



ANIMAL CRUELTY STATE LAW SUMMARY CHART: Court-Ordered Programs for Animal Cruelty Offenses

The chart below is a summary of the relevant portions of state animal cruelty laws that provide for court-ordered evaluation, counseling, treatment, prevention, and/or educational programs. The full text of the cited statute is not shown.

Note: This content is offered for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice. These statutes may not be the most recent version. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information. Please check official sources.

State	Court-Ordered Evaluation/Counseling/Treatment Statutes
Alabama	No express statute.
Alaska	No express statute.
Arizona	No express statute.
Arkansas	<p>Offense of cruelty to animals. Ark. Code Ann. § 5-62-103. §§ 5-62-103(c)-(f): If a person is found guilty of cruelty to animals under this section 5-62-103, the person shall be ordered to complete a psychiatric or psychological evaluation; and if determined appropriate, psychiatric or psychological counseling or treatment for a length of time prescribed by the court. The cost of any psychiatric or psychological evaluation, counseling, or treatment may be ordered paid by the person up to the jurisdictional limit of the court.</p> <p>Offense of aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat, or horse. Ark. Code Ann. § 5-62-104. §§ 5-62-104 (b)-(d): If a person is found guilty of aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat, or horse under this section 5-62-104, the person may be ordered to receive a psychiatric or psychological evaluation; and if determined appropriate, ordered to receive psychiatric or psychological counseling or treatment for a length of time prescribed by the court. If a person is found guilty of aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat, or horse for a subsequent offense occurring within five (5) years from a previous offense of aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat, or horse or of any other equivalent penal offense of another state or foreign jurisdiction, the person shall be ordered to receive a psychiatric or psychological evaluation; and if determined appropriate, ordered to receive psychiatric or psychological counseling or treatment for a length of time prescribed by the court. The cost of any psychiatric or psychological evaluation, counseling, or treatment ordered under this section shall be paid by the person ordered to receive the psychiatric or psychological evaluation, counseling, or treatment.</p>
California	<p>Cal. Penal Code § 597(h): If a defendant is granted probation for a conviction of animal cruelty under Cal. Penal Code Section 597, the court shall order the defendant to pay for, and successfully complete, counseling, as determined by the court, designed to evaluate and treat behavior or conduct disorders.</p> <p>Cal. Penal Code § 597.9(d)(1)(C): If a defendant convicted of animal cruelty establishes, among other things, that if the defendant has completed all classes or counseling ordered by the court, the court may reduce the duration of the mandatory animal ownership prohibition.</p>
Colorado	<p>Cruelty to animals - neglect of animals - offenses – repeal. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-9-202. §§ 18-9-202(2)(a.5)(II)-(IV): Any person convicted of committing cruelty to animals pursuant to subsection (1) of this section 18-9-202, the underlying</p>



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	<p>factual basis of which has been found by the court to include the knowing or intentional torture or torment of an animal that needlessly injures, mutilates, or kills an animal, may be ordered if first offense to complete an anger management treatment program or any other appropriate treatment program. The court shall order an evaluation to be conducted prior to sentencing to assist the court in determining an appropriate sentence. The person ordered to undergo an evaluation shall be required to pay the cost of the evaluation, unless the person qualifies for a public defender, then the cost will be paid by the judicial district.</p> <p>§ 18-9-202(2)(a.5)(V): Any person convicted of a second or subsequent conviction for any crime, the underlying factual basis of which has been found by the court to include an act of cruelty to animals, shall be required to complete an anger management treatment program or any other appropriate treatment program.</p> <p>Sentencing - animal cruelty - anger management treatment. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-2-918.5.</p> <p>§§ 19-2-918.5(1),(2): Any juvenile who has been adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for the commission of cruelty to animals as described in section 18-9-202 (1)(a), C.R.S., in which the underlining factual basis of which has been found by the court to include the knowing or intentional torture or torment of an animal which needlessly injures, mutilates, or kills an animal, may be ordered to complete an anger management treatment program or any other treatment program deemed appropriate by the court. The court may order an evaluation to be conducted prior to disposition if an evaluation would assist the court in determining an appropriate disposition. The parents or legal guardian of the juvenile ordered to undergo an evaluation shall be required to pay the cost of the evaluation.</p>
<p>Connecticut</p>	<p>Conditions of probation and conditional discharge. Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 53a-30.</p> <p>§ 53a-30(a)(16): If convicted of a violation of section 53-247 (cruelty to animals), when imposing sentence of probation or conditional discharge, the court may, as a condition of the sentence, order that the defendant undergo psychiatric or psychological counseling or participate in an animal cruelty prevention and education program provided such a program exists and is available to the defendant.</p> <p>Disposition upon conviction of child as delinquent. Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 46b-140.</p> <p>§ 46b-140(c): If a child is convicted as delinquent for a violation of section 53-247 (Cruelty to Animals), the court may order, as a condition of probation, that the child undergo psychiatric or psychological counseling or participate in an animal cruelty prevention and education program provided such a program exists and is available to the child.</p>
<p>Delaware</p>	<p>Animals; fighting and baiting prohibited; class E felony. Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 1326.</p> <p>§ 1326(h): If a person is convicted of violating this section 1326 (animal fighting), the court may require the person to attend and participate in an appropriate treatment program or to obtain appropriate psychiatric or psychological counseling, or both. The court may impose the costs of any treatment program or counseling upon the person convicted.</p> <p>Psychiatric examinations. Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 4362.</p>



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	<p>§ 4362: When the Board of Pardons considers a recommendation of pardon or commutation of sentence to the Governor for any person who has been convicted of cruelty to animals, the recommendation report shall include a copy of the report of the psychiatrist who has examined such person.</p>
Florida	<p>Cruelty to animals. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 828.12. § 828.12(2)(a): A person convicted of a violation of this subsection 828.12(2), where the violation includes the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injures, mutilates, or kills the animal, shall be ordered to undergo psychological counseling or complete an anger management treatment program.</p>
Georgia	<p>Cruelty to animals. Ga. Code Ann. § 16-12-4. § 16-12-4(f): Before sentencing a defendant for any conviction under this Code section 16-12-4, the sentencing judge may require psychological evaluation of the offender.</p>
Hawaii	No express statute.
Idaho	No express statute.
Illinois	<p>Owner's duties. 510 Ill. Compo Stat. Ann. 70/3. § 3(d). Upon conviction for violating subsection (a) of this Section 70/3, the court may order the convicted person to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo any treatment at the convicted person's expense that the court determines to be appropriate after due consideration of the evaluation. If the convicted person is a juvenile or a companion animal hoarder, the court must order the convicted person to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo treatment that the court determines to be appropriate after due consideration of the evaluation.</p> <p>Cruel treatment. 510 Ill. Compo Stat. Ann. 70/3.01. § 3.01(c). Upon conviction for violating this Section 3.01, the court may order the convicted person to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo any treatment at the convicted person's expense that the court determines to be appropriate after due consideration of the evidence. If the convicted person is a juvenile or a companion animal hoarder, the court must order the convicted person to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo treatment that the court determines to be appropriate after due consideration of the evaluation.</p> <p>Aggravated cruelty. 510 Ill. Compo Stat. Ann. 70/3.02. § 3.02(c): Upon conviction for violating this Section 3.02, the court may order the convicted person to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo any treatment at the convicted person's expense that the court determines to be appropriate after due consideration of the evaluation. If the convicted person is a juvenile or a companion animal hoarder, the court must order the convicted person to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo treatment that the court determines to be appropriate after due consideration of the evaluation.</p> <p>Animal torture. 510 Ill. Compo Stat. Ann. 70/3.03. § 3.03(c): As a condition of the sentence imposed under this Section 3.03, the court shall order the offender to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo treatment that the court determines to be appropriate after due consideration of the evaluation.</p> <p>Sexual conduct or sexual contact with an animal. 720 Ill. Compo Stat. Ann. 5/12-35. § 12-35(f)(3): If a person is found guilty of violating this Section 12-35, the court</p>



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	may order that the defendant undergo a psychological evaluation and counseling at defendant's expense.
Indiana	<p>Torture or mutilation of a vertebrate animal; killing a domestic animal. Ind. Code Ann. § 35-46-3-12. § 35-46-3-12(f): When a court imposes a sentence or enters a dispositional decree under this section 12, the court shall consider requiring a person convicted of an offense under this section 12; or a child adjudicated a delinquent child for committing an act that would be a crime under this section 12 if committed by an adult, to receive psychological, behavioral, or other counseling as a part of the sentence or dispositional decree.</p>
Iowa	<p>Animal torture. Iowa Code Ann. § 717B.3A. § 717B.3A(3): For a conviction of committing animal torture, the sentencing order shall provide that the person submit to psychological evaluation and treatment according to terms required by the court. The costs of the evaluation and treatment shall be paid by the person. Bestiality. Iowa Code Ann. § 717C.1. § 717C.1(3): Upon a conviction for a violation of this section 717C.1, performing a sex act with an animal, the court shall require the person to submit to a psychological evaluation and treatment at the person's expense.</p>
Kansas	<p>Cruelty to animals; injury to a domestic animal; custody of animal; disposition; damages for killing, when; expenses of care assessed owner, when; duty of county or district attorney. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6412. § 21-6412(b)(1): Upon conviction of subsection (a)(1) (knowingly and maliciously killing, injuring, maiming, torturing, burning or mutilating any animal) or (a)(6) (knowingly and maliciously administering any poison to any domestic animal) of section 21-6412, during the mandatory 30 days imprisonment, such offender shall have a psychological evaluation prepared for the court to assist the court in determining conditions of probation. Such conditions shall include, but not be limited to, the completion of an anger management program.</p>
Kentucky	No express statute.
Louisiana	<p>Cruelty to animals; simple and aggravated. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 14:102.1. § 14:102.1(A)(2)(d): For a first conviction of the crime of simple cruelty to animals (subsection 102.1(A)(1)), the court may order a psychological evaluation or anger management treatment For a second or subsequent offense of the crime of simple cruelty to an animal, the court shall order a psychological evaluation or anger management treatment. Any costs associated with any evaluation or treatment ordered by the court shall be borne by the defendant. § 14:102.1(B)(5): On any aggravated cruelty offense (subsection 102.1(B)(1)), the court shall order the offender to undergo a psychological evaluation and any subsequently recommended psychological treatment. Costs shall be borne by offender.</p>
Maine	<p>Cruelty to animals. Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 17, § 1031 (criminal). § 1031(3-B)(B) : As part of the sentence for a violation of this section 1031, the court may order, as a condition of probation, that the defendant be evaluated to determine the need for psychiatric or psychological counseling and, if it is determined appropriate by the court, to receive psychiatric or psychological counseling at the defendant's expense. Violation. Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 7, § 4016 (civil). § 4016(1): Upon conviction of violation of this chapter 717 (Animal Welfare Act), the court, as part of the judgment, may order a defendant adjudicated as having</p>



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	violated the laws against cruelty to animals to submit to and complete a psychological evaluation for in camera review by the court.
Maryland	<p>Abuse or neglect of animal. Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 10-604. § 10-604(b)(2): As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant convicted of violating this section 10-604 to participate in and pay for psychological counseling.</p> <p>Aggravated cruelty to animals--In general. Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 10-606. § 10-606(b)(2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant convicted of violating this section 10-606 to participate in and pay for psychological counseling.</p>
Massachusetts	No express statute.
Michigan	<p>Definitions; charge or custody of animal; prohibited conduct; forfeiture of animal; violation as misdemeanor or felony; penalty; psychiatric or psychological counseling; other violation of law arising out of same transaction; consecutive terms; order to pay costs; order prohibiting owning or possessing animal for certain period of time; violation of subsection (9); revocation of probation; certain conduct not prohibited by section. Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 750.50. § 750.50(5): If a person is convicted of violating subsection 750.50(2), the court may order the person to be evaluated to determine the need for psychiatric or psychological counseling and, if determined appropriate by the court, to receive psychiatric or psychological counseling. The evaluation and counseling shall be at the defendant's own expense.</p> <p>Animal defined; prohibited acts; violation; penalty; exceptions. Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 750.50b § 750.50b(5): If a term of probation is ordered for a violation of subsection 750.50b(2), the court may include as a condition of that probation that the defendant be evaluated to determine the need for psychiatric or psychological counseling and, if determined appropriate by the court, to receive psychiatric or psychological counseling at his or her own expense.</p>
Minnesota	<p>Overworking or Mistreating Animals; Penalty. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 343.21. § 343.21(10)(4): If a person is convicted of violating this section 343.21, the court may require the person to receive psychological, behavioral, or other counseling.</p>
Mississippi	<p>Maliciously injuring dogs or cats. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-41-16. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-41-16(3)(b)(ii)(1): If a person is convicted under this section 97-41-16, the court may order that the person receive a psychiatric or psychological evaluation and counseling or treatment for a length of time as prescribed by the court. The cost of any evaluation, counseling and treatment shall be paid by the offender upon order of the court, up to a maximum amount that is no more than the jurisdictional limit of the sentencing court.</p>
Missouri	<p>Unlawful sex with an animal, crime, penalty. Mo. Ann. Stat. Mo. Ann. Stat. § 566.111. § 566.111(3)(3): If a person is convicted of committing the crime of unlawful sex with an animal under this section 566.111, the court may order psychological evaluation and counseling at offender's expense for unlawful sex with animals.</p>
Montana	No express statute.
Nebraska	No express statute.
Nevada	Evaluations and counseling for offenses involving cruelty to animals;



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	<p>powers and duties of court. Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 176A.416. § 176A.416: As a condition of probation, the court may order a defendant who is convicted of a violation of chapter 574 of NRS (cruelty to animals: prevention and penalties) that is punishable as a felony or gross misdemeanor to submit to a psychiatric evaluation, and to participate in any counseling or therapy recommended in the evaluation. The court shall order a defendant, to the extent of the defendant's financial ability, to pay the cost for an evaluation and any counseling or therapy pursuant to this section.</p> <p>Act involving cruelty to or torture of animal: Participation in counseling or other psychological treatment; payment of costs. Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 62E.680. §§ 62E.680(1)(2): If a child is adjudicated delinquent for an unlawful act that involves cruelty to or torture of an animal, the juvenile court shall order the child to participate in counseling or other psychological treatment. The juvenile court shall order the child or the parent or guardian of the child, or both, to the extent of their financial ability, to pay the cost of the child to participate in the counseling or other psychological treatment.</p>
New Hampshire	No express statute.
New Jersey	<p>Cruelty; disorderly persons offense. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 4:22-17. § 4:22-17(g): If a juvenile is adjudicated delinquent for an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a violation of subsections 4:22-17(a)(1);(c)(1)-(4), the court also shall order the juvenile to receive mental health counseling by a licensed psychologist or therapist named by the court for a period of time to be prescribed by the licensed psychologist or therapist.</p>
New Mexico	<p>Cruelty to animals; extreme cruelty to animals; penalties; exceptions. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-18-1. §§ 30-18-1(G): If a person is convicted for committing cruelty to animals (subsection 30-18-1(B)), the court may order the person to participate in an animal cruelty prevention program or an animal cruelty education program. The court may also order a person convicted for committing cruelty to animals (subsection 30-18-1(B)) or extreme cruelty to animals (subsection 30-18-1(E)) to obtain psychological counseling for treatment of a mental health disorder if, in the court's judgment, the mental health disorder contributed to the commission of the criminal offense. The offender shall bear the expense of participating in an animal cruelty prevention program, animal cruelty education program or psychological counseling ordered by the court. § 30-18-1(H): If a child is adjudicated of cruelty to animals (subsection 30-18-1(B)), the court shall order an assessment and any necessary psychological counseling or treatment of the child.</p>
New York	No express statute.
North Carolina	No express statute.
North Dakota	No express statute.
Ohio	<p>Penalties; Forfeiture of Animals or Livestock; Forfeiture of companion animals. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 959.99. § 959.99(E)(6): If a court has reason to believe that a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of section 959.131 of the Revised Code (prohibitions concerning companion animals) suffers from a mental or emotional disorder that contributed to the violation, the court may impose as a community control sanction or as a condition of probation a requirement that the offender undergo psychological evaluation or counseling. The court shall order the</p>



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	offender to pay the costs of the evaluation or counseling.
Oklahoma	No express statute.
Oregon	Forfeiture of rights in mistreated animal; costs; penalty. Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 167.350. § 167.350(4): If a person is convicted under ORS 167.315 to 167.333, 167.340, 167.355, 167.365 or 167.428, a court may order the person to participate in available animal cruelty prevention programs or education programs, or both, or to obtain psychological counseling for treatment of mental health disorders that, in the court's judgment, contributed to the commission of the crime. The person shall bear any costs incurred by the person for participation in counseling or treatment programs under this subsection.
Pennsylvania	Cruelty to animals. 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 5511. § 5511(2.1)(ii): If a person is convicted of violating the provisions of this paragraph (2.1), the court may order a presentence mental evaluation.
Rhode Island	Psychiatric counseling. R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 4-1-36. § 4-1-36: Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this Chapter 4-1 (Cruelty to Animals) may, in addition to any penalties imposed, be evaluated to determine the need for psychiatric or psychological counseling, and, if determined appropriate by the court, to receive psychiatric or psychological counseling at his or her own expense.
South Carolina	No express statute.
South Dakota	No express statute.
Tennessee	Aggravated cruelty to animals; definitions; penalties. Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-212. § 39-14-212(f): If a person is convicted under this section 39-14-212 of aggravated cruelty to animals, the court may require the defendant to undergo psychological evaluation and counseling, the cost to be borne by the defendant. If the defendant is indigent, the court may, where practicable, direct the defendant to locate and enroll in a counseling or treatment program with an appropriate agency. Aggravated cruelty to livestock. Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-217. § 39-14-217(h): If a person is convicted under this section 39-14-217 of aggravated cruelty to a livestock animal, the court may require the defendant to undergo psychological evaluation and counseling, the cost to be borne by the defendant. If the defendant is indigent, the court may, where practicable, direct the defendant to locate and enroll in a counseling or treatment program with an appropriate agency.
Texas	Basic Conditions of Community Supervision. Tex. Code Of Crim. Proc. Ann. Art. 42.12, § 11. Art. 42.12, § 11(m): If a judge grants community supervision to a person convicted of an offense under Section 42.09 (cruelty to livestock animals), 42.091 (attack on assistance animal), 42.092 (cruelty to nonlivestock animals), or 42.10 (dog fighting), Texas Penal Code, the judge may require the person to attend a responsible pet owner course sponsored by a municipal animal shelter, as defined by Section 823.001, Texas Health and Safety Code, that: (1) receives federal, state, county, or municipal funds; and (2) serves the county in which the court is located. Cruelty to Animals: Counseling Required. Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 54.0407: If a child is found to have engaged in delinquent conduct constituting an offense



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	under Section 42.09 (cruelty to livestock animals) or 42.092 (cruelty to nonlivestock animals), Texas Penal Code, the juvenile court shall order the child to participate in psychological counseling for a period to be determined by the court.
Utah	Cruelty to animals. Utah Code Ann. § 76-9-301. § 76-9-301(11): Upon conviction under this section 76-9-301, the court may in its discretion, in addition to other penalties, order the defendant to be evaluated to determine the need for psychiatric or psychological counseling, to receive counseling as the court determines to be appropriate, and to pay the costs of the evaluation and counseling;
Vermont	Degree of offense; sentencing upon conviction. Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 13, § 353. § 353(b)(4): If a defendant is convicted of a violation under section 352 (cruelty to animals) or 352a (aggravated cruelty to animals) of this title 13, the court may require the defendant to participate in available animal cruelty prevention programs or educational programs, or both, or obtain psychiatric or psychological counseling, within a reasonable distance from the defendant's residence. If a juvenile is adjudicated delinquent under section 352 (cruelty to animals) or 352a (aggravated cruelty to animals) of this title 13, the court may order the juvenile to undergo a psychiatric or psychological evaluation and to participate in treatment that the court determines to be appropriate after due consideration of the evaluation. The court may impose the costs of such programs or counseling upon the defendant when appropriate.
Virginia	Cruelty to animals; penalty. Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6570. § 3.2-6570(A): If convicted of a violation of this subsection 3.2-6570(A), the court may, in its discretion, require the person to attend an anger management or other appropriate treatment program or obtain psychiatric or psychological counseling. The court may impose the costs of such a program or counseling upon the person convicted.
Washington	Sentences—Forfeiture of animals—Liability for costs—Penalty—Education, counseling. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 16.52.200. § 16.52.200(9): As a condition of the sentence imposed under this chapter or RCW 9.08.070 through 9.08.078, the court may order the defendant to participate in an available animal cruelty prevention or education program or obtain available psychological counseling to treat mental health problems contributing to the violation's commission. The defendant shall bear the costs of the program or treatment. Animal cruelty in the first degree. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 16.52.205. § 16.52.205(5)(b): If convicted of animal cruelty in the first degree under this section 16.52.205, the court may order the convicted person participate in appropriate counseling at the defendant's expense. Deferred disposition. Wash. Rev. Code § 13.40.127. § 13.40.127(5): The court may require a juvenile offender convicted of animal cruelty in the first degree to submit to a mental health evaluation to determine if the offender would benefit from treatment and such intervention would promote the safety of the community. After consideration of the results of the evaluation, as a condition of community supervision, the court may order the offender to attend treatment to address issues pertinent to the offense.
West Virginia	Cruelty to animals; penalties; exclusions. W. Va. Code Ann. § 61-8-19.



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	<p>§§ 61-8-19(h)(1),(2): If a person has been convicted of a violation of the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section 61-8-19, the person may be not be granted probation until the defendant has undergone a complete psychiatric or psychological evaluation and the court has reviewed the evaluation. Unless the defendant is determined by the court to be indigent, he or she is responsible for the cost of the evaluation. For any person convicted of a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section 61-8-19, the court may impose a requirement that he or she complete a program of anger management intervention for perpetrators of animal cruelty. Unless the defendant is determined by the court to be indigent, he or she is responsible for the cost of the program.</p>
Wisconsin	No express statute.
Wyoming	No express statute.