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Animal Law  
Summer School  
Is In Session



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How Safe  
Is Your State  
For Animals?



THE ANIMALS'

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# ADVOCATE



## Killed for Convenience

When “wildlife management” ignores animals and the environment

BY LAURA RAMOS | Communications Writer

The Animal Legal Defense Fund has always kept a close eye on wildlife law and policy. Too often, killing under the banner of “wildlife management”

receives inadequate scrutiny despite cruel and often unscientific practices and goals that have more to do with protecting private profit than maintaining healthy wildlife ecosystems. Among these dubious practices are killing contests held each year in states across the nation. Participants are motivated to kill as many of a species as possible, incentivized by various prizes for most animals killed, largest animal killed and even the smallest animal killed. In some contests, there are no age limits or license requirements for participants. With your support, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is fighting to protect animals from these blood sports

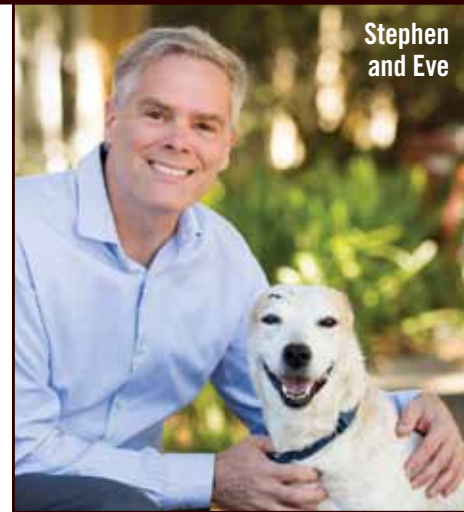
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*“Rather than crack down on animal abuse at factory farms, the [Idaho] Legislature took its cue directly from industry lobbyists: It sought to obstruct the type of undercover investigation that exposed the abuse in the first place.”*

— Erwin Chemerinsky, dean and professor at University of California, Irvine School of Law



**LETTER FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Stephen  
and Eve

# Food for Thought

Through social media and the news, we are constantly reminded of the nightmarish conditions animals raised for food must endure on modern factory farms. But cruelty to farmed animals is just one of the ways in which modern animal agriculture is harming animals. As the executive director of the Animal Legal Defense Fund I have a unique view of these issues and the way they are interconnected.

Ag-Gag laws, factory farm investigations and misleading use of “humane” or “natural” labels on products that are anything but—these issues are obviously closely associated with the production of animal products for consumption. But looking deeper, a substantial amount of law and policy that affects all parts of our lives is in place to protect the interests of factory farming. In this issue of the Animals’ Advocate, we touch on two of these issues. Wildlife killing contests are carnivals of carnage that masquerade as “wildlife management” designed to sacrifice native wildlife to protect private profit, often on public land. And even in times of severe drought in California, factory farms continue to use vast and unregulated amounts of scarce water even as people’s wells run dry and the public is asked to take shorter showers.

Everything is connected, and the food products we purchase are effectively votes for how we want legal policies shaped. For me personally, making the transition to a plant-based diet was a clear choice. And make no mistake that the Animal Legal Defense Fund will continue to push for stronger laws to protect animals, including farmed animals, and to ensure that existing laws are vigorously enforced.

For the animals,

Stephen Wells  
Executive Director



**Animal Legal  
Defense Fund**

**Stephen Wells**  
*Executive Director*

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# HONE YOUR LEGAL SKILLS

The Animal Legal Defense Fund Virtual Animal Law Summer School is in session



The Animal Legal Defense Fund is pleased to announce the launch of our first Virtual Animal Law Summer School in summer 2017! All are welcome to join us for three 60-minute tutorials provided by leading experts on three cutting-edge topics in animal law: Ag-Gag laws, puppy mills and captive wildlife. As the field of animal law continues to rapidly grow, the Virtual Animal Law Summer School will provide a new opportunity to hone your skills and gain knowledge about important issues currently facing animals in the legal system.

The tutorials are suitable for current and future students, attorneys, legal professionals, animal advocates and anyone interested in animal law. Exact dates are TBD, but there will be one per month during the summer. Stay tuned! If you haven't already, sign up for the Animal Legal Defense Fund's e-mail newsletter to be sure you don't miss the dates: [aldf.org/signup](http://aldf.org/signup).

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*NOTE: The virtual summer school does not provide school credit but gives students a unique extracurricular opportunity to stay engaged with animal law issues over the summer.*

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On Jan. 6, 2017, Tilikum the orca died at age 36. He was kidnapped from the wild in 1983 and sold to SeaWorld in 1991. He made headlines throughout his life, having been tied to three human deaths, most recently that of his trainer. The documentary "Blackfish" drew more attention to his tragic life and added new voices to the Animal Legal Defense Fund's call for SeaWorld to change its way. Our immense legal pressure on SeaWorld helped contribute to the company's historic decision to phase out its inhumane captive orca program. We won't stop until all orcas are safe from the misery Tilikum suffered. You can help us save Lolita, another orca suffering in captivity. Visit [aldf.org/Lolita](http://aldf.org/Lolita).



**Rest In Peace,  
Tilikum**



**KILLED FOR CONVENIENCE | FROM PAGE 1**

that take place every year.

One species frequently targeted by killing contests is the coyote. With their extraordinary vocalizations and impressive intelligence, it's no wonder coyotes have a rich history in North America and deep roots in the folklore of the continent's native peoples. They are known as "America's Song Dog" and a treasure of our native landscape—but the species is at the center of the tension between wildlife and human demands on the environment.

In most states, there are few limitations on killing coyotes. Dozens of contests are held each year, treating complex creatures as targets to be killed for sport. Pregnant coyotes are killed, pups are orphaned and packs are disrupted and displaced.

**Dozens of contests are held each year, treating complex creatures as targets to be killed for sport**

In 2016 we reached a settlement with the organizer of an annual coyote killing contest in Kansas, marking the first time one of the state's killing contests was stopped. Early in 2017, we filed a complaint on behalf of a Wyoming resident in an effort to stop another coyote killing contest. We have tirelessly taken on these cruel, bloody events, and it's your support that allows us to continue.

While we work to put an end to these contests, their supporters cling to the notion that this blood sport is a necessary part of population management. In reality, it's reckless. Without adults to help them acquire food, pups are forced to prey on livestock. Furthermore, reducing coyote numbers also throws the rest of the ecosystem off balance, altering relationships between other species. Coyote populations almost always rebound when remaining individuals have extra-large litters to make up for the pack's losses. Killing contests create the very concerns they claim to control.

Coyotes' treatment is an example of



“wildlife management” being driven by private profit and unchecked human sprawl rather than sound science. The coyote is supremely adaptable to different environments and is forced to live closer and closer to humans as we destroy habitats. Because they can survive these changes (unlike the many species humankind drives to extinction each year), the species is punished through mass killings simply because it’s easier than changing the way we use land or implementing nonlethal management methods.

We must learn to peacefully coexist with wildlife and respect the essential roles of predators, like coyotes, in healthy ecosystems. Now more than ever, as we see humankind’s impact on global climate, it’s vital that we make radical changes to the way we interact with animals and the environment. When you support the Animal Legal Defense Fund, you make it possible for us to work toward a world where wildlife management respects wild animals rather than eliminates them.

# SAVE THE RAYS!

## Killing contests now endanger marine life

With you by our side, we continue to fight wildlife killing contests. Not just those targeting coyotes, but other species as well, including the gentle and vulnerable cownose ray — relatives of sharks who migrate every year from the waters off Florida to birth their young and breed anew in the Chesapeake Bay.

Each year in Maryland the rays are met by contest participants who use bows and arrows to shoot the rays from boats and afterward club the still-living fish in the head. It’s inhumane and indefensible.

Contest supporters have levied several weak justifications that science has debunked, and since cownose rays are native to the Chesapeake Bay, their unregulated slaughter threatens the struggling ecosystem. As part of a coalition called Save the Rays, we are hard at work to pass legislation in Maryland that will put an end to this shameful hunt.



# EVENTSEVENTSEVENTS



## ANIMAL LAW SYMPOSIUM

Wildlife Rights & Protection in the 21st Century

MAY 20, 2017 LOS ANGELES, CA

Held at the historic Millennium Biltmore Hotel, this year's symposium will examine one of the most pressing issues in animal law today—how can we best protect wild animals when human activity increasingly runs counter to the interests of wildlife? The event will bring together animal law attorneys, prosecutors, activists and wildlife experts to discuss the current challenges wild animals face and possible new approaches to helping them. You can register online at [www.animallawsymposium.org](http://www.animallawsymposium.org).



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## Save the Date: 25th Annual ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE

OCT. 13-15, 2017 PORTLAND, OR

The 25th anniversary of the Animal Law Conference, co-presented by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Center for Animal Law Studies and the Lewis & Clark Law School SALDF, will take place in Portland, Oregon. General registration opens on June 1, 2017, with pre-registration for SALDF chapter members opening on May 15. You can find out more information on the event at [www.animallawconference.org](http://www.animallawconference.org).

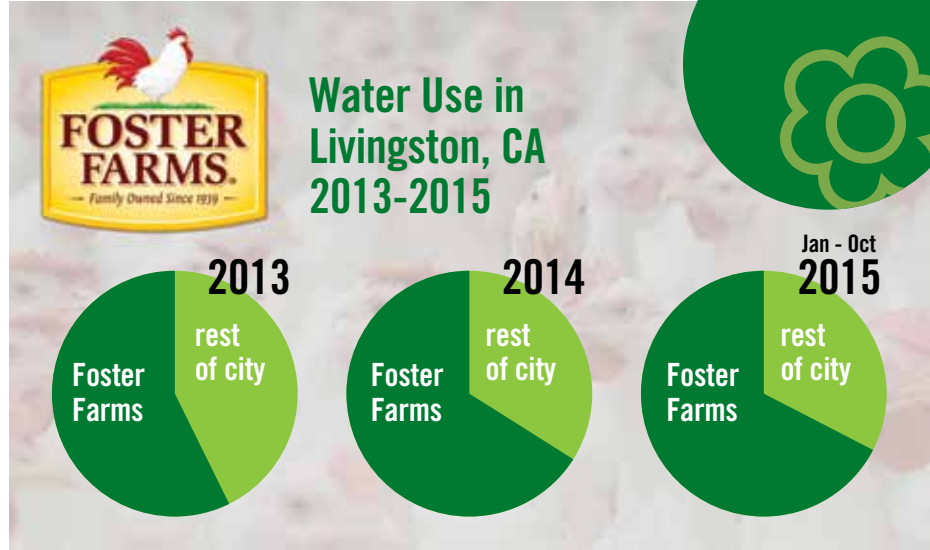
## THANK YOU!

The Animal Legal Defense Fund thanks the sponsors of Cruise for a Cause: Making Waves for Animals. The night was a huge success for animals thanks to: An anonymous Platinum Sponsorship donor who contributed in honor of Lolita the orca, Ms. Cynthia Starkovsky's Gold Sponsorship and Tatiana Frietas' Silver Sponsorship.



# Exploiting Animals, Exploiting Natural Resources

Our lawsuit against the city of Livingston, California for refusing to turn over the water usage records for Foster Farms—a chicken slaughter and processing plant—ended with a settlement. The city paid our attorney fees and promptly gave us the full records from 2013 – 2015. As displayed in the graphs to the right, even in times of drought, Foster Farms consumed two thirds of the city’s water—which increases each year. Residents are saddled with restrictions, while the largest consumer goes essentially unregulated.



## Getting Noticed: Pamela Hart



The Animal Legal Defense Fund’s Director of Animal Law Program Pamela D. Hart was named one of Brava Magazine’s Women to Watch in 2017. Hart was the first person to teach an Animal Law course at the University of Chicago Law School as well as her alma

mater, University of Wisconsin Law School. Her work supports the next generation of animal lawyers by collaborating with students, faculty and school administrations to develop animal law courses and form Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) chapters.

HILLARY SCHAVE



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**THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER**  
for a car to be too hot!

Remind others not to leave dogs in unattended vehicles with an Animal Legal Defense Fund ‘Don’t Leave Dogs in Hot Cars’ Sunshade, just \$20.



Order Yours Today at: [aldf.org/hotcars](http://aldf.org/hotcars)

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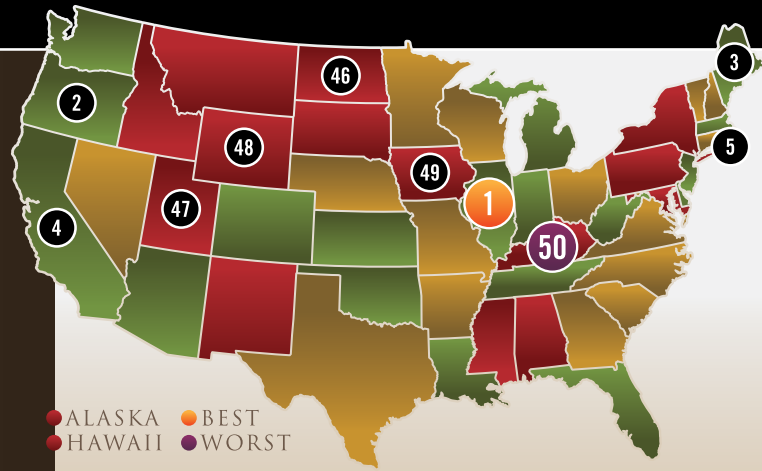
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# UNITED STATES ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS 2016 RANKINGS

The Animal Legal Defense Fund issued our 11th annual report of the best and worst states in the country when it comes to animal protection laws. In 2016 Illinois held on to the top spot for the ninth year in a row while Kentucky remained at the bottom, where it has been for a decade. Wisconsin was the most improved state in 2016, jumping 14 places in rank, and Rhode Island made its way to the top five with improvements like increasing penalties to those who injure an animal with malicious intent. Find out where your state ranks at [www.aldf.org/compendium](http://www.aldf.org/compendium).



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



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Continuing to  
Fight for  
Farmed Animals



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Saving Rays  
From Hunting  
Contests