



State Animal Cruelty Chart

August 2009

Forty-six 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	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	May reimburse (dogs/cats only)			2000
AK	§ 11.61.140	Class C felony (3 rd offense)	Felony: vertebrates, except fish Misd: vertebrates, except fish	\$50,000	5 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	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	Shall bond	Mandatory evaluation, may order treatment		2009
CA	Cal. Penal Code § 597; § 11199	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$20,000	3 years	Shall reimburse	Mandatory		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	Shall bond	1 st offense: May order 2 nd offense: Mandatory		2002

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CT	§§ 53-247; 22-329a; 53a-30	Class D felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	5 years	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	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	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 animals, except fish and “pests”	\$100,000	5 years	Lien on animal for costs	May order evaluation		2000
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	May bond			2007
ID	§ 25-3504	Misdemeanor	Misd: all vertebrates	\$9,000	1 year	Shall bond			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	May bond (companion animals only)	Mandatory for juveniles, torture and hoarders; may order for other crimes	May ban future ownership	1999

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IN	§§ 35-46-3-12; 35-46-3-6	Class D felony (1 st offense)	Felony: vertebrate animal Misd: vertebrate animals	\$10,000	3 years	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, fish, reptile, amphibian or nuisance wildlife Misd: vertebrates other than livestock, game, furbearer, fish, reptile, amphibian or nuisance wildlife	\$7,500	5 years	Shall bond	Mandatory for torture		2000
KS	§§ 21-4310; 23-4311; 23-4313; 23-4317	Non-person felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates Misd: all vertebrates	\$5,000	1 year	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				2003
LA	§§ 14:102.1; 14:102.2	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$25,000	10 years	Shall bond			1995
ME	§§ 17-1031; 17-1027; 7-4011	Class C crime (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$10,000	5 years	May bond	May order	May ban future ownership	2001
MD	Criminal Law, §§ 10-606; 10-604; 10-615	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	3 years		May order		2001
MA	272 § 77, §104; 266 § 112	Felony level ² (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals	\$2,500	5 years	May bond			1804

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MI	§§ 750.50; 750.50b	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates Misd: all vertebrates	\$20,000	4 years	May bond May reimburse	May order	May ban for probationary period; permanently on second offense	1931
MN	§§ 343.21; 343.235	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: pets or companion animals Misd: all animals	\$10,000	4 years	May bond	May order	May ban future ownership	2001
MS	§§ 97-41-2; 97-41-15; 97-41-16 (97-41-1)**	Misdemeanor	Misd: dogs and cats	\$1,000	6 months	Shall bond			N/A
MO	§§ 578.012; 578.018	Class D felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates Misd: all vertebrates	\$5,000	4 years	May bond			1994
MT	§§ 45-8-211; 45-8-217; 27-1-434	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$2,500	2 years	Shall reimburse May bond		May ban future ownership for term of sentence	1993
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	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	§§ 574.100; 574.055; 62E.680	Category C felony (3 rd offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$10,000	5 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 captivity	\$4,000	7 years	Shall reimburse May bond on appeal		May ban future ownership	1994

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NJ	§4:22-17	Crime of the 3 rd degree ² (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$15,000	5 years	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	May bond Shall reimburse	Mandatory for juveniles May order for adults		1999
NY	Ag & Markets Law, §§ 353, 353-a, 373	Class E felony (1 st offense)	Felony: companion animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	2 years	May bond			1999
NC	§ 14-360	Class I felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all vertebrates Misd: all vertebrates	Court determined	1 year				1998
ND	§ 36-21.1-02	Class A misdemeanor	Misd: all animals	\$2,000	1 year				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	May bond (companion animals only) May reimburse	May order	May ban future ownership	2002
OK	21 Okl.St. Ann. §§ 1685; 1681; 1680.4	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals	\$5,000	5 years	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	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	Shall reimburse Lien on animals for cost	May order evaluation	May ban for term of the sentence	1995

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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	Shall reimburse Lien on animals for cost	May order		1896
SC	§§ 47-1-40; 47-1-70; 47-1-140; 47-1-150	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: vertebrates, except fowl Misd: vertebrates, except fowl	\$5,000	5 years	Shall reimburse Lien on animals for cost			2000
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	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	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	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, animals kept to train hunting dogs or raptors, and animals temporarily in the state with a USDA licensed exhibitor	\$5,000	5 years	May reimburse	May order	May ban future ownership	2008

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VT	13 V.S.A. §§ 352; 352a; 353; 354	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$7,500	5 years	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	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	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 misdemeanor and permanently for felonies or subsequent misdemeanors	1994
WV	§ 61-8-19; § 7-10-4	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	5 years	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	May bond Shall reimburse		May ban future ownership for up to 5 years	1986

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WY	§ 6-3-203; § 11-29-114	Felony (1 st offense)	Felony: all animals Misd: all animals	\$5,000	2 years	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	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		May order		N/A
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				2004
Virgin Islands	14 V.I.C. §§ 181-185; 187	Felony	Felony: mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, but not pests	\$5,000	2 years	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.

Summary:

- 46 states plus DC, Puerto Rico and Guam have felony level penalties
- 28 states have bonding provisions
- 28 states plus DC, Guam and the Virgin Islands have counseling provisions
- 22 states plus DC and the Virgin Islands have provisions regarding future ownership of animals