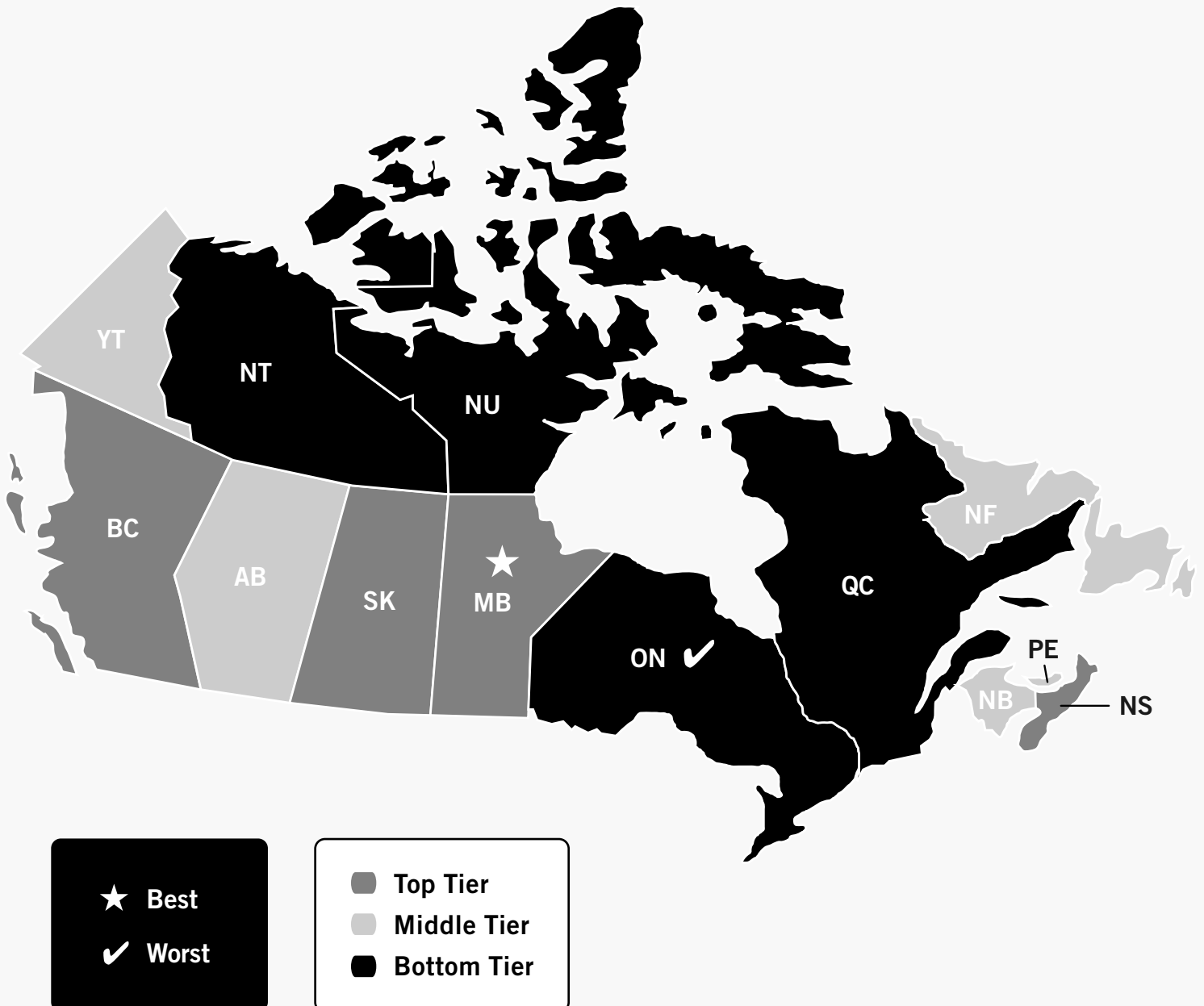


2008 Canadian Animal Protection Laws Rankings

Comparing Overall Strength & Comprehensiveness



New Study Ranks Provinces & Territories on Laws Protecting Animals

Manitoba Ranked “Best” – Ontario “Worst”

June 2008

While every province and territory in Canada has at least some laws protecting animals, a new report by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) highlights the often considerable differences that exist between the laws of the various jurisdictions. ALDF's report ranks every province and territory on the relative strength and general comprehensiveness of their animal protection laws. The report, the only one of its kind in Canada, was based on a detailed comparative analysis of the animal protection laws of each jurisdiction, researching eleven distinct categories of provisions throughout hundreds of pages of statutes.* Based on their scores, all the provinces and territories were grouped into a top, middle or bottom tier, with the single best and worst receiving an additional designation.

“We wanted to look beyond the federal laws and identify what each province and territory is doing for animal protection,” says Stephan Otto, ALDF's director of legislative affairs and author of the report. “What we discovered is that throughout the country there exists a wide range of disparity among the laws that protect animals. While each province and territory has room for improvement in the various ways its laws protect animals, it is clear that some have stronger, more extensive laws than others. We hope this report encourages all the provinces and territories, especially those at the lower end of the rankings, to refocus their attention on this problem. Animals do not vote, but those who love and care about them do, so we encourage lawmakers to take notice and work on improving these vital laws.”

Please contact your elected officials and encourage them to support improvements to the laws that protect animals. For additional information, including the ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE USA & CANADA compendium, ALDF MODEL ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS collection, and more, visit aldf.org.

* See page 12 for a summary of the methodology used in this report.



2008 CANADIAN ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS RANKINGS*
Comparing Overall Strength & Comprehensiveness

BEST	Manitoba
WORST	Ontario

TOP TIER	British Columbia Manitoba Nova Scotia Saskatchewan
MIDDLE TIER	Alberta New Brunswick Newfoundland & Labrador Prince Edward Island Yukon
BOTTOM TIER	Northwest Territories Nunavut Ontario Quebec

* Within each tier, provinces and territories are listed in alphabetical order.

Overview: “Top Tier” Provinces & Territories

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Limited statutory exemptions - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have certain law enforcement authority - Peace officers must assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies
Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Range of protections - Adequate definitions/standards of basic care - Certain prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs, liens - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Court may order forfeiture of animals upon conviction - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have certain law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Mandatory forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws

Overview: “Top Tier” Provinces & Territories *cont’d.*

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Range of protections - Certain prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances (including failure to pay for care/expenses of seized animals, or if the owner is deemed unfit) - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have certain law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws
Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Limited statutory exemptions - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs, liens - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have certain law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws

Overview: “Middle Tier” Provinces & Territories

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Range of protections - Certain prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction - Immunity for reporting animal in distress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Penalty may include both fines and incarceration - Mental health evaluations/counselling - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Animal protection officers/inspectors with broad law enforcement authority - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws
New Brunswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Limited statutory exemptions - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Court may order forfeiture of animals upon conviction - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction for 1st offence (mandatory for subsequent offences) - Animal protection officers/inspectors have broad law enforcement authority - Peace officers must assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Mandatory forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon first offence - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws

Overview: “Middle Tier” Provinces & Territories *cont’d.*

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
Newfoundland & Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Certain prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Court may order forfeiture of animals upon conviction - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have certain law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Mandatory forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Larger fines - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws
Prince Edward Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Range of protections - Certain prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of companion animals upon conviction - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have broad law enforcement authority - Peace officers have a duty to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies

Overview: “Middle Tier” Provinces & Territories *cont’d.*

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
Yukon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Certain prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs, liens - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have broad law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Larger fines - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws

Overview: “Bottom Tier” Provinces & Territories

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
<p>Northwest Territories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certain prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - No statutory exemptions - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Seizure of animals allowed under certain circumstances - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under limited circumstances - Animal protection officers/inspectors have certain law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Protections apply to all animals, not just dogs - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Broader seizure/entry provisions - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Mandatory forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Larger fines and sentences - Mental health evaluations/counselling - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws

Overview: “Bottom Tier” Provinces & Territories *cont’d.*

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
Nunavut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certain prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - No statutory exemptions - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Seizure of animals allowed under certain circumstances - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under limited circumstances - Animal protection officers/inspectors have certain law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Protections apply to all animals, not just dogs - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Broader seizure/entry provisions - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Mandatory forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Larger fines and sentences - Mental health evaluations/counselling - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws
Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - No statutory exemptions - Warrantless entry & seizure of animals under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under limited circumstances - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have broad law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Protections apply to all animals, not just limited species in commercial settings - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Mandatory forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals on conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws

Overview: “Bottom Tier” Provinces & Territories *cont’d.*

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal protections apply to most animals - Increased penalties for repeat animal abusers - Cost mitigation/recovery measures for impounded animals: reimbursement of costs - Seizure of animals allowed under certain circumstances - On-site inspection/supervision/monitoring option - Court may order disposition of animals prior to judgment under certain circumstances - Court may order forfeiture of animals upon conviction - Court may restrict future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have certain law enforcement authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broader range of protections - Better definitions/standards of basic care - Prohibitions apply to owners and non-owners alike - Mandatory seizure of mistreated animals - Mandatory forfeiture of animals on conviction - Mandatory restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals following a conviction - Broader cost mitigation/recovery measures - Broader seizure/entry provisions - Increased penalties when crime committed in the presence of a minor - Increased penalties for offenders with prior domestic violence offences - Penalties may include both fines and incarceration - Mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders - Mandatory fines - Larger fines - Mental health evaluations/counselling - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies - Duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of the animal protection laws

Methodology summary

The thirteen provinces and territories in the 2008 CANADIAN ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS RANKINGS REPORT were numerically ranked based on their cumulative scores to thirty-five study questions covering eleven distinct animal protection laws categories. The report analyzed enacted laws only and did not review the separate issue of how these laws are enforced. Answers to the study questions were based principally on the statutory data contained in the 2,800+ page compendium [ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE USA & CANADA \(Third Edition\)](#).^{*} The study questions were close-ended and the choices exhaustive and mutually exclusive. The questions were limited to the following categories of provisions:

1. Offences
2. Exemptions
3. Penalties
4. Mental health
5. Cost-mitigation and recovery
6. Entry/seizure/inspection
7. Forfeiture and post-conviction possession
8. Non-animal agency reporting of suspected animal cruelty
9. Veterinarian reporting of suspected animal cruelty
10. Immunity for assisting with cruelty investigations/reporting suspected cruelty
11. Law enforcement policies

^{*} ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE USA & CANADA (Third Edition) is available at <http://aldf.org/animallaws>. For any report-related questions, comments, or additional information, contact [ALDF Legislative Affairs](mailto:legislation@aldf.org) (legislation@aldf.org).