

ILLINOIS

(510 ILCS 70/16.3)

Sec. 16.3. Civil actions. Any person who has a **right of ownership** in an animal that is subjected to an act of **aggravated cruelty** under Section 3.02 or torture under Section 3.03 in violation of this Act or in an animal that is **injured or killed** as a result of actions taken by a person who acts in **bad faith** under subsection (b) of Section 3.06 or under Section 12 of this Act may bring a **civil action** to recover the damages sustained by that owner. Damages may include, but are not limited to, the **monetary value** of the animal, **veterinary expenses incurred on behalf of the animal, any other expenses incurred by the owner in rectifying the effects of the cruelty, pain, and suffering of the animal, and emotional distress suffered by the owner.** In addition to damages that may be proven, the owner is also entitled to **punitive or exemplary damages** of **not less than \$500 but not more than \$25,000** for **each act** of abuse or neglect to which the animal was subjected. In addition, the court must award **reasonable attorney's fees and costs** actually incurred by the owner in the prosecution of any action under this Section.

The remedies provided in this Section are in addition to any other remedies allowed by law.

In an action under this Section, the court may enter any injunctive orders reasonably necessary to protect animals from any further acts of abuse, neglect, or harassment by a defendant.

The statute of limitations for cruelty to animals is 2 years.
(Source: P.A. 92- 454, eff. 1/1/02.)