



State Animal Cruelty Chart

Forty-eight states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have laws making certain types of animal cruelty a felony offense.

State	Citation	Max Penalty	Applies to	Max Fine ¹	Max Jail Time ¹	Neglect penalty	Bonding or Reimbursement of Costs	Counseling	Future Ownership	Year Felony Enacted
AL	§§ 13A-11-241; 13A-11-14; 13A-11-245	Class C Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: dog or cat Misd: all animals	\$15,000	10 years	Class B misdemeanor	May reimburse (dogs/cats only)			2000
AK	§ 11.61.140	Class C felony (1 st offense)	Felony: vertebrates, except fish Misd: vertebrates, except fish	\$50,000	5 years	Class A misdemeanor Class C felony (subsequent offense within 10 years)	May reimburse		May ban ownership for up to 10 years	2008
AZ	§§ 13-2910; 11-1029	Class 6 felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals except fish Misd: all animals except fish	\$150,000	1 ½ years	Class 1 misdemeanor Class 6 felony (intentionally/knowingly and results in serious physical injury to animal)	Shall reimburse			1999
AR	§§ 5-62-103; 5-62-104; 5-62-106	Class D felony (1 st offense) Class C felony (subsequent offense)	Felony: dogs, cats, horses Misd: all animals	\$10,000	10 years	Unclassified misd Class D Felony (4 th or more within 5 years of previous offense)	Shall bond	Mandatory evaluation, may order treatment		2009

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CA	Cal. Penal Code § 597; § 11199	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$20,000	3 years	Felony or misdemeanor	Shall reimburse	Mandatory	May ban ownership as a condition of probation	1988
CO	§§ 18-9-202; 18-9-202.5	Class 6 felony (1 st offense) Class 5 felony (subsequent offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$500,000	3 years	Class 1 misdemeanor Class 6 felony (subsequent offense)	Shall bond	1 st offense: May order 2 nd offense: Mandatory		2002
CT	§§ 53-247; 22-329a; 53a-30	Class D felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	5 years	Unclassified misdemeanor	Shall bond	May order		1996
DE	11 Del. C. § 1325; 3 Del. C. § 7905	Class F felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals, except fish, crustaceans and mollusks Misd: all animals, except fish, crustaceans and mollusks	Court determined	3 years	Class A misdemeanor	Shall reimburse		Shall ban future ownership for 5 years for misdemeanor; 15 years for felony	1994
FL	§§ 828.12; 828.073	3 rd degree felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$10,000	5 years	Misd of 1 st degree	May reimburse	Mandatory for torture	May ban future ownership	1989
GA	§ 16-12-4	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals, except fish and "pests" Misd: all	\$100,000	5 years	Misdemeanor Misd of a high and aggravated nature (subsequent offense that results in death of	Lien on animal for costs	May order evaluation		2000

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			animals, except fish and “pests”			animal)				
HI	§§ 711-1108.5; 711-1109; 711-1109.2	Class C felony (1 st offense)	Felony: pet animals and horses Misd: all animals	\$10,000	5 years	Misdemeanor	May bond			2007
ID	§ 25-3504	Felony (3 rd offense)	Any animal		1 year	Misdemeanor (3 rd or subsequent violation within 15 years of the 1 st conviction)	Shall bond		May ban future ownership	N/A
IL	510 ILCS §§ 70/3.01, 3.02, 3.03, 3.04, 3.05	Class 3 felony (1 st offense)	Felony torture: all animals Felony aggravated cruelty: companion animals Misd: all animals	\$25,000	5 years	Class A Misdemeanor Class 4 Felony (subsequent offense)	May bond (companion animals only)	Mandatory for juveniles, torture and hoarders; may order for other crimes	May ban future ownership	1999
IN	§§ 35-46-3-12; 35-46-3-6; 35-46-3-7	Class D felony (1 st offense)	Felony: vertebrate animal Misd: vertebrate animals	\$10,000	3 years	Class A misdemeanor Class D felony (with prior unrelated conviction under chapter that is not for the harboring of a non-immunized dog)	May bond	May order		1998
IA	§§ 717B.3A, 717B.1, 717B.2, 717B.3, 717B.4	Class D felony (2 nd offense)	Felony: vertebrates other than livestock, game, furbearer,	\$7,500	5 years	Simple misdemeanor Serious misdemeanor (intentionally and results in serious injury of death of animal)	Shall bond	Mandatory for torture		2000

State	Citation	Max Penalty	Applies to	Max Fine ¹	Max Jail Time ¹	Neglect penalty	Bonding or Reimbursement of Costs	Counseling	Future Ownership	Year Felony Enacted
			fish, reptile, amphibian or nuisance wildlife Misd: vertebrates other than livestock, game, furbearer, fish, reptile, amphibian or nuisance wildlife							
KS	§§ 21-4310; 23-4311; 23-4313; 23-4317; 21-6412	Non-person felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates Misd: all vertebrates	\$5,000	1 year	Class A non-person misdemeanor Non-person felony (subsequent offense)	Shall bond Shall reimburse	Mandatory evaluation	Illegal to possess animals for 5 years after cruelty conviction	2006
KY	§§ 525.135, 525.130	Class D felony (1 st offense)	Felony: dog and cat Misd: any animal	\$10,000	5 years	Class A misdemeanor				2003
LA	§§ 14:102.1; 14:102.2	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$25,000	10 years	Misdemeanor Felony (subsequent offense; or 1 st offense intentionally/with criminal negligence)	Shall bond	May order evaluation for cruelty; mandatory for felony cruelty		1995
ME	§§ 17-	Class C crime	Felony: all	\$10,000	5 years	Class D crime	May bond	May order	May ban	2001

State	Citation	Max Penalty	Applies to	Max Fine ¹	Max Jail Time ¹	Neglect penalty	Bonding or Reimbursement of Costs	Counseling	Future Ownership	Year Felony Enacted
	1031; 17-1027; 7-4011	(1 st offense)	animals Misd: all animals			Class C crime (3 rd offense)			future ownership	
MD	Criminal Law, §§ 10-606; 10-604; 10-615	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	3 years	Misdemeanor		May order	May ban future ownership	2001
MA	272 § 77, §104; 266 § 112	Felony level ² (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals	\$2,500	5 years	Felony	May bond			1804
MI	§§ 750.50; 750.50b	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates Misd: all vertebrates	\$20,000	4 years	Misdemeanor Felony (4 or more animals; or subsequent offense)	May bond May reimburse	May order	May ban for probationary period; permanently on second offense	1931
MIN	§§ 343.21; 343.235	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: pets or companion animals Misd: all animals	\$10,000	4 years	Misdemeanor Gross misdemeanor (subsequent offense within 5 years of previous violation)	May bond	May order	May ban future ownership	2001
MS	§§ 97-41-2; 97-41-15; 97-41-16 (97-41-1)**	Felony (2 nd offense)	Felony: dogs and cats	\$5,000	5 years	Misdemeanor (dogs and cats)	Shall bond		May ban future ownership	2011
MO	§§ 578.012; 578.018	Class D felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates Misd: all vertebrates	\$5,000	4 years	Class A misdemeanor Class D felony (subsequent offense)	May bond			1994
MT	§§ 45-8-	Felony	Felony: all	\$2,500	2 years	Misdemeanor	Shall reimburse		May ban	1993

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	211; 45-8-217; 27-1-434	(1 st offense)	animals Misd: all animals			Felony (subsequent offense)	May bond		future ownership for term of sentence	
NE	§§ 28-1009; 28-1011; 28-1012; 28-1019	Class IV felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates except uncaptured wild animals Misd: all vertebrates except uncaptured wild animals	\$10,000	5 years	Class I misdemeanor Class IV felony (result in serious injury or illness or death of animal)	May reimburse Lien on animal for costs		For felonies, shall ban future ownership for 5-15 years; for misdemeanors, may ban future ownership for up to 5 years	2002
NV	§§ 206.150; 574.100; 574.055; 62E.680	Category D felony (1 st offense) Category C felony (3 rd offense)	Felony: animals belonging to another Misd (3 rd offense felony): all animals	\$10,000	5 years	Misdemeanor (1 st or 2 nd offense in preceding 7 years) Category C felony (3 rd or more within the immediately preceding 7 years)	Shall reimburse Lien on animal for costs	Mandatory for juveniles		1999
NH	§ 644:8	Class B felony (1 st offense)	Felony: domestic animals, household pets or wild animals in captivity Misd: domestic animals, household pets or wild animals in	\$4,000	7 years	Misdemeanor (1 st offense) Class B felony (subsequent offense)	Shall reimburse May bond on appeal		May ban future ownership	1994

State	Citation	Max Penalty	Applies to	Max Fine ¹	Max Jail Time ¹	Neglect penalty	Bonding or Reimbursement of Costs	Counseling	Future Ownership	Year Felony Enacted
			captivity							
NJ	§4:22-17	Crime of the 3 rd degree ² (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$15,000	5 years	Disorderly persons offense	May reimburse	Mandatory for juveniles		2001
NM	§§ 30-18-1; 30-18-1.2	4 th degree felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals except reptiles Misd: all animals except reptiles	\$5,000	18 months	Misdemeanor 4 th degree felony (4 th offense)	May bond Shall reimburse	Mandatory for juveniles May order for adults		1999
NY	Ag & Markets Law, §§ 353, 353-a, 373, 374	Class E felony (1 st offense)	Felony: companion animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	2 years	Class A misdemeanor	May bond		May ban future ownership	1999
NC	§ 14-360	Class I felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates Misd: all vertebrates	Court determined	1 year	Class 1 misdemeanor Class H felony (intentional deprivation leading to death of animal; or maliciously and results in death of animal)				1998
ND	§ 36-21.1-02; 36-21.1-11	Class A misdemeanor	Misd: all animals	\$2,000	1 year	Class A misdemeanor				N/A
OH	§§ 959.02; 959.13; 959.131; 959.132; 959.99	5 th degree felony (2 nd offense)	Felony: companion animals Misd: all animals	\$2,000	1 year	Misd of the 2 nd degree (non-companion animal) Misd of the 2 nd degree (1 st offense to companion animal)	May bond (companion animals only) May reimburse	May order	May ban future ownership	2002

State	Citation	Max Penalty	Applies to	Max Fine ¹	Max Jail Time ¹	Neglect penalty	Bonding or Reimbursement of Costs	Counseling	Future Ownership	Year Felony Enacted
						Misd of the 1 st degree (subsequent offense to companion animal)				
OK	21 Okl.St. Ann . §§ 1685; 1681; 1680.4	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals	\$5,000	5 years	Felony	May bond			1887
OR	§§ 167.315; 167.320; 167.322; 167.332; 167.334; 167.347; 167.350	Class C felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$125,000	5 years	Class B misd Class A misd (results in serious physical injury or death of animal)	May bond May reimburse	May order	Illegal to possess domestic animals for 5 years for misdemeanor; 15 years for felony	1995
PA	18 Pa. § 5511	3 rd degree felony (2 nd offense)	Felony: dogs and cats Misd: domestic animal or domestic fowl Summary offense: all animals	\$15,000	7 years	Summary offense Misd of 3 rd degree (subsequent offense and offenses were towards dog/cat and dog/cat was seriously injured, suffered severe physical distress or was placed at imminent risk of serious physical harm)	Shall reimburse Lien on animals for cost	May order evaluation	May ban for term of the sentence	1995
RI	§§ 4-1-2, 4-1-3, 4-1-5, 4-1-36	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$1,000	2 years	Misdemeanor	Shall reimburse Lien on animals for cost	May order		1896
SC	§§ 47-1-40; 47-1-70; 47-1-140;	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: vertebrates, except fowl Misd:	\$5,000	5 years	Misdemeanor	Shall reimburse Lien on animals for cost			2000

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	47-1-150		vertebrates, except fowl							
SD	§§ 40-1-5; 40-1-5.1; 40-1-20; 40-1-21; 40-1-27	Class 1 misdemeanor	Misd: all animals	\$2,000	1 year	Class 1 misdemeanor	Lien on animal for costs			N/A
TN	§§ 39-14-202; 39-14-210; 39-14-212	Class E felony (1 st offense)	Felony: companion animal Misd: domestic animal or wild animal in captivity	\$3,000	6 years	Class A misdemeanor Class E felony (subsequent conviction)	May bond	May order	May ban future ownership	2001
TX	Penal Code, § 42.092; Health & Safety Code, § 821.023; Family Code, § 54.0407	State jail felony (1 st & 2 nd offense) 3 rd degree felony (3 rd offense)	Felony: domesticated animal, stray/feral dogs or cats, wild animals in captivity Misd: domesticated animal, stray/feral dogs or cats, wild animals in captivity	\$10,000	10 years	Class A misdemeanor State jail felony (3 rd offense)	Shall reimburse	Mandatory for juveniles		1997
UT	§ 76-9-301	3 rd degree felony (1 st offense)	Felony: dog or cat Misd: all vertebrates, except zoo animals,	\$5,000	5 years	Class B misd (if intentionally/knowingly ; on subsequent offense becomes Class A misd) Class C misd (if	May reimburse	May order	May ban future ownership	2008

State	Citation	Max Penalty	Applies to	Max Fine ¹	Max Jail Time ¹	Neglect penalty	Bonding or Reimbursement of Costs	Counseling	Future Ownership	Year Felony Enacted
			animals kept to train hunting dogs or raptors, and animals temporarily in the state with a USDA licensed exhibitor			recklessly/with criminal negligence; on subsequent offense becomes Class B misd)				
VT	13 V.S.A. §§ 352; 352a; 353; 354	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$7,500	5 years	Civil citation (if not previously adjudicated in violation of chapter) Misd (otherwise)	Shall reimburse Lien on animal for costs	May order	May ban future ownership	1998
VA	§ 3.1-796.122; § 3.2-6569	Felony (1 st offense)	1 st offense felony: dog or cat 2 nd offense felony: all vertebrates except fish Misd: all vertebrates except fish	\$2,500	5 years	Class 1 misdemeanor Class 6 felony (maliciously and has been convicted for cruelty to animals within 5 years if any current or previous violation resulted in death or necessary euthanasia or animal)	May bond Shall reimburse	May order	May ban future ownership	1999
WA	§§ 16.52.205; 16.52.207; 16.52.200	Class C felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$10,000	5 years	Class C felony (with criminal negligence and resultantly causes substantial and unjustifiable physical pain that extends for a period sufficient to cause considerable suffering or death to animal)	Shall reimburse	May order	Shall ban future ownership if animal dies or on 2 nd offense; may ban for others. If ban is ordered, court shall ban for 2 years for	1994

State	Citation	Max Penalty	Applies to	Max Fine ¹	Max Jail Time ¹	Neglect penalty	Bonding or Reimbursement of Costs	Counseling	Future Ownership	Year Felony Enacted
						Gross misd (under circumstances not amounting to above first degree animal cruelty and the animal suffers unnecessary or unjustifiable physical pain as a result)			misdemeanor and permanently for felonies or subsequent misdemeanors	
WV	§ 61-8-19; § 7-10-4	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	5 years	Misdemeanor	Shall bond Shall reimburse	Shall order evaluation (prior to probation)	Shall ban future ownership for 5 years for misdemeanor; 15 years for felony	2003
WI	§951.18; § 951.02; § 173.23	Class I felony (1 st offense)	Felony: mammals, reptiles and amphibians Misd: mammals, reptiles and amphibians	\$10,000	3 ½ years	Class C forfeiture Class A forfeiture (violation within 3 years after a humane officer issues abatement order) Class A misdemeanor (intentionally or negligently)	May bond Shall reimburse		May ban future ownership for up to 5 years	1986
WY	§ 6-3-203; § 11-29-114	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	2 years	Misdemeanor High misd (subsequent offense)	Shall bond May reimburse		May ban future ownership	2003
DC	§§ 22-1001; 22-1004	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$25,000	5 years	Petty misdemeanor	May reimburse Lien on animal for costs	May order	May ban future ownership	2001
Guam	9 G.C.A. §§ 70.10; 80.12	Petty misdemeanor	Misd: all animals	\$500	60 days	Misdemeanor 3 rd degree felony (if result in serious		May order		N/A

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						physical injury or death to animal)				
Puerto Rico	5 L.P.R.A. §§ 1652; 1653; 1659	2 nd degree felony (1 st offense)	Felony: domestic animals, birds or other animals kept in captivity Misd: domestic animals, birds or other animals kept in captivity	\$10,000	15 years	Misdemeanor (with negligence) 4 th degree felony (if serious disregard for the life and safety of animal and with intention of causing serious bodily harm)				2004
Virgin Islands	14 V.I.C. §§ 181-185; 187	Felony	Felony: mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, but not pests	\$5,000	2 years	Misdemeanor	Shall reimburse	Shall order (prior to probation)	Shall ban future ownership for 5-20 years	2005

¹In some states, these maximum penalties apply only on a second or subsequent offense. Penalties for a first offense may be lower.

²These states do not classify offenses as felonies, but have felony level penalties.