

Fact Sheet

Updated April 2013

Cockfighting: State Laws

Cockfighting is illegal in every state, and all animal fighting that affects interstate commerce is punishable as a federal felony under the Animal Welfare Act. Forty states and the District of Columbia have made cockfighting a felony offense, 39 states and the District of Columbia prohibit the possession of birds for fighting, 43 states and the District of Columbia prohibit being a spectator at cockfights, and 15 states prohibit the possession of cockfighting implements.

State	Cockfighting: on the Law Books	Cockfighting: a Felony or a Misdemeanor	Loophole: Possession of Cocks for Fighting	Loophole: Being a Spectator at a Cockfight	Loophole: Possession of Implements
Alabama	Code of Ala. § 13A-12-4	Misdemeanor	Legal	Legal	Legal
Alaska	Alaska Stat. § 11.61.145	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor ¹	Legal
Arizona	A.R.S. §§ 13-2910.03; 13-2910.04	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
Arkansas	§ 5-62-101	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Legal
California	Cal Pen Code §§ 597b; 597c; 597j; 597i	Felony ²	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
Colorado	C.R.S. 18-9-204	Felony	Felony	Felony	Felony
Connecticut	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-247	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
Delaware	11 Del. C. § 1326	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
Florida	Fla. Stat. § 828.122	Felony	Felony	Felony	Felony
Georgia	O.C.G.A. § 16-12-4	Felony	Legal	Legal	Legal
Hawaii	HRS § 711-1109	Misdemeanor	Legal	Legal	Legal
Idaho	Idaho Code § 25-3506	Felony	Legal	Legal	Felony
Illinois	510 ILCS 70/4.01	Felony	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Indiana	Ind. Code Ann. §§ 35-46-3-8; 35-46-3-8.5; 35-46-3-9; 35-46-3-10	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor

1 Second or subsequent offense is a misdemeanor.

2 Second or subsequent offense can be a felony.



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Iowa	Iowa Code §§ 717D.2 & 717D.4	Felony	Felony	Felony ³	Felony
Kansas	K.S.A. § 21- 4319	Felony	Legal	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
Kentucky	KRS § 525.130	Misdemeanor	Legal	Misdemeanor	Legal
Louisiana	LSA-R.S. 14:102.23	Felony ³	Felony	Misdemeanor	Legal
Maine	17 M.R.S. § 1033	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Legal
Maryland	Md. Criminal Law Code Ann. §§ 10- 608; 10-605	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Felony
Massachusetts	ALM GL ch. 272, §§ 94 & 95	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
Michigan	MCLS § 750.49	Felony	Felony	Felony	Felony
Minnesota	Minn. Stat. § 343.31	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
Mississippi	Miss. Code Ann. § 97- 41-11	Misdemeanor	Legal	Legal	Legal
Missouri	V.A.M.S. § 578.173	Felony	Legal	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
Montana	Mont. Code Anno., § 45- 8-210	Felony	Felony	Legal	Legal
Nebraska	R.R.S. Neb. § 28-1005	Felony	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Nevada	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 574.070	Felony ³	Felony ³	Felony ⁴	Legal
New Hampshire	RSA § 644:8-a	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. §§ 4:22-24 & 4:22-26	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
New Mexico	N.M.S.A. § 30-18-9	Felony ⁴	Felony ⁴	Legal	Legal

³ Second or subsequent offense is a felony.

⁴ Third or subsequent violation is a felony.



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New York	NY CLS Agr & M § 351	Felony	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Legal
North Carolina	N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-362	Felony	Legal	Felony	Legal
North Dakota	N.D. Cent. Code, § 36-21.1-07	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Legal
Ohio	ORC Ann. §§ 959.15, 959.99, 2923.24	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
Oklahoma	21 Okl. St. §§ 1692.2; 1692.3; 1692.5; 1692.6	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Felony
Oregon	ORS §§ 167.428 & 167.431	Felony	Felony	Felony	Felony ⁵
Pennsylvania	18 Pa.C.S. § 5511	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
Rhode Island	R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 4-1-9; 4-1-10; 4-1-11	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
South Carolina	S.C. Code Ann. § 16-17-650	Misdemeanor	Legal	Misdemeanor	Legal
South Dakota	§ 40-1-9	Misdemeanor	Legal	Misdemeanor	Legal
Tennessee	Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-203	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Legal
Texas	Tex. Penal Code § 42.09	Felony	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
Utah	Utah Code Ann. §§ 76-9-301; 76-9-301.5	Misdemeanor	Legal	Misdemeanor	Legal
Vermont	13 V.S.A. §§ 352 & 353	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
Virginia	Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6571	Felony	Felony	Felony	Felony

⁵ Possession of gaffs and slashers is a Class C Felony; possession of all other cockfighting implements is a Class A Misdemeanor.



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Washington	Rev. Code Wash. § 16.52.117	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
West Virginia	W. Va. Code §§ 61-8-19; 61-8-19a; 61-8-19b	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Legal
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. §§ 951.08 & 951.18	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Legal
Wyoming	Wyo. Stat. § 6-3-203	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor	Legal
		<i>40 Felony 10 Misdemeanor</i>	<i>32 Felony 6 Misdemeanor 12 Legal</i>	<i>20 Felony 23 Misdemeanor 7 Legal</i>	<i>9 Felony 9 Misdemeanor 31 Legal</i>
Washington DC	§ 22-1015	Felony	Felony	Felony	Legal
American Samoa	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal
Guam	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal
Puerto Rico	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal
Virgin Islands	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal



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