Breaking Laws
Strange laws still on record books range from old-fashioned to outrageous

JESSICA LEDFORD
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America has an amazing history—not just the big events, but how society has changed in day-to-day activities.

Researching the rich history of this fine nation, one thing becomes quickly apparent: lawmakers have tried for years to sculpt the way people act through the passing of laws.

Everyone is familiar with the legal drinking age and speed limits. However, there are many more restrictive laws still in

August. There isn’t an explanation for why.

In Ohio, a police officer is allowed to bite a dog in order to quiet them, without any threat of legal repercussion.

Cats do not escape from unusual regulation. In fact, in Colorado it is illegal to allow a pet cat to run loose without a tail light. The law doesn’t mention how to attach it.

Horses are also the target of unusual legislation. In Iowa it is illegal for a horse to eat a fire hydrant. In Washington state it is illegal to ride an ugly horse. No one is sure what determines if a
effect that most people don’t know about.

In California, for example, it is illegal for anyone to try to stop a child from playfully jumping over puddles of water.

This makes a person wonder, what was the incident that led to this law?

Every state has its own variety of strange laws that were no doubt the result of a public dispute. Missouri is not excluded.

In St. Louis it is illegal to sit on any curb in the city and drink beer out of a bucket. Oddly enough, it makes no mention of standing, or if the beer is in a pitcher rather than in a bucket.

While most of these strange laws were put into effect around the time of wagons rather than cars, they were never removed.

Most of these are not enforced or even remembered. Regardless, it is entertaining to look at the history of this country through a different and colorful light. What did the citizens tolerate in days gone by?

Here are a few more of these unusual laws which can be found on the Internet and in the law books themselves.

It is illegal in Florida for a man to be seen publicly in a strapless gown. Apparently, if the dress has sleeves it is perfectly legal.

In Kentucky, anyone who has been drinking is still considered sober until he or she “cannot hold onto the ground.”

Also in Kentucky a female is not allowed to be seen on a highway in a bathing suit, unless she is escorted by at least two officers or is armed with a large club. This law was later amended. The statute no longer applies to females weighing less than ninety pounds or exceeding two hundred pounds. It also does not apply to female horses.

In Michigan, it is illegal for a woman to cut her own hair unless she has her husband’s permission. On the other hand, in Pennsylvania men cannot purchase alcohol without their wives’ consent.

Aside from the laws focusing on the human population, pets have, for years, been the target for many of these unusual laws. From elephants to dogs, they have all done something at one time or another that requires some legal action.

In Oklahoma, dogs must have a permit signed by the mayor in order to congregate in groups of three or more on private property. In Massachusetts all dogs are legally required to have their hind legs tied during the month of horse is ugly or not, though.

For those of you out there who still believe that women are bad drivers, there is a law for you, also. In Tennessee it’s illegal for a woman to drive a car unless there is a man either running or walking in front of the vehicle waving a red flag to warn other vehicles and pedestrians.

Traffic laws are wide spread and deal with almost any vehicular situation.

In Pennsylvania a set of rules for the road was written by a group called the Farmer’s Anti-Automobile Society. These rules were intended to become law; however, they were never passed. The rules included three guidelines for driving on country roads.

First, automobiles traveling on country roads at night must send up a rocket every mile, then wait ten minutes for the road to clear. The driver could then proceed.

Secondly, if the driver sees a team of horses, he should pull over to the side of the road and cover the vehicle with a blanket or dust cover that has been painted to blend with the scenery.

Lastly, if a horse refuses to pass the car, even though it has been camouflaged, then the owner must take apart their automobile and hide the parts in the bushes.

While most of us think of ourselves as upstanding, law-abiding citizens, we should check the books.

We could be breaking the law right now.