Animals Need Attorneys

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system.

Every day millions of defenseless animals suffer abuse and neglect in homes, puppy mills, roadside zoos, laboratories, and factory farms. Too often our laws fail to protect them or go unenforced. Since animals can't speak for themselves in the legal system, they need experienced legal advocates to fight for stronger animal protection laws and their vigorous enforcement.

They don't have a voice in our legal system so we have to be their voice.

We use existing laws to broaden protections of animals through the legal system.





Leo spent two years in protective custody at a local animal shelter during his abuser's trial. The Animal Legal Defense Fund provided a grant to cover the cost of Leo's care during that time, including veterinary exams, lab tests, medications, and more. Leo's abuser was convicted of animal cruelty.



Join the Animal Legal Defense Fund

Become a member of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Members donate at least \$25 a year and receive a subscription to the Animals' Advocate newsletter via mail. Members make our work possible! Donate at aldf.org/donate.

Sign up for our email list and get action alerts for national and local animal law news.
Sign up at **aldf.org/signup**.

Join our Partners in Protection program by becoming a monthly donor. Perks include early registration to webinars and events and other exclusives. Join at **aldf.org/pip**.

Leave a legacy of love by including the Animal Legal Defense Fund in your will. Learn more by emailing estates@aldf.org.



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ALL OUR CLIENTS ARE INNOCENT











Fundamental Problem: LAWS ARE ONLY EFFECTIVE WHEN ENFORCED

Americans overwhelmingly view our companion animals as family members and believe all animals should be treated humanely. We know that animals are living, feeling beings, capable of experiencing physical pain and a wide range of emotions.

But the sad truth is, that even when animal protection laws are put into place, most are not enforced. This is why we fight to not only pass laws, but also to ensure there is a mechanism in place to actually enforce them to their fullest extent.





Despite the advances we've made, the legal system is still lagging behind and does not reflect society's sentiment for animals or give animals the full protection they deserve. We're fighting to change that.





All our clients are innocent

At the Animal Legal Defense Fund, we fight for stronger animal protection laws and better enforcement of those laws. We file high-impact lawsuits on behalf of animals. We train police officers, prosecutors, and judges to make sure the laws that protect animals are enforced to the fullest extent. We provide resources and opportunities for law students and legal professionals to advance the emerging field of animal law.

Sadly, there is no shortage of potential legal battles to wage on behalf of animals. We strategically identify opportunities to create lasting legal changes that will ultimately benefit all animals.

All Animals Need Protection

The law is a measure of our society's commitment to justice. We expect our laws to protect the most vulnerable among us — especially those without a direct voice in our legal system. That's why animals need expert legal advocates to be their voice.

Our work strikes at the roots of animal cruelty. It's the countless hours attorneys spend doing research, writing briefs, arguing in court, drafting legislation, and training law enforcement that make our victories possible and bring lasting change to animals' lives.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is working on cases and other legal advocacy efforts that aim to protect every kind of animal: companion animals, wild animals, and farmed animals. This includes animals used in research and animals in captivity.



The Animal Legal Defense Fund assists in approximately 100 criminal animal cruelty cases a year.





The Animal Legal Defense Fund sued the North Carolina roadside zoo where Ben was kept in a small cage. Ben now lives in a safe and spacious California sanctuary thanks to the lawsuit.