

## 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](http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr). For Louisiana ordinances, go to [www.municode.com](http://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](mailto: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 rescission 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.

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110794> CC 699 Watering and pasturage of animals are types of predial servitudes (similar to rights-of-way or easements).

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110900> CC 705 Animals may use a servitude of passage (similar to a right-of-way or easement).

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=109384> CC 2321 Liability for damage caused by animals

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110436> CC3413 Wild animals in their natural state do not have an owner or are owned by the state. See also LRS 56:3, below.

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110437> CC 3414 Ownership of wild animals vanishes when they recover their liberty, unless the owner takes immediate measures to recapture them.

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110438> CC 3415 Wild animals in enclosures are privately owned.

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110439> CC 3416 Tame wild animals are privately owned.

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=110441> 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*

Brands/marks/coyote and coydog control, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86826> LRS 3:731-751

*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*

Horse and jack breeding, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85887> LRS 3:1961-1971.

Improvement of cattle breeds, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85900> LRS 3:2001-2011

Livestock shows, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85914> LRS 3:2041-2044.

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

Livestock Sanitary Board, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85923> LRS 3:2091-2100.

Preventing spread of disease, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85938> LRS 3:2131-2133

Cattle fever tick eradication, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85944> LRS 3:2171-2188

Bang's Disease (Brucellosis) eradication, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85962> LRS3:2221-2232

Sheep Scab(Scabies) infection, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85972> LRS3:2261-2264

Bees, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85976> LRS 3:2301-2311

TB control/eradication in cattle, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85987> LRS 3:2341-2347

Fire ant eradication/control, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85994> LRS 3: 2351-2354

Catfish disease control, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85998> LRS 3:2355-2356

Pet turtle regulation, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86000> LRS 3:2358.1-2358.14

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

In general, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86014> LRS 3:2361-2365

Corporations for the prevention of cruelty to animals, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86018> LRS 3:2391-2392

Care of suffering animals, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86021> LRS 3:2431-2440

Abandoned animals, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86031> LRS3:2451-2454

Minimum standards for animal shelters, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86035> LRS 3:2461-2465

Pet overpopulation control, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86041> LRS3:2471-2476

Animal control agency officers, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=409468> LRS 3:2501

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

Municipal regulation of at-large livestock, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86050>  
LRS 3:2531-2575

Livestock on levees, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86059> LRS 3:2571-2575

Dogs harassing or injuring livestock, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86071> LRS  
3:2651-2691

Local authority dog regulation, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86083> LRS3:2731-  
2737

Dog (and cat) license tax, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86094> LRS 3:2771-2778

Stock at large on public highways, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86105> LRS  
3:2801-3021

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

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86154> LRS3:3031, 3032

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

Imported deer, etc. and ratites (emus, ostriches) <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86161>  
LRS 3:3006 and 3112.

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

Willful stimulation, pulling of reins, forbidden drugs, all re racehorses,  
<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=96798> LRS4:175

Dog racing prohibited, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=96848> LRS4:249

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

Limitation of liability for various animal-centered activities,  
<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=107233> LRS 9:2795.1-2795.3

See also limitation of liability for animals in Mardi Gras parades;  
<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=107235> , LRS 9:2796; or animal sanctuaries,

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=181349> , LRS 9:2796.2; and liability for freeing certain animals detained for scientific purposes, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=107248> , LRS 9:2799.4. See also LRS 14:102.9, below

*Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 14, criminal law*

Theft

livestock, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78606> LRS 14:67.1;  
animals, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78617> LRS 14:67.2;  
crawfish, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78622> ; LRS 14:67.5  
alligators, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78610> ; LRS 14:67.13

Crime against nature, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78695> , LRS 14:89

Cruelty

cruelty to animals, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78235> , LRS 14:102-102.4

dogfighting, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78248> . LRS 14:102.5-102.7

injuring or killing a police animal, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78251> LRS 14:102.8

interference with animal research, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78252> LRS 14:102.9

bear wrestling, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78237>

dangerous dogs, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78237> LRS 14:102.12-102.18

hog v. dog fights prohibited, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=285167> , but see Uncle Earl's Hog Dog Trials, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=181345> LRS 49:170.10

sport killing of zoo or circus animals prohibited, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=285168> LRS 14:102.20

harboring or concealing animal which has bitten/caused injury to a person, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=408543> LRS 14:102.22

cockfighting, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=451836> , LRS 14:102.23

ritualistic acts harming animals, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78261> LRS 14:107.1

*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*

Evacuation of service animals and pets ahead of a disaster, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=85672> , LRS 29:726(E)(20)

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

animal-drawn vehicles, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=88195> , LRS 32:22

cattle crossing highway, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=88045> , LRS 32:126

*Louisiana Revised statutes, Title 33, municipalities and parishes*

trailing dogs, maintenance of police dogs, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=89247> , LRS 33:1438-1439

mosquito/fire ant abatement districts, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=91477> , LRS 33:2271-7756

St. Tammany Parish Animal Control District, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=91796> , LRS 33:9501-9507

*Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 37, professions and occupations*

veterinarians, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=93336> , LRS 37:1512-1534

licensed veterinary technicians, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=93360> , LRS 37:1541-1549

euthanasia technicians, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=93370> , LRS 37:1551-1558

equine dentists, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=93379> , LRS, 37:1561-1570

*Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 45, public utilities and carriers*

livestock transport, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=100029> , LRS 45:481-482

*Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 46, public welfare and assistance*

assistance dogs, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=100502> , LRS 46:1952-1959

*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](http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr)

Part 1: General

ownership of wild animals, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105109> , LRS 56:3

taking fish for scientific purposes, releasing game, fowl, fish, tax abatement for certain property owners, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=104944> , LRS 56:17-29

Part 4: Wild Birds/quadrupeds

Hunting, including licensing, hunting seasons, dog training, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=104850> , LRS 56:103-143

breeding, propagation of wild birds/quadrupeds, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=104950> , LRS 56:171-181

Part 5: Trapping alligators/fur-bearing animals

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105080> , LRS 56:251-280

## Part 6: Fish/aquatic life

seasons, some penalties, some preservation-of-habitat sections,  
<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105188> , LRS 56:313-360.3

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

domestic fish farming, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105284> , LRS 56:411-415

oysters, taking, leases, seeding, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105292> , LRS 56:424-436

clams, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105331> , LRS 56:471-482

shrimping, including seasons, type/size of nets/trawls, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105345> , LRS 56:491-500

mariculture industry, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105417> , LRS 56:579.1-579.2

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

reptiles and amphibians, including frogs, turtles, and terrapins, seasons, size limits, turtle farms, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105441> , LRS 56:632-637.1

artificial reefs, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105462> , LRS 56:639.1-639.10

hunting preserves, pen-raised quail and mallards, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105500> , LRS 56:659

*Miscellany, including animal license plates, state animals*

### license plates

Black Bear, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102197> LRS 47:45

Quail Unlimited, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102198> . LRS 47:436.46

Ducks Unlimited, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102206> . LRS 47:436.53

Wild Turkey Federation, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102207> . LRS 47:436.54

Coastal Conservation, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102212> , LRS 47:436.59

Animal-Friendly, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102214> . LRS 47:436.60



Catahoula Cur, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102220> . LRS 47:436.66. See also state dog, LRS 49:165, below

White Tail Deer, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102243> , LRS 47:436.87

4-H, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=102158> , LRS47:463.110

Louisiana Largemouth Bass, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=411350> . LRS47:436.133

### state animals

bird, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103552> , LRS 49:159

mammal, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103555> , LRS49:161.1

insect, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103558> , LRS 49:164

dog, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103559> , LRS 1 49:65

crustacean, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103562> , LRS 49:168

reptile, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103563> , LRS 49:169

amphibian, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103564> LRS 49:169.1

freshwater fish, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103569> , LRS 49:170.4

saltwater fish, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=103572> , LRS 49:170.7

Uncle Earl's Hog Dog Trials/Weekend, <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=181345> , LRS 49:170.10

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