



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The National LINK Coalition

(The National Resource Center on The LINK Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence)

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U.S. STATES AND TERRITORIES AND CANADIAN PROVINCES VETERINARY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As of May 2024, the following states and Canadian provinces have provisions regarding veterinary reporting of suspected animal abuse, and immunity from civil and/or criminal liability therefrom:

State	Statute Citation	Duty to Report (Red = Mandated)	Immunity
Alabama	Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners Administrative Code (2018) 930-x-1-.10(16) Rules of Professional Conduct/Grounds for Discipline	<i>(16). A licensed veterinarian is obligated to report to the proper authorities any grossly inhumane treatment to animals of which he or she has direct knowledge</i>	<i>(not specified)</i>
Alaska	Alaska Administrative Code 12 AAC 68.100	<i>Confidential Relationship: (a) A licensed veterinarian shall maintain a confidential relationship with the client or the client's authorized agent. (b) Nothing in this section limits or interferes with a licensed veterinarian's ability to report suspected animal abuse.</i>	<i>(not specified)</i>
Arizona	ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 32-2239 (2010). Duty of veterinarian to report suspected abuse, cruelty, neglect or animal fighting; immunity	<i>A. A veterinarian who reasonably suspects or believes that an animal has been a victim of abuse, cruelty or neglect or has been involved in animal fighting shall report that suspicion, or cause a report to be made, to law enforcement within forty-eight hours after treatment or examination. The report shall include the breed and description of the animal and the name and address of the owner or person who sought the examination or treatment. Veterinary records shall be provided to local law enforcement on request in furtherance of any criminal investigation for abuse, cruelty, neglect or animal fighting. B. A veterinarian shall report, in writing, suspected cases of abuse of livestock to the associate director of the division of animal services in the Arizona department of agriculture pursuant to</i>	<i>C. A veterinarian who files a report as provided in this section shall be immune from civil liability with respect to any report made in good faith.</i>

		<i>title 3, chapter 11, article 1. The report shall be made within forty-eight hours after treatment or examination and shall include the breed and description of the animal together with the name and address of the owner.</i>	
Arkansas	<p>ARK. CODE. ANN. § 5-62-107 (2010). Immunity for reporting cruelty to animals or aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat, or horse.</p> <p>ARK. CODE. ANN. § 5-62-109 (2010). Immunity -- Veterinarians.</p>		<p><i>Except as provided in § 5-54-122, a person who in good faith reports a suspected incident of cruelty to animals or aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat, or horse to a local law enforcement agency or to the Department of Arkansas State Police is immune from civil and criminal liability for reporting the incident.</i></p> <p><i>(a) A licensed veterinarian or a person acting at the direction of a licensed veterinarian in Arkansas is: (1) Held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decision made or service rendered in conjunction with this subchapter; and (2) Immune from suit for his or her part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.</i></p> <p><i>(b) A veterinarian or person acting at the direction of a licensed veterinarian who participates or reports in bad faith or with malice is not protected under this subchapter.</i></p>
California	<p>CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 4830.7 (2010)</p> <p>CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 4830.5 (2010).</p>	<p><i>Whenever any licensee under this chapter has reasonable cause to believe an animal under its care has been a victim of animal abuse or cruelty, as prescribed in Section 597 of the Penal Code, it shall be the duty of the licensee to promptly report it to the appropriate law enforcement authorities of the county, city, or city and county in which it occurred.</i></p> <p><i>(a) If a licensee under this chapter has reasonable cause to believe that a dog has been injured or killed through participation in a staged animal fight, as prescribed in Section 597b of the Penal Code, it is the duty of the licensee to promptly report that fact to the appropriate law enforcement authorities of the county, city, or city and county in which the fight occurred.</i></p>	<p><i>No licensee shall incur any civil liability as a result of making any report pursuant to this section or as a result of making any report of a violation of subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) of Section 597 of the Penal Code.</i></p> <p><i>(b) A licensee shall not incur any civil liability as a result of making any report pursuant to this section or as a result of making any report of a violation of Section 596, subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 597, or Section 597b, former Section 597f, Section 597g, 597n, 597.1, or 597.5 of the Penal Code.</i></p>
Colorado	COLO REV. STAT. § §12-315-120 (2019).	<i>(1) A licensed veterinarian who, during the course of attending or treating an</i>	<i>(4) A licensed veterinarian who in good faith reports a suspected incident of animal</i>

	Reporting requirements-- immunity for reporting- veterinary-patient-client privilege inapplicable	<p><i>animal, has reasonable cause to know or suspect that the animal has been subjected to cruelty in violation of section 18-9-202, C.R.S., or subjected to animal fighting in violation of section 18-9-204, C.R.S., shall report or cause a report to be made of the animal cruelty or animal fighting to a local law enforcement agency or the bureau of animal protection.</i></p> <p>(2) A licensed veterinarian shall not knowingly make a false report of animal cruelty or animal fighting to a local law enforcement agency or to the bureau of animal protection.</p> <p>(3) A licensed veterinarian who willfully violates the provisions of subsection (1) or (2) of this section commits a petty offense, punishable as provided in section 18-1.3-503, C.R.S.</p>	<p><i>cruelty or animal fighting to the proper authorities in accordance with subsection (1) of this section shall be immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought against the veterinarian for reporting the incident. In any civil or criminal proceeding in which the liability of a veterinarian for reporting an incident described in subsection (1) of this section is at issue, the good faith of the veterinarian shall be presumed.</i></p> <p>(5) The veterinary-patient-client privilege described in section 24-72-204(3)(a)(XIV), C.R.S., may not be asserted for the purpose of excluding or refusing evidence or testimony in a prosecution for an act of animal cruelty under section 18-9-202, C.R.S., or for an act of animal fighting under section 18-9-204, C.R.S.</p>
Connecticut	GENERAL STATUTES OF CONNECTICUT § 53a-65(6) (2023). Definitions. (Previously was in § 20-204(b). Reporting of animal fighting for amusement or gain to law enforcement agency or animal control officer.	<i>(a) Any veterinarian licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 384 of the general statutes, who in the course of his or her employment, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is being or has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly due to participation in an exhibition of animal fighting for amusement or gain, shall report the following information to the local law enforcement agency or animal control officer: (1) The address of the owner or other person responsible for care of the animal; (2) a description of the animal; and (3) the approximate date and time of discovery of such harm, neglect or cruelty.</i>	<i>(b) Any veterinarian, who in good faith, makes a report pursuant to this section, shall be immune from any civil liability which might otherwise arise from or be related to the actions taken pursuant to this section and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such report. The immunity from civil liability extends only to actions done pursuant to this section and does not extend to the malpractice of a veterinarian that results in injury to, or the death of, an animal.</i>
Florida	FLA. STAT. ANN. § 828.12(4) (2010). Cruelty to animals		<i>(3) A veterinarian licensed to practice in the state shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made or services rendered under the provisions of this section. Such a veterinarian is, therefore, under this subsection, immune from a lawsuit for his or her part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.</i>
Georgia	GA. CODE ANN. § 4-11-17 (2010). Reports of animal cruelty or dog fighting by veterinarians or veterinary technicians; immunity from civil or criminal liability	<i>(a) Notwithstanding Code Section 24-9-29 or any other provision of law to the contrary, any licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician having reasonable cause to believe that an animal has been subjected to animal cruelty in violation of Code Section 16-12-4 or an act prohibited under Code Section 16-12-37 may make or cause to be made a report of such violation to the Commissioner, his or her designee, an animal control officer, a law enforcement agency, or a prosecuting attorney and may appear</i>	<i>(b) Any person participating in the making of a report pursuant to this Code section or participating in any administrative or judicial proceeding pursuant to this article or Title 16 shall, in so doing, be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed, provided such participation pursuant to this Code section or any other law is made in good faith.</i>

		<i>and testify in any judicial or administrative proceeding concerning the care of an animal.</i>	
Hawai'i	HAWAII REVISED STATUTES § 471-18	<i>Whenever any veterinarian duly licensed under this chapter has reasonable cause to believe that an animal has been killed or injured through participation in a stated animal fight [or] has been a victim of animal cruelty, it shall be the duty of the veterinarian to promptly report the event to the appropriate law enforcement authorities of the county where the event occurred.</i>	<i>No veterinarian duly licensed under this chapter shall incur any civil liability as a result of making any report pursuant to this section.</i>
Idaho	IDAHO CODE § 25-3514A (2010). Immunity.		<i>Any Idaho licensed veterinarian shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made or services rendered under the provisions of this chapter. Such a veterinarian is, therefore, protected from a lawsuit for his part in an investigation of cruelty to animals. Provided however, that a veterinarian who participates or reports in bad faith or with malice shall not be protected under the provisions of this section.</i>
Illinois	225 ILL. COMP. STAT. 115/25.19 (2010). Mandatory Reporting 510 ILL. COMP. STAT. 70/3.07 (2010). Veterinarian reports; humane euthanasia 510 ILL. COMP. STAT. 70/4.01 (2010). Animals in entertainment	<i>Nothing in this act exempts a licensee from the mandatory reporting requirements regarding suspected acts of aggravated cruelty, torture, and animal fighting imposed under Sections 3.07 and 4.01 of the Humane Care for Animals Act and Section 26-5 of the Criminal Code of 1961.</i> <i>Any veterinarian in this State who observes or is presented with an animal or animals for the treatment of <u>aggravated cruelty</u> under Section 3.02 or torture under Section 3.03 of this Act must file a report with the Department and cooperate with the Department by furnishing the owner's name, the date of receipt of the animal or animals and any treatment administered, and a description of the animal or animals involved, including a microchip number if applicable.</i> (k) Any veterinarian in this State who is presented with an animal for treatment of injuries or wounds resulting from fighting where there is a reasonable possibility that the animal was engaged in or utilized for a fighting event for the purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment shall file a report with the Department and cooperate by furnishing the owners' names, dates, and descriptions of the animal or animals involved.	<i>Any veterinarian who in good faith makes a report, as required by this Section, has immunity from any liability, civil, criminal, or otherwise, that may result from his or her actions. For the purposes of any proceedings, civil or criminal, the good faith of the veterinarian shall be presumed.</i> <i>Any veterinarian who in good faith complies with the requirements of this subsection has immunity from any liability, civil, criminal, or otherwise, that may result from his or her actions. For the purposes of any proceedings, civil or criminal, the good faith of the veterinarian shall be rebuttably presumed.</i> <i>(b) Any veterinarian acting in good faith is</i>

	510 ILL. COMP. STAT. 70/10 (2010). Investigation of complaints	<i>(1) Any veterinarian in this State who is presented with a dog for treatment of injuries or wounds resulting from fighting where there is a reasonable possibility that the dog was engaged in or utilized for a fighting event for the purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment shall file a report with the Department of Agriculture and cooperate by furnishing the owners' names, dates, and descriptions of the dog or dogs involved.</i>	<i>immune from any civil or criminal liability resulting from his or her actions under this Section. The good faith on the part of the veterinarian is presumed.</i> <i>Any veterinarian who in good faith complies with the requirements of this subsection has immunity from any liability, civil, criminal, or otherwise, that may result from his or her actions. For the purposes of any proceedings, civil or criminal, the good faith of the veterinarian shall be rebuttably presumed.</i>
Indiana	IND. CODE § 25-38.1-4-8.5 (2010). Immunity for reporting suspected animal cruelty		<i>A veterinarian or registered veterinary technician who reports in good faith and in the normal course of business a suspected incident of animal cruelty under IC 35-46-3 to a law enforcement officer is immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought for reporting the incident.</i>
Kansas	K.A.R. 70-8-1(q). Acts of unprofessional conduct. (2017) KAN. STAT. ANN. § 47-839 and 47-830; Confidentiality; exceptions; waiver	<i>Under administrative regulation K.A.R. § 70-8-1, veterinarians are required to report cruel or inhumane treatment of animals if the veterinarian has direct knowledge of such treatment.</i> <i>(a) Except as otherwise provided under K.S.A. 47-622 and 47-624, and amendments thereto, a licensed veterinarian shall not disclose any information concerning the veterinarian's care of an animal except on written authorization or other waiver by the veterinarian's client or on appropriate court order or subpoena. Any veterinarian who releases information under written authorization or other waiver by the client or under court order or subpoena shall not be liable to the client or any other person. The privilege provided by this section shall be waived under the following circumstances: (1) Reporting cruel or inhumane treatment of any animal to federal, state or local governmental agencies; (2) where information is necessary to provide care in an emergency where the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to place the animal's health in serious jeopardy or impair bodily function; (3) where the failure to disclose vaccination information may endanger the public's health, safety or welfare; (4) where the</i>	

		veterinarian's client or the owner of the animal places the veterinarian's care and treatment of the animal or the nature and extent of injuries to the animal at issue in any civil or criminal proceeding; or (5) in relation to any investigation by the board and any subsequent administrative disciplinary action brought by the board.	
Kentucky	<p>KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 321.188 (2020). Reporting of animal abuse.</p> <p>KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 321.185(4)(b) (2020). Veterinarian-client-patient relationship.</p>	<p><i>If a veterinarian finds that an animal with which he or she has a veterinarian-client-patient relationship has been abused in violation of KRS 525.125, 525.130, 525.135, or 6525.137, the veterinarian may make a report to:</i>(1)<i>The Office of the State Veterinarian for any animal for which an on-farm livestock or poultry care standard has been promulgated under KRS 257.196; or (2)Law enforcement for any other animal.</i></p> <p><i>(b) A veterinarian shall not release information concerning a client or care of a client's animal, except on the veterinarian's receipt of:</i></p> <p><i>a. A written authorization or other form of waiver executed by the client; or</i></p> <p><i>b. An appropriate court order or subpoena, or</i></p> <p><i>2. In cases of animal abuse, pursuant to Section 1 of this Act</i></p>	(c) A veterinarian who releases information as required under paragraph (b) of this subsection shall not be liable to any person, including the client, for an action resulting from the disclosure.
Louisiana	R.S. § 9:2800.28 Limitation of liability for veterinary professionals who report animal cruelty. (2022)	Any licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician who reports, in good faith and with reasonable belief that an animal has been abused, to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, a P.O.S.T. certified animal control officer, a law enforcement agency, or a prosecuting	A. Any veterinarian licensed by the state or veterinary technician licensed by the state who reports in good faith and has reasonable belief that an animal has been the subject of a violation of R.S. 14:102.1, 102.5, 102.8, 102.19, 102.20, 102.23, or 102.26 shall be immune from civil liability

		<p>attorney, will be immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution. The law covers specific criminal acts: simple and aggravated cruelty to animals; dogfighting and cockfighting; injuring or killing a police animal; hog and canine fighting; sport killing of zoo or circus animals; and unlawful restraint of a dog.</p> <p>Immunity also extends to the release of confidential information pursuant to a subpoena or a court-ordered disclosure or upon written consent of the animal's owner or legal representative. The new statute does not apply if the reporter acted with gross negligence, willful misconduct or in bad faith.</p>	<p>or criminal prosecution if he reports such violation to the commissioner or designee of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, a P.O.S.T. certified animal control officer, a law enforcement agency, or a prosecuting attorney or if he participates in any investigation or proceeding for acts prohibited by law.</p> <p>B. Additionally, any veterinarian licensed by the state or veterinary technician licensed by the state shall be immune from civil liability or criminal prosecution for the release of confidential information pursuant to a subpoena or court-ordered disclosure, or upon written consent from the animal's owner or the animal owner's legal representative.</p> <p>C. This Section shall not apply if the veterinarian or veterinary technician acts with gross negligence, willful misconduct, or in bad faith.</p>
Maine	ME. REV. STAT. ANN. Title 7, § 4018 (2007). Report of suspected cruelty	<p><i>1. Report by veterinarian. Except as provided in subsection 1-A, a veterinarian licensed in accordance with Title 32, chapter 71-A who, while acting in a professional capacity, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is the subject of cruelty or neglect in violation of this chapter or Title 17, chapter 42 may report the suspected violation to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee. A veterinarian making a report under this section may appear and testify in a judicial or administrative proceeding concerning the condition or care of the animal.</i></p> <p><i>1-A. Report by veterinarian required. A veterinarian licensed in accordance with Title 32, chapter 71-A who, while acting in a professional capacity, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is the subject of aggravated cruelty under Title 17, section 1031, subsection 1-B shall report the suspected violation to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee. A veterinarian making a report under this section may appear and testify in a judicial or administrative proceeding concerning the condition or care of the animal.</i></p>	<p><i>2. Immunity. A veterinarian reporting or testifying under this section is immune from criminal or civil liability or professional disciplinary action that might otherwise result from these actions. The immunity from liability for releasing confidential information applies only to the release of information to the court or to the department, an animal control officer, attorney for the State or law enforcement agency involved in the investigation.</i></p>
Maryland	MD. Agriculture Code Ann. § 2-313.1 (2017). Reporting animal cruelty or fighting. MD Code, Courts & Judicial Proceedings	<p><i>(A) A veterinary practitioner who has reason to believe that an animal that has been treated by the veterinary practitioner has been subjected to cruelty or fighting...shall report the suspected animal cruelty or animal fighting to the appropriate law enforcement agency or</i></p>	<p><i>(C) A veterinary practitioner who reports in good faith suspected animal cruelty or animal fighting or participates in an investigation of suspected animal cruelty or animal fighting is immune from(1) Civil liability that results from the report or participation n the investigation; or (2)</i></p>

	Code § 5-424	<i>county animal control agency in a timely manner.</i>	<i>Criminal prosecution for the report or participation in the investigation.</i>
Massachusetts	MASS. GEN. LAWS Title XVI, Ch. 112, § 58B (2010). Reports of suspected acts of cruelty to animals; veterinarians; immunity from liability; failure to report.	<i>Section 58B. A veterinarian who, while in the normal course of business, observes an animal whom such veterinarian knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of animal cruelty prohibited under section 77 or section 94 of chapter 272 shall report said suspected animal cruelty to a police officer or a special state police officer appointed under section 57 of chapter 22C.</i> <i>A veterinarian duly registered under section 55 who reports, in good faith and in the normal course of business, a suspected act of cruelty to animals prohibited under section 77 or section 94 of chapter 272 to a police officer, or a special state police officer appointed under section 57 of chapter 22C, shall not be liable in a civil or criminal action for reporting such act.</i> <i>Any veterinarian who fails to report such an act of cruelty shall be reported to the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine.</i>	<i>A veterinarian duly registered under section 55 who reports, in good faith and in the normal course of business, a suspected act of cruelty to animals prohibited under section 77 or section 94 of chapter 272 to a police officer, or a special state police officer appointed under section 57 of chapter 22C, shall not be liable in a civil or criminal action for reporting such act.</i>
Michigan	MICH. COMP. LAWS § 333.18827 (2000). Veterinarian or veterinary technician; reporting animal to be abandoned, neglected, or abused; immunity.		<i>Sec. 18827. A veterinarian or veterinary technician who in good faith reports to a peace officer, an animal control officer, or an officer of a private organization devoted to the humane treatment of animals an animal that the veterinarian or veterinary technician knows or reasonably believes to be abandoned, neglected, or abused is immune from civil or criminal liability for making the report.</i>
Minnesota	MINN. STAT. § 346.37 (2010) – earliest version enacted 1983). General provisions. MINN. STAT. § 343.215 (2020). Veterinarian immunity	<i>Subd. 6. Reports of abuse, cruelty, or neglect. A veterinarian must report known or suspected cases of abuse, cruelty, or neglect to peace officers and humane agents as provided in 343.12 and 343.29.</i>	<i>HF 1530 and SF 1517, enacted in 2020, grant veterinarians immunity from civil and criminal liability for reporting suspected animal cruelty in good faith and in the normal course of business</i>
Mississippi	MISS. CODE ANN. § 73-39-87 (2010). Immunity from liability for veterinarians reporting suspected incidents of animal		<i>Any veterinarian licensed in this state who reports, in good faith and in the normal course of business, a suspected incident of animal cruelty to the proper authorities shall be immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought against the veterinarian for reporting the incident.</i>

	cruelty.		
Missouri	<p>MO. Professional Code for the Practice of Veterinary Medicine 20 CSR 2270-6.011 (11) – Rules of Professional Conduct</p> <p>R.S. MO. § 340.286. Disclosure of information, when required – immunity – waiver of privilege</p>	<p><i>The board recognizes that veterinarians may observe cases of animal abuse or neglect as defined by federal or state laws, or local ordinances. When these situations cannot be resolved through education, the board considers it the responsibility of the veterinarian to report such cases to the appropriate authorities. Disclosures may be necessary to protect the health and welfare of animals and people. Veterinarians should be aware that accurate record keeping and documentation of these cases are invaluable.</i></p>	
Nebraska	<p>NEB. REV. STAT. § 28-1020 (2010). Animal abandonment, cruel neglect, or cruel mistreatment; report required by animal health care professional; immunity from liability.</p> <p>NEB. REV. STAT. § 54-910 (2010). Livestock animal health care professional; duty to report suspected criminal activity; immunity from liability.</p>	<p><i>(1) Any animal health care professional, while acting in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, who observes or is involved in an incident which leads the animal health care professional to reasonably suspect that an animal has been abandoned, cruelly neglected, or cruelly mistreated, shall report such treatment to an entity that investigates such reports in the appropriate jurisdiction.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose a duty to investigate observed or reasonably suspected abandonment, cruel neglect, or cruel mistreatment of an animal.</i></p> <p><i>(1) Any livestock animal health care professional, while acting in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, who observes or is involved in an incident which leads the livestock animal health care professional to reasonably suspect that a livestock animal has been abandoned, cruelly neglected, or cruelly mistreated shall report such treatment to an entity that investigates such reports in the appropriate jurisdiction.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose a duty to investigate observed or reasonably suspected abandonment, cruel neglect, or cruel mistreatment of a livestock animal</i></p>	<p><i>Any person making a report under this section is immune from liability except for false statements of fact made with malicious intent.</i></p> <p><i>Any person making a report under this section is immune from liability except for false statements of fact made with malicious intent.</i></p>
Nevada	NAC 638.0475. Maintenance and availability of records; required contents of records; cessation of	<p>10. The medical record of an animal is confidential and may not be released except: (a) As otherwise provided in subsection 1; (b) In response to a court order; or (c) As required to ensure</p>	

	practice without providing for continuation of treatment.	<p>compliance with any (federal, state and local statutes, regulations or ordinances.</p> <p>11. Nothing in this section is intended to prevent the sharing of veterinary medical information among veterinarians, law enforcement officials, and members, agents or officers of a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals who are acting to protect the welfare of an animal.</p>	
New Hampshire	<p>N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 332-B:16-a (2010) Immunity From Civil Action.</p> <p>N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 644:8 (2010). Cruelty to Animals.</p>	<p>No civil action shall be maintained against the board or any member thereof, or any agent or employee of the board, with regard to any action or activity in the performance of any duty or authority established by this chapter. Nor shall any civil action be maintained against any other organization or individual for or by reason of any good faith statement, report, communication, or testimony to the board or determination by the board in relation to proceedings under this chapter.</p>	<p><i>V. A veterinarian licensed to practice in the state shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made for services rendered under the provisions of this section or RSA 435:11-16. Such a veterinarian is, therefore, under this paragraph, protected from a lawsuit for his part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.</i></p>
New Mexico	N.M. Administrative Code NMAC 16.25.3(T)	<i>The reporting of cruelty or illegal action is not a violation of confidentiality.</i>	
New York	N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 6714 (2010). Treatment records	<p>2. A veterinarian licensed pursuant to this article, may disclose records, as defined in this section, concerning a companion animal as defined in section three hundred fifty of the agriculture and markets law which has received treatment by such veterinarian without the consent of the companion animal's owner under the following circumstances:</p> <p><i>(a) When a veterinarian reasonably and in good faith suspects that a companion animal's injury, illness or condition is the result of animal cruelty or in violation of Sec. 351, 353 or 353-a of the Agriculture and Markets Law, the veterinarian shall report the incident and disclose records concerning the companion animal's condition and treatment to any officer or agent authorized pursuant to Secs. 371 and 373 of the Agriculture & Markets Law to respond to and investigate complaints of animal cruelty. The identity of such veterinarian making a report pursuant to this paragraph shall only be</i></p>	<p>4. A veterinarian who reasonably and in good faith reports or discloses records in accordance with this section shall be immune from liability in the form of damages in any civil or criminal proceeding on account of such reporting or disclosure.</p>

		<p><i>made available to an officer or agent authorized pursuant to Secs. 371 and 373 of the Agriculture & Markets Law.</i></p> <p><i>(b) When a veterinarian reasonably believes that disclosure of records as defined in this section, is necessary to protect the health or welfare of a companion animal, a person or the public, the veterinarian may disclose such records to any officer or agent authorized pursuant to Secs.371 & 373 of the Agriculture & Markets Law to respond to and investigate complaints of animal cruelty. The identity of such veterinarian making a disclosure of records pursuant to this paragraph shall only be made available to an officer or agent authorized pursuant to Secs.371 & 373 of the Agriculture & Markets Law.</i></p> <p><i>c) Any such veterinarian who reports an incident or discloses records concerning a companion animal's condition and treatment pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this subdivision shall be entitled to receive and be provided with, at no cost to such veterinarian, written or electronic documentation of such report by the agent or officer to whom such report was made. Such report shall include but not be limited to the date such report was made, the identity of the individual against whom such report was made, the species and description of the animal about which such report was made, the nature of the injuries to the animal and the name and license number of the veterinarian who made such report.</i></p> <p><i>3. A veterinarian acts in good faith within the meaning of this section when he or she reasonably believes that his or her actions are necessary to protect the health and welfare of the companion animal or the public.</i></p>	
<p>North Carolina</p>	<p>N.C. GEN. STAT. § 14-360.1 (2007). Immunity for veterinarian reporting animal cruelty</p>	<p><i>A failure by a veterinarian to make a report of animal cruelty shall not constitute grounds for disciplinary action under G.S. 90-187.8.</i></p>	<p><i>Any veterinarian licensed in this State who has reasonable cause to believe that an animal has been the subject of animal cruelty in violation of G.S. 14-360 and who makes a report of animal cruelty, or who participates in any investigation or testifies in any judicial proceeding that arises from a report of animal cruelty, shall be immune from civil liability, criminal liability, and liability from professional disciplinary action and shall not be in breach of any veterinarian patient confidentiality, unless the veterinarian acted in bad faith or with a malicious purpose. It shall be a</i></p>

			<i>rebuttable presumption that the veterinarian acted in good faith.</i>
North Dakota	<p>N.D. CENT. CODE § 36-21.1-14 (2010). Assumption of custody -- Immunity from liability</p> <p>N.D. ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 87-05-02. Unprofessional conduct</p> <p>N.D. Century Code 36-21.2. Treatment of Animals</p>	<p><i>Unprofessional conduct manifestly disqualifying a licensee from practicing veterinary medicine includes: (8). Failing to report to law enforcement or humane officers inhumane treatment to animals, including staged animal fights or training events for fights, the veterinarian reasonably believed occurred.</i></p> <p><i>36-21.2-10. Veterinarian. If upon examining an animal a licensed veterinarian determines that there is reasonable cause to believe an animal has been neglected, abused, treated cruelly, or subjected to any act or omission in violation of this chapter, the veterinarian may retain custody of the animal and shall immediately notify law enforcement officials regarding the determination.</i></p>	<p><i>Any sheriff, police officer, licensed veterinarian, investigator, or person who has custody of an animal under this chapter and who is acting in an official or professional capacity and making a good-faith effort to comply with this chapter is immune from any civil or criminal liability for acts taken or omitted while attempting to comply with this chapter.</i></p>
Ohio	OHIO REVISED CODE § 959.07, § 959.08	<i>(B)(1). No [licensed veterinarian] shall fail to immediately report a violation involving a companion animal to an officer who is not a dog warden or deputy dog warden when that person has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that such a violation has occurred or is occurring.</i>	<i>A person required to make a report is immune from civil or criminal liability in connection with making that report if the person acted in good faith when making the report.</i>
Okla-homa	<p>OKLA. STAT. tit. 21, § 1680.3 (2010). Veterinarian required to report suspected animal abuse-- Immunity from civil liability</p> <p>Okla. Administrative Code 775:10-5-30: Unprofessional</p>	<p><i>A. A veterinarian shall report suspected cases of animal abuse to a local law enforcement agency in the county where the veterinarian is practicing within twenty-four (24) hours of any examination or treatment administered to any animal which the veterinarian reasonably suspects and believes has been abused. The report shall contain the breed and description of the animal together with the name and address of the owner.</i></p> <p><i>The following acts or omissions shall be considered unprofessional conduct and shall constitute grounds for disciplinary</i></p>	<i>B. A veterinarian who files a report as provided in this section shall be immune from civil liability with respect to any report made in good faith.</i>

	Conduct	<i>action by the Board: (8) failing to report to the proper authorities cruel or inhumane treatment to animals by any person, when the veterinarian has direct knowledge of the cruel or inhumane treatment;</i>	
Oregon	<p>OR. REV. STAT. § 686.442 (2010). Link between animal abuse and human abuse, mandatory reporting of aggravated animal abuse</p> <p>OR. REV. STAT. § 686.445 (2010). Reports of abandoned, neglected or abused animals or animals injured in trapping devices; immunity from liability</p> <p>OR. REV. STAT. § 686.455 (2010). Veterinarian reports</p> <p>OR. REV. STAT. § 686.465 (2010). Veterinarian liability</p> <p>OR. REV. STAT. § 686.990 (2010). Penalties.</p>	<p><i>The Legislative Assembly finds that there is a direct link between the problems of animal abuse and human abuse and further finds that for the purposes of identifying and prosecuting individuals who have committed crimes against animals, preventing further abuse of animals and preventing animal abuse from escalating to abuse against humans, it is necessary and in the public interest to require mandatory reporting of aggravated animal abuse by veterinarians. [NOTE: 686.442 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not made a part of ORS.</i></p> <p><i>(1) Except as provided in ORS 686.455, licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians may report to peace officers, animal control officers or officers of private organizations devoted to humane treatment of animals any animal that the veterinarian or veterinary technician knows or reasonably believes to be abandoned, neglected or abused.</i></p> <p><i>(1) A veterinarian who has reasonable cause to believe that an animal with which the veterinarian has come in contact has suffered <u>aggravated</u> animal abuse, or that any person with whom the veterinarian has come in contact has committed aggravated animal abuse, shall immediately report the suspected aggravated animal abuse in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) of this section.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Failure to file a report of suspected aggravated animal abuse as required by ORS 686.455 is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.</i></p>	<p><i>Any veterinarian or veterinary technician making a report under this section is immune from any civil or criminal liability by reason of making the report.</i></p> <p><i>A veterinarian who acts in good faith and has reasonable grounds for making a report of suspected aggravated animal abuse under ORS 686.455 is not liable in any civil or criminal proceeding brought as a result of making the report.</i></p>
Pennsylvania	18 Pa.C.S.A. § 5556		<i>A licensed doctor of veterinary medicine, certified veterinary technician or veterinary assistant who reports, in good faith and in the normal course of business,</i>

	49 Pa. Code 31:21: Rules of Professional Conduct for Veterinarians	(Must report animal abuse or neglect by another veterinarian to the State Board of Veterinary Examiners.)	<i>a suspected violation of this subchapter to the proper authority shall not be liable for civil damages as a result of reporting the incident. [This] shall not apply to an act or omission intentionally designed to harm or an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful, wanton or reckless conduct.</i>
Rhode Island	R.I. GEN. LAWS § 4-1-26.1 (2018). Reports of abandoned, neglected or abused animals R.I. GEN. LAWS § 4-1-37 (2010). Immunity from suit	(a) Any Rhode Island licensed veterinarian, veterinarian technician, animal shelter, animal kennel, or other person entrusted with the care or custody of an animal shall report to any police department (local or state), animal control officials, or officers of private organizations devoted to the humane treatment of animals, the condition of any animal that the parties entrusted with care or custody of an animal knows, or reasonably believes, to be abandoned, as defined in § 4-1-26, neglected, or abused, and shall be immune from suit pursuant to the provisions of § 4-1-37. Any party who fails to report pursuant to this section shall be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500). (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose a duty to further investigate observed or reasonably suspected animal abandonment, cruel neglect, or abuse.	<i>Any Rhode Island licensed veterinarian shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability arising out of any reports, either oral or written, made to local and/or state police, animal control officials or officers of private organizations devoted to humane treatment of animals, concerning any animal that the veterinarian knows or reasonably believed to be abandoned, neglected, or abused, and shall be immune from suit by reason of making the report. Provided, however, that a veterinarian who participates or reports in bad faith or with malice shall not be protected under the provisions of this section.</i>
South Carolina	S.C. CODE ANN. § 47-1-75 (2010). Immunity from civil and criminal liability.		<i>(Any person licensed to practice veterinary medicine who in good faith and without compensation for services provided, acting without malice, recklessness, or gross negligence, renders emergency care or treatment to a domestic animal which is abandoned, ill, injured, or in distress related to an accident or disaster shall not be liable or subject to any civil or criminal liability for any injuries or harm to such animal resulting from the rendering of such care or treatment, or any act or failure to act to provide or arrange for further medical treatment or care for such animal.)</i>
Tennessee	Amends TCA Title 63-12 (Part 1)	A licensed veterinarian, while acting in a professional capacity and in a current veterinarian-client-patient relationship, having reasonable cause to believe that an animal has been subjected to animal	<i>A licensed veterinarian or person participating in the making of a report pursuant to subsection (a) is not in breach of veterinarian-client-patient confidentiality by making the report or</i>

		cruelty in violation of § 39-14-202, § 39-14-214, or § 39-14-217, may make or cause to be made a report of such violation to the commissioner of agriculture or the commissioner's designee, an animal control officer, a law enforcement agency, or a district attorney and may appear and testify in a judicial or administrative proceeding concerning the care of the animal.	<i>participating in a judicial or administrative proceeding pursuant to subsection (a) and is immune from any civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action by the board, as long as such participation pursuant to subsection (a) is made in good faith.</i>
Texas	TEX. OCC. CODE ANN. § 801.3585 (2007). Liability For Reporting Animal Cruelty; Immunity.		<i>A veterinarian who in good faith and in the normal course of business reports to the appropriate governmental entity a suspected incident of animal cruelty under Section 42.09 or 42.092, Penal Code, is immune from liability in a civil or criminal action brought against the veterinarian for reporting the incident</i>
Utah	UTAH CODE ANN. § 58-28-602 (2010). Cruelty to animals -- Immunity for reporting UTAH CODE ANN. § 76-9-301 (2015). Cruelty to animals. UTAH CODE ANN. § 4-2-903 (2024). Animal care violations.		<i>A licensed veterinarian who in good faith and in the normal course of business, reports a suspected case of animal cruelty to law enforcement or the proper authorities is immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought against the veterinarian for reporting the suspected cruelty.</i> <i>(13) A veterinarian who, acting in good faith, reports a violation of this section to law enforcement may not be held civilly liable for making the report.</i> <i>A veterinarian who, acting in good faith, reports a violation of this section to law enforcement or the Department of Agriculture and Food in accordance with Section 4-2-903 may not be held civilly liable for making the report.</i>
Vermont	VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 26, § 2404 (2010). Immunity from liability for reporting suspected cases of animal cruelty		<i>(a) There shall be no monetary liability on the part of, and no cause of action for damages shall arise against, a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state who, in good faith and in the normal course of practice, reports suspected cases of cruelty to animals, as defined in sections 352 and 352a of Title 13, to any humane officer or officer as defined in subdivision 351(4) of Title 13 or local board of health officer or agent.</i> <i>(b) There shall be no monetary liability on the part of, and no cause of action for damages against, a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state who accompanies a humane officer during the execution of a warrant pursuant to section 354 of Title 13, or evaluates the health of and provides medical attention to, including a decision</i>

			<i>for euthanasia, an animal brought to that veterinarian for health assessment, pursuant to section 354.</i>
Virginia	VA. CODE ANN. § 54.1-3812.1 (2016). Reporting of animal cruelty 18 VAC 150-20-140 (Administrative Code)	14. It is considered to be unprofessional conduct if a veterinarian fails to report suspected animal cruelty to appropriate authorities.	<i>Any person regulated by the board of veterinary medicine who makes a report of suspected animal cruelty or who provides records or information related to a report of suspected cruelty or testifies in any judicial proceeding arising from such report, records, or information shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability or administrative penalty or sanction on account of such report, records, information, or testimony, unless such person acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.</i>
Washington	RCW 16.52.330. Veterinarians – Animal Cruelty – Liability immunity.		<i>A veterinarian lawfully licensed in this state to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry who reports, in good faith and in the normal course of business, a suspected incident of animal cruelty that is punishable under this chapter to the proper authorities is immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought against such veterinarian for reporting the suspected incident. The immunity provided in this section applies only if the veterinarian receives no financial benefit from the suspected incident of animal cruelty beyond charges for services rendered prior to the veterinarian making the initial report.</i>
West Virginia	W. VA. CODE § 7-10-4a (2010). Reporting of animals abandoned, neglected or cruelly treated; enforcement.	(a) <i>It is the duty of any licensed veterinarian and the right of any other person to report to a humane officer any animal found, reasonably known or believed to be abandoned, neglected or cruelly treated as set forth in this article,</i>	<i>and such veterinarian or other person may not be subject to any civil or criminal liability as a result of such reporting.</i>
Wisconsin	WIS. STAT. § 173.12 (2010). Animal fighting; seizure	<i>(1) Any veterinarian who has reason to believe that an animal has been in a fight in violation of s. 951.08 shall report the matter to the local humane officer or to a local law enforcement agency. The report shall be in writing and shall include a description and the location of the animal, any injuries suffered by the animal and the name and address of the owner or person in charge of the animal, if known.</i>	
		MANDATED: 23	PERMITTED:20; LIABILITY: 36

U.S. TERRITORIES

Guam	9 Guam Code § 70.35. Animal fighting.	(f) Veterinarians and/or physicians and/or health professionals are required to report suspected animal fighting incidents, excluding cockfighting as authorized by law, that come to their attention through the provision of medical services to an animal to the Guam Police Department within five (5) days of learning of dogfighting incidents. Failure to do so shall result in potential loss of licensure if deemed appropriate by the appropriate licensure agencies.	<i>Any veterinarians, physicians, or health professionals making a report under this Subsection shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability by reason of making the report, unless the report was made in bad faith..</i>
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U.S. Virgin Islands	14 V.I. Code Ann. § 187(c). Seizure. 27 V.I. Code Ann. § 189d. The practice of veterinary medicine in the Virgin Islands. Reporting of animal cruelty.	It is the duty of any veterinarian licensed in the Virgin Islands to report to the Police Department, Department of Justice, Department of Agriculture, any peace officer or other appropriate enforcement agency, any animal found, reasonably known or believed to be abandoned, neglected or abused as defined in this chapter. a) Every person licensed under this chapter shall report to the Commissioner, the Board, and the Virgin Islands Police Department suspected animal cruelty, including cases of an animal exhibiting injuries consistent with dog fighting or injuries due to the administration of improper dosages of any drug or medicine.	<i>Such veterinarian is not subject to any civil or criminal liability for such reporting or for participating in an investigation of animal abuse or neglect, if done in good faith.</i> <i>(b) A person licensed under this chapter who makes a report of suspected animal cruelty or who provides records or information related to a report of suspected cruelty or testifies in any judicial proceeding arising from such report, records, or information is immune from any civil or criminal liability or administrative penalty or sanction on account of the report, records, information, or testimony, unless such person acted in bad faith or with a malicious purpose.</i>
		MANDATED: 2	LIABILITY: 2

CANADA

Province	STATUTE AND SECTION	DUTY TO REPORT (<i>red = mandated</i>)	State of mind/Threshold for reporting
Alberta	Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Policy: Mandatory Reporting of Animal Abuse and Neglect and Addressing Animal Distress and Welfare Infractions*	<i>Animal is being or has been subjected to abuse or neglect</i>	When they have reasonable grounds to believe
British Columbia	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Sec. 22.1 (Duty to report distress)	<i>Animal to be in distress</i>	Believes on reasonable grounds
Manitoba	The Animal Care Act Sec. 5.3 (Veterinarian to report suspected	<i>Neglect or abuse that compromises the animal's health</i>	Believes on reasonable grounds

	neglect or abuse)		
New Brunswick	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Sec. 19.1 (Veterinarian to report)	<i>Has not been provided with food, water, shelter, and care</i>	Believes on reasonable grounds
Newfoundland & Labrador	Animal Health and Protection Act Sec. 27(1). (Veterinarian to report in the course of practicing veterinary medicine)	<i>Has been or is subject to neglect or abuse that compromises the animal's health</i>	Believes on reasonable grounds
Nova Scotia	Animal Protection Act Sec. 40(1). Duty of veterinarian to report in the course of practicing veterinary medicine)	<i>Caused or permitted an animal to be in distress</i>	Reasonable grounds to believe
Ontario	Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 Sec. 14 (Veterinary obligation to report)	<i>Abuse, hardship, neglect, dog fighting, training for dog fighting</i>	Reasonable grounds to believe
Prince Edward Island	Animal Welfare Act Sec. 8(1). (Report of contravention)	<i>Contravention of the Act</i>	Believes on reasonable grounds
Quebec	Animal Welfare and Safety Act Sec. 14 (Veterinary surgeon or an agrologist)	<i>Is being or has been subjected to abuse or mistreatment or that it is or has been in distress</i>	Reasonable cause to believe
Saskatchewan	The Animal Protection Act Sec. 7(1). (Veterinarian's duty to report contravention)	<i>Contravention of the Act</i>	Believes on reasonable grounds
* NOTE: Alberta VMA policy requirement to take action is not yet mandated by provincial legislation but there is an expectation for members to take action to address animals in distress; reporting is permissive if the owner is seeking appropriate veterinary care and is taking reasonable steps to be compliant with directions to resolve the distress. Veterinarians have the authority to report if the case's circumstances warrant reporting.			

updated 2/27/2024

PENDING BILLS:

New Jersey A291 would require veterinarians, veterinary technicians, investigators of domestic violence and abuse, employees of the Department of Children and Families and Divisions of Aging and Developmental Disabilities, police officers, and caregivers at residential health care facilities, police officers, or any person who has reasonable cause to believe an animal has been subjected to an act of animal cruelty to report the suspected violation to the appropriate law enforcement officer, with immunity from civil and criminal liability for reporting in good faith.

Tennessee SB 1957 and HB 2079 would permit veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty and testify in court in good faith with immunity from civil and criminal liability.

