New Animal Welfare Laws & What to Expect in 2016

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Animal Fighting

- Increased penalty for attending a dog fight or cock fight to a Class A misdemeanor
- Established new offense for bringing a minor under 18 to an animal fight – Class A misdemeanor with a min $1000 fine.
- Closed loophole allowing sale of fowl with the intent to fight.
- Effective July 1, 2015.
**Dogs in Hot Cars**

- Immunity from civil liability for forcible entry into a vehicle to remove an animal.
- Steps that must be taken:
  1) Determine there is no reasonable method of exit.
  2) Believe animal is in imminent danger if not immediately removed.
  3) Contact local law enf, 911, or fire dept. prior to entering vehicle.
  4) Places notice on windshield.
  5) Remain reasonably close to the vehicle until law enforcement arrives.
  6) Use no more force than necessary under the circumstances.

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**Animal Abuser Registration Act**

- Effective Jan 1, 2016, the TBI shall maintain a public list of person’s convicted in TN of felony animal cruelty offenses.
- Offenses include:
  - Aggravated cruelty
  - Felony animal fighting
  - Bestiality or other acts under39-14-214
- Applies to companion animals only.
- County clerk forwards to the TBI within 60 days of judgement.
- First conviction – listed for 2 years.
- Subsequent conviction – listed for 5 years.
Aron’s Law

Established Class E felony for killing a police dog, fire dog, search and rescue dog, or police horse, unless the offense would be a higher classification based on the value of the animal.

Livestock at Large

Deletes certain sections pertaining to livestock running at large, including required holding time, advertising found animals, and liens.