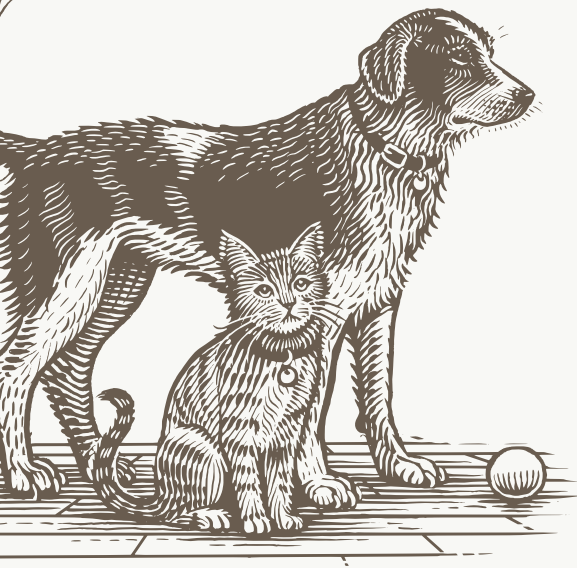




The Animals' Advocate

FEATURE

**LAWSUIT SEEKS
TO EXPOSE
INVASIVE
TESTING ON
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A NEW YORK
COLLEGE** *pg. 4*



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Transparency is important in all aspects of animal protection.



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ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND EST 1979

The Animal Legal Defense Fund has to fight hard for that transparency, against those who hide their abuse and cruelty to animals.

In February 2017, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) abruptly took down tens of thousands of critically important Animal Welfare Act records from its website, an event commonly known as “the Blackout.” These were largely official complaints and inspection reports of places like puppy mills, roadside zoos, and animal laboratories.

It’s easy to see why those who profit from cruelty don’t want those records public. The law offers minimal protections to animals. When even those standards aren’t met, what’s revealed is shocking — and often leads us to where our action is needed.

We will keep using the legal system to gain and maintain public access to vital information. Information that allows us to file lawsuits and pressure government agencies to take action. We will keep challenging anti-transparency laws, including Ag-Gag laws that criminalize exposing the cruel practices at factory farms. We have brought a lawsuit against the USDA, too, to compel the agency to put its USDA database back online.

We need your help to fight for animals. We can’t do it without you.

Thank you for your support.



For the animals,

Stephen Wells
Executive Director



SUNY College of Optometry

Painful testing conducted on the brains of kittens

BY ARIN GREENWOOD | SENIOR WRITER

We're demanding answers regarding the painful and invasive testing conducted on the brains of kittens and young cats by the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry in New York City. In June, the Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the school on behalf of Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Research & Experimentation (CAARE) after the university refused to turn over documents related to the taxpayer-funded experiments – a violation of New York's Freedom of Information Law.

The details we do have are disturbing. Young cats and kittens between 4 and 12 months old are anesthetized, and their heads are mounted into frames. Their eyes are forced open with contact lenses. Part of the cats' skulls are removed, and electrodes are inserted into their brains while they are still alive.

The purported goal of the testing is to help people suffering from vision disorders. But despite more than 15 years of experiments, there is no indication that they have produced any useful information.

The majority of animals used in research – rats, mice, birds, and fish – receive no meaningful legal protections. For the others, like the cats used in experiments at the SUNY College of Optometry, the law by and large only requires they be provided minimal standards of care such as clean housing and adequate food. But the experiments themselves may lawfully cause extensive pain and distress, even death.

SUNY College of Optometry claims it can't share its records because they constitute trade secrets and that doing so would endanger its researchers' safety. The law disagrees.

The state public records law favors transparency, and taxpayers have the right to know how their money is being spent. Our lawsuit aims to shed light on these cruel experiments and give these hidden animals a voice. Read more online: aldf.org/suny

“The public has a legal right to know about the cruel and unnecessary experiments being performed on cats and kittens by SUNY College of Optometry.”

Animal Legal Defense Fund Executive Director Stephen Wells



Philip and Widget, a 5-year-old shih-tzu/toy poodle mix. (courtesy of: Philip Tucker)

DONOR STORY

Due to the economic pressures to prioritize efficiency over protection and the sheer number of animals harmed, Philip thinks farmed animals have a great need for increased legal protections.

“There are many animal welfare laws in place that just aren't enforced strongly or efficiently enough. There are many attempts to circumvent these laws (e.g., Ag-Gag laws). We need legal protections for animals just like we do for humans, with punishments that have teeth.”

Philip Tucker, California

Philip has been a member of our Partners in Protection monthly giving program since 2011. Join now at: aldf.org/partner

Victory! Endangered Animals Rescued from Maryland Roadside Zoo

BY ELIZABETH HOLTZ | CAMPAIGNS MANAGER

In the spring, the Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a notice of intent to sue Deer Haven Mini Zoo for violations of state cruelty laws and the Endangered Species Act. Thanks to our intervention, the owners agreed to relinquish some of the most vulnerable animals.

Read more online: aldf.org/deerhaven

This bobcat lived in the same small cage for 18 years. She spent most of her time in the rafters – abnormal behavior for her species and a sign of psychological distress. Today she lives in a Texas sanctuary where she has room to roam and trees to climb.



A male and female lemur lived in a barren enclosure devoid of any enrichment. According to USDA inspections, red ants infested their food and rat holes were found in their cages. Both lemurs had significant damage to their tails – likely due to frostbite. The lemurs now live in a sanctuary in sunny Florida where they are gaining weight and receiving medical care for a previously untreated parasite.



A total of six arctic foxes were rescued, including Mama. Upon arriving at her new sanctuary home, Mama was treated for hookworm, parasites, and a previously untreated limp.



Deer Haven Mini Zoo Photos: (credit: Jason Putsche Photography)



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of the Animal Legal Defense Fund is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. A copy of our full audited financial statement may be obtained by writing to us or visiting aldf.org.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,229,578
Investments	5,345,976
Accounts and grants receivable	119,175
Inventory, prepaid expenses, and other assets	161,564

Total current assets **\$8,856,293**

NONCURRENT ASSETS:

Property and equipment, net	\$2,514,058
Investments	962,492
Receivables	85,000

Total noncurrent assets **\$3,561,550**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$168,692
Accrued payroll liabilities	354,541

Total liabilities **523,233**

Net assets:

Unrestricted	10,755,990
Temporarily restricted	1,138,620

Total net assets **\$11,894,610**

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Donations (individuals/foundations/corporations)	\$7,249,304
Donations from estates	1,664,047
In-kind contributions	3,660,085
Conferences	36,282
Interest and dividends	101,228
Unrealized gains on investments	514,906
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(3,010)
Other	95,458

Total revenue and support **\$13,318,300**

EXPENSES

Program services:

Legal programs	\$8,128,108
Public education	1,849,421

Supporting services:

Administration	\$1,305,054
Direct mail fund raising	575,270
Other fund raising	681,338

Total expenses **\$12,539,191**

Increase (decrease) in net assets **\$779,109**

Net assets at beginning of year 11,115,501

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR **\$11,894,610**

LAST YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY – In response to our lawsuit, King Kong Zoological Park, a roadside zoo in North Carolina, closed forever.

JULY – Utah’s Ag-Gag law, which criminalized undercover investigations by animal advocates and journalists at factory farms, was struck down after we filed a lawsuit arguing it was unconstitutional.

AUGUST – A California court ruled in favor of a coalition of wildlife protection groups, led by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, challenging Monterey County, California’s contract with the USDA’s Wildlife Services. Funded by taxpayer dollars, Wildlife Services kills millions of native wild animals annually in service to ranchers and farmers.

OCTOBER – In the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s lawsuit against the USDA, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled the agency cannot rubberstamp exhibitor license renewals for roadside zoos it knows are violating the Animal Welfare Act.

OCTOBER – We hosted the first annual Student Convention in Portland, Oregon. Representatives from nearly 60 Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapters from across the United States, and beyond, came together to network and discuss animal law.

OCTOBER – In a win for transparency, a Wisconsin court ordered the University of Wisconsin-Madison to disclose public records related to cruel experiments on infant monkeys. We sued in 2014 after the university refused to release key documents.

NOVEMBER – We joined Prevent Cruelty California, a coalition working to pass a critical California ballot measure that would end the extreme confinement of farmed animals. The measure will be on the November 2018 ballot.

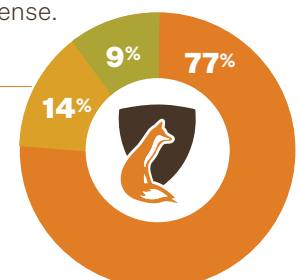
NOVEMBER – We sponsored an animal cruelty training for prosecutors and law enforcement in Hawaii. Led by Lora Dunn, the director of the Criminal Justice Program, “From Crime Scene to Courtroom” instructed attendees in every stage of an animal cruelty investigation and prosecution to ensure animal victims receive justice.

DECEMBER – After we led a campaign documenting the chronic neglect of animals living at an Iowa roadside zoo, the USDA revoked Cricket Hollow Animal Park’s exhibitor license.

PROGRAMS \$9,910,916

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT \$1,135,079

ADMINISTRATION \$1,801,755



UPCOMING
EVENTS:



OCTOBER
12-14, 2018

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FULL AGENDA AND
TICKET INFORMATION:

ANIMALLAWCONFERENCE.ORG



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Building New Bridges for Animal Victims

This summer, attorneys in the Criminal Justice Program hit the road to speak about animal cruelty to hundreds of attorneys and law enforcement officials, coast to coast. In Oregon, David Rosengard addressed attorneys at the annual Crime Victim Law Conference, where he shared our groundbreaking work reframing animals subjected to cruelty as “crime victims.” In Connecticut, Diane Balkin and David presented at a law enforcement training

focused on Desmond’s Law—a first-of-its kind law that empowers attorney-advocates to address the court on behalf of animal victims. These trainings are vitally important to increasing the number of animal cruelty cases that are investigated and prosecuted, and perhaps more importantly, changing the way that the law views animals — as more than mere “property.” Read more online:

aldf.org/criminaljusticetraining



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525 East Cotati Avenue
Cotati, CA 94931 | aldf.org

