

This 12-month project is designed to bring together the key players in animal cruelty investigations and equip them with the tools, training and support they need to succeed.

This project is designed to build strong relationships between:

- Veterinarians
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutors

Areas of training include:

- Veterinary forensics and necropsy
- Processing and protective custody of animal evidence
- Report writing and testimony
- Pathways to education and compliance in cases where access to resources may preempt criminal citation



Meet the Instructors:

Emily Lewis and Linda Fielder have over 20 years of collective experience in animal cruelty response and humane law enforcement. As the staff attorney and director of investigations at the third largest humane society in the nation, Emily and Linda built programs and procedures around every type of animal criminal investigation, including animal hoarding, cockfighting, and puppy mills. They have trained hundreds of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and veterinarians in best practices around all elements of crime scene investigation, protective custody housing, courtroom testimony and evidence handling. Emily and Linda understand the need for outreach and education in underserved communities where animals suffer from lack of access to veterinary care and resources and have helped communities find ways to connect pets with lifesaving services in place of criminal investigation when appropriate.



**ANIMAL LEGAL
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ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Collaborative Response Project

TACKLING ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES
THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH



ALL OUR CLIENTS ARE INNOCENT

The Animal Legal Defense Fund Collaborative Response Project provides funding, training, and real-time support to first responders in the investigation and prosecution of animal crimes. Participants will receive financial assistance, training, and real time consultation in active animal cruelty cases, bringing strong cases to resolution through the courts, and offering solution-based alternatives for citation through education and compliance monitoring.



The Animal Legal Defense Fund **Collaborative Response Project** was developed specifically to support communities in responding to animal cruelty in appropriate and effective ways.

- **Participation** in specialized training for law enforcement, veterinarians, prosecutors
- **Access** to customized forms, templates, and procedural documents
- **Funding** for veterinary forensics, an essential element of these investigations
- **Case support** and consultation
- **Eligibility** for cost of care grants to help cover animal evidence holding



In homes with domestic violence, **50%** of children reported that the abuser threatened to harm or kill a beloved animal in order to maintain control over their human victims.

As law enforcement agencies grapple with staffing shortages and budget cuts, investing time and resources into animal cruelty cases becomes increasingly difficult.

Animal crimes proliferate alongside domestic violence and neglect of children, gang activity, and mental illness. A proactive and comprehensive response to animal neglect and abuse is foundational to building or rebuilding healthy communities and restoring public trust and goodwill. As in so many other areas of policing, collaborative relationships and community partnerships are filling gaps and offering solutions that result in positive outcomes for communities and enforcement agencies.

Learn more about this program at aldf.org/crp

