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States' Animal Identification Statutes:

Indiana



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Ind. Code § 15-17-2-74
Ind. Code § 15-17-3-13
Ind. Code § 15-17-18-2
Ind. Code § 15-17-20-4
Ind. Code Tit. 15, Art. 19, Ch. 6

The statutes and Constitution are current with all legislation of the 2024 Second Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly effective through May 1, 2024.

Ind. Code § 15-17-2-74. “Official identification.”

"Official identification" means the method of identification recognized or required by the board for an animal or class of animals under a rule adopted by the board under IC 4-22-2.

Ind. Code § 15-17-3-13. Additional powers and duties.

In addition to the powers and duties given the board in this article and by law, the board has the powers and duties reasonable and necessary to do the following:

- (1) Provide for the quarantine of animals and objects to prevent, control, and eradicate diseases and pests of animals.
- (2) Develop, adopt, and implement programs and procedures for establishing and maintaining accredited, certified, validated, or designated disease or pest free or disease or pest monitored animals, herds, flocks, or areas, including the following:
 - (A) The establishment and maintenance of herds that are monitored for disease or pest syndromes.
 - (B) The establishment and maintenance of certified or validated brucellosis free herds, animals, and areas.
 - (C) The establishment and maintenance of accredited tuberculosis free herds, animals, and areas.



- (3) Develop, adopt, and implement programs and plans for the prevention, detection, control, and eradication of diseases and pests of animals.
- (4) Control or prohibit, by permit or other means, the movement and transportation into, out of, or within Indiana of animals and objects in order to prevent, detect, control, or eradicate diseases and pests of animals. When implementing controls or prohibitions, the board may consider whether animals or objects are diseased, suspected to be diseased, or under quarantine, or whether the animals or objects originated from a country, a state, an area, or a premises that is known or suspected to harbor animals or objects infected with or exposed to a disease or pest of animals.
- (5) Control or prohibit the public and private sale of animals and objects in order to prevent the spread of disease and pests of animals.
- (6) Control the use, sanitation, and disinfection of:
 - (A) public stockyards; and
 - (B) vehicles used to transport animals and objects into and within Indiana;to accomplish the objectives of this article.
- (7) Control the use, sanitation, and disinfection of premises, facilities, and equipment to accomplish the objectives of this article.
- (8) Control the movement of animals and objects to, from, and within premises where diseases or pests of animals may exist.
- (9) Control the movement and disposal of carcasses of animals and objects.
- (10) Control the manufacture, sale, storage, distribution, handling, and use of serums, vaccines, and other biologics and veterinary drugs, except those drugs for human consumption regulated under IC 16-42-19, to be used for the prevention, detection, control, and eradication of disease and pests of animals.
- (11) Control and prescribe the means, methods, and procedures for the vaccination or other treatment of animals and objects and the conduct of tests for diseases and pests of animals.
- (12) Develop, adopt, and implement plans and programs for the identification of animals, objects, premises, and means of conveyances. Plans and programs may include identification:
 - (A) of animals or objects that have been condemned under this article; and



(B) related to classification as to disease, testing, vaccination, or treatment status.

(13) Establish the terms and method of appraisal or other determination of value of animals and objects condemned under this article, the payment of any indemnities that may be provided for the animals and objects, and the regulation of the sale or other disposition of the animals or objects.

(14) Control the sale of baby chicks.

(15) Cooperate and enter into agreements with the appropriate departments and agencies of this state, any other state, or the federal government to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate diseases and pests of animals.

(16) Control or prohibit the movement and transportation into, out of, or within Indiana of wild animals, including birds, that might carry or disseminate diseases or pests of animals.

(17) Provide for condemning or abating conditions that cause, aggravate, spread, or harbor diseases or pests of animals.

(18) Establish and designate, in addition to the animal disease diagnostic laboratory under IC 21-46-3-1, other laboratories necessary to make tests of any nature for diseases and pests of animals.

(19) Investigate, develop, and implement the best methods for the prevention, detection, control, suppression, or eradication of diseases and pests of animals.

(20) Investigate, gather, and compile information concerning the organization, business conduct, practices, and management of any registrant, licensee, permittee, applicant for a license, or applicant for a permit.

(21) Investigate allegations of unregistered, unlicensed, and unpermitted activities.

(22) Institute legal action in the name of the state of Indiana necessary to enforce:

(A) the board's orders and rules; and

(B) this article.

(23) Control the collection, transportation, and cooking of garbage to be fed to swine or other animals and all matters of sanitation relating to the collection, transportation, and cooking of garbage affecting the health of swine or other animals and affecting public health and comfort.

(24) Adopt an appropriate seal.



(25) Issue orders as an aid to enforcement of the powers granted by this article, IC 15-18-1, and IC 15-19-6.

(26) Control disposal plants and byproducts collection services and all matters connected to disposal plants and byproducts collection services.

(27) Abate biological or chemical substances that:

(A) remain in or on any animal before or at the time of slaughter as a result of treatment or exposure; and

(B) are found by the board to be or have the potential of being injurious to the health of animals or humans.

(28) Regulate the production, manufacture, processing, and distribution of products derived from animals to control health hazards that may threaten:

(A) animal health;

(B) the public health and welfare of the citizens of Indiana; and

(C) the trade in animals and animal products in and from Indiana.

(29) Cooperate and coordinate with animal owners, law enforcement, and local, state, and federal emergency management agencies to plan for, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazard emergencies in Indiana.

(30) Assist law enforcement agencies investigating allegations of cruelty and neglect of animals.

(31) Assist organizations that represent livestock and poultry producers with issues and programs related to the care of livestock and poultry.

(32) Establish a registry of commercial dog brokers, commercial dog breeders, and retail pet stores in Indiana. The board shall make a registry described in this subdivision available to the public.

(33) Establish a registry of animal care facilities (as defined in IC 15-20-4-1) and animal rescue operations.

(34) Conduct inspections of the following entities:

(A) Commercial dog breeders.

(B) Commercial dog brokers.

(C) Retail pet stores.

Ind. Code § 15-17-18-2. Interference with identification.



A person who knowingly or intentionally:

- (1) alters or changes an animal's official identification to conceal the identity of an animal;
- (2) interferes with the official identification of a diseased domestic animal;
- (3) removes, without permission of the board, except as provided in this article, any animal from a herd placed under quarantine; or
- (4) alters or changes the official identification of any domestic animal;

commits a Level 6 felony.

Ind. Code § 15-17-20-4. Offenses; forging certification.

A person who intentionally or knowingly forges a certification or the identification of animals or animal products certified under this chapter commits a Level 6 felony.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-1. Application of administrative hearings.

IC 15-17-17 (hearings) applies to this chapter.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-2. "Board"

As used in this chapter, "board" refers to the Indiana state board of animal health established by IC 15-17-3-1.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-3. "Brand"

As used in this chapter, "brand" means a distinctive design or mark of identification made or applied to the hide on livestock by the use of a hot iron or by any other method or process approved by the board.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-4. "Livestock"

As used in this chapter, "livestock" means:

- (1) all cattle or animals of the bovine species;
- (2) all horses, mules, burros, and asses or animals of the equine species;
- (3) all swine or animals of the porcine species; and
- (4) all goats or animals of the caprine species.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-5. "Person"

As used in this chapter, "person" includes an individual, a firm, an association, a partnership, a corporation, other legal entity, a public or private institution, the state, a municipal corporation, or a political subdivision of the state.



Ind. Code § 15-19-6-6. Adoption of brands.

A person owning livestock within Indiana may adopt a brand for the person's exclusive use in Indiana. A person may not brand or cause to be branded any livestock with a brand that is of legal record in the office of the board unless that brand has been certified by the board for that person's exclusive use.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-7. Recording of brands.

The board shall record livestock brands. The board shall implement this chapter and may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-8. Application for recording of brand.

(a) An owner of livestock in Indiana who wants to adopt a brand for the owner's exclusive use shall, before doing so, forward to the board an application on a form approved and provided by the board.

(b) For purposes of this chapter, the post office address included in an application under this section is considered the legal address of the applicant. Until the board receives a written notice of change of address from the applicant, the latest address of record with the board remains the legal address.

(c) If the brand is accepted, the board shall file the brand in the official brand book, furnish the applicant a brand certificate, and inform the applicant that the applicant has, from the date of filing, exclusive right to the use of the brand in Indiana.

(d) Additional brand certificates of a recorded brand may be obtained from the board upon the payment of a fee established by the board under section 18 of this chapter.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-9. One brand for each owner; separate livestock operation; identical or similar brands; restriction on use of brands.

(a) Only one (1) brand may be awarded or recorded for each owner of livestock. However, the owner or owners of separate and distinct livestock operations may, at the discretion of the board, record one (1) brand for use at each distinct and separate livestock operation.

(b) A brand may not be recorded or used if the brand:

(1) is identical with or, in the opinion of the board, is so similar to any brand previously recorded and remaining of legal record; or

(2) is an abandoned brand but has not been abandoned for five (5) years;



so as to be liable to cause confusion as to the identity or ownership of livestock.

(c) If the board determines that the submitted brand is already on record for another person or that it so closely resembles a previously registered brand that the brands cannot be readily distinguished, the board shall notify the applicant and return the facsimile brand and recording fee. In case of duplications, applications bearing the earliest postmark will be accepted.

(d) The board shall adjust conflicting stock brands and make any necessary changes. Changes made by the board are conclusive, and brands the board indicates may be recalled or adjusted at any time by means of written notice from the board given to the owner of the brand.

(e) A brand may be recorded in Indiana only in the office of the board.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-10. Evidentiary effect of certificates of recordation.

All certificates of recordation or rerecordation of brands furnished by the board are prima facie evidence of the ownership of all livestock of the kind or kinds bearing the brand or brands specified and as set forth in the record. The certificates are evidence of ownership in all lawsuits or in any criminal proceedings, when the title to livestock in Indiana is to be proved. Disputes in ownership or custody of branded livestock shall, upon request, be investigated by state or county law enforcement officials.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-11. Ownership of brands.

(a) A recorded brand is the personal property of the person in whose name it is filed and is subject to sale, assignment, transfer, devise, and descent as personal property.

(b) A written instrument that evidences the sale, assignment, or transfer of a brand must be forwarded to the board to be recorded in the official brand book.

(c) The board shall determine the fee for recording a transaction under subsection (b).

(d) As soon as the transaction has been recorded, the board shall furnish the new owner with a brand certificate.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-12. Determination of renewal date.

(a) By January 1 of each fifth year following the original recording with the board, each owner of a brand of record shall submit to the board a renewal fee to be established by the board.



(b) For the purpose of determining the renewal date, the period between the date a brand is recorded by the board and January 1 of the next year constitutes the first year of the five (5) year period.

(c) If the owner of a brand of record fails, refuses, or neglects to pay the fee by June 30 of the year in which it is due, the brand shall be forfeited and no longer carried in the record. A forfeited brand may not be issued to another person for five (5) years after the date of forfeiture. During that five (5) year period, the former owner of record may apply to the commission for reinstatement of the forfeited brand. An application for reinstatement must be accompanied by a reinstatement fee established by the board. The renewal date for a reinstatement brand remains the same.

(d) Renewal fees on reinstatement brands are due on January 1 of each fifth year following the original recording.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-13. Use of unrecorded brand.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a person may not use any brand for identifying livestock unless the brand has been recorded under this chapter. If a recorded brand is applied to livestock that have been branded by a previous owner, the recorded brand must be applied so as not to overlap, obliterate, disfigure, or mutilate the existing brand or brands.

(b) Brands consisting of arabic numerals only may be used for individual livestock identification if they are located at least ten (10) inches from any recorded brand. Brands for individual identification may not be recorded.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-14. Publication of recorded brand.

(a) The board shall publish all the recorded brands in a book and publish supplemental lists at least once each year. The brand book and supplements must contain a facsimile of all brands recorded, together with the owner's name and legal mailing address.

(b) The board shall, without charge, furnish copies of the brand book and supplements to state and county law enforcement agencies in Indiana. The general public may obtain copies by remitting to the board the cost of printing and mailing each book and accompanying supplements.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-15. Reported livestock thefts.

The board, in cooperation with law enforcement officials in Indiana and other states, shall develop a uniform procedure for notifying livestock markets and livestock slaughtering establishments of reported livestock thefts.



Ind. Code § 15-19-6-16. Application of a brand to livestock.

A brand must be applied to the shoulder, ribs, or hip on either the right or left side as determined by standing behind the animal. A brand, except those for livestock disease control purposes, may not be applied to the head or neck area.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-17. Sale and transportation of livestock.

(a) A person selling livestock branded with the person's brand recorded in a current state brand book or supplement shall execute to the purchaser a written bill of sale. The bill of sale must include:

- (1) the signature and residence of the seller;
- (2) the name and address of the purchaser;
- (3) the total number of livestock sold;
- (4) a description of each animal sold as to sex and kind; and
- (5) all registered brands.

A copy of the bill of sale shall be given to each hauler of livestock, other than railroads, and must accompany the shipment of livestock while in transit. The bill of sale or a copy shall be shown by the possessor on demand to any law enforcement officer. The bill of sale is prima facie evidence of the conveyance of title of the livestock described by the bill of sale.

(b) A person engaged in the business of transporting or hauling livestock in Indiana shall, upon receiving livestock for transportation, issue a waybill or bill of lading for all livestock transported or hauled by the person. The waybill or bill of lading must accompany the shipment of livestock, with a copy being furnished to the person delivering livestock to the hauler. The waybill or bill of lading must include:

- (1) the place of origin and destination of the shipment;
- (2) the name of the owner of the livestock;
- (3) the date and time of loading;
- (4) the name of the person or company hauling the livestock;
- (5) the number of livestock; and
- (6) a general description of the livestock, including the identifying brands.



The waybill or bill of lading must be signed by the person delivering the livestock to the hauler, certifying that the information contained in the waybill or bill of lading is correct.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-18. Charges for recording and rerecording of brands.

(a) The board may establish and collect:

- (1) up to thirty-five dollars (\$35) for each brand recording; and
- (2) fair and reasonable charges related to the cost of administering a brand recordation program for:
 - (A) the rerecording of brands;
 - (B) the recording of instruments transferring ownership of brands; and
 - (C) certificates of recordation or rerecording of brands.

(b) The board shall deposit fees collected under this section in the brand registration fund. The brand registration fund is a nonbudgetary fund, and the money remaining in the brand registration fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund. The board may disburse money from the brand registration fund to defray the administrative costs of implementing this chapter.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-19. Unauthorized application of a brand.

A person who, without permission of the owner, knowingly or intentionally applies a brand to livestock for the purpose of transferring ownership of that livestock commits a Level 5 felony.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-20. Destruction or alteration of a brand on livestock.

A person who knowingly destroys or alters a brand recorded with the board from livestock to conceal the identity of the owner of that livestock commits a Level 5 felony.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-21. Sale of livestock with destroyed or altered brand.

A person who knowingly sells or offers for sale livestock whose brand has been destroyed or altered for the purpose of concealing the identity of the owner of that livestock commits a Level 5 felony.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-22. Purchase of livestock with destroyed or altered brand.



A person who knowingly purchases livestock whose brand has been destroyed or altered for the purpose of concealing the identity of the owner of that livestock commits a Level 5 felony.

Ind. Code § 15-19-6-23. Forgery.

A livestock brand is a written instrument for purposes of IC 35-43-5.

