



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Humane State Ranking 2018
(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	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Includes some protections for dogs living outdoors	√		√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
WILDLIFE PROTECTION																										
Prohibits bear hunting¹		n/a							n/a	n/a				n/a		n/a										
Prohibits bear trapping	√	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		

¹ For these purposes, a bear population means a state with an estimated population of more than 200 black bears. States without a formally identified population of the species are listed as not applicable (n/a).

² For these purposes, a cougar population means a state with an estimated population of more than 100 cougars. States without a formally identified population of the species are listed as not applicable (n/a).

	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 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				√	√		√													√						
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			
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 elephant ivory, rhino horn or pangolin products			√	√	√		√					√										√				
Prohibits the sale of certain marine mammal products				√	√							√										√				
Prohibits the sale of big cat products				√								√										√				
Prohibits elephant acts					√		√							√												
 DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS AS PETS 																										

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. States without a formally identified population of the species are listed as not applicable (n/a).

	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	
meat																										
Provides incentives or funding for low cost spay neuter programs			√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Prohibits some restrictions on dog ownership based on breed			√		√								√	√		√			√		√					
Provision for removing dogs from hot cars			√							√		√	√				√			√	√	√		√		
ANIMAL RESEARCH ISSUES																										
Grants students the right to choose an alternative to animal dissection in schools				√	√	√	√					√	√	√						√	√					
Prohibits research facilities from obtaining pets from animal shelters				√	√		√						√	√	√					√	√		√			
Prohibits the production or sale of cosmetics tested on animals																										
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 ANIMAL PROTECTION																										
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				√						√		√	√	√						√		√	√			

	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 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, and gestation crates																										
FUR AND TRAPPING																										
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		√	√	√	√		√					√	√	√						√	√			√		

	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	
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																	√				√					
Includes standards for the transportation of horses				√			√						√	√			√	√		√	√			√		
Prohibits horse tripping, or roping the legs of a galloping horse		√	√			√					√	√		√				√	√		√					
Total score	28	34	48	49	56	33	52	24	18	45	36	64	52	47	26	18	31	34	29	48	58	60	42	35	24	
Out of total possible categories	95	90	94	92	92	94	92	92	90	88	92	95	92	88	92	90	92	94	95	92	92	95	92	93	95	
Percentage score	29	38	51	53	61	35	57	26	20	51	39	67	57	53	28	20	34	36	31	52	63	63	46	38	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. States without a formally identified population of the species are listed as not applicable (n/a).