

Dog Owner Liability Rules by State

As of March 24, 2023

State	Relevant Statute(s) (If Applicable)	General Liability Rule
Alabama	Ala. Code § 3-6-1	Strict Liability
Alaska	<i>Courts (Common Law)</i>	One-Bite Rule
Arizona	Ariz. Rev. Stat. §11-1025 Ariz. Rev. Stat. §11-1020	Strict Liability
Arkansas	<i>County by county</i>	One-Bite Rule / <i>Negligence</i>
California	Cal. Civ. Code § 3342	Strict Liability
Colorado	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 13-21-124	Strict Liability
Connecticut	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22-357	Strict Liability
Delaware	9 Dela. Code § 913	Strict Liability
D.C.	D.C. Code Ann. § 8-1812	Strict Liability
Florida	Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 767.01 Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 767.04	Strict Liability
Georgia	Ga. Code Ann. § 51-2-7	The owner or keeper of a "vicious or dangerous" animal may be liable for injuries [caused by the dog] through careless management or by allowing the dog to go at liberty (off leash or otherwise not under control).
Hawaii	Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 663-9, 663-9.1	Owner liable if animal was known to be dangerous, or if plaintiff proves that owner was negligent.
Idaho	<i>25-2805 / Courts</i>	One-Bite Rule / <i>Negligence</i>
Illinois	510 Ill. Comp. Stat., § 5/16	Strict Liability
Indiana	Ind. Code 15-20-1-3	Strict Liability
Iowa	Iowa Code Ann. § 351.28	Strict Liability
Kansas		One-Bite Rule / <i>Negligence</i>
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. § 258.235	Strict Liability
Louisiana	La. Civ. Code, art. 2321	Strict Liability
Maine	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann., tit. 7, § 3961	Strict Liability
Maryland		One-Bite Rule
Massachusetts	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann., ch. 140, § 155	Strict Liability
Michigan	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 287.351	Strict Liability
Minnesota	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 347.22	Strict Liability
Mississippi		One-Bite Rule
Missouri	Mo. Rev. Stat. 273.036	Strict Liability
Montana	Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-715	Strict Liability
Nebraska	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-601	Strict Liability
Nevada	Nev. Stat 202.500	Negligence Rules Apply unless known to be "vicious"
New Hampshire	N. H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 466:19	Strict Liability
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 4:19-16	Strict Liability
New Mexico		One-Bite Rule
New York		One-Bite Rule

Disclaimer: This reference sheet is not to be construed as nor is this legal advice or legal interpretation of each state's general statute. Consult with counsel to assure compliance with individual state statutes.

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Dog Owner Liability Rules by State

As of March 3, 2017

State	Relevant Statute(s) (If Applicable)	General Liability Rule
North Carolina	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 67-4.4	The owner of a dangerous dog shall be strictly liable in civil damages for any injuries or property damage the dog inflicts upon a person, his property, or another animal. <i>(Either bitten before or of a known dangerous breed.)</i> If not of a dangerous breed or the dog has not bitten before – one-bite rule appears to apply.
North Dakota		One-Bite Rule
Ohio	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 955.28	Strict Liability
Oklahoma	Okla. Stat. Ann., tit. 4, § 42.1	Strict Liability
Oregon		One-Bite Rule
Pennsylvania	3 Pa. Stat. § 459-502 (b)	Strict Liability
Rhode Island	R.I. Gen. Laws § 4-13-16	Strict Liability
South Carolina	S.C. Code Ann. § 47-3-110	Strict Liability
South Dakota		One-Bite Rule
Tennessee	Tenn. Code Ann. § 44-8-413	(1) The owner of a dog has a duty to keep that dog under reasonable control at all times, and to keep that dog from running at large. A person who breaches that duty is subject to civil liability for any damages suffered by a person who is injured by the dog while in a public place or lawfully in or on the private property of another. (2) Such a person may be held liable regardless of whether the dog has shown any dangerous propensities or whether the dog's owner knew or should have known of the dog's dangerous propensities.
Texas		One-Bite Rule
Utah	Utah Code Ann, § 18-1-1	Strict Liability
Vermont		One-Bite Rule
Virginia		One-Bite Rule
Washington	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 16.08.040	Strict Liability
West Virginia	W. Va. Code § 19-20-13	Strict Liability
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 174.02	Strict Liability
Wyoming		One-Bite Rule

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