

## **Animal Fighting Penalties**

**Current:**

**NRS 574.060** Commission of certain acts concerning place kept or used for baiting or fighting birds or other animals unlawful; penalties.

**Purpose:**

Criminalize exploitation of those that engage and watch in animal fighting. It is a blood sport for the profit and entertainment of spectators. Animals become extremely aggressive, live in isolation and are often fed steroids and drugs. In addition, other felony criminal acts are connected to animal fighting.

**Support:**

Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington have all proposed such registry:

- "Abuser" or "animal abuser" means a person who has been convicted in this state of committing an animal abuse offense;
- "Animal" means a companion animal, and a "non-livestock animal", as defined in § 39-14-201. "Animal" does not mean "livestock", as defined in § 39-14-201, or "wildlife", as defined in § 70-1-101;
- "Animal abuse offense" means:
  - (a) Aggravated cruelty to animals, under § 39-14-212;
  - (b) Animal fighting, under § 39-14-203, where the defendant's act constitutes a felony; and
  - (c) A criminal offense against animals, under § 39-14-214;
- "Companion animal" means any dog, defined as any live dog of the species *Canis familiaris*, or cat, defined as any live cat of the species *Felis catus*;
- "Conviction" means a judgment entered by a Tennessee court upon a plea of guilty, a plea of nolo contendere, or a finding of guilt by a jury or the court, notwithstanding any pending appeal or habeas corpus proceeding arising from the judgment.
- Conviction includes a disposition of pretrial diversion under § 40-15-105, a disposition of judicial diversion under § 40-35-313, or the equivalent dispositions from other jurisdictions; a plea of nolo contendere, or a finding of guilt by a jury or the court, notwithstanding any pending appeal or habeas corpus proceeding arising from the judgment.
- Conviction includes a disposition of pretrial diversion under § 40-15-105, a disposition of judicial diversion under § 40-35-313, or the equivalent dispositions from other jurisdictions;
- For purposes of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public safety and welfare requiring it.

**Proposed legislative action:**

1. Require violators to permanently forfeit ownership or possession rights of all animals;
2. Prohibit violators from having their records of animal cruelty conviction(s) sealed; and
3. Proposed additions to NRS 574.060, 574.070, 574.107.