

3

Stopping Cruelty to Wildlife in Your Community



4

ALDF Victory: Ricky's Rescue!



THE ANIMALS'

VOLUME 34 | ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2015

ADVOCATE



CROSS CREEK ALPACA RESCUE



Saving Gracie

ALDF celebrates National Justice for Animals Week 2015 by honoring human heroes saving animal lives

With nothing to eat but a few puny trees, forced to huddle calf-high in excrement, Gracie and more than 200 other alpacas were starved and neglected on an Oregon hoarder's property. To raise awareness about animal abuse like this, every year, ALDF's annual National Justice for Animals Week highlights our dedication to protecting animals from cruelty. This year, National

Justice for Animals Week 2015 (February 22-28) focused on Gracie's harrowing story and drew attention to the plight she and the other alpacas suffered at the hands of an abuser who, thanks to some real human heroes, has received serious jail time for his crimes.

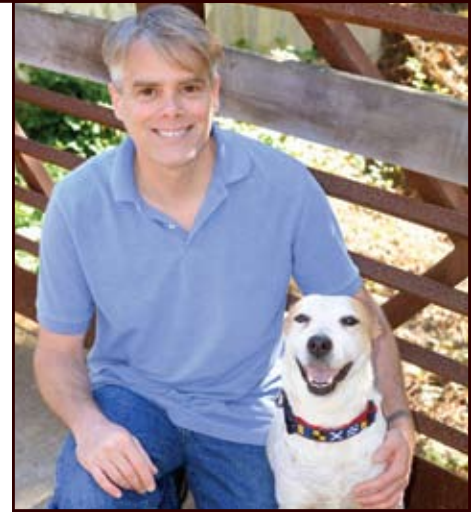
Gracie is one of 175 emaciated and starved alpacas seized by the Polk County Sheriff's Office from "Jocelyn's Alpaca Ranch" (near Portland, Oregon). Deputies and veterinarians visited the property and found the alpacas were so neglected nearly 60 had already starved to death. Their bodies were removed and the survivors received emergency veterinary care. ALDF dedicated a \$5,000 grant to help with the costs of care and the sheriff's office fed the remaining animals until they were safe to move. That's when Shari Bond from Cross Creek Alpaca Rescue stepped in and provided a safe haven to

[READ MORE PAGE 6](#) ►

“Producers and restaurateurs had nearly eight years to come to terms with this law—one of a growing number of farm animal anti-cruelty laws on the books of California and other states.” — *Los Angeles Times* editorial in support of California’s foie gras ban



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ALDF: Helping Heroes Like You

ALDF has pioneered the field of animal law for more than 35 years. We work “to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system” (our mission statement) by helping write and pass stronger animal protection laws, filing lawsuits to take animal abusers to court when laws are violated, and establishing the study of animal law in law schools throughout the country. And one of our most innovative and successful programs has been to assist law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the handling of animal cruelty cases.

To celebrate our success, ALDF hosted the seventh annual National Justice for Animals Week, February 22-28. ALDF’s annual campaign highlights the strengths of ALDF’s work and celebrates America’s Top Ten Animal Defenders. These heroes come from all areas of the law, and they do what it takes to protect animals from harm. Animals like Gracie the alpaca, ALDF’s National Justice for Animals Week 2015 mascot, need humans to speak up for them. In this issue you can read more about Gracie’s story.

Thankfully, her story has a happy ending, but many others aren’t so lucky, and that’s why ALDF believes it is so important to raise awareness about animal cruelty laws. We intend to help see that all animals who are victims of abuse are better protected and their abusers fully prosecuted for their crimes. And the tide is turning as more people and organizations join our campaigns. Meanwhile, we focus on cutting edge ways to help stop abuse—like ALDF’s LiveSafe animal abuse reporting app for smartphones, and our sponsorship of the Association of Prosecuting Attorney’s annual animal cruelty prosecution conference.

Our work for animals isn’t possible without ALDF members and supporters. We need heroes like you to ensure that animal victims receive the justice they deserve. Thank you!

For the animals,

Stephen Wells, Executive Director



Stephen Wells
Executive Director

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Lisa Franzetta *Editor*

Jennifer Molitor, Ph.D.
Staff Writer

Stephen Farley Design
Newsletter Design

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair **Sarah Luick**

Vice Chair **Marilyn Forbes**

Secretary **Lisa Brewer**

Treasurer **Jim Rockenbach**

Directors

David Cassuto • Stacey Evans
Wendy Morgan • Victoria Stack
Stephanie Walter

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is a nonprofit organization funded almost entirely by individual, tax-deductible contributions. For donation, membership, and change of address inquiries, please email us at membership@aldf.org, or call 707-795-2533. For information about our work and programs, email us at info@aldf.org. Please see “copyright” link on aldf.org for trademark information.

WILDLIFE UNDER SIEGE

ALDF offers reward in raccoon cruelty case

Animal cruelty too often goes unreported—animal victims can't speak up for themselves. It is up to each one of us to be a voice for abused and neglected animals in our own communities. ALDF's first-of-its-kind "LiveSafe" crime-reporting app for Android and iPhones helps is designed to help you do just that. An innocent raccoon shot with a crossbow in a recent Oakland, California cruelty case illustrates how ALDF's LiveSafe app can be such a helpful tool in winning justice for abused animals.

In January, ALDF offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s) who shot an adult male raccoon with five aluminum bolt darts from a crossbow in West Oakland. The 15lb raccoon was found stumbling in a church parking lot, with fresh wounds that indicate the attack happened close to the church. Good Samaritans documented his injuries on video and brought him to WildCare, a Marin-based urban wildlife hospital and animal rescue. The video of the suffering raccoon, along with the voices of his rescuers discussing how they could help him, received widespread coverage in local news outlets—bringing real attention to a crime that might otherwise have gone unreported.

Four high-impact aluminum bolt darts were removed from the soft tissue of the raccoon's body. WildCare's medical staff tried to save the raccoon, but his injuries were severe. The injury from the fifth dart, removed from his skull, was not a survivable injury, and he was euthanized to relieve his suffering. The raccoon's body was sent to Ca. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife for a necropsy.

Kelle Kacmarcik of WildCare saw the case

first hand. "This is one of the more traumatic and malicious injuries I've seen," she said. At WildCare, Kelle is wildlife solutions manager, and she helps the nonprofit run a wildlife rehab hospital and nature education program and provide humane wildlife management services. "One of WildCare's primary goals," Kelle explains, "is to provide nonlethal, humane options for coexisting with wild animals like raccoons."

It is against the law in California to intentionally inflict cruelty against any animal. Under the law, anyone who "maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, tortures, or wounds a living animal" can face prison time and thousands of dollars in fine. The person who harmed this raccoon poses a threat to the larger community as well. "People who harm animals often go on to harm humans as well," says Stephen Wells, ALDF executive director.



ALDF's LiveSafe app can help people report animal cruelty

This sad story—and the good Samaritans who recorded the raccoon's injuries—remind us why ALDF's LiveSafe app can help people report animal cruelty. If an animal is in an emergency, like being trapped in a hot car, immediately dial 9-1-1. In non-emergencies, LiveSafe allows you to document and report animal neglect or abuse—like horses left without food, or suspected dog-fighting activity. Simply download "LiveSafe" from GooglePlay or the iTunes Store. Select "Animal Legal Defense Fund." It's that easy. Visit ALDF.org/livesafe for more information.



FROM CAGE TO COLORADO

Ricky the Bear's journey to freedom

Every day for the last 16 years, a black bear named Ricky suffered miserably, all alone in an undersized chain-link and concrete cage. She was kept as a roadside attraction for tourists at an ice-cream shop along a Pennsylvania highway. Ricky's suffering was so disturbing that the public complained about her situation for more than a decade. Petitions with nearly 200,000 signatures begged for her release—even comedian and animal lover Ricky Gervais chimed in. Yet still, Ricky the bear remained at Jim Mack's Ice Cream, year after year. That is, until ALDF stepped in—and our strategic legal work procured her release. Thanks to an ALDF lawsuit filed in December, Ricky was allowed to move to her new home at the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado just six weeks later. Now, feeling earth beneath her feet, Ricky will be able to run and play with other bears in the open, which she's never been able to do before, and live the life a bear deserves.

Ricky's release comes as part of a settlement between ALDF and Ricky's former owner. The lawsuit was filed by ALDF (with pro bono assistance from the law firm BakerHostetler)—on behalf of concerned Pennsylvania residents—against Jim Mack's Ice Cream, for displaying Ricky in inhumane and dangerous conditions. The lawsuit accused Ricky's owner of violating state regulations that require humane care for wild animals.

Veterinarians confirmed that Ricky suffered

high levels of stress and anxiety on top of an inadequate diet and substandard housing. Dr. Ursula Bechert, DVM, observed Ricky and noted that a “slow and torturous decline in physical and mental health” was inevitable for Ricky if she wasn't moved to a sanctuary.

Bears require large, environmentally complex spaces in which to engage in their typical movements, such as bathing, exploring, and denning. That's what she's now getting at the Wild Animal Sanctuary. The sanctuary includes 720 acres of rolling grassland and a monumental 5,100-foot-long “Mile Into the Wild” walkway that allows visitors to view the animals from a safe distance that doesn't disturb the animals. Her enclosure will include 15 acres of safe space to roam.

Ricky's safety during the trip from Pennsylvania to Colorado was handled with care. ALDF attorneys were on site in Pennsylvania on the morning of February 9 as



SPOTLIGHT...

Harvard Student Animal Legal Defense Fund is changing the world for animals

The future of animal law really comes down to this generation's law students. And that's why Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) chapters are so important in developing this field. Harvard Law School's SALDF chapter is one outstanding example of students changing the world for animals.

Harvard's SALDF chapter has worked hard to advance the field of animal law and advocate for animals. Students hold networking and fundraising events, organize conferences, plan tabling days, bring in guest speakers, built coalitions with other law school student organizations, and screen films.

the rescue team cut open the chain link wires on Ricky's tiny cage and loaded her into a straw-lined transport trailer. Her overnight trip to Colorado was carefully supervised by Dr. Mary Denver, DVM, former head veterinarian at the Maryland Zoo and former president of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians.

Twenty-four hours later, the team arrived at the Wild Animal Sanctuary, where Ricky began the gentle process of introduction to her new environment in order to make the transition as smooth as possible for her. According to Pat Craig, who runs the Wild Animal Sanctuary, "Ricky is acting very comfortable already, and has already started to play inside her den and is enjoying rearranging her straw and grass bedding. She has been nose-to-nose with a number of female bears that came to greet her (through the fence) and is eating lots of fruits, vegetables, meats, and sweet treats."

"This case is a wonderful reminder that ALDF's litigation has tangible results that transform the lives of animals," said Matthew Liebman, ALDF senior attorney. "Ricky went from sleeping on concrete in a tiny cage and eating dog food to sleeping on grass and straw in a natural habitat and eating nutritious food – literally overnight. It wouldn't have happened without the lawsuit."

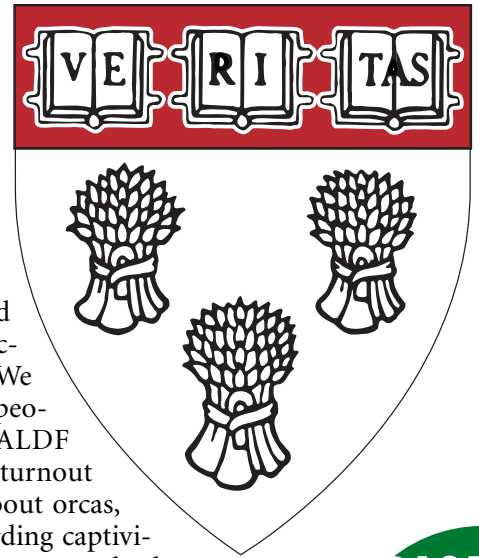
Legal victories for animals like this simply would not be possible without the generous support of ALDF donors like you. For more on this case and how you can ensure ALDF continues to be able to fight for animals like Ricky, visit ALDF.org.

Last year, the chapter held a day-long conference on factory farming—"The Meat We Eat"—and more than 200 people attended. Harvard's SALDF chapter has also had great turnout for events they've hosted about orcas, animal law, and issues regarding captivity. In addition, they screened the films *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret*, and *Speciesism*. They also sponsored a trip to Maple Farm Animal Sanctuary, hosted a talk by World Animal Net attorney Akisha Townsend (a former ALDF Advancement of Animal Law Scholarship recipient), and attended the March 2014 Ivy League Vegan Conference at Princeton.

"I love this chapter because the people in it are amazingly passionate about helping animals and inspiring others to do the same," says Dan Sondike, Harvard SALDF member. "The prospect of becoming an animal lawyer is exciting because it is an opportunity to effect that change."

What else makes Harvard Law School's SALDF chapter stand out? In 2013, Harvard SALDF members joined a phone bank to encourage citizens in New Jersey to override the veto of the law that would have banned gestation crates for pregnant pigs.

Great events are happening this spring, too. Harvard SALDF hosted an Animal Law Week in February 2015. ALDF's litigation director Carter Dillard and Stephanie Feldstein of the Center for Biological Diversity presented a panel entitled, "Animal Rights, Human Rights, and the Future of Our Planet." Later that week, ALDF's legislative affairs director Chris Green led a discussion about puppy mills. That weekend, Harvard Law School also hosted the national animal law moot court competitions to great success. Thank you to the Harvard SALDF chapter for your dedication to animal protection!



PAGE 5



DID YOU KNOW?

On hot days, interior temperatures in cars can reach over 160 degrees in just ten minutes. Dogs can't cool themselves like humans do – and are extremely vulnerable to heatstroke.

"Cracking the windows" does not remove the danger of heatstroke. Many dogs have died in the car while a person runs into a store for "just a minute."

If you see a dog trapped in a hot car, call 911 immediately. ALDF sunshades spread the message to others that leaving an animal in a hot car is a lethal decision.

This great tool is available on ALDF.org—for only \$20 you may just save a life!



Order your sunshade and learn what you can do to protect dogs from hot cars at ALDF.org/sunshade.



SAVING GRACIE | FROM PAGE 1

rehabilitate the remaining alpacas.

Just two years old, Gracie weighed only 35lbs at the time she was rescued—typically alpacas weigh 100-150lbs. She had been severely deprived of nutrition as a baby, and her growth was stunted as a result. Along with Gracie, 230 animals had been forced to share a mere three acres and suffered unimaginably.

“Nothing can prepare you for the things we witnessed,” said Shari. Gracie especially touched a chord with her. “Gracie broke my heart from the moment I first laid eyes on her. She had checked out and had the vacant stare animals get when they have given up. At one point she fell down and did not have the strength to stand again. I promised her I would do everything to get her out of there and protect her.”

The plight of alpacas in the U.S. is only recently coming to light. “Alpacas are wonderful and complex creatures, cat-like and affectionate,” says Shari. But they are often kept in atrocious conditions, like Gracie was, and forced into small pens, where they must fight over food and are exposed to disease.

Gracie has since made a full recovery, and she is even making friends at Shari’s rescue. And she has doubled in weight in just the last few months! Gracie palled around with her friend Iris, and later moved in with two small males, Puck and Dallas. You can see their adorable friendships and learn more about their story at ALDF.org/njaw.

“Nothing can prepare you for the things we witnessed. Gracie broke my heart from the moment I first laid eyes on her.”

— Shari Bond from Cross Creek Alpaca Rescue

AMERICA’S ANIMAL DEFENDERS

National Justice for Animals Week also celebrates the human heroes who fight to better protect animals. Like Oregon deputy district attorney Jake Kamins, who—thanks to ALDF’s support—has become the first-ever state-wide prosecutor solely dedicated to putting animal abusers behind bars where they belong. Jake successfully prosecuted Gracie’s legal case and secured a criminal conviction of Robert Silver, co-owner of the ranch that starved the alpacas. ALDF had previously helped close a loophole in Oregon state law to ensure prison time for convicted offenders in cruelty cases involving multiple animal victims like Gracie’s case. Silver was charged with two felony counts and 16 misdemeanor counts of animal neglect, and he was sentenced to three years in prison.

But Jake and Shari are not the only heroes for animals—National Justice for Animals Week 2015 also celebrates America’s “Top Ten Animal Defenders.” These heroes have gone above and beyond to protect animals. Sgt. Lindsay Herron, for example, an animal crimes investigator for the Minneapolis Police Department, has made a huge dent in shutting down dogfighting rings in that area, in addition to educating schoolchildren about safety with animals. Other heroes include former Illinois governor Pat Quinn, who repeatedly supported such strong animal protection laws he kept Illinois at the top spot of ALDF’s state rankings, year after year.

Thank you to all those heroes who fight to protect the lives and advance the interest of animals! And don’t forget to check out ALDF’s “LiveSafe” smartphone app, which enables you to report animal neglect and cruelty to local law enforcement with just a few clicks. Visit ALDF.org/livesafe for more information.



dles, and pitchforks, commonly used by circuses and other traveling shows to dominate and discipline elephants. In this industry, elephants are forcibly removed from their mothers as infants, spend most of their lives chained at venues, and are confined in cramped boxcars for up to 100 hours at a time while chained so tightly they can barely take a step in any direction. Independent veterinarians have found that nearly all elephants in circuses suffer from lameness, arthritis, and other painful symptoms associated with long hours standing on unnatural and unyielding surfaces. Elephants are confined under the constant threat of physical punishment and deprived of virtually everything natural to them.

During the Oakland hearing, Councilmember Noel Gallo, who introduced the ordinance with Councilmember Dan Kalb, noted that the city's new position is "a sign of our values." Mayor Schaaf, a councilmember and mayor-elect at the time, underscored that "this is the right thing to do" and said she was "proud Oakland is leading the way in this." Enforcement of the ban will begin in 2017.

ALDF congratulates Oakland on its decision to be a humane leader among municipal jurisdictions. "We look forward to seeing more localities across the country follow the examples set by Oakland and other jurisdictions," said Carney Anne Nasser, ALDF attorney and legislative counsel. "While banning bullhooks is an important step, people should never attend a show where animals are forced to perform."

Oakland has joined a rapidly growing list of localities—including Los Angeles, Miami Beach, Clatsop County, Oregon, Hallandale Beach, Florida, Margate, Florida, Fulton County, Georgia, and most recently Willowick, Ohio—that have banned the use of bullhooks and other cruel devices on animals.

For too long, elephants have received inadequate protection under the law. In fact, very few federal laws protect wild animals exhibited in circuses. The primary federal law, the Animal Welfare Act, is insufficient and often unenforced. Local laws are often the best way to protect animals in captivity. For example, San Francisco is currently considering a ban on the exhibition of exotic animals. ALDF is working hard to see that other jurisdictions follow this growing pattern and end the exploitation of exotic animals for human entertainment.



Food Fight Continues Over Foie Gras

What's the big deal with foie gras? It is the diseased liver of an animal who has suffered extreme cruelty—a high-priced "delicacy" that comes from force-feeding young ducks until their livers swell to eight or more times their natural size. That's why California's 2004 ban on the production and sale of foie gras was a landmark step forward for farmed animals.

Unfortunately, on January 7, 2015, a U.S. District Court overturned California's ban. That decision flies in the face of state law and ALDF's legal victories against the foie gras industry. But on February 4, Attorney General Kamala Harris appealed this ruling, and ALDF expects the ban will be reinstated.

ALDF applauds the Attorney General's decision to appeal. "We are confident the Ninth Circuit will correct the District Court's mistake," says ALDF Executive Director Stephen Wells. "In the meantime, ALDF will continue its work to eliminate this product of animal torture."

Take action! Sign ALDF's petition to the USDA to ban foie gras, at <https://www.causes.com/ban-foie-gras>.



LIBERATION BC

ALDF

170 E. COTATI AVE.
COTATI, CA 94931

ALDF.ORG

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit No. 3341

THE ANIMALS' ADVOCATE

2015



 CleanWatts
 Energy
CERTIFIED
Printed with 100% New Wind Energy

 printed on recycled paper



NO BULLHOOKS Banning cruel weapons used in circuses

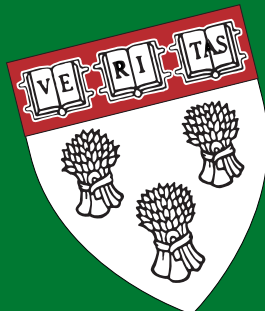
Animal advocates are celebrating some great news for elephants this spring. Ringling Brothers announced in March that elephants will no longer be a part of the circus. These large, gentle giants will be phased out of performances by 2018. The move comes after cities like Oakland, California, effectively banned the use of elephants in circuses within city limits by banning the use of firepoker-like “bullhooks.”

This winter, after hearing testimony from ALDF and other members of the public, the Oakland City Council passed a historic ban on the use of bullhooks and other cruel weapons circuses use to beat, jab, hook, and prod elephants into submission. An elephant’s skin is so sensitive she can feel a fly land on her back, which is why circus handlers use bullhooks on the most sensitive areas of an elephant’s body—behind the knees, behind the ears, and even inside the soft tissue of an elephant’s mouth—when forcing them to perform unnatural tricks.

ALDF has long called for a ban on bullhooks and weapons like baseball bats, axe han-

[READ MORE PAGE 7](#) ►

THE ANIMALS' ADVOCATE A NEWSLETTER FOR THE SUPPORTERS OF THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND



5

Harvard Law
Students Fight
for Animals



7

California's
Foie Gras
Food Fight