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ADVOCATE THE ANIMALS'

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND



In memory of Logan, official mascot of National Justice for Animals Week 2014

National Justice for Animals Week

Celebrating animal heroes, honoring animal victims

ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 12, 2011, an eleven year-old Husky named Logan was brutally attacked. He was in his kennel when an unknown assailant entered the Michigan property and threw acid on Logan's face, blinding him and burning his face severely. Logan's human companion, Matt Falk, found the dog in the morning and rushed him to the vet for treatment. Because the nature of the substance was unclear, it could not be neutralized immediately—and continued to burn Logan's face for three additional days.

Although Logan lived for a several more months, the medications destroyed

his liver and kidneys. On July 9, 2012, Logan curled up at Matt Falk's feet and passed away peacefully, with his head resting on Matt's foot. Sweet Logan is dearly missed by his family and by supporters around the world. Logan's tragic story is a compelling example of the need for law enforcement and communities to take animal cruelty seriously—and that is why he was ALDF's mascot for National Justice for Animals Week 2014.

Actress and long-time animal advocate Charlotte Ross (*Glee*, *NYPD Blue*) joined ALDF this spring to host the sixth annual
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Honoring Animal Heroes



FOR THE RECORD

“We are going to quickly and aggressively move to make [them] no longer a part of the landscape in New York City. They are not humane. They are not appropriate to the year 2014.”

— New York Mayor Bill de Blasio on horse-drawn carriages

FOR 35 YEARS, THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

has been the preeminent legal advocate for animals, and that means leading the path for better treatment for animals in all areas of the law—from putting better laws on the books in legislative work, to making sure those laws are adequately enforced, to taking abusers to court, to informing the public about animal protection issues.

That is why this spring ALDF celebrated its sixth annual National Justice for Animals Week campaign, February 16-22. We were delighted to have actress and long-time animal advocate Charlotte Ross—famous for, among other things, her role as a detective on *NYPD Blue*—serve as the campaign spokesperson. ALDF’s national campaign highlights the strengths of ALDF’s criminal justice program by celebrating America’s Top Ten Animal Defenders. These heroes come from all areas of the law, from prosecutors to sheriffs, and even journalists like Jane Velez-Mitchell, and they do what it takes to protect animals from harm. Animals like Logan, ALDF’s National Justice for Animals Week 2014 mascot, need humans to speak up for them. In this issue you can read more about Logan’s tragic story, his brave struggle, and our united front to help see that Logan and all animals who are victims of abuse are better protected, and their abusers fully prosecuted for their crimes.

I am particularly proud of ALDF’s student chapters (SALDF) and their dedication to fundraising for our National Justice for Animals Week campaign. More than 30 student chapters helped ALDF put a dent in crimes against animals by joining us to promote our “Crime Tips” app, our letter-writing campaigns, and our online petitions for justice. For more information on how you too can take action please visit our website at ALDF.org.

As a member of ALDF, you help make our work possible. We need heroes like you to make sure animal victims receive the justice they deserve. Thank you for 35 years of success!

For the animals,

Stephen Wells
Executive Director



Stephen Wells
Executive Director

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Marine Mammals At Risk

U.S. Navy Plans to Harm Millions of Whales and Dolphins

IMAGINE A CAR ALARM IN FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE going off, day and night, ten million times in the course of five years. Now imagine that car alarm is so powerful it will kill hundreds of your neighbors and instill permanent or temporary damage in thousands or even millions more. This is only a semblance of the trauma inflicted upon marine mammals by the U.S. Navy with massive sonar and explosives tests.

In January 2014, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to allow the U.S. Navy to increase the impact of its upcoming five-year underwater sonar and explosives training activity. This is more than a 1000% increase from the controversial testing conducted in the last five years. That is why ALDF has joined with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Ocean Conservation Research and is determined to stop the U.S. Navy from injuring thousands of marine mammals over the next five years in Southern California and Hawaii, where they will be subjected to these tests nearly ten million times.

The U.S. Navy admits that these sonar and explosives tests will cause hundreds of dolphin and whale deaths – and thousands more will suffer *permanent* hearing loss. In fact, millions of marine mammals will suffer temporary hearing loss. Whales rely primarily on their hearing to survive—for navigation, communication, finding food, and socializing. Not only can massive blasts of sound obfuscate objects in their paths, but—even hundreds of miles away—these violent disturbances can lead to fatal and painful bleeding around the brain and other tissues.

NRDC's marine mammal protection project director, Michael Jasny, says “for whales and dolphins, the Navy’s plan to ramp-up training off our coasts is simply not sustainable.” Jasny explains that plenty of alternatives to these tests exist, and that “there are more than 35 species of whales and dolphins that make Southern California and Hawaiian waters their home, including endangered blue whales, fin whales, and hearing-sensitive beaked whales.”

The federal agencies in charge of protecting these marine mammals have essentially given the Navy unbridled permission to harm these animals as they please. Of particular concern is the harm to endangered and

threatened mammals. Blue whales—the largest animals ever to live on the planet—were decimated by whaling in the 19th and 20th centuries and, despite a 1966 global hunting ban, the species has struggled to recover. Scientists have found strong links between the Navy’s sonar tests and limited blue whale recovery in Southern California—these tests have already been conducted for decades, but the Navy is now increasing both the intensity of the tests and the damages inflicted upon marine mammals. Also vulnerable is the western gray whale, one of the most endangered whales in the world. With a population of only about 150 animals, including only 30 females of calving age, the potential injuries and deaths to this species will be devastating.

ALDF’s lawsuit asks for common-sense measures to reduce the harm to vulnerable species and their habitat—workable strategies acknowledged by the scientific community and the Obama administration. Other steps include avoiding detonations and training at night, when marine mammals are hard to detect, and reducing ship speed during the summer, when whales are migrating. The lawsuit points to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, and challenges the Navy’s activities under the oversight of the California Coastal Commission.

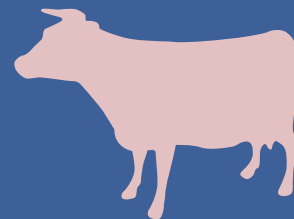
“The numbers alone are staggering, but even more shocking is that the Navy refuses to take basic precautions, including seasonal or regional restrictions, to minimize the destruction,” said Jenni James, litigation fellow with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. “NMFS is supposed to protect marine mammals, not to sign their death warrants by rubber stamping deadly war games.”

Many Americans are now aware of the tragic lives of marine mammals in captivity, with films like *Blackfish* shocking a nation about the realities of life for orcas like SeaWorld’s Tilikum and the Miami Seaquarium’s Lolita—forced to perform in shallow concrete tanks, unending heat, without proper companionship, for their entire lives. But it is important also to protect marine mammals in the wild. Please visit ALDF.org to learn more about ALDF’s ongoing fight for the rights of the great giants of the seas.



THE ANIMALS’
ADVOCATE

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The U.S. Navy admits that these sonar and explosives tests will cause hundreds of dolphin and whale deaths – and thousands more will suffer permanent hearing loss.





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Justice for Animals

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National Justice for Animals Week, February 16-22. The event raises awareness across the country about how individuals can work within their own communities to achieve real justice for animals who are victims of cruelty. National Justice for Animals Week also honors law enforcement, prosecutors, and legislators who have made outstanding contributions to animal protection: America's Top Ten Animal Defenders.

This year's Top Ten heroes come from all areas of the law:

★ Sheriff **TOM DART**, whom *Time* magazine named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. Under his direction, Cook County, Illinois founded its first Animal Crimes Unit.

★ **JANE VELEZ MITCHELL**, an award-winning television journalist and host of her own cable news show on *Headline News*, who consistently and determinedly reports on animal cruelty far and wide.

★ New York Councilmember **PETER VALLONE JR.**, who sponsored a bill that created a city-wide registry of animal abusers.

★ District Attorney **JONATHAN BLODGETT**, who has prosecuted numerous animal cruelty cases in Massachusetts and received the "Humane-itarian Award" from a student

ALDF (SALDF) chapter in that state.

★ Oregon-based District Attorney **JOHN HAROLDSON**, who secured a grant from ALDF to fund the first full-time animal cruelty prosecutor.

★ **JEAN KUNKLE**, deputy district attorney, who recently ensured conviction and jail time against a defendant charged with the neglect and starvation of 16 horses in Marion County, Oregon.

★ District Attorney **VIC REYNOLDS**, who started an Animal Abuse Unit in Cobb County, Georgia.

★ **DAVID LABAHN**, president of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, who leads the charge for prosecutors, criminal justice partners, and animal advocates to improve animal protection.

★ District Attorney **JOSH MARQUIS**, an Oregon-based former ALDF board member, who works with law enforcement groups, and who helped pass Oregon's felony animal cruelty law.

★ **BELINDA SMITH**, deputy district attorney in Harris County, Texas, a passionate advocate who established Texas' first agency with a unit dedicated to animal cruelty prosecution.

Joining ALDF in the campaign were Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) chapters across the country—including Wayne State University, the University of Miami, Penn State, George Washington University, Wake Forest University, and many

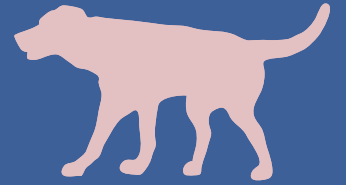
“National Justice for Animals Week gives each of us the tools to stop animal abuse, and urges law enforcement, prosecutors, and lawmakers to protect our animals and communities from abusers.”

—Animal advocate
Charlotte Ross

NATIONAL JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS WEEK

Meet America's Top Ten Animal Defenders!





SALDF chapters held bake sales, hosted speakers, distributed brochures, held pet photo contests and volunteering events at shelters.




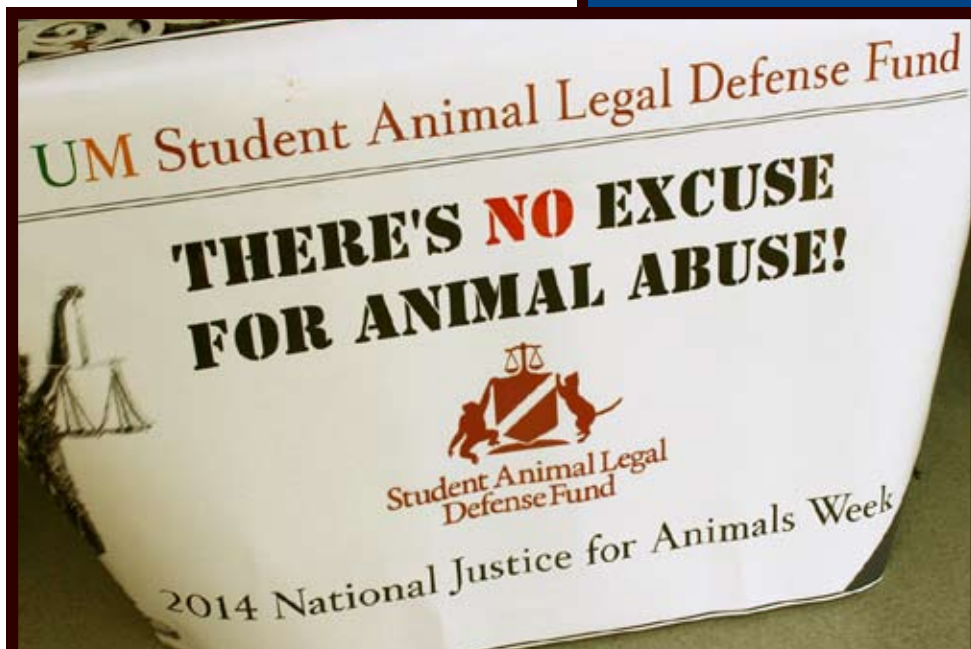
more. Chapters held bake sales, hosted speakers, distributed brochures, held pet photo contests and volunteering events at shelters, and screened animal rights-themed films to celebrate the National Justice for Animals Week campaign.

Being a voice for animals is what the campaign is all about. "ALDF's National Justice for Animals Week gives each of us the tools to stop animal abuse, and urges law enforcement, prosecutors, and lawmakers to protect our animals and communities from abusers," Charlotte explains. Animals can't speak for themselves—even when they are horribly abused. It is our duty to make sure cases involving animal victims get heard in the courts. ALDF created National Justice for Animals Week for this very reason. "Every single one of us can join the fight to stop animal cruelty in our own communities," says Charlotte.

In addition to highlighting ALDF's Crime Tips app—that allows users to report animal cruelty from their phones!—weekly actions included a public service video featuring Charlotte Ross, a letter-to-the-editor writing campaign, encouraging members to become Partners in Protection, and helping ALDF support animal cruelty prosecution and enforcement of tough laws by getting active

through online alerts and petitions.

Visit ALDF.org to see Charlotte Ross talk about why she supports National Justice for Animals Week, and to download ALDF's Crime Tips app. "There are so many ways that you can help stop cruelty" she urges. "Please join us at the Animal Legal Defense Fund in fighting animal cruelty and honoring animal victims." 





Gambling on Cruelty

ALDF takes on coyote killing contests

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In 2013, the coyote killing contest resulted in the slaughter of more than 150 coyotes in a single weekend.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE WILD PREDATORS

crucial to our ecosystem, coyotes are among the most terrorized wildlife in North America. In January, ALDF requested a restraining order to stop the 2014 JMK Coyote Hunting Contest in Oregon. This killing spree—like similar coyote hunting contests in California, the southwest, and other regions—rewards hunters for killing as many coyotes as possible over the course of a weekend, without concern for animals, the environment, or even the law. In 2013, the coyote killing contest resulted in the slaughter of more than 150 coyotes in a single weekend, while paying out prizes worth more than \$10,000 in cash.

Along with Project Coyote and an Oregon resident, ALDF filed the lawsuit and restraining order to stop a hunt that featured an illegal gambling component. The court agreed that the “Calcutta” aspect of the weekend likely constituted an illegal gambling activity—hunters placed high-stakes bets on which team would advance in the tournament. Because gambling is illegal in Oregon, the judge advised that the contest’s organizers

may be forced to pay monetary damages in the future as a result of ALDF’s lawsuit. The threat of these damages could dramatically impair the financial incentive to participate in this contest in the future—however, sadly, the judge did not stop the contest this year. Nonetheless, ALDF’s lawsuit will continue, and ultimately decide the legal status of cash-prize driven hunts in Oregon.

“Trivializing the killing of animals for cash prizes is a terrible tarnish on the state of Oregon,” said Stephen Wells, executive director of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. “This event even encourages children to participate in a bloodbath for sport—and it is a nuisance to the community.”

ALDF’s commitment to coyotes doesn’t end here. Working with local Northern California lawmakers, ALDF has been negotiating to remove the USDA’s notoriously indiscriminate “Wildlife Services” contractors from Sonoma County—in ALDF’s own backyard—and replace them with nonlethal predator control. We hosted a screening of the stunning documentary *Wild Things* from the Natural Resources Defense Council last fall that chronicles the taxpayer-funded war on native carnivores like coyotes. At this event, ALDF brought in experienced ranchers who choose nonlethal methods of predator control as well as local activists to speak to the community. And we have long urged the shut-down of Indiana’s cruel coyote penning operations. We must learn to peacefully coexist with our native predator cousins.

“Coyotes, like all native predators, help ecosystems function properly,” said Stefan Heller, a litigation fellow with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. “These contests are not just senseless and cruel—they degrade the extraordinary natural heritage of America’s wild places.”



LOLA POPOVAC

Houses of Horror

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to act in Nebraska, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Missouri. Exotic animals and companion animals are suffering immensely in sub-par menageries documented by USDA investigators in each of these states. For instance, in Missouri alone, ALDF investigations of public records revealed countless dogs suffering at the hands of careless, law-breaking, and neglectful breeders in puppy mills.

What do all these cases have in common? In each situation, the USDA is fully aware of the violations of animal protection laws, yet has failed to enforce them. Laws have no teeth without enforcement, and it is time for the USDA to do its job, for the sake of animals who have no other recourse. ALDF will continue to call out all localities that are harming animals and getting away with it.

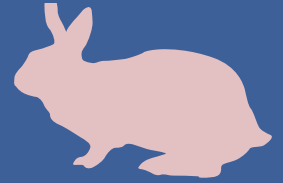
Follow ALDF’s updates at ALDF.org. Public scrutiny and legal action can help animals—much in the way ALDF and PETA helped free Ben the bear from Jambbas Ranch! Together, we can make a difference.





Cruel and Unusual 'Sport'

Bull runs exploit animals in the name of cheap thrills



ALDF IS CALLING BULL. In pursuit of an easy thrill, some are turning to extreme animal “sports,” like running from bulls. These spectacles, which are taking place across the country, are produced by a company known as Great Bull Run, LLC—started by two former Wall Street attorneys who decided to dip into animal exploitation to make a little extra profit. Their company tours the country, offering these dangerous and cruel events as “sport.” As a legal nonprofit staffed by dedicated animal attorneys, ALDF is up in arms—and we have no intention of allowing the Great Bull Run to break laws to put on its show.

In the events, up to three dozen bulls—each weighing as much as 1,700 pounds—barrel down a track after a mass of fleeing runners, many of whom have been drinking alcohol. The Great Bull Run’s chief operating officer, Rob Dickens, was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying “we need to crank up the danger,” even though each prior event has sent people to the hospital, including one runner whose pelvis was broken in several places after being trampled by a bull. Last fall, Lake Elsinore, California refused to permit the event in its city limits, citing safety issues. The city manager recognized that “this event invited inexperienced, untrained, and unprotected participants to take part in what could be a dangerous and unpredictable activity.”


ALDF has been a vocal opponent of these events from the beginning. “There is no justification for causing panic and stress to

these bulls and putting them at risk of injury,” says Matthew Liebman, ALDF senior attorney. “ALDF is determined to stop this inhumane spectacle.”

In December, ALDF called on Houston-area officials to prohibit the Texas Great Bull Run, for violating the Texas Health and Safety Code, which prohibits mass gatherings without a permit, out of a reasonable concern for public health and safety. County officials failed to heed ALDF’s warning, and as a result, one runner was trampled and went to the hospital with head injuries.

To increase the element of danger, some participants have taunted, slapped, and otherwise egged on the bulls. “It is a truly dangerous event where runners could get seriously injured,” Dickens said to a Georgia reporter. Though large in stature, the bulls in these shows are frightened animals that are clearly distressed. Since when is it a sport to provoke innocent animals to get a thrill from their panic?

The U.S. events are inspired by the Spanish bull runs in Pamplona, which have killed at least 15 people; dozens are injured every year. There’s no skill, no athleticism, and no honor in this event. Seeking a cheap thrill at the expense of animals and public safety is not a sport, and in many cases is rightly illegal.

ALDF will fight to stop the upcoming Great Bull Run events in California, and we host an online pledge form at ALDF.org/bull-run-petition where you can join the boycott of the Great Bull Run. 


“There is no justification for causing panic and stress to these bulls and putting them at risk of injury”

— Matthew Liebman,
ALDF senior attorney




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7 ALDF Challenges Coyote Killing Contests

Animal Houses of Horror

ALDF IS WAGING A CAMPAIGN TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO SOME OF THE WORST PUPPY MILLS, commercial breeders, and roadside zoos across the nation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and their Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have been letting the ball drop on enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act for too long. ALDF has investigated numerous records from the federal agency, where severe animal neglect has been uncovered but never punished. Dozens of individuals responsible for the harm of hundreds of animals have been walking away scot-free.

That is why in February, ALDF called on the USDA to shut-down horrific roadside zoos—Lazy 5 Ranch in Mooresville, North Carolina and the Farm at Walnut Creek in Sugar Creek, Ohio, both operated by North Carolina resident Henry Hampton. These facilities house more than 700 exotic animals, like baboons, giraffes, llamas, camels, sheep, deer, and goats. Hampton was cited by the USDA more than ten times for failing to meet minimum standards of structure, shelter, safety, and husbandry—and animals suffered and died as a consequence.

North Carolina has a history of great animal advocacy, and also some pretty sad environments for animals. For example, ALDF and PETA are still pressing the USDA to quit rubber-stamping the license renewal for North Carolina-based roadside zoo “Jambbas Ranch,” despite myriad animal welfare violations. In fact, Jambbas Ranch is so bad, ALDF and PETA were able to free Ben the bear and have him sent to a sanctuary in 2012—and we will keep fighting to hold the USDA accountable for allowing this facility to continue to neglect other animals.

“Through the Animal Welfare Act, Congress directed the USDA to protect vulnerable animals harbored by profiteering breeders, researchers, and exhibitors,” ALDF staff attorney Jessica Blome said. “Without oversight or enforcement Congress’s directive is meaningless, and offenders can get away with treating animals inhumanely for a quick buck.”

But the Tar Heel state isn’t the only spot where egregious violations of the Animal Welfare Act have been cited and gone unpunished. We’ve written similar letters to the USDA for their failure

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