

Fact Sheet

Updated September 2009

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. Thirty-nine states and the District of Columbia have made cockfighting a felony offense, 37 states and the District of Columbia prohibit the possession of birds for fighting, 41 states and the District of Columbia prohibit being a spectator at cockfights, and 13 states prohibit the possession of cockfighting implements.

| <i>State</i> | <i>Cockfighting: on the Law Books</i> | <i>Cockfighting: a Felony or a Misdemeanor</i> | <i>Loophole: Possession of Cocks for Fighting</i> | <i>Loophole: Being a Spectator at a Cockfight</i> | <i>Loophole: Possession of Implements</i> |
|--------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| 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 | Misdemeanor | Legal | Legal | Legal |
| 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 | Felony ⁵ | 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 | Legal | 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 | Legal |
| 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 | Legal |
| 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.

5 Felony if the person has a prior unrelated conviction.



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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 ⁶ |
| 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 | Legal | Legal | Legal |
| 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. § 3.1-796.125 | Felony | Felony | Felony | Felony |

⁶ 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>39 Felony 11 Misdemeanor</i> | <i>32 Felony 5 Misdemeanor 13 Legal</i> | <i>21 Felony 20 Misdemeanor 9 Legal</i> | <i>8 Felony 6 Misdemeanor 36 Legal</i> |
| | | | | | |
| Washington DC | § 22-1015 | Felony | Felony | Misdemeanor | 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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