in order to receive a post-impoundment hearing, the owner and/or keeper shall request the hearing by signing and returning an enclosed declaration of ownership or right to keep the animal to the court within 10 days, including weekends and holidays, of the date of the notice. The declaration shall include current contact information for the owner and/or keeper. The declaration may be returned by personal delivery or mail.
- (c) Any animal so impounded shall be placed with a local animal control facility or humane society on a temporary basis until forfeited to that agency, euthanized, or returned to its owner or keeper.
- (d) Post Impoundment Hearing.
- (1) The post-impoundment hearing shall be conducted within 48 hours of the request, excluding weekends and holidays. Immediately upon receipt of the request, the court shall contact the impounding officer and the owner and/or keeper in order to notify them of the time and date of the hearing.
 - (2) Failure of the owner and/or keeper to request or to attend a scheduled hearing shall result in a forfeiture of any right to a post-impoundment hearing and forfeiture of the impounded animal(s).
 - (3) If it is determined in the hearing that the probable cause required for impoundment pursuant to subsection (a) above did not exist, the animal shall be returned to the owner and/or keeper. If it is determined the impoundment was justified, no further challenge to the impoundment shall be permitted.
- (e) An officer is not liable for any damages for an entry under this section unless the damages were caused by reckless behavior.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

(f) A person convicted of a violation of this article shall be liable for all impounding costs, including any veterinary care expenses, from the time of seizure to the time of proper disposition.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

19. FORFEITURE AND POSSESSION BANS

CMC § 3194. Additional Penalties; Education; Counseling; Animal Ownership Prohibition.

In addition to the penalties for a violation of 6 CMC §§ 3192 or 3193, the court may order the following during sentencing:

- (a) Require the defendant to participate in an available animal cruelty prevention or education program, or obtain available psychological counseling to treat mental health problems contributing to the violation's commission, with the defendant responsible for the costs of the treatment or program.
- (b) *Prohibit a person from owning, possessing, or controlling any animal, or residing in a place where animals are kept, for a period of time as determined by a court of law reasonable to prevent future cruelty to animals.*

CMC § 3195. Animal Seizure, Court Hearing, and Disposition.

- (a) If there is probable cause to believe that any animal has been involved in a violation of 6 CMC §§ 3192 or 3193, any officer may, after obtaining a proper search warrant from a judge for the premises where the animal is located, enter the premises and impound the animal, as well as any other animals found on the premises which reasonably appear to have been involved in a violation of 6 CMC §§ 3192 or 3193 and use reasonable force to enter private property including a vehicle with or without a warrant to enter said vehicle, for the sole purpose of rescuing an animal from inhumane or cruel conditions.
- (b) If after reasonable effort the owner or keeper of the animal cannot be found and notified of the impoundment, the notice shall be conspicuously posted on the premises and, within 24 hours after the impoundment, the notice shall be sent by certified mail, return-receipt requested, to the address, if any, where the animal was impounded. If it is determined after the impoundment that the owner of the animal is separate and distinct from the person from whose custody the animal was impounded, the owner shall be provided notice of and opportunity to participate in all proceedings under this section. The notice shall include:
 - (1) the name, business address, and telephone number of the officer providing the notice;
 - (2) a description of the animal seized and the circumstances under which the animal was seized; and
 - (3) a statement that, in order to receive a post-impoundment hearing, the owner and/or keeper shall request the hearing by signing and returning an enclosed declaration of ownership or right to keep the animal to the court within 10 days, including weekends and holidays, of the date of the notice. The declaration shall include current contact information for the owner and/or keeper. The declaration may be returned by personal delivery or mail.
- (c) Any animal so impounded shall be placed with a local animal control facility or humane society on a temporary basis until forfeited to that agency, euthanized, or returned to its owner or keeper.
- (d) Post Impoundment Hearing.
 - (1) The post-impoundment hearing shall be conducted within 48 hours of the request, excluding weekends and holidays. Immediately upon receipt of the request, the court shall contact the

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

impounding officer and the owner and/or keeper in order to notify them of the time and date of the hearing.

(2) *Failure of the owner and/or keeper to request or to attend a scheduled hearing shall result in a forfeiture of any right to a post-impoundment hearing and forfeiture of the impounded animal(s).*

(3) If it is determined in the hearing that the probable cause required for impoundment pursuant to subsection (a) above did not exist, the animal shall be returned to the owner and/or keeper. If it is determined the impoundment was justified, no further challenge to the impoundment shall be permitted.

(e) An officer is not liable for any damages for an entry under this section unless the damages were caused by reckless behavior.

(f) A person convicted of a violation of this article shall be liable for all impounding costs, including any veterinary care expenses, from the time of seizure to the time of proper disposition.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

20. REHABILITATIVE SENTENCING

CMC § 3194. Additional Penalties; Education; Counseling; Animal Ownership Prohibition.

In addition to the penalties for a violation of 6 CMC §§ 3192 or 3193, the court may order the following during sentencing:

- (a) Require the defendant to participate in an available animal cruelty prevention or education program, or obtain available psychological counseling to treat mental health problems contributing to the violation's commission, with the defendant responsible for the costs of the treatment or program.*
- (b) Prohibit a person from owning, possessing, or controlling any animal, or residing in a place where animals are kept, for a period of time as determined by a court of law reasonable to prevent future cruelty to animals.*