

# UNITED STATES

## VOICELESS ANIMAL CRUELTY INDEX 2017

### Overall Rank 49

The United States of America (US) was an *extremely poor* performer under the Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index (VACI) 2017, and ranked second worst of the countries surveyed.

### Producing Cruelty

#### Rank 49

The US slaughters around 28.4 land-based animals per person / year, which is the fourth highest of the countries surveyed and almost triple that of the global average of 9.7. The country's dependency on farmed animals is also high, with around 7.5 farmed animals per person (compared with a global average of around 4). Factory farming is widespread, particularly in veal, cattle, poultry and pig production. Specific states have sought to prohibit sow stalls, veal crates and battery cages.

### Consuming Cruelty

#### Rank 49

The American diet contains a very high proportion of animal products, with around 61.1% of the average American's diet being made up of land-based animal protein (compared with a global average of 35.2%). This is 6th highest level of consumption of the countries surveyed and equates to each person consuming around 64.7g of land-based animal protein per day (compared with a global average of 26.7g). A 2015 poll [<http://www.vrg.org/blog/2015/05/29/how-often-do-americans-eat-vegetarian-meals-and-how-many-adults-in-the-u-s-are-vegetarian-2/>] estimates that 3.4% of the population identified as vegetarian.

### Sanctioning Cruelty

#### Rank 20

The US was given a "D" under the Animal Protection Index (API) 2014, and was a moderate performer under the Sanctioning Cruelty category. Federal animal protection laws are lacking, and the content and scope of legislation at a state level varies substantially. Learn more about the quality of the legislative protections in the US on the API here [<http://api.worldanimalprotection.org/country/usa>].



### Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index

This country profile is from the 2017 Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index (VACI). The VACI tracks the animal welfare performance of 50 countries selected among the largest producers of farmed animal products in the world. The VACI was first published in 2017, and updated in 2020. Please read the VACI Terms of Use (<https://vaci.voiceless.org.au/terms-of-use/>) and Voiceless Website Terms of Use ([Website Terms and Conditions | Voiceless](#)) for further information. Voiceless does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability or currency of the information. Questions about the VACI can be directed to: [info@voiceless.org.au](mailto:info@voiceless.org.au)

The 2020 VACI can be accessed here: <https://vaci.voiceless.org.au/>