



**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND**

ANIMAL POSSESSION BAN

Keep Animals Away from Convicted Abusers

SUPPORT TEXAS SB 804 (RODRIGUEZ) | HB 2012 (LUCIO III)

ALLOW JUDGES OPTION TO
BAN ANY CONVICTED
ANIMAL ABUSER FROM FUTURE
CONTACT WITH ANIMALS

What will these bills do?

Amend 2017 law (§ 42A.511, Code of Criminal Procedure) that created bestiality crime and punishment.

Extend the related offenses to include:

- 42.09 Cruelty to livestock
- 42.091 Cruelty to assistance animals
- 42.092 Cruelty to non-livestock (i.e. – domestic/companion animals)
- 42.10 Dogfighting
- 42.105 Cockfighting



Allows, in the case of community supervision, that a judge may prohibit the defendant from possessing or exercising control over any animals or residing in a household where animals are present.



Why are they needed?

Possession bans are one of the most effective ways to ensure a person convicted of animal cruelty does not reoffend. Along with psychological evaluation and treatment, these sentencing measures can ensure that the root of the issues is addressed, reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

Many convicted animal abusers demonstrate through their actions that they are not fit to possess or have contact with animals.

There is a proven cycle of repeat animal cruelty offenders; this law can help to end this cycle by separating offenders from potential new victims (animal and/or escalated human violence).

By preventing future cruelty to animals, the law can help save local agencies and shelters resources (large-scale cruelty cases can cost hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars during lengthy trials).

Laws like this offer law enforcement officials an additional tool to monitor and quickly intervene to protect at-risk animals and prevent animal abuse in their communities.





WHAT OTHER STATES HAVE SIMILAR LAWS?

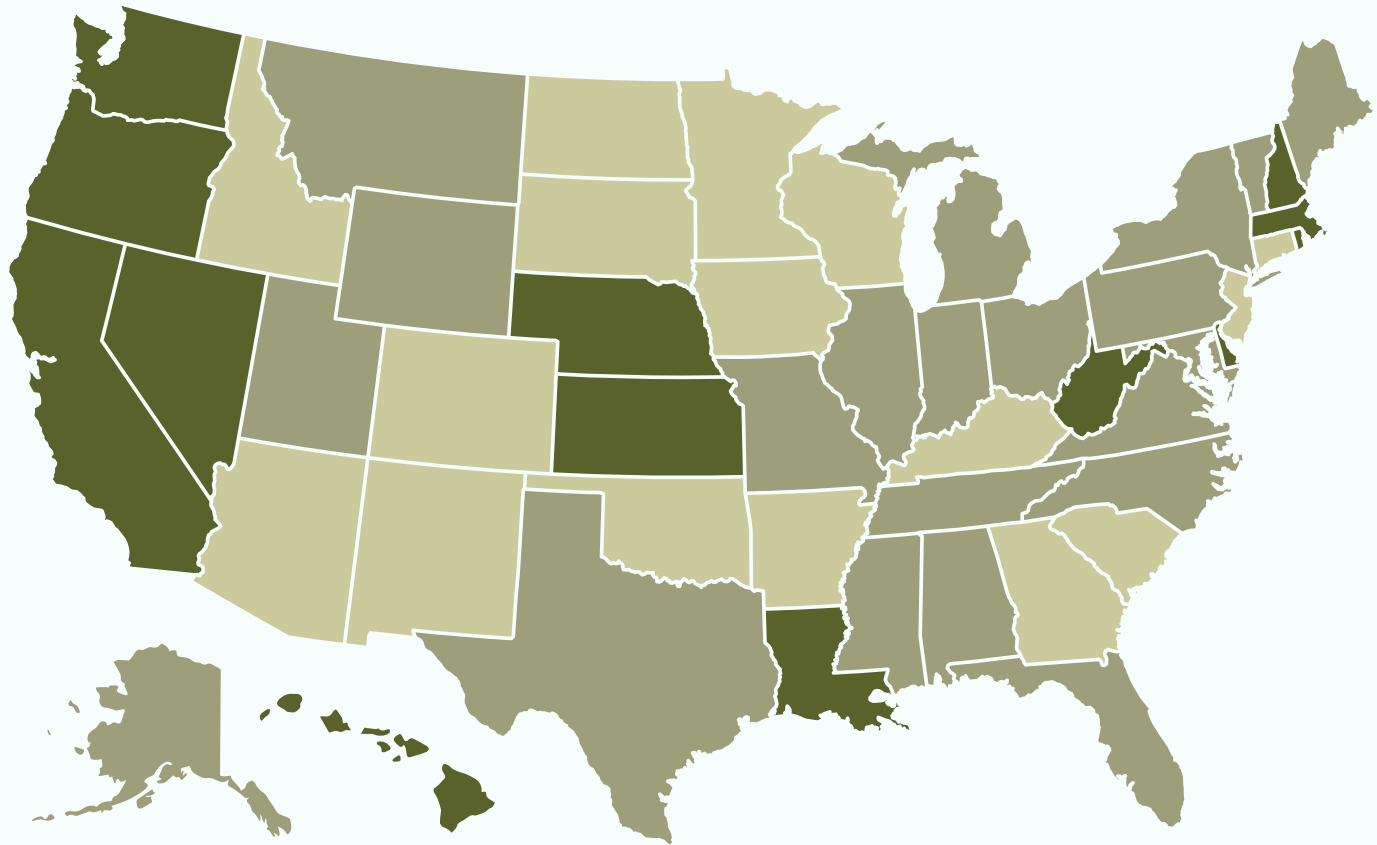
SUPPORT TEXAS SB 804 (RODRIGUEZ) | HB 2012 (LUCIO III)

The National Sheriff’s Association and the FBI recognize that animal cruelty is a reliable indicator of future violence towards people, and are accordingly taking animal cruelty more seriously than ever. Similarly, legislatures across the nation are passing stronger laws against animal crimes, knowing that doing so will protect animals, children, and entire communities.

31 STATES HAVE PASSED LAWS ALLOWING JUDGES TO LIMIT OR PROHIBIT ANIMAL OWNERSHIP POST-CONVICTION

23 states and D.C. statutorily authorize permissive possession bans, leaving adjudication up to the court’s discretion

7 states created or strengthened their possession bans in 2018 (LA, MA, FL, RI, CA, MD, OR)



POSSESSION BAN MAP

● MANDATORY ● PERMISSIVE ● NONE