

Animal Crushing Legislation: FAQs

In May 2025, the Department of Justice unsealed an indictment of a Colorado citizen for his role in a global animal torture network that works to create, share, and profit from illicit videos of extreme animal torture, called “animal crushing” videos, which often recruit minors to perform the acts of cruelty in the process.



What is animal crushing?

- Animal crushing is filmed animal torture wherein animals are crushed, burned, drowned, suffocated, impaled, or otherwise subjected to extreme animal abuse.

What types of animals are involved?

- The subjects of torture are often long-tailed macaques, which are on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- Kittens, puppies, and other small mammals are often subjects of animal crushing videos, as well.

Where is animal crushing happening?

- Animal crushing happens everywhere, but it is most often filmed overseas in countries without strong animal cruelty laws, paid for by consumers in the U.S. The torture itself is frequently carried out by children, who are paid for their involvement.

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Why does Colorado need to ban it?

- In addition to the inherent cruelty to animals, viewing animal cruelty is proven to cause maladaptive psychological responses and behaviors in children.
- State legislation specifically helps close the federal loophole created by the federal obscenity definition.

What specifically will animal crushing legislation in Colorado do?

- Add animal crushing to the Colorado animal cruelty statutes;
- Criminalize visual recording of animal crushing; and
- Criminalize encouraging animal crushing.

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