

Forfeiture and Bonding in Animal Cruelty Codes

STATE	Forfeiture	Bonding	Summary
Alabama		X ^F	A dog confiscated at a dogfight shall be taken to a shelter or humane society. Expenses incurred for the keep of the dog shall be taxed against the owner.
Alaska	X	X	In animal fighting cases, animals and other personal property are forfeited to the state upon conviction. For cruelty cases, the defendant may be required to forfeit all animals and may be required to pay for the costs.
Arizona	X	X	In cruelty cases, an agent who has impounded an animal who has been subject to cruelty or who is vicious. This agent may request a hearing. If the owner fails to appear or if the animal is determined to be treated cruelly or is vicious, the court may order the animal forfeited and then the owner is required to pay boarding, veterinary, etc. fees
Arkansas	X		Upon conviction of dogfighting, a court may order the forfeiture of dogs.
California		X	A person convicted of animal cruelty is responsible for all costs associated with the impoundment of animals.
Colorado	X	X	For both cruelty and fighting cases, an owner can prevent disposition of an animal in custody by posting a bond for the animals care for 30 days. An officer may remove a companion animal found to be mistreated. If a court determines that the owner is unable to provide for the animal then animal shall be sold at auction, adopted, placed in a shelter, or euthanized. The owner may not purchase the animal at any sale.
Connecticut		X	In a pending hearing, the owner shall either post a bond or relinquish ownership of the animal.
Delaware	X		A person convicted of cruelty to animals is prohibited from owning or possessing an animal for 5 years, 15 years for felony level cruelty. If a court orders an animal to be returned to a person convicted of cruelty, that person must reimburse fees within 5 days.
Florida	X		A court may require an owner of an animal to for the care while the animal was in custody and a court may order that other animals be seized. A court may enjoin the owner from further possession or custody of animals.
Georgia			
Hawaii	X	X	A court may order a defendant to forfeit an animal.
Idaho	X	X	At animal control or law enforcement's request, court may order forfeiture hearing to determine probable cause of violation; if probable cause found, animal is forfeited unless owner can pay bond within 72 hours. If owner is found guilty in the criminal case, animal is forfeited.
Illinois	X	X	Dogs involve in fighting should be seized upon the owner's conviction. A court can prohibit a person from owning an animal. All property used in animal fighting can be forfeited. If it is determined in an administrative hearing that it is not in the best interest of the animal to be returned to the owner, the animal is forfeited to animal control or animal shelter. The animal control or animal shelter having custody of an animal may petition

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			the court to require the owner to post security sufficient to pay reasonable costs.
Indiana			
Iowa			A local authority may confiscate an animal used for fighting and order the owner to pay for costs. If an animal is seized by authorities, a court may order the responsible party to pay costs if the court finds the animal is in danger.
Kansas	X	X	Once charged with cruelty, a shelter can place an animal for adoption or euthanasia 20 days after the owner is notified unless the owner posts a bond for 30 days of care. Owner of animals seized from licensed facilities may post a bond to prevent the sale or euthanasia of animals. If convicted of cruelty, the owner must pay for the costs associated with care and boarding of an animal. If found guilty of cruelty, and if a court determines the animal is in harm, the animal is turned over to the local shelter.
Kentucky			
Louisiana	X	X	A person charged with dogfighting and cruelty has 15 days to post bond. If convicted, the dogs are forfeited. Court may also order the forfeiture of the bond posted for care of the dog.
Maine	X	X	If it is determined at a hearing that an animal has been treated cruelly the court shall declare the animal forfeited. A court may order a person convicted of cruelty to pay for costs of care for the animal.
Maryland			
Massachusetts	X	X	Defendants convicted of animal cruelty/fighting must forfeit the animals.
Michigan	X		A prosecutor may request the court to order an animal held pending the outcome of a criminal trial forfeited. A person who violates the cruelty code may be prohibited from owning animals; a person who violates the fighting codes is prohibited from owning an animal of the same species for 5 years.
Minnesota	X		Upon conviction, a court may order an animal turned over to an officer. If there is evidence of lack of proper care, the burden is on the person to demonstrate ability to care for an animal. A court may also impose limitations and restrictions such as a probation period.
Mississippi	X	X	The owner of seized animals may request a hearing to determine custody. Upon requesting a hearing, the owner has 3 days to post a bond. Failure to do so will result in the animal being forfeited to the court. If a court finds the owner unfit it may forfeit the animal.
Missouri		X	The owner of an animal that has been impounded because of abuse or neglect may prevent disposition by posting a bond for the animals care for 30 days.
Montana	X		If the convicted person is the owner, the person may be required to forfeit any animal affected.
Nebraska			
Nevada	X ^F	X	For cruelty cases the convicted shall pay all costs associated with caring for the animal. The owner of an impounded animal must pay the costs associated to the animal's care. Upon proof that the owner has been

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			notified or, if not found or identified a court may order the animal sold at auction, humanely destroyed or continued in the care of the officer. Upon the conviction of fighting, the animals shall be adjudged by the court to be forfeited.
New Hampshire	X	X	The costs of boarding and treating an animal shall be paid by the person convicted of cruelty or fighting. A court may prohibit a person from owning an animal in the future.
New Jersey			
New Mexico			If a court determines an animal is being cruelly treated, the court shall hold a hearing to determine disposition of the animal. Upon conviction, a court may place the animal for adoption or euthanize.
New York		X ^F	Upon conviction of animal fighting, animals are forfeited.
North Carolina		X ^F	Animals shall be subject to seizure and impoundment and upon conviction of failure to provide shelter, food, or water may be sold or euthanized at the discretion of the Director.
North Dakota			
Ohio			In cruelty cases, a court may prevent someone from owning or possessing animals.
Oklahoma	X	X	Any violation in animal cruelty may result in forfeiture of animals unless owner can post a security bond within 72 hours of order of forfeiture.
Oregon		X	A judge may order the forfeiture of birds in fighting cases. Court can prevent a cruelty offender from owning animals for 5 years. If a court finds probable cause, an animal may be forfeited unless the defendant posts bond within 72 hours.
Pennsylvania	X		A court may forfeit animals as part of a cruelty offender's sentence. Animals in fighting cases are forfeited upon conviction.
Rhode Island			
South Carolina	X	X	An officer can lawfully take custody of an animal found neglected or cruelly treated, and a court may order the owner to provide care. A person making an arrest can place a lien on the seized animals.
South Dakota			
Tennessee	X	X	A court may order the forfeiture of animals in a cruelty case and may prohibit future ownership of animals. Any animal control agency who takes custody of an animal victim of cruelty can petition the court to request the owner be ordered to post security.
Texas			
Utah	X		In cruelty cases, a court may order a defendant to forfeit an animal and pay costs.
Vermont	X	X	An animal seized by the state may be forfeited and a defendant required to pay costs. A defendant can post bond within 48 hours. Animals in fighting convictions must be forfeited and a court may require a defendant to repay costs.
Virginia			If an animal is seized and a court determines the animal has been cruelly treated or neglected, the animal may be placed elsewhere.

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Washington	X	X	A court may order forfeiture of an animal. When an animal is seized, the owner may prevent the animal's adoption or destruction by posting bond.
West Virginia			A person convicted of cruelty is prohibited from owning an animal for 5 years, 15 for felony.
Wisconsin			
Wyoming	X	X	A court may require animals forfeited. Owner must post bond within 10 days of seizure to prevent disposition of animal. Bond must be sufficient to pay for animal's care for at least 90 days.

^F – In animal fighting statute only