Colorado

Overall Ranking: Top Tier

**Colorado Research Facility Protection Law**

**COLO. REV. STAT. § 18-9-206 (2010). Unauthorized release of an animal--penalty—restitution.**

(1) Any person who intentionally releases any animal which is lawfully confined for scientific, research, commercial, legal sporting, or educational purposes or for public safety purposes because the animal has been determined to be dangerous to people, has an infectious disease, or is quarantined to determine whether or not it has an infectious disease without the consent of the owner or custodian of such animal commits the offense of unauthorized release of an animal.

(2) Unauthorized release of an animal is a class 2 misdemeanor.

(3) Any person who is convicted of unauthorized release of an animal shall be ordered to pay restitution for any damages resulting from such release, including the cost of restoring any animal to confinement, the cost of restoring the health of any animal which is released, the cost of any damage to real or personal property which is caused by a released animal, or any cost which results if the release causes the failure of an experiment, including the costs of repeating the experiment, replacement of any animal released, and the cost of labor and materials associated with...
such experiment.

### Colorado Animal Cruelty Law

**Article 9. Offenses Against Public Peace, Order, and Decency**  
**Part 2. Cruelty to Animals**

**COLO. REV. STAT. § 18-9-201.5 (2010). Scope of part 2.**

(1) Nothing in this part 2 shall affect accepted animal husbandry practices utilized by any person in the care of companion or livestock animals or in the extermination of undesirable pests as defined in articles 7, 10, and 43 of title 35, C.R.S.

(2) In case of any conflict between this part 2 or section 35-43-126, C.R.S., and the wildlife statutes of the state, said wildlife statutes shall control.

(3) Nothing in this part 2 shall affect animal care otherwise authorized by law.


### Colorado Open Records Act

*Contain a specific exemption for research records.*

**COLO. REV. STAT. § 24-72-203 (2010). Public records open to inspection.**

(1) (a) All public records shall be open for inspection by any person at reasonable times, except as provided in this part 2 or as otherwise provided by law, but the official custodian of any public records may make such rules with reference to the inspection of such records as are reasonably necessary for the protection of such records and the prevention of unnecessary interference with the regular discharge of the duties of the custodian or the custodian’s office.

**COLO. REV. STAT. § 24-72-204 (2010). Allowance or denial of inspection - grounds - procedure - appeal.**

(1) The custodian of any public records shall allow any person the right of inspection of such records or any portion thereof except on one or more of the following grounds or as provided in subsection (2) or (3) of this section:

   (a) Such inspection would be contrary to any state statute.

   (b) Such inspection would be contrary to any federal statute or regulation issued thereunder having the force and
(c) Such inspection is prohibited by rules promulgated by the supreme court or by the order of any court.

(2) (a) The custodian may deny the right of inspection of the following records, unless otherwise provided by law, on the ground that disclosure to the applicant would be contrary to the public interest:

... (III) The specific details of bona fide research projects being conducted by a state institution, including, without limitation, research projects undertaken by staff or service agencies of the general assembly or the office of the governor in connection with pending or anticipated legislation;

... (3) (a) The custodian shall deny the right of inspection of the following records, unless otherwise provided by law; except that any of the following records, other than letters of reference concerning employment, licensing, or issuance of permits, shall be available to the person in interest under this subsection (3):

... (IV) Trade secrets, privileged information, and confidential commercial, financial, geological, or geophysical data furnished by or obtained from any person;

... (XIV) Veterinary medical data, information, and records on individual animals that are owned by private individuals or business entities, but are in the custody of a veterinary medical practice or hospital, including the veterinary teaching hospital at Colorado state university, that provides veterinary medical care and treatment to animals. A veterinary-patient-client privilege exists with respect to such data, information, and records only when a person in interest and a veterinarian enter into a mutual agreement to provide medical treatment for an individual animal and such person in interest maintains an ownership interest in such animal undergoing treatment. For purposes of this subparagraph (XIV), "person in interest" means the owner of an animal undergoing veterinary medical treatment or such owner's designated representative. Nothing in this subparagraph (XIV) shall prevent the state agricultural commission or the state board of veterinary medicine from exercising its investigatory and enforcement powers and duties granted pursuant to sections 35-1-106 (1) (h) and 12-64-105 (9) (e), C.R.S., respectively.

**Colorado Harassment Law**

**COLO. REV. STAT. § 18-9-111 (2010). Harassment—stalking.**
(1) A person commits harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm another person, he or she:

(a) Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise touches a person or subjects him to physical contact; or

(b) In a public place directs obscene language or makes an obscene gesture to or at another person; or

(c) Follows a person in or about a public place; or

...  

(e) Initiates communication with a person, anonymously or otherwise, by telephone, telephone network, data network, text message, instant message, computer, computer network, or computer system in a manner intended to harass or threaten bodily injury or property damage, or makes any comment, request, suggestion, or proposal by telephone, computer, computer network, or computer system that is obscene; or

(f) Makes a telephone call or causes a telephone to ring repeatedly, whether or not a conversation ensues, with no purpose of legitimate conversation; or

(g) Makes repeated communications at inconvenient hours that invade the privacy of another and interfere in the use and enjoyment of another's home or private residence or other private property; or

(h) Repeatedly insults, taunts, challenges, or makes communications in offensively coarse language to, another in a manner likely to provoke a violent or disorderly response.

(1.5) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, “obscene” means a patently offensive description of ultimate sexual acts or solicitation to commit ultimate sexual acts, whether or not said ultimate sexual acts are normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including masturbation, cunnilingus, fellatio, anilingus, or excretory functions.

(2) Harassment pursuant to subsection (1) of this section is a class 3 misdemeanor; except that harassment is a class 1 misdemeanor if the offender commits harassment pursuant to subsection (1) of this section with the intent to intimidate or harass another person because of that person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin.

(3) Any act prohibited by paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of this section may be deemed to have occurred or to have been committed at the place at which the telephone call, electronic mail, or other electronic communication was either made or received.

**Other**

**COLO. REV. STAT. § 18-9-108.5 (2010). Residential picketing--legislative declaration.**
(1)(a) The general assembly hereby finds that:

(I) The protection and preservation of the home is a compelling state interest;

(II) Residents of Colorado are entitled to enjoy a feeling of well-being, tranquility, and privacy in their homes and dwellings;

(III) The practice of targeted residential picketing causes emotional disturbances and distress to the occupants and has the potential to incite breaches of the peace; and

(IV) The practice of targeted residential picketing does not seek to disseminate a message to the general public but, instead, seeks to harass and intrude on the privacy of the targeted resident.

(b) The general assembly further finds that ample alternative means of communication are available to those who would choose to engage in picketing outside a person's residence.

(2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) “Residence” means any single-family or multi-family dwelling unit that is not being used as a targeted occupant's sole place of business or as a place of public meeting.

(b) “Targeted picketing” means picketing, with or without signs, that is specifically directed toward a residence, or one or more occupants of the residence, and that takes place on that portion of a sidewalk or street in front of the residence, in front of an adjoining residence, or on either side of the residence.

(3)(a) It shall be unlawful for a person to engage in targeted picketing except when the person is engaging in picketing while marching, without stopping in front or on either side of a residence, over a route that proceeds a distance that extends beyond three adjacent structures to one side of the targeted residence along the one-way length and three adjacent structures to the other side of the targeted residence along the one-way length or three hundred feet to one side of the targeted residence along the one-way length and three hundred feet to the other side of the targeted residence along the one-way length, whichever distance is shorter.

(b)(I) It shall be unlawful for a person while engaged in targeted picketing to hold, carry, or otherwise display on his or her person a sign or placard while he or she is on a street or sidewalk in a residential area if the person does not comply with the following restrictions:

(A) All signs or placards shall be no greater in size than six square feet;

(B) Each person may carry, hold, or otherwise display no more than one sign or placard.

(II) The restrictions specified pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) shall not apply to a person while engaged in targeted picketing carrying a sign or placard temporarily while transporting the sign or
placard from the person's residence or business to a vehicle.

(4) Vehicles or trailers used in targeted picketing shall not park within three residences or three hundred feet of a residence that is the subject of targeted picketing. There is a presumption that a vehicle or trailer is used in targeted picketing when signage is affixed to the vehicle containing content related to the targeted picketing.

(5) It shall not be a violation of subsection (3) of this section unless a person has previously been ordered by a peace officer or other law enforcement official to move, disperse, or take other appropriate action to comply with this section and the person has failed to promptly comply with the warning. The warning issued by the peace officer or other law enforcement official shall indicate the required distances the person engaging in picketing must march or other conditions necessary to comply with this section. In order to ensure that an appropriate warning has been given, the local law enforcement agency shall maintain a written record indicating the name of each warned individual, the address or addresses of the targeted residence or residences, and the date and time of the warning.

(6) A person who violates subsection (3) of this section commits an unclassified misdemeanor. The court may impose a fine of no more than five thousand dollars.

(7) The provisions of this section shall not prohibit a local government from adopting more restrictive provisions concerning targeted picketing or carrying in a residential area more than one sign of a certain size.

Notice: These statutes are provided only for reference purposes and are current through the 2010 legislative session. Every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy, however they will not contain information that has been inserted after their preparation. The National Association for Biomedical Research makes no warranty, express or implied, of the accuracy of these statutes. To be certain of the current version of the statutes and regulations, please refer to the official printed version of the statutes and regulations.