

# 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	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>
Alaska	Alaska Stat. § 11.61.145	Felony	Felony	<b>Misdemeanor</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>Legal</b>
Arizona	A.R.S. §§ 13-2910.03; 13-2910.04	Felony	Felony	Felony	<b>Legal</b>
Arkansas	§ 5-62-101	Felony	Felony	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Legal</b>
California	Cal Pen Code §§ 597b; 597c; 597j; 597i	Felony <sup>2</sup>	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Misdemeanor</b>
Colorado	C.R.S. 18-9-204	Felony	Felony	Felony	Felony
Connecticut	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-247	Felony	Felony	Felony	<b>Legal</b>
Delaware	11 Del. C. § 1326	Felony	Felony	Felony	<b>Legal</b>
Florida	Fla. Stat. § 828.122	Felony	Felony	Felony	Felony
Georgia	O.C.G.A. § 16-12-4	Felony	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>
Hawaii	HRS § 711-1109	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>
Idaho	Idaho Code § 25-3506	Felony	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	Felony
Illinois	510 ILCS 70/4.01	Felony	Felony	Felony	<b>Misdemeanor</b>
Indiana	Ind. Code Ann. §§ 35-46-3-8; 35-46-3-8.5; 35-46-3-9; 35-46-3-10	Felony	Felony	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Misdemeanor</b>

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

<sup>3</sup> Second or subsequent offense is a felony.

<sup>4</sup> Third or subsequent violation is a felony.



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

<sup>5</sup> 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	<b>Legal</b>
West Virginia	W. Va. Code §§ 61-8-19; 61-8-19a; 61-8-19b	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Legal</b>
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. §§ 951.08 & 951.18	Felony	Felony	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Legal</b>
Wyoming	Wyo. Stat. § 6-3-203	Felony	Felony	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Legal</b>
		<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	<b>Felony</b>	<b>Felony</b>	<b>Felony</b>	<b>Legal</b>
American Samoa	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>
Guam	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>
Puerto Rico	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>
Virgin Islands	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal</b>



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