

Fact Sheet

Updated September 2009

Dogfighting: State Laws

Dogfighting is a felony in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and the interstate transportation of dogs for fighting purposes is prohibited by the federal Animal Welfare Act. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands prohibit the possession of dogs for fighting; and 48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands prohibit being a spectator at a dogfight.

State	<i>Dogfighting: on the Law Books</i>	<i>Dogfighting: a Felony or a Misdemeanor</i>	<i>Loophole: Possession of Dogs for Fighting</i>	<i>Loophole: Being a Spectator at a Dogfight</i>
Alabama	§ 3-1-29	Felony	Felony	Felony
Alaska	§ 11.61.145	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor ¹
Arizona	§ 13-2910.01 to 02	Felony	Felony	Felony
Arkansas	§ 5-62-120	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
California	§ 597.5	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Colorado	§ 18-9-204	Felony	Felony	Felony
Connecticut	§ 53-247	Felony	Felony	Felony
Delaware	11 Del.C. § 1326	Felony	Felony	Felony
Florida	§ 828.122	Felony	Felony	Felony
Georgia	§ 16-12-37	Felony	Felony	Felony ²
Hawaii	§ 711-1109.3	Felony	Felony	Legal
Idaho	§ 25-3507	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Illinois	§ 720 ILCS 5/26-5	Felony	Felony	Felony
Indiana	§ 35-46-3-4 to 9.5	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Iowa	§ 717D.1 to 6	Felony	Felony	Felony ²
Kansas	§ 21-4315	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Kentucky	§ 525.125 to 130	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Louisiana	14:102.5	Felony	Felony	Felony
Maine ³	17 MRS §1033	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Maryland	Criminal Law, §§ 10-605 & 607	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Massachusetts	Ch. 272 § 94 to 95	Felony	Felony	Felony
Michigan	§ 750.49	Felony	Felony	Felony
Minnesota	§ 343.31	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Mississippi	§ 97-41-19	Felony	Felony	Felony
Missouri	§ 578.025	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Montana	§ 45-8-210	Felony	Felony	Legal
Nebraska	§ 28-1005	Felony	Felony	Felony
Nevada	§ 574.070	Felony	Felony ²	Felony ⁴
New Hampshire	§ 644:8-a	Felony	Felony	Felony
New Jersey ³	§ 4:22-24	Felony	Felony	Felony
New Mexico	§ 30-18-9	Felony	Felony	Felony
New York	Agr & M § 351	Felony	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
North Carolina	§ 14-362.2	Felony	Felony	Felony

¹ A second or subsequent offense is a misdemeanor.

² A second or subsequent offense is a felony.

³ These states do not have felony or misdemeanor offenses per se, but have felony and misdemeanor equivalent penalties.



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North Dakota	§ 36-21.1-07	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Ohio	§ 959.15 to 16	Felony	Felony	Felony
Oklahoma	21 § 1694 to 1699.1	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Oregon	§§ 167.365 & 167.370	Felony	Felony	Felony
Pennsylvania	18 Pa.C.S. § 5511	Felony	Felony	Felony
Rhode Island	§ 4-1-9 to 13	Felony	Felony	Felony
South Carolina	§ 16-27-10 to 80	Felony	Felony	Felony ⁴
South Dakota	§ 40-1-9 to 10.1	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Tennessee	§ 39-14-203	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Texas	§ 42.10	Felony	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
Utah	§ 76-9-301.1	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Vermont	13 VSA § 352	Felony	Felony	Felony
Virginia	§ 3.1-796.124	Felony	Felony	Felony
Washington	§ 16.52.117	Felony	Felony	Felony
West Virginia	§§ 61-8-19 to 19b	Felony	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor
Wisconsin	§ 951.08	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
Wyoming	§ 6-3-203	Felony	Felony	Misdemeanor
		<i>50 Felony</i>	<i>47 Felony 3 Misdemeanor</i>	<i>27 Felony 21 Misdemeanor 2 Legal</i>
Washington, DC	DC ST § 22-1015	Felony	Felony	Felony
American Samoa		Legal	Legal	Legal
Guam	9 GCA § 70.11	Felony	Felony	Felony
Puerto Rico	15 LPRA § 235	Felony	Legal	Misdemeanor
Virgin Islands	VI St T. 19 § 2613a	Felony	Felony	Felony

⁴ A third or subsequent offense is a felony.



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