

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to animal cruelty towards domestic  
 3           animals; providing a short title; amending s. 828.02,  
 4           F.S.; revising and providing definitions; amending s.  
 5           921.0024, F.S.; providing criminal punishment scoring  
 6           for offenses; providing an effective date.

7  
 8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9  
 10       **Section 1.** This act may be cited as "Dexter's Law."

11       **Section 2. Section 828.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
 12 **read:**

13           828.02 Definitions.—In this chapter, and in every law of  
 14 the state relating to or in any way affecting animals:‡

15           (1) The word "animal" includes shall be held to include  
 16 every living dumb creature.‡

17           (2) The words "cruelty," "torture," and "torment,‡" and  
 18 "cruelty" shall be held to include every act, omission, or  
 19 neglect whereby unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering  
 20 is caused, except when done in the interest of medical science,  
 21 permitted, or allowed to continue when there is reasonable  
 22 remedy or relief.‡

23           (3) "Domestic animal" means any animal that lives and  
 24 breeds in a tame condition, including, but not limited to, dogs,  
 25 cats, birds, hamsters, rabbits, pigs, turtles, fish, and animals

26 | kept as pets. However, the term does not include any animal used  
 27 | for agricultural purposes or any animal permitted as captive  
 28 | wildlife.

29 | (4) ~~and~~ The words "owner" and "person" ~~shall be held to~~  
 30 | include corporations, and the knowledge and acts of agents and  
 31 | employees of corporations in regard to animals transported,  
 32 | owned, employed by, or in the custody of a corporation, shall be  
 33 | held to be the knowledge and act of such corporation.

34 | **Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 921.0024, Florida**  
 35 | **Statutes, is amended to read:**

36 | 921.0024 Criminal Punishment Code; worksheet computations;  
 37 | scoresheets.—

38 | (1) (a) The Criminal Punishment Code worksheet is used to  
 39 | compute the subtotal and total sentence points as follows:

40 | FLORIDA CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT CODE

41 | WORKSHEET

42 | OFFENSE SCORE

43 | Primary Offense

44 |

| Level | Sentence Points |   | Total |
|-------|-----------------|---|-------|
| 10    | 116             | = | ..... |
| 9     | 92              | = | ..... |

45 |

46 |

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|    |   |    |   |       |
|----|---|----|---|-------|
| 47 | 8 | 74 | = | ..... |
| 48 | 7 | 56 | = | ..... |
| 49 | 6 | 36 | = | ..... |
| 50 | 5 | 28 | = | ..... |
| 51 | 4 | 22 | = | ..... |
| 52 | 3 | 16 | = | ..... |
| 53 | 2 | 10 | = | ..... |
| 54 | 1 | 4  | = | ..... |

Total

Additional Offenses

|       |          |        |       |
|-------|----------|--------|-------|
| Level | Sentence | Counts | Total |
|-------|----------|--------|-------|

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|    |    | Points |   |       |   |       |
|----|----|--------|---|-------|---|-------|
| 60 | 10 | 58     | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 61 | 9  | 46     | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 62 | 8  | 37     | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 63 | 7  | 28     | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 64 | 6  | 18     | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 65 | 5  | 5.4    | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 66 | 4  | 3.6    | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 67 | 3  | 2.4    | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 68 | 2  | 1.2    | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 69 | 1  | 0.7    | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 70 | M  | 0.2    | x | ..... | = | ..... |
| 71 |    |        |   |       |   |       |

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72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82

Total

Victim Injury

| Level                          | Sentence<br>Points |   | Number |   | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------|---|-------|
| 2nd degree<br>murder-<br>death | 240                | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| Death                          | 120                | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| Severe                         | 40                 | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| Moderate                       | 18                 | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| Slight                         | 4                  | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| Sexual<br>penetration          | 80                 | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| Sexual                         | 40                 | x | .....  | = | ..... |

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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|    |   |                    |   |        |   |       |
|----|---|--------------------|---|--------|---|-------|
| 83 | contact   |                    |   |        |   |       |
| 84 |   |                    |   |        |   |       |
| 85 | Total   |                    |   |        |   |       |
| 86 | Primary Offense + Additional Offenses + Victim Injury = |                    |   |        |   |       |
| 87 | TOTAL OFFENSE SCORE                                     |                    |   |        |   |       |
| 88 | PRIOR RECORD SCORE                                      |                    |   |        |   |       |
| 89 |   |                    |   |        |   |       |
| 90 | Prior Record  |                    |   |        |   |       |
| 91 | Level   | Sentence<br>Points |   | Number |   | Total |
| 92 | 10  | 29                 | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| 93 | 9   | 23                 | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| 94 | 8   | 19                 | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| 95 | 7   | 14                 | x | .....  | = | ..... |
| 96 | 6   | 9                  | x | .....  | = | ..... |

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|     |   |  |   |      |   |               |
|-----|---|--|---|------|---|---------------|
| 97  | 5 | 3.6  | x | .... | = | ....          |
| 98  | 4 | 2.4  | x | .... | = | ....          |
| 99  | 3 | 1.6  | x | .... | = | ....          |
| 100 | 2 | 0.8  | x | .... | = | ....          |
| 101 | 1 | 0.5  | x | .... | = | ....          |
| 102 | M | 0.2  | x | .... | = | ....          |
| 103 |   |  |   |      |   |               |
| 104 |   |  |   |      |   | Total         |
| 105 |   | TOTAL OFFENSE SCORE.....                   |   |      |   |               |
| 106 |   | TOTAL PRIOR RECORD SCORE.....              |   |      |   |               |
| 107 |   | LEGAL STATUS.....                          |   |      |   |               |
| 108 |   | COMMUNITY SANCTION VIOLATION.....          |   |      |   |               |
| 109 |   | PRIOR SERIOUS FELONY.....                  |   |      |   |               |
| 110 |   | PRIOR CAPITAL FELONY.....                  |   |      |   |               |
| 111 |   | FIREARM OR SEMIAUTOMATIC WEAPON.....       |   |      |   |               |
| 112 |   |  |   |      |   | SUBTOTAL..... |
| 113 |   | PRISON RELEASEE REOFFENDER (no) (yes)..... |   |      |   |               |

114 VIOLENT CAREER CRIMINAL (no) (yes).....  
 115 HABITUAL VIOLENT OFFENDER (no) (yes).....  
 116 HABITUAL OFFENDER (no) (yes).....  
 117 ANIMAL CRUELTY TOWARDS A DOMESTIC ANIMAL (no) (yes) (x  
 118 multiplier).....  
 119 DRUG TRAFFICKER (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....  
 120 LAW ENF. PROTECT. (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....  
 121 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....  
 122 CRIMINAL GANG OFFENSE (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....  
 123 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PRESENCE OF RELATED CHILD (no) (yes)  
 124 (x multiplier).....  
 125 ADULT-ON-MINOR SEX OFFENSE (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....  
 126 .....  
 127 TOTAL SENTENCE POINTS.....

128 (b) WORKSHEET KEY:

129 Legal status points are assessed when any form of legal status  
 130 existed at the time the offender committed an offense before the  
 131 court for sentencing. Four (4) sentence points are assessed for  
 132 an offender's legal status.

133 Community sanction violation points are assessed when a  
 134 community sanction violation is before the court for sentencing.  
 135 Six (6) sentence points are assessed for each community sanction  
 136 violation and each successive community sanction violation,  
 137 unless any of the following apply:

- 138 1. If the community sanction violation includes a new



139 felony conviction before the sentencing court, twelve (12)  
140 community sanction violation points are assessed for the  
141 violation, and for each successive community sanction violation  
142 involving a new felony conviction.

143 2. If the community sanction violation is committed by a  
144 violent felony offender of special concern as defined in s.  
145 948.06:

146 a. Twelve (12) community sanction violation points are  
147 assessed for the violation and for each successive violation of  
148 felony probation or community control where:

149 I. The violation does not include a new felony conviction;  
150 and

151 II. The community sanction violation is not based solely  
152 on the probationer or offender's failure to pay costs or fines  
153 or make restitution payments.

154 b. Twenty-four (24) community sanction violation points  
155 are assessed for the violation and for each successive violation  
156 of felony probation or community control where the violation  
157 includes a new felony conviction.

158  
159 Multiple counts of community sanction violations before the  
160 sentencing court shall not be a basis for multiplying the  
161 assessment of community sanction violation points.

162  
163 Prior serious felony points: If the offender has a primary

164 offense or any additional offense ranked in level 8, level 9, or  
165 level 10, and one or more prior serious felonies, a single  
166 assessment of thirty (30) points shall be added. For purposes of  
167 this section, a prior serious felony is an offense in the  
168 offender's prior record that is ranked in level 8, level 9, or  
169 level 10 under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023 and for which the  
170 offender is serving a sentence of confinement, supervision, or  
171 other sanction or for which the offender's date of release from  
172 confinement, supervision, or other sanction, whichever is later,  
173 is within 3 years before the date the primary offense or any  
174 additional offense was committed.

175  
176 Prior capital felony points: If the offender has one or more  
177 prior capital felonies in the offender's criminal record, points  
178 shall be added to the subtotal sentence points of the offender  
179 equal to twice the number of points the offender receives for  
180 the primary offense and any additional offense. A prior capital  
181 felony in the offender's criminal record is a previous capital  
182 felony offense for which the offender has entered a plea of nolo  
183 contendere or guilty or has been found guilty; or a felony in  
184 another jurisdiction which is a capital felony in that  
185 jurisdiction, or would be a capital felony if the offense were  
186 committed in this state.

187  
188 Possession of a firearm, semiautomatic firearm, or machine gun:

189 If the offender is convicted of committing or attempting to  
190 commit any felony other than those enumerated in s. 775.087(2)  
191 while having in his or her possession: a firearm as defined in  
192 s. 790.001, an additional eighteen (18) sentence points are  
193 assessed; or if the offender is convicted of committing or  
194 attempting to commit any felony other than those enumerated in  
195 s. 775.087(3) while having in his or her possession a  
196 semiautomatic firearm as defined in s. 775.087(3) or a machine  
197 gun as defined in s. 790.001, an additional twenty-five (25)  
198 sentence points are assessed.

199

200 Sentencing multipliers:

201

202 Animal Cruelty Towards a Domestic Animal: If the offender is  
203 convicted of the primary offense and the primary offense is a  
204 crime of animal cruelty under s. 828.12 towards a domestic  
205 animal as defined in s. 828.02, the subtotal sentence points are  
206 multiplied by 1.25. Pursuant to s. 828.12, this section may not  
207 apply to any animal used for agricultural purposes or any animal  
208 permitted as captive wildlife.

209

210 Drug trafficking: If the primary offense is drug trafficking  
211 under s. 893.135, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied,  
212 at the discretion of the court, for a level 7 or level 8  
213 offense, by 1.5. The state attorney may move the sentencing

214 court to reduce or suspend the sentence of a person convicted of  
215 a level 7 or level 8 offense, if the offender provides  
216 substantial assistance as described in s. 893.135(4).

217  
218 Violent offenses committed against specified justice system  
219 personnel: If the primary offense is a violation of s.  
220 775.0823(2), (3), or (4), the subtotal sentence points are  
221 multiplied by 2.5. If the primary offense is a violation of s.  
222 775.0823(5), (6), (7), (8), or (9), the subtotal sentence points  
223 are multiplied by 2.0. If the primary offense is a violation of  
224 s. 784.07(3) or s. 775.0875(1), or s. 775.0823(10) or (11), the  
225 subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

226  
227 Grand theft of a motor vehicle: If the primary offense is grand  
228 theft of the third degree involving a motor vehicle and in the  
229 offender's prior record, there are three or more grand thefts of  
230 the third degree involving a motor vehicle, the subtotal  
231 sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

232  
233 Offense related to a criminal gang: If the offender is convicted  
234 of the primary offense and committed that offense for the  
235 purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of  
236 a criminal gang as defined in s. 874.03, the subtotal sentence  
237 points are multiplied by 1.5. If applying the multiplier results  
238 in the lowest permissible sentence exceeding the statutory

239 maximum sentence for the primary offense under chapter 775, the  
240 court may not apply the multiplier and must sentence the  
241 defendant to the statutory maximum sentence.

242

243 Domestic violence in the presence of a child: If the offender is  
244 convicted of the primary offense and the primary offense is a  
245 crime of domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28, which was  
246 committed in the presence of a child under 16 years of age who  
247 is a family or household member as defined in s. 741.28(3) with  
248 the victim or perpetrator, the subtotal sentence points are  
249 multiplied by 1.5.

250

251 Adult-on-minor sex offense: If the offender was 18 years of age  
252 or older and the victim was younger than 18 years of age at the  
253 time the offender committed the primary offense, and if the  
254 primary offense was an offense committed on or after October 1,  
255 2014, and is a violation of s. 787.01(2) or s. 787.02(2), if the  
256 violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course  
257 of committing that violation, the defendant committed a sexual  
258 battery under chapter 794 or a lewd act under s. 800.04 or s.  
259 847.0135(5) against the minor; s. 787.01(3)(a)2. or 3.; s.  
260 787.02(3)(a)2. or 3.; s. 794.011, excluding s. 794.011(10); s.  
261 800.04; or s. 847.0135(5), the subtotal sentence points are  
262 multiplied by 2.0. If applying the multiplier results in the  
263 lowest permissible sentence exceeding the statutory maximum

264 sentence for the primary offense under chapter 775, the court  
265 may not apply the multiplier and must sentence the defendant to  
266 the statutory maximum sentence.

267 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.