

2002 NEW STATE LAWS AFFECTING ANIMALS

The following list is a compilation of laws and resolutions that were passed by state legislatures in 2002 and then signed into law or vetoed. The list includes legislation that had a positive, negative, or neutral impact on animals. Please e-mail Julie Janovsky at jjanovsky@hsus.org, to obtain a copy of these laws or resolutions or if you have any questions, additions or corrections to the list.

ALABAMA

S.B. 235 - increases penalties for importing regulated animals.

Signed into law on 4/26/02

S.B. 271 - enacts the Farm Animal, Crop and Research Facilities Protection Act; prohibits unauthorized possession, alteration, or destruction of scientific research, education, agricultural production of or involving animals or crops.

Signed into law on 4/26/02

ALASKA

H.B. 306 – Euthanasia Technicians

Allows permits for course-certified euthanasia technicians to purchase, possess, and use sodium pentobarbital.

Signed into law on 6/9/02

ARIZONA

H.B. 2036 – Dogs in Hot Cars

Prohibits leaving an animal in a hot car, and failing to provide veterinarian assistance, while permitting knowingly or intentionally killing someone else's animal, authorizing peace officers to forcibly open a car to let out an animal, and defining torture.

Signed into law on 5/23/02

H.B. 2251 - Defines reasonable provocation in dog attacks.

Signed into law on 4/29/02

H.B. 2363 – Livestock Inspections

Provides exemptions when livestock are being moved from pasture to a destination in the state and no change of ownership, slaughter, or other disposition is involved and the owner is utilizing approved self-inspection; requires a report by the director of the Department of Agriculture.

Signed into law on 5/21/02

S.B. 1053 – Spay/Neuter

Allows release of unsterilized dogs and cats when there is no spay/neuter within 20 miles, or

when a veterinarian certifies the operation unsafe, for a deposit giving the owner 30 days, or 15 days after a veterinarian declares the procedure safe, to sterilize the animal.

[Signed into law on 4/23/02](#)

S.B. 1081 – Kennel Permits

Allows the annual kennel permit fee to be the actual cost of recovery as determined by the Board of Supervisors, as an alternative to the current \$75 fee.

[Signed into law on 5/6/02](#)

S.B. 1283 – Rabies

Provides that local boards of supervisors shall be responsible for declaring rabies quarantine areas within their supervision upon recommendation of the County Board of Health.

[Signed into law on 5/6/02](#)

S.B. 1304 – Dangerous Animals

Provides that the owner of a vicious animal shall be responsible for any fees incurred by the enforcement agent for the impounding, sheltering and disposing of the vicious animal.

[Signed into law on 5/6/02](#)

S.B. 1365 – Horse Transportation

Prohibits double-decker trailers for horse transport.

[Signed into law on 5/6/02](#)

S.B. 1367 – Hunting

Provides an increased misdemeanor violation for a person who knowingly applies for and obtains a license to take wildlife by fraud or misrepresentation.

[Signed into law on 5/28/02](#)

CALIFORNIA

A.C.R. 150 – Spay/Neuter

Declares 2/26/02 Spay Day USA 2002, and requests that Californians observe that day by having their dogs or cats spayed or neutered or by contributing to organizations that provide spay or neuter services.

[Signed into law on 3/19/02, as Resolution Chapter No.11](#)

A.B. 670 – Cross Reporting

Requires employees of county child protective services agencies to receive instruction from those agencies on identifying and reporting animal cruelty, abuse and neglect, and imposes a duty upon those employees, while acting within the official capacity of their employment, to report known or reasonably suspected animal cruelty, abuse, or neglect to the county animal control agency.

[Signed into law on 7/10/02 as Chapter 134](#)

A.B. 1336 – Spay/Neuter

Requires pet dealers to provide information on the importance of spaying and neutering, having a relationship with a veterinarian, and preventing homelessness.

[Signed into law on 7/13/02 as Chapter 181](#)

A.B. 2474 - Antifreeze

Requires engine coolant or antifreeze (containing more than 10% ethylene glycol) to have a bittering agent in order to prevent poisoning of animals.

[Signed into law on 9/27/02 as Chapter 998](#)

S.B. 1345 - Inspection

Requires the California Food and Agriculture Department to publish regulations for establishments that produce animal blood products, requiring humane treatment of the animals, and requiring inspection of these establishments at least once a year.

[Signed into law on 9/23/02](#)

S.B. 550 – Endangered Species

Extends indefinitely the exemption from the California Endangered Species Act of the accidental killing of candidate, threatened, or endangered species resulting from negligence on a farm in the course of otherwise lawful activities.

[Signed into law on 4/25/02](#)

S.B. 1357 – Animal Care

Requires pet stores to provide buyers with written recommendations for the generally accepted care of the class of pet animal sold.

[Signed into law on 9/19/02](#)

S.B. 1645 - Trapping

Requires the licensing of those trapping mammals injurious to growing crops or other property for profit and prohibits the licensee from selling raw furs of such mammals.

[Signed into law on 9/14/02](#)

COLORADO

H.B. 1084 – Wildlife Commissioners

Increases the number of members of the wildlife commission in the Department of Natural Resources from 10 members to 11; directs the governor to appoint the new members from the public at large as soon as possible but no later than June 1, 2002.

[Signed into law on 5/24/02](#)

H.B. 1221 – Black Bear Hunting

Allows agents/employees of the Division of Wildlife or field agents of the United States Department of Agriculture, when such employees or agents are acting in their official capacity, to hunt black bear during the spring. Spring hunts are illegal for all other citizens, except in cases of self-defense.

[Signed into law on 5/29/02](#)

H.J.R. 1038 – Species Conservation

Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to spend \$2,935,000 from the Species Conservation Trust Fund for a number of specific programs, including a prairie dog study, boreal toad conservation, grouse conservation, preble's meadow jumping mouse, and the endangered fish recovery program.

[Signed into law on 5/21/02](#)

H.B. 1237 – Animal Cruelty

Creates the felony offense of aggravated cruelty to animals and changes the penalty for a second or subsequent conviction for cruelty to animals from a misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony.

[Signed into law on 6/14/02](#)

CONNECTICUT

H.B. 5076 – Quarantined Animals

Concerns costs associated with quarantined animals; updates the statute concerning quarantined animals.

[Signed into law on 4/23/02](#)

H.B. 5078 - Inspection

Expands the role of the Commissioner of Agriculture in dealing with livestock disease inspection and enforcement.

[Signed into law on 5/6/02, Public Act 02-35](#)

H.B. 5659 – License Fees

Increases dog license fee from \$5 to \$7, with \$2 now going to the pet overpopulation control fund.

[Signed into law on 5/26/02, Public Act 02-61](#)

DELAWARE

H.B. 305 - Bonding

Increases the available penalties in cases involving intentional animal cruelty and animal fighting, and allows recovery of the costs of caring for a seized animal.

[Signed into law on 3/27/02](#)

H.B. 424 – Service Dogs

Prohibits interfering with, injuring, killing, or stealing a service, guide or seeing-eye dog.

[Signed into law on 6/20/02](#)

H.B. 448 – Horseshoe Crabs

Makes the horseshoe crab the official state marine animal.

[Signed into law on 6/25/02](#)

H.B. 614 - Dangerous Animals

Relates to specific offenses; creates the crime of maintaining a dangerous animal; defines the offense of maintaining a dangerous animal.

[Signed into law on 7/10/02](#)

FLORIDA

H.B. 691/S.B. 1002 – Animal Cruelty

This bill includes deprivation of medical attention or sanitation among acts constituting cruelty to an animal for which a first-degree misdemeanor penalty is provided. Any person convicted of cruelty to an animal - and the violation includes the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal - shall be ordered to complete an anger management treatment program. Provides that a person convicted for a second or subsequent violation shall be required to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$5,000 and serve a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 6 months, shall not be eligible for parole, control release, or any form of early release from incarceration, and must serve 100 percent of the court-imposed sentence.

[Signed into law on 4/18/02, Chapter No. 2002-51, effective 4/18/02](#)

H.B. 1085 – Hunting Amendment

Florida has a right to hunt, fish, and take game, subject to the regulations and restrictions prescribed by general law and by section 9, Art. IV of the State Constitution.

[Signed into law on 4/16/02 Chapter 2002-48](#)

H.B. 1243 - Manatees

Requires notice to counties where manatee protection zones/speed zones may be imposed by Fish & Wildlife Conservation Comm., etc. Amends FS.

[Signed into law on 5/15/02, Chapter 2002-264](#)

H.B. 1819 & S.B.2210 – Service Dogs

Prohibits interfering with, injuring, or killing guide dogs or service animals.

[Signed into law on 4/24/02, Chapter 2002-176](#)

S.B. 720 – Pet Trusts

Provides for the establishment of trusts for an animal.

[Signed into law on 4/23/02 Chapter 2002-82](#)

GEORGIA

H.B. 945 – Spay/Neuter

Creates a spay/neuter program funded by specialty license plates promoting the program.
[Signed into law on 5/16/02, effective 1/1/03 unless H.R. 264 not ratified](#)

H.B. 1174 – Hunting Methods

Provides that it shall be lawful to hunt wildlife with a crossbow under certain conditions, and repeals a provision permitting certain handguns to be used in hunting under certain conditions.

[Signed into law on 5/16/02](#)

H.R. 264 – Spay/Neuter

A constitutional amendment creating a spay/neuter program funded by specialty license plates promoting the program.

[Signed into law on 5/16/02 and ratified during the general election](#)

S.B. 385 - Bioterrorism

Requires persons caring for animals to report certain diseases caused by bioterrorism to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Human Resources, and relates to control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders.

[Signed into law on 5/16/02](#)

S.B. 399 – Regulation of Shelters

Provides that animal shelters and agricultural operations that breed or keep dogs shall be subject to regulation by certain applicable local zoning and animal control ordinances, and related matters.

[Signed into law on 5/16/02](#)

HAWAII

S.B. 2046 – Service Dogs

Makes it a felony to intentionally injure or kill a guide dog, signal dog, or service animal, makes it a misdemeanor to recklessly do so, requires restitution, and prohibits falsely representing oneself as owner or trainer of such an animal. Imposes penal sanctions for intentionally interfering with the use of a guide dog, signal dog, or service animal; includes causing injury or death to animal in the penal sanctions; establishes criminal penalties.

[Signed into law on 7/8/02](#)

S.B. 2613 - Sharks

Prohibits the feeding of sharks.

[Signed into law on 5/31/02 Act 127](#)

IDAHO

H.B. 524 - Cervidae

Revises civil penalties for violations of certain statutes and rules regarding domestic cervidae.

[Signed into law on 3/19/02](#)

ILLINOIS

H.B. 4926 - Bestiality

Prohibits a person from knowingly engaging in sexual conduct or sexual contact with an animal and from knowingly causing, aiding, or abetting another person to engage in any sexual conduct or sexual contact with an animal, and prohibits a person from knowingly permitting any sexual conduct or sexual contact with an animal to be conducted on any premises under his or her charge or control.

[Signed into law on 7/25/02](#)

H.B. 5625 – Depictions of Animal Cruelty

Sponsored by Representative Rutherford, this amends the Humane Care for Animals Act. Provides that no person may knowingly create, sell, or possess a depiction of animal cruelty; exempts depictions that have religious, political, scientific, educational, law enforcement and human investigator training; provides that the court may order a convicted person and must order a convicted juvenile to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo any treatment the court finds appropriate.

[Signed into law on 8/2/02](#)

H.B. 5639 – Animal Cruelty

Amends the Humane Care for Animals Act. Increases the penalty for injuring a police animal (i) from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class 4 felony if the animal is not killed or totally disabled and (ii) from a Class 4 felony to a Class 3 felony if the animal is killed or totally disabled.

[Signed into law on 7/25/02](#)

S.B. 1806 – Animals as Prizes/Euthanasia/Animal fighting

Strengthens the provision that prohibits “give-aways” of rabbits, ducklings, and baby chicks as prizes by deleting the limitation to games of chance. Removes requirement that any drug used for euthanasia must be used under the direction of a licensed veterinarian or a certified euthanasia technician. Amends penalty provisions relating to dog fighting and other animals. Permits courts to require psychological evaluation.

[Signed into law on 7/11/02](#)

INDIANA

H.B. 1223 - Animal Cruelty

Makes torturing or mutilating an animal a felony.

[Signed into law on 3/26/02](#)

S.B. 366 – Animal Fighting

Makes it a misdemeanor to possess animal fighting paraphernalia, or a felony if also possessing an animal with animal fighting wounds, allows the court to prevent a person from keeping animals, provides a bonding provision, and allows the court to prevent a person on probation from owning, harboring, or training an animal.

[Signed into law on 3/20/02, effective 7/1/02](#)

IOWA

H.B. 2616 - Poaching

Relates to the time of possession of deer venison; increases the minimum fine for unlawful taking, possessing, injuring, or transporting protected species and game; subjects violators to a penalty.

[Signed into law on 5/2/02](#)

S.F. 335 – Reclassifying Wildlife to Agriculture Animals

Allows for the farming of deer and bison, classifying them as livestock.

[Signed into law on 3/1/02](#)

S.F. 2268 – Animal Fighting

Revamps the animal fighting statute to prohibit various acts of involvement in animal-person or animal-animal fights, including spectators, and allows for confiscation and recovery of the costs of animals involved.

[Signed into law on 4/26/02](#)

KANSAS

H.B. 2741 – Search and Rescue Animals

Includes search and rescue animals in the law that currently prescribes penalties for inflicting harm or death to a police or arson dog; amending K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-4318 and repealing the existing section. All are now considered Class A misdemeanors.

[Signed into law on 4/9/02](#)

S.B. 69 - Cockfighting

Makes it a misdemeanor to cockfight, hold a cockfight on your premises, train a bird for fighting, or attend a cockfight.

[Signed into law on 5/17/02](#)

S.B. 297 – Pet Trusts

Enacts the Uniform Trust Code, including providing for trusts for pets.

[Signed into law on 5/17/02](#)

KENTUCKY

H.B. 470 – Cervidae Farms

Requires the Department of Agriculture to promulgate regulations pertaining to health requirements, eradication of diseases and identification of privately owned and farm raised cervids maintained for the production of meat and other products; requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to promulgate regulations relating to importing and holding of cervids.

[Signed into law on 3/29/02](#)

S.B. 4 – Service Dogs

Expands law on blind people with guide dogs to include all those with assistance dogs for the disabled, including trainers with verifying identification, and prohibits willfully and maliciously interfering with an assistance dog.

[Signed into law on 3/28/02](#)

S.B. 7 – Spay/Neuter

Creates a spay/neuter license plate.

[Signed into law on 3/15/02 Acts Chapter 56](#)

LOUISIANA

H.B. 68a – Spay/Neuter

Amends animal friendly license plate law in minor ways.

[Signed into law on 4/18/02](#)

H.C.R. 24A – Hound Hunting

Urges and requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules and regulations to allow deer hunting with dogs in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

[Signed into law on 6/12/02 Filed with the Secretary of State](#)

MAINE

H.B. 1435 – Service Animals

Affords the same protection to police horses that is now offered to police dogs; creates the crime of unlawful interference with horses used for law enforcement purposes.

[Signed into law on 4/5/02](#)

H.B. 1638 – Animal Welfare

Amends the Animal Welfare Laws; increases funding for animal welfare; imposes an additional surcharge of \$10 on every fine, forfeiture or penalty imposed by any court for certain violations, to be deposited in the Animal Welfare Fund to be used for salaries and costs of animal control, enforcement of licensing laws, care of stray animals that are injured or abandoned and the support of one or more approved animal shelters.

[Signed into law on 4/3/02](#)

S.B. 724 – Livestock Law Revisions

Revises and updates the provisions for controlling and monitoring livestock and poultry; updates provisions governing livestock and poultry dealers, domesticated deer, and animal auctions; revises and updates health and disease control laws.

[Signed into law on 3/28/02](#)

S.B. 746 – Hunting methods

Bans the use of aircraft to hunt big game (bear, deer, or moose); prohibits a person from hunting big game on the same hunting day that the person has flown on a chartered or privately owned aircraft.

[Signed into law on 4/3/02](#)

MARYLAND

H.B. 9 - Sunday Hunting

Would have allowed the hunting of deer on the first Sunday of Firearm season and increased the "harvest" of deer to a minimum firearms season of 21 days.

[Vetoed on 5/16/02 by Glendening.](#)

H.B. 32 – Veterinary Reporting

Requires the State Veterinary board to create regulations encouraging veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal abuse or animal fighting. This bill also gives veterinarians complete immunity if they report.

[Signed into law on 4/25/02](#)

H.B. 600 – Animal Control

Authorizes the County Commissioners of Dorchester County to impose civil penalties for violations of county animal control ordinances; authorizes the Commissioners to provide for the prosecution of a violation of a county animal control ordinance.

[Signed into law on 5/6/02](#)

H.B. 764 – Hunting Locations

Authorizes the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Police to issue citations for specified violations; prohibits hunting on property owned, operated, or leased by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

[Signed into law on 5/16/02](#)

H.B. 1107 - Turtles

Allows the breeding, raising, keeping, and possession of turtles; relates to a permit under the Natural Resource Article.

[Signed into law on 4/25/02](#)

H.B. 617 S.B. 552 – Wildlands and Conservation

Designates Savage Ravines Wildlands and South Savage Wildlands as State Wildlands; requires the Department of Natural Resources to perform a survey.

[Signed into law on 4/25/02](#)

MASSACHUSETTS

H. 2202 - Bonding

Allows a court or magistrate to require a person who claims an interest in a seized animal to post a bond covering the cost of its care while the case goes to trial.

[Signed into law on 1/6/03](#)

H. 5028 – License Plates/Bonding

Provides for the issuance of a number of distinctive license plates, including one to fund the instituting of animal control programs. To make the license plates available, the Humane Coalition must put up a \$100,000 bond and submit 1,500 requests for the \$40 plates. If 3,000 plates are not purchased within two years, the bond is forfeited. Otherwise the bond is returned, minus any losses incurred by the program.

[Signed into law on 9/26/02 Chapter 334](#)

S.B. 1585 – Service Dogs

Provides those who raise or train service dogs with the same rights as individuals with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

[Signed into law on 9/28/02](#)

MINNESOTA

H.F. 394 /S.F. 327 – Spay/Neuter

Repeals statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.

[Signed into law on 4/11/01, Chapter 21, effective 8/1/01](#)

H.F. 1145/S.F.0333 - Veterinarians

Authorizes the veterinary medicine board complaint review committee to issue cease and desist orders.

[Signed into law on 5/17/01, Chapter 21](#)

H.F. 2514/S.F. 2368 – Livestock disease

Expands animal health board emergency authority to eradicate diseases affecting domestic animals in the state.

[Signed into law on 5/25/01 Chapter 192, effective 8/01/01](#)

MISSISSIPPI

H.B. 865 - Beavers

Increases county contribution requirement for participation in Beaver Control Program.

[Signed into law on 3/20/02](#)

H.B. 1753 – Animal Shelter

Pike County; authorization to construct animal shelter facility.

[Signed into law on 4/9/02](#)

S.B. 2735 – Canned Hunts

Prohibit canned hunts in which native game animals have no opportunity to avoid the hunter.

[Signed into law on 3/18/02, effective 7/1/02](#)

S.B. 2776 – Wildlife Conservation officers

Removes wildlife conservation officer's examination qualification.

[Signed into law on 3/18/02](#)

S.B. 2784 – Special License

Requires primitive weapon license for special hunts established by commission.

[Signed into law on 3/18/02](#)

S.B. 3003 – Bans White-tailed Deer Importation

Prohibits importation and translocation of white-tailed deer into state; provides an exception for university research facilities; requires development of regulations with emphasis on preventing the introduction of diseases.

[Signed into law on 3/18/02](#)

MISSOURI

S.B. 960 – License Plates

Creates special "I'm Pet Friendly" license plates to fund the Missouri Pet Spay/Neuter Fund, along with other specialty license plates. [Signed into law on 7/3/02](#)

S.B. 969 - Bestiality

Makes an unlawful sexual act with an animal a misdemeanor on the first offence and a Class D felony on any subsequent offence.

[Signed into law on 7/10/02](#)

NEBRASKA

L.B. 82 – Animal Cruelty

Increases the penalties for animal cruelty making it so a person who abandons or cruelly neglects an animal is guilty of a class II misdemeanor for the first offense and a class I misdemeanor for any subsequent offense. A person who cruelly mistreats an animal is guilty of a class I misdemeanor on the first offense and a class IV felony for any subsequent offense.

[Signed into law on 4/17/02](#)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

S.B. 406 – Spay/Neuter, Licensing

Raises dog/cat sterilization fee from \$25 to \$30 (or \$10 to \$15 for reduced fee), permitting the commissioner to adjust the fee for changes in cost of living, creates a tax credit for dog or cat spay/neuter costs; and creates a pet overpopulation fee of \$10 for cats.

[Signed into law on 5/15/02](#)

NEW JERSEY

A. 1109/S. 1848 - Bears

Prohibits the intentional feeding of black bears.

[Signed into law on 11/13/02](#)

S. 981 – Dangerous Dogs

Requires a municipal court to declare a dog to be potentially dangerous if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the dog seriously injured another domestic animal and poses a threat of serious bodily injury or death to a person or another domestic animal.

[Signed into law on 6/11/01](#)

A. 1586 - Debarking

Restricts the surgical debarking or silencing of dogs.

[Signed into law on 11/20/02 P.L.2002, c.102](#)

A. 2674

Revises law concerning possession and release into the environment of certain animals.

[Signed into law on 12/12/02](#)

NEW YORK

A. 3948 - Rabies

Expands and strengthens provisions of the Public Health Law, General Business Law and Agriculture and Markets Law relating to the control of rabies and better protection of lost and strayed animals; repeals certain provisions of the public health law relating thereto.

[Signed into law on 7/23/02](#)

A. 4945 – Dog and Cat Fur

Prohibits the sale of dog or cat fur or flesh.

[Signed into law on 9/24/02](#)

A. 9599 Wildlife Control

Requires licensing of nuisance wildlife control operators; imposes fee for license; requires Department to maintain and make available a list of such operators.

[Signed into law on 7/30/02](#)

A. 10152 – Horse Transportation

Provides that every vehicle utilized for the transportation of more than 6 horses shall have no more than 1 tier.

[Signed into law on 7/23/02](#)

S. 2558 – Dangerous Animal and Reptiles

Requires those who own, possess, or harbor dangerous wild animals or reptiles capable of inflicting harm upon a human being to notify the clerk of the city, town, or village, who shall transmit this information to emergency services personnel; also directs the State Fire

Administrator to promulgate necessary and convenient regulations.

[Signed into law on 12/20/02](#)

S. 6431 - Fireworks

Provides that no permit may be issued for the public display of fireworks upon property which is less than 500 yards from any property which is owned, leased, or operated by any breeder of New York-bred horses.

[Signed into law on 7/23/02](#)

NORTH CAROLINA

H.B. 893 – Hound Hunting

Includes Moore County among those counties in which dogs may not be used to hunt deer.

[Signed into law on 7/22/2002](#)

OKLAHOMA

H.B. 2035 – Dogs as Machinery

Adds dogs and farm machinery to the list of farm animals for whom it is a felony to steal, and adds a fine of up to three times the value of the animal or machinery.

[Signed into law on 5/30/02](#)

H.B. 2109 – Euthanasia Technicians

Requires the Board to conduct a national criminal history record search for certified euthanasia technicians, for which the technicians provide fingerprint cards and payment. Extends immunity from liability of veterinarians attending to animals injured in accidents, to veterinary technicians, and to animals injured in disasters. Requires that veterinary technicians be graduated from an accredited AVMA program and have passed the Board examination, rather than just be certified by a program which conforms to AVMA requirements for accreditation. Removes the provision that those conducting animal experimentation or routine vaccination of poultry cannot be considered registered veterinary technicians. Allows veterinary technicians to perform emergency treatments in lifesaving situations according to rules promulgated by the Board. Defines veterinary assistant and veterinary technologist. Prohibits aiding or abetting in a violation. Etc.

[Signed into law on 5/6/02](#)

H.B. 2855 - Rabbits

Adds domesticated rabbits to definition of livestock.

[Signed into law on 5/6/02](#)

OHIO

H.B. 493 – Sunday Hunting

Allows Sunday hunting on certain private land. This is already permitted on public land.

[Signed into law on 5/15/02](#)

S.B. 221 – Animal Cruelty

Creates a felony offense for animal cruelty the second time such crime is committed. It covers only companion animals that are defined by the law as "any animal that is kept inside a residential dwelling and any dog or cat. "Companion animals" does not include livestock or any wild animal. The penalties for a 5th degree felony are 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 months and a \$2500 fine, or a \$7500 fine for organizations. Of course, that would be a second offense for KNOWINGLY abusing an animal, not negligently abusing an animal.

[Signed into law on 1/8/03](#)

PENNSYLVANIA

H.B. 2923 - SPCA

Grants and conveys to the SPCA of Chester County, Inc., certain land situated in West Bradford Township, Chester County.

[Signed into law on 12/9/02](#)

S.B. 1325 – Petting Zoos

Provides for animal exhibition sanitation. Requires operators of animal exhibits and petting zoos to promote public awareness by posting appropriate notices regarding zoonotic disease.

[Signed into law on 12/9/02](#)

RHODE ISLAND

S.B. 2076 – Maximum Number of Dogs

Authorizes the town of Bristol to prescribe the number of dogs, which may be kept in a single-family residence other than a licensed breeding kennel.

[6/28/02, Became law without the Governor's signature.](#)

S.B. 2176 – Night Hunting

This act permits the chief of the Division of Agriculture, rather than the director of the Department of Environmental Management, to authorize hunting at night on farmlands. This act would take effect upon passage.

[5/31/02 Became law without the Governor's signature.](#)

S.B. 2546 - Wildlife

This act would establish a program administered by Department of Environmental Management to combat wildlife damage to crops. This act would take effect upon passage.

[6/28/02 Became Law without the Governor's signature.](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA

H. 3361 - Dolphin

Makes it is unlawful for any person to catch, attempt to catch, feed, feed by hand, molest, injure, kill, annoy, harass or interfere with the normal activity and well being of any mammalian dolphin or porpoise. Does not apply to federal permits.

[3/6/02 Became law without the Governor's signature.](#)

H. 3372 - Ferrets

Mandates that purchasers of a domesticated ferret must be provided with a notice not less than eight inches by eleven inches which shall bear the following inscription in letters not less than three-fourths inches high: 'FERRETS HAVE A PROPENSITY TO MAKE UNPROVOKED ATTACKS THAT CAUSE BODILY INJURY TO A HUMAN BEING'.

[Signed into law on 8/5/02](#)

H. 4260 - Carnivores

Prohibits the sale of offspring born to a carnivore or other animal crossbred with a wild carnivore; restricts public exhibitions of wild carnivores and other animals for which a rabies vaccine does not exist; revises rabies reporting requirements; changes the time within which a physician is required to report an animal bite from 12 hours to the next working day; revises quarantine requirements.

[Vetoed on 6/3/02.](#)

H. 4530 – Spay/Neuter, License Plates

Creates Project Pet license plates to fund nonprofits offering spay/neuter services.

[Signed into law on 5/20/02](#)

H.4891 - Rabies

The Department of Health and Environmental Control must ensure the availability of rabies vaccinations and globulin products for persons bitten by or exposed to a pet or animal found or suspected to be affected by rabies.

[Signed into law on 5/28/02](#)

H. 5212 – Avian Influenza

By joint resolution, prohibits poultry from states having flocks that have tested positive for avian influenza from entry into this state until thirty days after quarantine of the final confirmed avian influenza premises in the positive state; provides that poultry participating in exhibitions conducted in a positive state after March 1, 2002, must test negative for avian influenza prior to participation in a South Carolina Exhibition.

[Signed into law on 5/20/02](#)

S.191 – “Good Samaritan bill”

Any person, who is acting in good faith in an emergency situation to assist an animal that is in pain or distress, shall not be liable or subject to any civil or criminal liability for any injuries or harm to such animal resulting from the rendering of such care or treatment.

[Signed into law on 4/22/02](#)

S. 969 – Wildlife Management Areas

Relates to unlawful abuse of wildlife management area lands and improvements; provides that certain activities are unlawful abuses of wildlife management area lands and

improvements; relates to additional penalties for abusing wildlife management area lands and improvements; provides that it is unlawful to enter onto wildlife management area lands after losing the privilege to enter wildlife management area lands.

[Signed into law on 5/20/02](#)

S. 4510 – Service Dogs

Relates to the rights of the blind and disabled persons to use public facilities and accommodations; provides that any transfer of a guide dog, while training a guide dog, has the same rights and privileges with respect to access to public facilities and accommodations as blind and disabled persons.

[Signed into law on 4/24/02](#)

S. 4516 – Alligator Farming

Relates to establishing a three year pilot program of alligator farming for the purpose of determining the feasibility of alligator farming for poultry mortality disposal; extends the pilot project; provides that any person 18 years or older may establish an alligator farm for the purpose of poultry mortality disposal.

[Signed into law on 6/3/02](#)

TENNESSEE

S. 1810 – Animal Cruelty

This bill created a felony level penalty for the most egregious acts of animal cruelty to a companion animal on a second offense. It is subject to a person who commits aggravated cruelty to animals when, with no justifiable purpose, such person intentionally kills or intentionally causes serious physical injury to a companion animal with aggravated cruelty. This bill includes provisions allowing the court to order psychological counseling, determine when, if ever the individual will be allowed to have custody of other animals, and if the household has any minors or elderly the court may within 15 days send notification of the conviction to the appropriate protective agencies.

[Signed into law on 7/15/02](#)

S.B. 2929 - Puppy mill bill

Takes money from the Spay/Neuter license plate to fund other animal facilities under the State Department of Agriculture. This money will go toward the inspection of puppy mill facilities.

[Signed into law on 5/22/02](#)

VERMONT

H. 489 – Dog “Give-Aways”

Prohibits the sale of any dog or puppy offered for sale, sold, displayed or given away on the side of any highway, as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 1, except by the owner or lessor of the abutting land.

[Signed into law on 5/8/02](#)

S. 266 – Welfare of Animals in the Municipality

Humane officers may enforce animal control ordinances, if authorized to do so by the municipality.

[Signed into law on 4/24/02](#)

VIRGINIA

H.B. 377 – Wildlife Control

Allows the town of Front Royal, through its service district to construct, maintain and operate facilities, equipment and programs as may be necessary or desirable to control, eradicate and prevent the infestation of rats, skunks and other nuisance animals and the conditions that harbor them.

[Signed into law on 3/27/02](#)

H.B. 707/S.B. 306 – Animal Cruelty

Provides that it is a Class 6 felony to cause the death of a companion animal by willfully and maliciously torturing or inflicting inhumane injury or pain or cruelly beating, maiming or mutilating such animal.

[Signed into law on 4/6/02](#)

H.B. 773 – Reporting Neglect

Requires animal control officers to receive training in the recognition in and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

[Signed into law on 4/3/02](#)

H.B. 1347 – Illegal Abandoning/Dumping an Animal

Creates a definition for dumping an animal, and adds it to the animal cruelty statute.

[Signed into law on 4/3/02](#)

S.B. 133 – Shelter Inspection

Exempts Virginia Beach shelters from inspection.

[Signed into law on 2/28/02](#)

S.B. 235 – Horse Soring/Animal Cruelty

Adds the federal definition of soring of horses, expands the authority to seize, and impound animals for failure to provide adequate care to horses by deleting the companion animal qualification, and includes soring of horses as cruelty to animals, which has penalties from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony.

[Signed into law on 4/5/02](#)

S.B. 260 – Foster Home/Shelter Inspection

Relates to animal shelters; adds definitions of companion animal rescue agency and foster home; establishes requirements for operating companion animal rescue agencies and foster

homes; sets out separate registration requirements for companion animal rescue agencies and animal pounds and shelters that use foster homes; prohibits any person who has ever been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment from adopting an animal.

[Signed into law on 4/8/02](#)

WASHINGTON

S.B. 6037 – Veterinary Care

Authorizes animal care and control agencies and nonprofit humane societies to provide limited veterinarian services.

[Signed into law on 3/27/02](#)

S.B. 6635 – Dangerous Dogs

Establishes an appeals procedure for dangerous dogs, and requires the owner to pay the costs of confinement and care.

[Signed into law on 3/29/02](#)

WEST VIRGINIA

S.B. 3 – Barking Dogs

Permits ordinances about barking dogs.

[Signed into law on 4/2/02](#)

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
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