1998 Enacted And Vetoed Legislation

The following list is a compilation of laws and resolutions that were passed by state legislatures and then signed into law or vetoed by governors in 1998. This year was important for animals because several pro-animal initiatives passed in ballot votes. For a copy of any of these laws or resolutions, or if you have questions, additions, or corrections, please e-mail Julie Janovsky at jjanovsky@hsus.org.

ARIZONA

Cockfighting

Established a ban on cockfighting.

CALIFORNIA

Animal Cruelty Penalties

Authorized courts to order an individual convicted of animal cruelty to undergo psychological evaluation and/or counseling.

Animal Shelter Procedures

Required that animals adopted from public pounds, SPCAs, animal control agencies, humane society shelters, and rescue groups must be spayed and/or neutered.

Animal Shelter Procedures

Increased the minimum impound time that stray animals can be held in pounds and shelters from 72 hours to 4-6 business days.

Euthanasia Procedures

Prohibited the use of carbon monoxide to euthanize dogs and cats.

Circus/Carnival Provisions

Required traveling circuses or carnivals with performing animals to notify each animal control agency 14 days prior to their first performance in each city or county where they will perform; and required the traveling circuses or carnivals to provide a schedule of all performances.

Wildlife Trapping/Horse Slaughter

Approved the Wildlife Protection Act, which bans trapping, and the Prohibition of Horse Slaughter and Sale of Horsemeat for Human Consumption.

COLORADO

Hog Farming

Established regulations on commercial hog facilities ballot initiative.

CONNECTICUT

Pet Store Regulations

Required pet shops to post a sign on the cage of a dog offered for sale; and required the sign to include all historical information associated with the dog and the telephone number for the Department of Agriculture to call to register complaints.

Wildlife Control

Required that licensed nuisance wildlife control operators must be trained in methods of nonlethal resolution for common wildlife problems; and required that clients be informed of these nonlethal methods.

Falconry

Established legalized falconry.

DELAWARE

Pet Store Regulations

Required retail dog outlet (pet shop) licensing; permitted inspections of these facilities; and updated standards for the humane handling, care, and treatment of dogs.

Dangerous Dogs

Required owners of potentially dangerous dogs to exert greater control over their dogs: They may be responsible for training, controlling, and sometimes confining their dog(s).

Dog Licensing

Enacted differential licensing to give dog owners not licensed to operate a kennel an incentive to spay and neuter their dogs: If a dog is spayed or neutered, the license fee is $3; if a dog is intact, the fee is $6.

HAWAII

Minimum Care Standards

Enacted minimum care standards for pets: adequate food, water, access to protection from wind, rain, and sun, and space to be comfortable and clean must be provided for animals.

INDIANA

Animal Cruelty Penalties

Established that individuals who are convicted of beating, torturing, or mutilating a vertebrate animal a second time are guilty of a felony offense.

KENTUCKY

Animal Control Funding

Approved a $100,000 appropriation to fund animal care and control facilities.

Euthanasia Procedures

Established that animal control agencies which employ a certified animal euthanasia specialist may purchase, possess, and administer sodium pentobarbital for the euthanasia of animals.

Animal Management

Granted animal control officers and dog wardens the status of peace officer, strengthening their abilities to enforce dog laws of the state.

MARYLAND

Specialty License Plates

Created an animal-friendly license plate program—administered by private shelters, not the state—to help fund statewide spay/neuter programs.

Animal Cruelty Management

Permitted licensed veterinarians to accompany humane society officials on cruelty cases; and allowed them to care for or remove animals without being held liable for entry.

Coyotes

Classified coyotes as “fur-bearing mammals.”

MISSOURI

Cockfighting

Established a ban on cockfighting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Wildlife Management

Granted exclusive authority over the management, preservation, protection, propagation, and taking of wildlife in the state to the Department of Fish and Game.

NEW JERSEY

Pet Theft

Instituted tougher penalties for pet theft, making the theft of a companion animal a third-degree crime.

Land Preservation

Preserved one million acres of land (in a vote by citizens).

NEW YORK

Horse Transport

Increased penalties from $100 to $250 for the first conviction of transporting a horse in an illegal way; and increased the fine for a second or subsequent conviction from $500 to $1,000.

NEW MEXICO

Animal Cruelty Penalties

Established that an individual who willfully and maliciously poisons, kills, or injures livestock that is the property of another is guilty of a felony offense.

NORTH CAROLINA

Animal Cruelty Penalties

Enacted felony-level penalties for acts of animal cruelty.

Pigeon Shoots

Established the prohibition of pigeon shoots.

Animal Racing

Established a ban on dog racing, including simulcasts of dog-racing events.

OHIO

Sunday Hunting

Permitted hunting on any day during open season, including Sundays.

PENNSYLVANIA

Animal Prizes

Established a ban on giving a pet as a prize.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Animal Shelter Procedures

Required that animals adopted from shelters must be spayed or neutered.

Anticruelty Management

Established clearer definitions for the terms “animal,” “sustenance,” and “shelter” in the state’s anticruelty laws.

Animal Cruelty Penalties

Required individuals convicted of animal cruelty to forfeit their pet(s).

SOUTH DAKOTA

Factory Farms

Established regulations for factory farms.

TENNESSEE

Anticruelty Management

Enacted a pilot project to study the link between domestic violence and animal cruelty in Davidson County.

UTAH

Animal Shelter Procedures

Established mandatory spaying and neutering of animals adopted from shelters.

VERMONT

Animal Cruelty Penalties

Added a felony animal cruelty provision—which included bonding and counseling language—to the state's anticruelty law.

VIRGINIA

Animal Health Emergencies

Established that individuals who provide care or treatment for animals at the scene of an emergency have immunity from prosecution.