

# Legislation Prohibiting or Restricting Animal Acts

**The federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, establishes only minimal standards for the care of certain species used in circuses and other exhibitions. The AWA does not prohibit the use of bullhooks, whips, electric prods, and other devices that cause pain and suffering. The AWA is poorly and inconsistently enforced, and no government agency monitors training sessions. Many state and local governments have enacted stricter laws to protect animals and the public. The following is a general guide on localities that have prohibited or restricted animal acts.**

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## Localities That Have Banned Circuses, Rodeos, and Other Animal Acts

### California

Encinitas  
Pasadena  
Rohnert Park

### Colorado

Boulder

### Connecticut

Stamford

### Florida

Hollywood  
Lauderdale Lakes

### Maryland

Takoma Park

### Massachusetts

Braintree  
Provincetown (non-

binding resolution)

Quincy  
Revere

### Missouri

Richmond

### New York

Greenburgh (public  
property)

### Washington

Port Townsend  
Redmond

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## Localities Outside the United States That Have Banned Animal Acts

### Argentina

Buenos Aires  
(prohibits circuses  
with animals)

### Australia

Prohibits the use of  
wild or exotic  
animals:  
Armsdale  
Perth  
Bayswater  
(prohibits animal  
acts on property  
owned by council)  
Cambridge  
Prohibits or restricts  
animal acts on  
property owned by  
council:  
Ferndale  
Kalamunda  
Lake Macquarie  
Mandurah  
Mosman Park  
Victoria Park  
Vincent

### Austria

Nationwide

(prohibits the use of  
wild animals in  
circuses)

### Brazil

Nationwide  
(prohibits the use of  
marine mammals in  
entertainment)  
Atibaia  
Avare  
Campinas  
Cotia  
Porto Alegre  
Rio de Janeiro  
São Leopoldo  
Sorocaba  
Ubatuba

### Canada

Argyle  
Bridgewater  
Burlington  
Burnaby  
Chilliwack  
Coquitlam  
Digby  
Guelph  
Kamploops  
Kanata

Kelowna  
Langley  
Malahide  
Maple Ridge  
Mont Royal  
Nanaimo City  
Nanaimo regional  
district  
New Westminster  
North Cowichan  
North Vancouver  
City  
Parksville  
Port Colbarne  
Saanich  
Salmon Arm  
Shelbourne  
St. Laurent  
Surrey  
Vancouver  
Victoria  
Yarmouth

### Colombia

Bogotá

### Costa Rica

Nationwide  
(also prohibits

dolphin and whale  
swim programs)

### Finland

Nationwide

### Greece

Kalamaria  
Patra  
Thessaloniki

### India

Nationwide  
(prohibits the use of  
bears, monkeys,  
tigers, panthers,  
and lions)

### Singapore

Nationwide

### Sweden

Nationwide  
(prohibits most  
animals, including  
bears, big cats,  
monkeys, hippos,  
giraffes, and rhinos)

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**Localities That Have Banned Chemical, Manual, and Electrical Means of Making an Animal Perform** (any method that causes an animal pain, discomfort, or suffering)

<b><u>Florida</u></b> Pompano Beach Tallahassee	<b><u>Illinois</u></b> Collinsville (excludes circuses)	<b><u>New York</u></b> Southampton
<b><u>Indiana</u></b> Fort Wayne	<b><u>Kentucky</u></b> Jefferson County	<b><u>South Carolina</u></b> Aiken County

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**Localities That Have Banned Contact Between the Public and Dangerous or Exotic Animals**

<b><u>Arizona</u></b> Statewide	(prohibits allowing dangerous animals, including elephants, to run at large or be walked on a chain or rope)	massasauga rattlesnakes, mountain lions or mountain lion-hybrids, wolves or wolf-hybrids and black bears or black bear-hybrids)	big cats and bears under 25 pounds and less than three months old)
<b><u>Delaware</u></b> Statewide			
<b><u>Florida</u></b> Statewide (public contact is authorized only for elephants, carnivores under 40 pounds, apes over 6 months old and under 40 pounds, and gibbons and siamangs over 4 months old)	<b><u>Kentucky</u></b> Butler County Jefferson County	<b><u>New Hampshire</u></b> Statewide	<b><u>Texas</u></b> Wise County
<b><u>Georgia</u></b> Statewide	<b><u>Maine</u></b> Statewide	<b><u>New York</u></b> Wallkill (tigers, lions, and bears only)	<b><u>Virginia</u></b> Statewide (dangerous reptiles and amphibians only) Fairfax County (excluding elephants) Falls Church Richmond Spotsylvania County
<b><u>Illinois</u></b> Peoria Waukegan	<b><u>Mississippi</u></b> Statewide	<b><u>Pennsylvania</u></b> Statewide (excluding chimpanzees and elephants)	
	<b><u>Missouri</u></b> Statewide (public contact is prohibited with copperheads, cottonmouths, timber rattlesnakes, pygmy rattlesnakes,	<b><u>Tennessee</u></b> Statewide (excludes	

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**Localities With Prohibitions on Specific Acts**

<b><u>Bear-Wrestling</u></b> Alabama Arkansas California Connecticut Delaware Florida Georgia Illinois Iowa Kentucky Louisiana Massachusetts	Mississippi Missouri New Jersey New York Oklahoma Tennessee Washington Wisconsin	<b><u>Bullfighting</u></b> Argentina Chile Cuba Uruguay Catalonia, Spain (bans children under the age of 14 from attending)	<b><u>Greased-Pig Contests</u></b> Minnesota Rhode Island
	<b><u>Bloodless Bullfighting</u></b> Florida Massachusetts		<b><u>Greyhound Racing</u></b> Idaho Maine Nevada North Carolina Vermont Virginia Washington

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**Miscellaneous Bans and/or Restrictions**

- California**  
Statewide (prohibits declawing of big cats)  
Corona (prohibits wild or exotic animal displays)  
Huntington Beach (prohibits performances of wild and exotic animals)  
Santa Ana (prohibits wild or exotic animal displays)
- Hawaii**  
Maui County (prohibits the exhibition of captive cetaceans)

### **Kansas**

Douglas County (prohibits acts with “dangerous exotic animals”)

### **Kentucky**

Louisville (prohibits keeping wild or vicious animals for display or for exhibition purposes; excludes animal acts such as circuses)

### **Massachusetts**

Weymouth (prohibits public displays of nondomesticated animals)

### **New York**

Southampton (prohibits the display of wild or exotic animals)

### **North Carolina**

Chapel Hill (prohibits display of wild or exotic animals)

Orange County (prohibits display of wild or exotic animals)

### **South Carolina**

Statewide (prohibits the exhibition of marine animals)

Aiken County (prohibits the permanent display of any vicious or wild animal; excludes zoos and traveling exhibits and acts)

### **Texas**

Wise County (prohibits the breeding, buying, selling, trading, bartering, auctioning, or transferring of any wild animal)

### **Vermont**

Burlington (prohibits public display of elephants, lions, tigers, bears or primates)

### **Wisconsin**

Cedarburg (requires a criminal background check on circus employees)

Madison (bans public displays of cougars and bears)

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## **Localities With Restrictions on Rodeos**

**Alameda County, Calif.**, requires that rodeos give a two-week notice of their arrival and requires that a veterinarian be present during all rodeo events.

**Baltimore County, Md.**, prohibits calf-roping.

**Baltimore, Md.**, prohibits the use of spurs.

**California** prohibits the use of electric prods once the animal is in the holding chute.

**California, Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Clark County, Nev.**, prohibit horse-tripping.

**Florida and Texas** prohibit hog-dog rodeos (i.e., baiting a dog onto a hog in an enclosure).

**Fort Wayne, Ind.; San Francisco, Calif.; and St. Petersburg, Fla.**, have banned rodeos.

**Montgomery, N.J.**, have banned the use of electric prods at the annual rodeo.

**Napa County, Calif.**, has banned rodeos and condemns steer-tailing.

**Pittsburgh, Pa.**, in effect, bans rodeos by prohibiting the use of electric prods, shocking devices, flank or bucking straps, wire tie-downs, sharpened or fixed spurs, and rowels in rodeos. The city also requires that rodeos give a two-week notice of their arrival and requires that a veterinarian be present during all rodeo events.

**Rhode Island** prohibits calf-roping.

**St. Charles, Ill.**, prohibits the use of electric prods once the animal is in the holding chute and requires that a veterinarian be on call at rodeos.

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**Localities Outside the United States With Restrictions Affecting Rodeos**

**Bauru, Arealva, and Avai, Brazil**, have banned electric prods, flank straps, and spurs.

**Germany** prohibits calf-roping.

**Santo André, São Caetano, Franca, and Diadema in São Paulo, Brazil**, prohibit rodeos.

**The Netherlands** has banned Rodeo USA.

**The United Kingdom and the Australian Capital Territories** prohibit rodeos.

**Victoria, Australia**, prohibits calf-roping and the roping of any animal weighing less than 200 kg.