THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Humane State Ranking 2013

(Alabama through Missouri)

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO
ANIMAL FIGHTING																									
Felony penalty for cockfighting		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√
Felony penalty for a first offense of cockfighting		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√		√
Prohibits attending cockfights		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
Felony penalties for attending cockfights			√			√	√	√	√				√		√						√	√			
Prohibits possessing birds for fighting		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√		
Felony penalties for possessing birds for fighting		√	√	√		√	√	√	√				√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√		
Prohibits cockfighting implements					√	√			√				√	√	√	√				√		√	√		√
Felony penalties for dogfighting	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Felony penalties for possessing dogs for fighting	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Prohibits attending dogfights	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Felony penalties for attending dogfights	√		√			√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√			√			√	√		√	
Prohibits hog dog fighting	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√		√	
Requires person charged with animal fighting to post a bond to cover the costs of caring for the animals	√		√	√		√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√		√	√	√
ANIMAL CRUELTY																									
Felony penalty for egregious acts of cruelty	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Felony penalty for a first offense of egregious cruelty	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO
Counseling required for animal cruelty offenders					√	√			√				√		√	√		√							
Allows courts to include protections for pets in domestic violence orders	√		√	√	√	√	√				√		√					√	√	√	√		√		
Requires person charged with animal cruelty to post a bond to cover the costs of caring for the animals			√	√		√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√
Includes protections for farm animals	√				√			√	√		√										√		√	√	
Requires cross-reporting of animal cruelty					√	√	√						√					√	√				√		
WILDLIFE ABUSE																									
Prohibits bear hunting[1]	n/a						√	n/a	√		n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		√						n/a	√
Prohibits bear trapping statewide	n/a	√	√	√	√	√	√	n/a	√	√	n/a	√	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	√	√		√	√	√	√	n/a	√
Prohibits hound hunting of bears	n/a			√	√	√		n/a			n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				√	√		√	n/a	
Prohibits hunting bears over bait	n/a		√		√	√		n/a		√	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	√			√	√			n/a	
Prohibits the trade in bear parts	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√					√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
Prohibits cougar hunting[2]	n/a	n/a		n/a	√		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prohibits hound hunting of cougars	n/a	n/a		n/a	√		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prohibits mourning dove hunting							√												√		√	√			
Prohibits wolf hunting[3]	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a			n/a	n/a
Includes a partial or full ban on canned hunts, or shooting animals kept in enclosures	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√			√			√		√	√	√		√	√	
Prohibits shooting animals remotely via the internet	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√	√			√

[1] For these purposes, a bear population means a state with an estimated population of more than 200 black bears.
[2] For these purposes, a cougar population means a state with an estimated population of more than 100 cougars.
[3] For these purposes, a wolf population means a state with an estimated population of more than 100 gray wolves. Red wolves and Mexican gray wolves were not included in population data.

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO
Prohibits hunting on Sundays							√	√											√		√				
Felony penalty for illegally hunting an endangered species									√			√													
Regulates nuisance wildlife control operators		√	√				√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Bans the possession and sale of shark fins					√			√			√		√							√					
Prohibits fox penning		√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√							√	√	√				
Member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
Requires the use of non-lead ammunition																									
EXOTIC PETS																									
Prohibits the private possession of big cats as pets		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√		
Prohibits the private possession of primates as pets		√		√	√	√	√			√	√		√		√		√	√	√	√	√		√		
Prohibits the private possession of most dangerous reptiles as pets		√	√		√	√				√	√		√		√	√	√			√	√				
Prohibits the private possession of bears as pets		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Prohibits the private possession of wolves as pets		√	√		√	√	√			√	√		√		√		√	√		√	√				
Prohibits the private possession of crocodilia family			√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√		√		√			√	√				
Does not exempt USDA license holders from exotic animal pet laws																	√								
COMPANION ANIMALS																									
Requires animals to be spayed or neutered before being adopted from shelters	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√		√	√		√	√			√
Grants shelters direct access to drugs needed for humane euthanasia	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√		√	√			√	√	√	√		√			

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO
Prohibits the use of gas chambers for euthanasia	√		√		√				√	√	√		√					√	√	√	√			√	
Requires state emergency response plans to include pets					√		√		√		√		√					√	√						
Allows the creation of pet trusts		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√			√
Requires the addition of a bittering agent to antifreeze			√		√					√			√						√	√	√				
Prohibits greyhound racing												√						√	√		√				
Places limits on the inhumane chaining of dogs					√		√	√			√		√	√				√	√	√	√	√			
Restricts the consumption of dog and cat meat					√																				
ANIMALS IN RESEARCH																									
Grants students the right to choose an alternative to animal dissection in schools					√		√		√				√					√	√	√	√				
Prohibits research facilities from obtaining pets from animal shelters					√		√	√			√		√						√	√	√		√		
Prohibits the use of animals in product testing when an approved alternative exists					√																				
FARM ANIMALS																									
Prohibits gestation crates for breeding sows			√		√	√			√										√			√			
Prohibits veal crates for calves			√		√	√													√			√			
Phased-in restrictions on battery cages for laying hens					√																	√			
Prohibits the force-feeding of birds for the production of foie gras					√																				
Includes protections for downed animals too sick or injured to walk			√		√	√			√			√	√	√		√				√					
Includes humane slaughter standards			√		√	√			√				√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√		
Prohibits tail docking of dairy cows					√																				

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO
Does not restrict investigations into animal cruelty on agriculture facilities	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
FUR AND TRAPPING																									
Prohibits or seriously restricts the use of leghold traps			√		√	√			√	√	√										√				
Prohibits the use of anal electrocution to kill animals for fur																									
Prohibits the use of snares			√		√	√	√				√										√				
Prohibits the sale of dog and cat fur	√				√			√	√	√															
PUPPY MILLS																									
Limits the number of breeding dogs confined at large-scale puppy mills																		√							√
Requires licensing of puppy mills						√	√	√		√			√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√			√
Requires inspections of puppy mills			√			√				√			√		√	√			√			√			√
Includes basic humane standards for dogs at puppy mills					√	√	√	√		√			√	√	√	√			√		√	√			√
Prohibits the stacking of cages at puppy mills																									
Prohibits wire flooring at puppy mills											√								√						√
Includes a puppy lemon law			√	√	√		√	√	√				√						√	√	√	√	√		
Restricts the sale of animals at outdoor sales and/or flea markets			√		√													√							
Includes a pet store disclosure requirement on the source of animals			√										√							√					
EQUINE PROTECTION																									
Prohibits the slaughter of horses for human consumption					√								√												
Felony penalties for the soring of horses' legs																									
Includes standards for the transportation of horses			√		√		√													√	√	√	√		

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO
Prohibits horse tripping, or roping the legs of a galloping horse			√		√				√				√			√			√						
Total score	19	25	46	26	59	46	43	34	41	30	31	16	48	25	31	26	22	38	44	42	48	37	29	15	23
Out of total possible categories	75	80	81	79	81	81	79	75	79	79	75	82	75	75	75	75	79	79	79	79	79	79	80	75	79
Percentage score	25	31	57	33	73	57	54	45	52	38	41	20	64	33	41	35	28	48	56	53	61	47	36	20	29

Scores are based on a percentage of the number of check marks in each applicable category per state. Because some states do not have populations of certain species such as wolves, cougars and bears, the possible number of categories varies. If a state does not have a population of species, they received an “n/a” marking and the total possible categories are reduced.