

Religious Ritual Animal Slaughter

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November 20, 2017 | 2017-R-0270

Issue

Is religious ritual animal slaughter considered animal cruelty under Connecticut law?

The Office of Legislative Research is not authorized to provide legal opinions and this report should not be considered one.

Summary

Religious ritual animal slaughter is not considered animal cruelty under Connecticut law.

Connecticut's animal cruelty law prohibits maliciously and intentionally maiming, mutilating, torturing, wounding, or killing an animal. It provides several specific exemptions to the ban, including following approved slaughter methods ([CGS § 53-247\(b\)](#)).

The state's animal slaughter law ([CGS § 22-272a](#)) provides the approved slaughter methods, which are intended to ensure that animals for slaughter are (1) made insensible to pain or (2) restrained by an approved method. The law also provides that handling and preparing livestock for ritual slaughter is humane, and it specifies the law does not impede religious freedom or the practice of ritual slaughter ([CGS § 22-272a\(e\)](#)).

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