CURRENT LOUISIANA LAWS AFFECTING ANIMALS

This compilation is current through the 2009 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature. We have tried to include statutes directly affecting animals, and to exclude purely administrative ones, e.g. ones setting up the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This is a collection of statutes only. It does not contain regulations or ordinances. For Louisiana regulations, go to www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr. For Louisiana ordinances, go to www.municode.com, or to the website of the city or parish.

I would appreciate any suggestions or discovery of errors. You may reach me at the Law Library of Louisiana at 504 310-2515, or (Louisiana-only, but outside the new Orleans area) 800 820-3038. You may email me at merickson@lasc.org. Thanks, Marie Erickson, MLS/JD.

Many thanks to everybody who helped me!

Civil Code

A note on Louisiana property law

Things are divided in Louisiana law into immovables(real estate and things permanently attached to it) or moveables (everything else). Things can be corporeal(things you can touch, e.g. houses, animals, rocks) or incorporeal (rights to intellectual property, stocks and bonds; the certificates only represent the thing, which is incorporeal). Animals are corporeal (CC 461) moveables (CC 471), so they are subject to the Civil Code articles describing corporeal moveables. CC 448 - 475 http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110622 Click forward using the ‘next section’ link.

http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110629 CC 454 Animals, as any corporate moveable, may be disposed of freely, but disposal is subject to other legal constraints. Among these are donation or sale of the animal (and recision of the sale if the animal is seriously flawed), or if conditions of the sale or donation are not fulfilled.

http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110662 CC. 484 Young of animals belong to whoever owns the mother.

http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110438 CC 529 A possessor of an animal may keep the animal until the owner pays expenses and improvements.

http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110440 CC 537 Privately owned domestic animals are not subject to occupancy, but see CC 529 and CC 3418.

http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110791 599 The usufruct (similar to a life estate, but may be for a lesser term) of a herd of animals requires the usufructuary to be a prudent administrator.

http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110794 CC 600 The usufructuary may dispose of part or all of the herd under certain circumstances.
CC 699 Watering and pasturage of animals are types of predial servitudes (similar to rights-of-way or easements).

CC 705 Animals may use a servitude of passage (similar to a right-of-way or easement).

CC 2321 Liability for damage caused by animals

CC3413 Wild animals in their natural state do not have an owner or are owned by the state. See also LRS 56:3, below.

CC 3414 Ownership of wild animals vanishes when they recover their liberty, unless the owner takes immediate measures to recapture them.

CC 3415 Wild animals in enclosures are privately owned.

CC 3416 Tame wild animals are privately owned.

CC 3418 If a thing is abandoned (including an animal), the finder takes possession by occupancy. But see CC 529 and 537.

Revised Statutes

Agriculture

Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 3, Chapter 7, Brands, grades, and inspection


Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 3, Chapter 15, Production and marketing of livestock. Each of these links is the first of the group of statutes. Click forward for all sections


Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 3, Chapter 16, Diseases of Livestock/regulation of pet turtles/eradication of fire ants


Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 3, Chapter 17, Cruelty to animals. See also Title 14, criminal acts, below


**Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 3, Chapter 18, Animals running a large**


**Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 3, Chapter 19, beaver control**


**Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 3, Chapter 19-A, regulation of farm-raised exotic animals**


**Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 4, Amusements and Sports**


**Louisiana Revised Statutes, title 9, Civil Code Ancillaries**


See also limitation of liability for animals in Mardi Gras parades; [http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=107235](http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=107235), LRS 9:2796; or animal sanctuaries,
Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 14, criminal law

Theft


Cruelty

cruelty to animals, [http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78235](http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78235), LRS 14:102-102.4
injuring or killing a police animal, [http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78251](http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78251), LRS 14:102.8
harboring or concealing animal which has bitten/caused injury to a person, [http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=408543](http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=408543), LRS 14:102.22
Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 15, criminal procedure

Photographs of animals cruelly treated may be introduced as evidence in lieu of the animals themselves, http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=79077 LRS 15:436.2

Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 17, education

Pupils may be taught kindness to dumb animals, http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=80389 LRS 17:266

Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 21, hotels and lodging houses

Hotels, etc. may forbid pets, but not guide or service dogs, http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=81999 LRS 21:51-52

Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 29, military/naval/veterans’ affairs, Chapter 6, homeland security, emergencies, disasters


Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 32, motor vehicles/traffic regulation


Louisiana Revised statutes, Title 33, municipalities and parishes


Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 37, professions and occupations


Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 45, public utilities and carriers


Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 46, public welfare and assistance


Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 56, wildlife and fisheries, chapter 1

NOTE THAT ADMINISTRATION, LICENSING, STAMP/TAG PROGRAMS, AND MOST PENALTIES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION. ALSO NOTE THAT HUNTING/FISHING SEASONS ARE ALSO SET BY REGULATION. FOR REGULATIONS, GO TO www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr

Part 1: General


Part 4: Wild Birds/quadrupeds


Part 5: Trapping alligators/fur-bearing animals

Part 6: Fish/aquatic life


same, certain water bodies, http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105265


fish hatcheries, http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105426, LRS 56:518-583. This is enabling legislation only


Miscellany, including animal license plates, state animals

license plates


State animals


h: louisiana animal laws