

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.

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

Localities Outside the United States That Have Banned Animal Acts

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
Windsor
Yarmouth

Colombia

Bogotá

Costa Rica

Nationwide

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)

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

<u>Florida</u> Pompano Beach Tallahassee	<u>Indiana</u> Fort Wayne	<u>Kentucky</u> Jefferson County
	<u>Illinois</u> Collinsville	<u>New York</u> Southampton

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

<u>Arizona</u> Statewide	to run at large or be walked on a chain or rope)	<u>New Jersey</u> Statewide (prohibits elephant rides using animals with a history of injuring people)	(excluding elephants)
<u>Delaware</u> Statewide	<u>Kentucky</u> Butler County Jefferson County		<u>Texas</u> Wise County
<u>Florida</u> Statewide (big cats weighing more than 25 pounds)	<u>Maine</u> Statewide	<u>New York</u> Wallkill (tigers, lions, and bears only)	<u>Virginia</u> Statewide (dangerous reptiles and amphibians only) Fairfax County
<u>Georgia</u> Statewide	<u>Mississippi</u> Statewide	<u>Pennsylvania</u> Statewide (excluding chimpanzees and elephants)	Richmond Spotsylvania County
<u>Illinois</u> Peoria Waukegan (prohibits allowing dangerous animals, including elephants,	<u>Missouri</u> Statewide	<u>Tennessee</u> Statewide	
	<u>New Hampshire</u> Statewide		

Localities With Prohibitions on Specific Acts

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

Miscellaneous Bans and/or Restrictions

California
Corona (prohibits wild or exotic animal displays)
Huntington Beach (prohibits performances of wild and exotic animals)

Hawaii
Maui County (prohibits the exhibition of captive cetaceans)

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)

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)

Texas

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

Vermont

Burlington (prohibits circuses with elephants, lions, tigers, bears or primates)

Wisconsin

Cedarburg (requires a criminal background check on circus employees)

Madison (bans public displays of cougars and bears)

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.

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.