



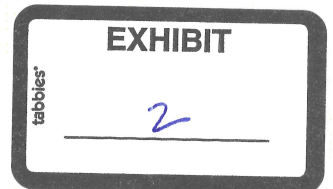
Menu

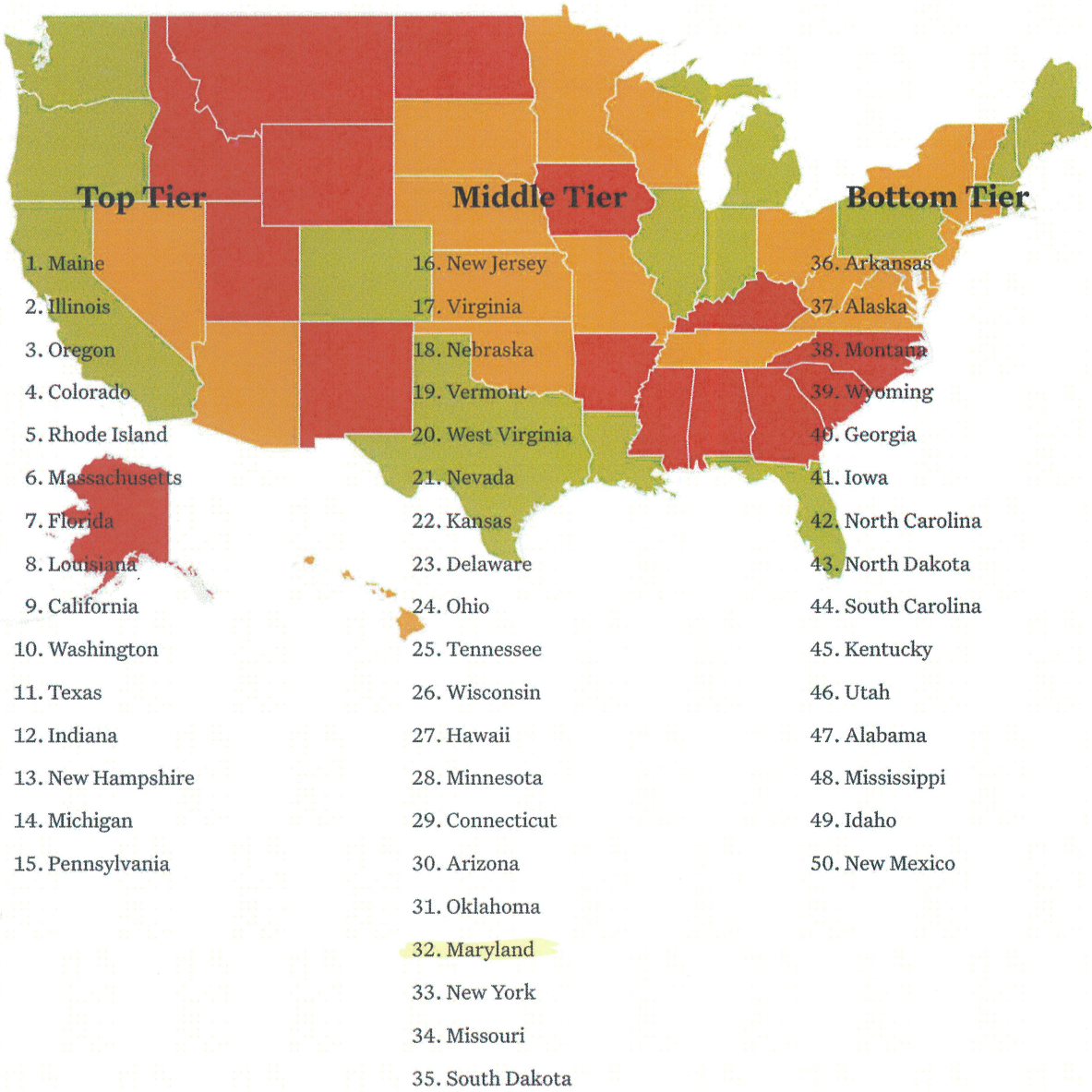


2021 U.S. State Animal Protection Laws Rankings

The Best And Worst States For Animal Protection Laws

Select an animal law category to view trends: ▼





2021 Rank

Territory

1

Guam

2

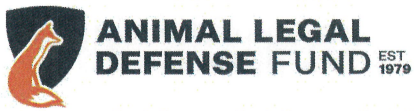
District of Columbia

3

U.S. Virgin Islands

4

Puerto Rico



Menu



Maryland

Updates about legal issues facing animals in the state

Sections



The Animal Legal Defense Fund works at the federal, state and local levels to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals. This page is meant to be used as a resource to see what is happening in your state and what actions you can take for animals.

State Rankings

Each year, the Animal Legal Defense Fund publishes its **U.S. State Animal Protection Laws Rankings Report**. It is the longest-running and most authoritative of its kind, assessing the strength of each state’s animal protection laws by examining over 3,400 pages of statutes. Each state is ranked based on 20 different categories of animal protection.

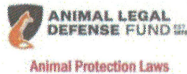
Maryland Overall Rank: #32 (Middle Tier)

- + Wide range of care standards/requirements including food, water, shelter, care, and space
- + Veterinarians must report suspected animal cruelty, and have immunity for doing so
- No provisions for pre-conviction forfeiture of abused animals
- No felony provisions for animal neglect or abandonment
- Other agencies or departments are not required to report suspected animal cruelty

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS

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Animal Protection Laws of Maryland



Animal Protection Laws

Substantive Provisions

1. Definition of "Animal"
2. General Prohibitions
3. Exemptions
4. Felonies & Misdemeanors
5. Seizure Authority
6. Spay/Neuter Requirements

Procedural Matters

7. Mandatory Penalties & Failure to Prosecute
8. Civil Enforcement & Remedies
9. Veterinary Provisions & Immunity
10. Law Enforcement Provisions
11. Seizure
12. Confiscation, Auction, Adoption, Rehoming
13. Prosecution Process
14. Retention
15. Forfeiture & Possession Bans
16. Court-Ordered Treatment

Miscellaneous Provisions

17. Hot Spots
18. Civil Penalties, Damages
19. Animal Sales
20. Breed-Specific Legislation

The Animal Protection Laws of Maryland compendium contains the general animal protection and related statutes for Maryland with an effective date on or before September 1, 2021.

DOWNLOAD

This chapter contains Alabama's general animal protection and related statutes with an effective date on or before September 1, 2021. It begins with a detailed summary of the provisions contained in these laws, followed by the full text of the statute themselves. The statute provisions are organized into categories with the relevant part of each statute outlined.

Alabama may employ similar provisions within other non-animal specific criminal and civil statutes; may have other more specific statutes in addition to those included; and may have a variety of animal-related regulations in effect. Because the laws are continually evolving, always check an official source for the most current language of any statute.

Animal Protection Laws of the USA (17th Edition)
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Recent Victories

Companion Animals, Criminal Justice

Prosecution for Maryland Dog Freezing to Death

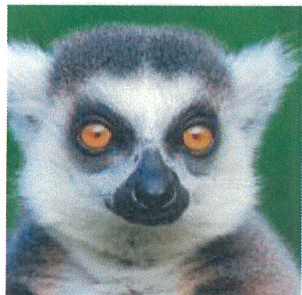
State of Maryland v. Selvin Robin Gnanakkan

The Animal Legal Defense Fund funded the necropsy of an elderly dog named Oscar, who died



sometime between December 30, 2017, and January 1, 2018, when he was kept outside of his owner's home in Baltimore County, Maryland, in 20-degree weather.

[Read More](#)



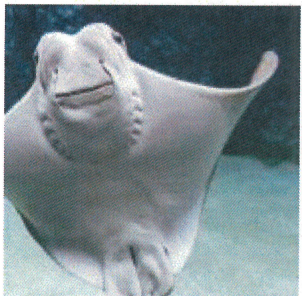
Captive Animals, Litigation

Challenging the Treatment of Captive Animals at Deer Haven Mini Zoo

Letter of Intent to Sue Filed

The Animal Legal Defense Fund announced its intent to sue Deer Haven Mini Zoo in Keymar, Maryland, for violations of the federal Endangered Species Act and state animal cruelty laws.

[Read More](#)



Wildlife, Legislation

Ending Cownose Ray Killing Contests (Maryland)

Cownose Ray Fishery Management Plan and Moratorium on Contests (SB 143/HB 213)

The Animal Legal Defense Fund was a member of a coalition supporting legislation to enact a moratorium on cownose ray killing contests in Maryland.

[Read More](#)

Take Action

Take action now to help animals in your state.