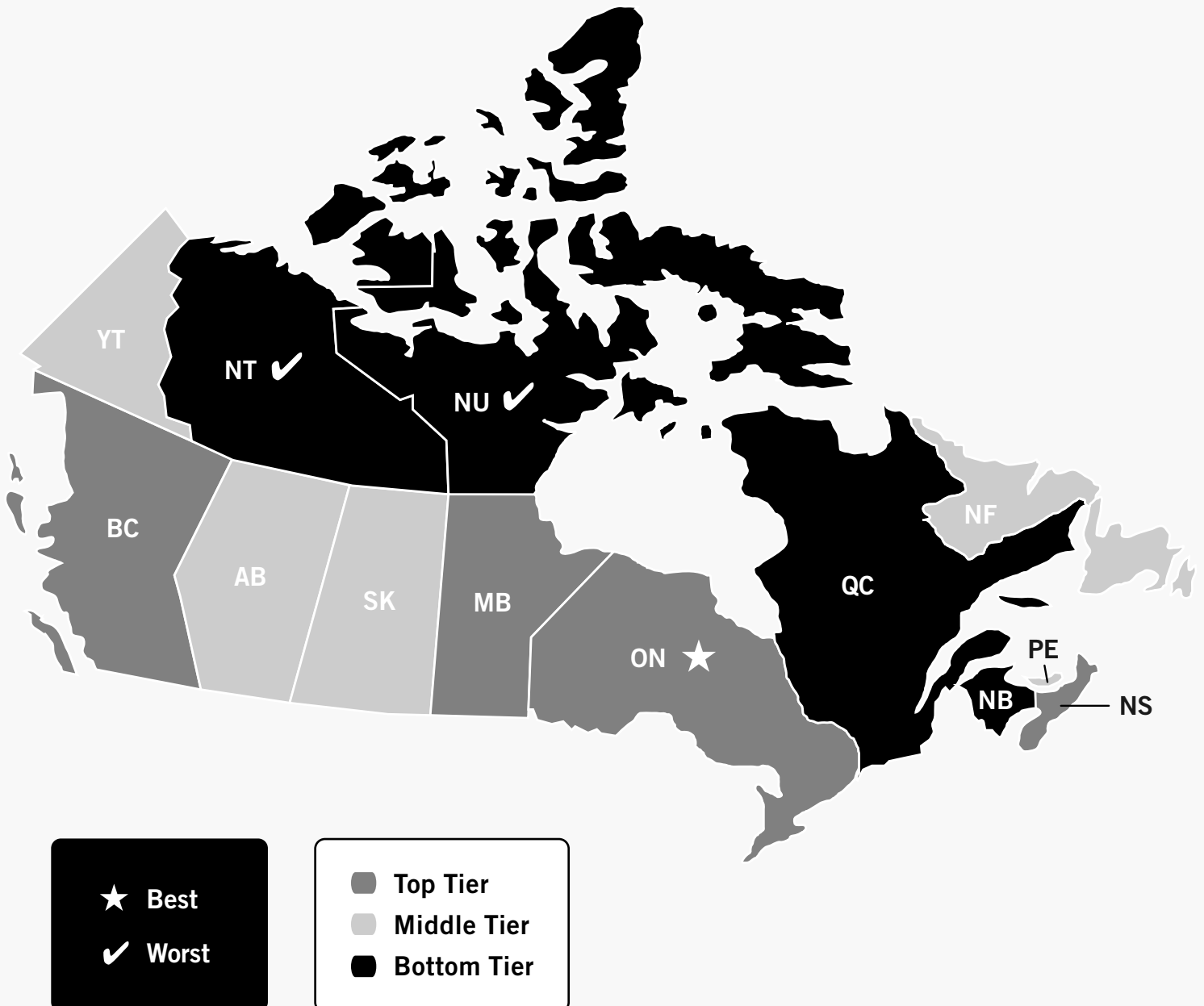


2009 Canadian Animal Protection Laws Rankings

Comparing Overall Strength & Comprehensiveness



BEST & WORST PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES TO BE AN ANIMAL ABUSER

NEW STUDY RANKS ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS ACROSS CANADA

Ontario Moves From Worst to First

April 2009

A new report by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) underscores the often considerable differences that exist between the animal protection laws of the provinces and territories. ALDF's second annual report, the only one of its kind in Canada, ranked each jurisdiction on the relative strength and comprehensiveness of their current animal protection laws. The ranking was based on a detailed comparative analysis of the animal protection laws of each jurisdiction, researching twelve distinct categories of provisions throughout hundreds of pages of statutes.* Based on their scores, each province and territory was grouped into a top, middle or bottom tier, with the best and worst receiving an additional designation.

In a dramatic move, Ontario, which last year had the infamous distinction of ranking lowest in the nation for its animal protection laws, moved from worst to first this year due to a host of new laws, including standards of care for animals, requiring veterinarians to report suspected offences, higher penalties, and restrictions on the future ownership of animals by offenders. Manitoba, which ranked highest in last year's report, came in a close second. Northwest Territories and Nunavut ranked last.

"Our report moves beyond the federal laws to identify what each province and territory is doing individually for animal protection," says Stephan Otto, ALDF's director of legislative affairs and author of the report. "We continue to see a wide range of disparity across the country. However, regardless of where each jurisdiction currently ranks in the report, all still have room for improvement. It is our hope that these ongoing reviews help shed light on this important issue and garner support for both their strengthening and enforcement."

For additional information, including a complimentary download of the ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE USA & CANADA compendium, ALDF MODEL ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS collection, and more, visit aldf.org.

* See page 13 for a summary of the methodology used in this report.



2009 CANADIAN ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS RANKINGS*
Comparing Overall Strength & Comprehensiveness

BEST	Ontario
WORST	Northwest Territories & Nunavut

TOP TIER	British Columbia Manitoba Nova Scotia Ontario
MIDDLE TIER	Alberta Newfoundland & Labrador Prince Edward Island Saskatchewan Yukon
BOTTOM TIER	New Brunswick Northwest Territories Nunavut 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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures
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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures

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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures
Ontario	<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 - Mental health counselling - 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 - Court may order restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians - Immunity for assisting in the enforcement of the animal protection laws - Animal protection officers/inspectors have broad law enforcement authority - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 on 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 - Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by 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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures
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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures

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

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures
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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures

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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures

Overview: “Bottom Tier” Provinces & Territories

	Existing Strengths	Potential Improvements
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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures

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

	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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures

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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures

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 - Prohibitions on training or permitting animals to fight - Prohibitions on possession of animal fighting equipment or structures

Methodology summary

The thirteen provinces and territories in the 2009 CANADIAN ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS RANKINGS REPORT were numerically ranked based on their cumulative scores to thirty-nine study questions covering twelve distinct animal protection laws categories. The study 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 3,400+ page compendium [ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE USA & CANADA \(Fourth Edition\)](#).^{*} 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
12. Fighting

^{*} ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE USA & CANADA (Fourth 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).