



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Humane State Ranking 2017
(Montana through Wyoming)

	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY	
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																										

	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY		
Felony penalty for egregious acts of cruelty	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Felony penalty for a first offense of egregious cruelty	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
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		√									√	√		√			√						√	√			
Makes sexual abuse of animals a crime	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
WILDLIFE ABUSE																											
Prohibits bear hunting¹		n/a							n/a	n/a				n/a		n/a											
Prohibits bear trapping statewide	√	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						√			√		
Prohibits hunting bears over bait	√	n/a	√			√	√		n/a	n/a		√	√	n/a	√	n/a	√			√	√	√	√				
Prohibits the trade in bear parts	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√		
Prohibits cougar hunting²				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			
Prohibits mourning dove hunting				√	√		√													√							

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.

	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY	
Prohibits wolf hunting³		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	n/a			
Includes a partial or full ban on canned hunts, or shooting animals kept in enclosures	√		√	√				√				√					√		√	√	√	√		√	√	
Prohibits shooting animals remotely via the internet	√	√		√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	
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																										
Prohibits the sale of ivory and rhino horn products			√		√		√					√											√			
Prohibits the sale of certain marine mammal products					√							√											√			
Prohibits the sale of big cat products												√											√			
Prohibits elephant acts							√							√												
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	√		√	√	√	√	√					√					√		√	√		√	√			

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.

	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY	
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 crocodelia 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	√		√		√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
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					√		√																			
Provides incentives or funding for low cost spay neuter programs			√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Prohibits restrictions on dog ownership based on breed			√										√	√		√			√		√					

	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY	
Good Samaritan exemption for removing dogs from hot cars			√							√		√					√			√	√			√		
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					√		√																			
Requires research facilities to offer dogs and cats for adoption prior to euthanasia			√				√																			
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										√				√												
Does not restrict investigations into animal cruelty on agriculture facilities		√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Restricts the sale of products originating from facilities using battery cages, veal crates, or gestation crates																										
FUR AND TRAPPING																										

	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY	
Prohibits or significantly 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 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		√	√	√	√		√					√	√	√						√	√				√	
Requires pet stores to source animals from breeders without recent Animal Welfare Act violations					√																√					
EQUINE PROTECTION																										
Prohibits the slaughter of horses for human consumption					√														√							
Felony penalties for the soring of horse's legs																	√				√					

	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY
Includes standards for the transportation of horses				√			√						√	√			√	√		√	√			√	
Prohibits horse tripping, or roping the legs of a galloping horse		√	√			√					√	√		√				√	√		√				
Total score	27	34	47	44	53	33	51	24	17	41	35	62	47	44	24	17	31	33	28	47	56	55	40	34	23
Out of total possible categories	93	88	92	90	90	92	90	90	88	86	90	92	90	86	90	88	90	92	93	90	90	92	90	91	93
Percentage score	29	39	51	49	59	36	57	27	19	48	39	67	52	51	27	19	34	37	30	52	62	60	44	37	25

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.