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Records of Infant Monkey Experiments Are Made Public



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Citizens Demand That Cat Killer Face Charges



THE ANIMALS'

VOLUME 37 | ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2018

ADVOCATE



Not All States Are Equal

Our annual State Rankings Report demonstrates both progress and problems in our state laws

BY LAURA RAMOS | Communications Writer

The rankings are in! Each year the Animal Legal Defense Fund reviews animal protection laws across the

country and ranks each state from the best to worst states for animals. Our annual Rankings Report is a critical tool for everyone working to improve the situation for animals because state and local laws – not federal laws – are the main source of legal protections for animals. We monitor these laws to help target our advocacy, identify trends, and bring you the best information possible.

In our 2017 rankings, Illinois held onto its no. 1 spot for the 10th year in a row – followed by Oregon (2), California (3), Maine (4), and Rhode Island (5). Kentucky has the dubious honor of coming in dead last at no. 50

[READ MORE PAGE 4](#) ►

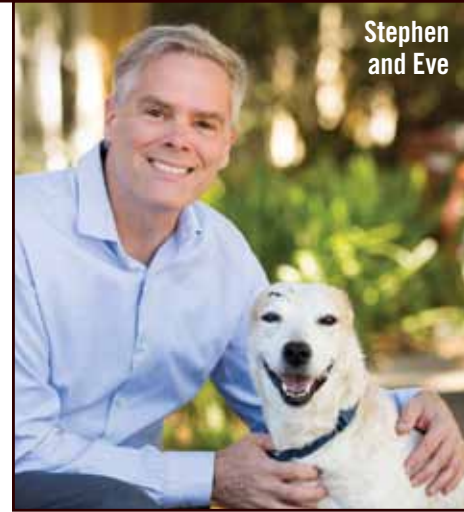
“I think the public has made the decision that going and seeing the performance of orcas, that day has come and gone.”

— Jared Moskowitz, Florida State Representative
who introduced The Florida Protection Act HB 1305



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**LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**Stephen
and Eve**

Enough Is Enough

Sometimes the most important stories to share are the most difficult. Bella, an 11-year-old Shepherd-Lab mix, was mercilessly beaten on Long Island a year and a half ago. Her abuser tightened a zip tie around her neck, put her in a garbage bag, and beat her with a shovel. Due to the extent of her injuries, Bella had to be euthanized. Despite the viciousness of this crime, her abuser received just four months in jail. In New York, the maximum penalty for felony animal abuse is only two years.

Enough is enough. I know you share my belief that when it comes to animal abuse, the punishment should fit the crime. Bella, and all animals deserve justice. That’s why the Animal Legal Defense Fund is committed to strengthening anti-cruelty laws across the country. And it’s why we release a report ranking every state’s animal protection laws annually. The 2017 Rankings Report, the longest-running and most comprehensive report of its kind, is more than just a document. A state’s ranking can galvanize legislators and voters alike to strive to do better. I was happy to see Pennsylvania governor Tom Wolf proudly share on social media that Pennsylvania received “most-improved,” climbing 20 places to number 24.



Bella

Bella is just one example of the millions of animals who need better legal protections. In this issue, you’ll find ways to take action to improve the anti-cruelty laws in your own state along with ideas for increasing awareness of crimes against animals.

Every year, you answer the call and speak out for animals by sending messages to your legislators urging them to support stronger anti-cruelty laws, signing petitions, and generously supporting the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s work. Together we’re working toward a better future for animals.

For the animals,

**Stephen Wells
Executive Director**



**Animal Legal
Defense Fund**

**Stephen Wells
Executive Director**

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A TRIO OF VICTORIES

Over the last few months, we've had much to be grateful for. Some highlights include our groundbreaking win in the Idaho Ag-Gag case, the rescue of 25 animals from an ice cream shop in Pennsylvania, and the release of crucial records from the University of Wisconsin regarding the use of baby monkeys in animal research.

SETTING AN AG-GAG PRECEDENT

In January, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit struck down key parts of the Idaho Ag-Gag law as unconstitutional. Ag-Gag laws punish people for recording animal cruelty at factory farms and slaughterhouses. In 2014, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, leading a coalition of public interest groups, filed a lawsuit against Idaho for suppressing free speech through its Ag-Gag law. Exposing animal suffering and cruelty should never be a crime. Your generous support has made it possible to challenge these unconstitutional laws—and thanks to you, we won a similar victory in Utah and have pending litigation in Iowa and North Carolina.



TWENTY-FIVE ANIMALS RESCUED

Two years ago, we fought to have Ricki, a black bear, removed from deplorable conditions at Jim Mack's Ice Cream shop in Pennsylvania. We were successful, and Ricki now lives comfortably at the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado. As part of the settlement agreement, the owner of the ice cream shop agreed not to acquire any more wild animals. But in 2017 the shop violated the agreement, as well as Pennsylvania state law by keeping animals in inhumane conditions. We intervened and rescued all 25 animals, including alpacas, a llama, emus, peacocks, rabbits, chickens, goats, and a goose.



ANIMAL RESEARCH RECORDS RELEASED

We secured and are currently reviewing critical records regarding taxpayer-funded experiments on infant monkeys at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. These cruel experiments involve frightening the baby monkeys with threatening human strangers and snakes. After the university refused to disclose certain records, the Animal Legal Defense Fund sued. The Wisconsin 4th District Court of Appeals agreed, ruling that the public has the right to information about how animals are used in taxpayer-funded experiments.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund will now review the committee's records to determine whether the IACUC wrongly approved experiments that cause acute suffering with minimal benefits for human health.



UNITED STATES

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS

2017 RANKINGS



NOT ALL STATES ARE EQUAL | FROM PAGE 1

for the 11th year in a row. The lowest ranking states include Iowa (49), Wyoming (48), Utah (47), and North Dakota (46). This year Pennsylvania is the most improved, jumping an impressive 20 slots up to no. 24, thanks to major improvements like a new felony provision for first-time offenders of aggravated animal cruelty.

The 2017 Rankings Report is proof that our work is changing the country. You've helped us ring the alarm bells nationwide about the tragedy of dogs being left to die in hot cars, and we are seeing the results. More and more states are granting civil immunity for removing animals from hot vehicles, so that the heroes who rescue animals from vehicles in emergency situations are not

then faced with lawsuits from owners. This year Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Oregon all enacted these "reckless endangerment" provisions.

Even in states with consistently high rankings, we highlight areas for potential improvements so that citizens know where their laws can do more for animals. Some of the improvements we'd like to see in most states are more felony provisions for neglect, and a robust set of laws acknowledging the link between animal cruelty and violence toward humans, for example, including animals in domestic violence protective orders, and increasing penalties for animal cruelty offenders with prior domestic violence offenses.

The Rankings Report is the longest-running and most authoritative report of its kind, and we couldn't maintain this important project without your support. View your state's report—and the complete report at aldf.org/compendium.

The Rankings Report is the longest-running, most authoritative report of its kind.

Cruise for a Cause

The Animal Legal Defense Fund celebrates our victories while cruising the Pacific

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On Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 the Animal Legal Defense Fund hosted our second annual Cruise for a Cause. Executive Director Stephen Wells and Founder Joyce Tischler recounted all of our victories for animals over the past year, discussed our plans for 2018, and enjoyed the company of fellow animal advocates — all against the beautiful backdrop of Marina del Rey. Thanks to the top-notch emcee skills of our longtime friend and award-winning actor and comedian Stephen Sorrentino, the evening was a huge success! Fighting for animals day in and day out is challenging work, so we are extremely grateful to everyone who joined us to take a moment to celebrate everything the Animal Legal Defense Fund has accomplished.

A special thank you to Beyond Meat for donating menu items and the following companies and individuals who provided items for the silent auction:

- Alexis Ramos
- Beyond Meat
- Casa Barranca Organic Winery & Tasting Room
- Claremont Club & Spa, A Fairmont Hotel
- Colourpop Cosmetics
- Core Response Pilates & Wellness

- Cowhugger Vegan Boutique
- Daiya Foods
- Fox Studios
- Healthy Spot
- Infinium Spirits
- Jackson Galaxy
- Jill Milan
- Joe Weatherly
- Loco Lindo
- Madeline Davis
- Meaningful Paws
- Michelle & Larry Kownacki
- Moby
- Pet Food Express
- Polly Osborne
- Stephen Wells
- The Herbivore Clothing Company
- Tobi J. Chinski
- The Tofurky Company
- V-dog
- Westside Dogs LA



Joyce Tischler, Stephen Sorrentino, Stephen Wells, and the terrific food on last year's Cruise for a Cause.



SAVE THE DATE

26th Annual ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE

OCT. 12-14, 2018 CHICAGO, IL

The 26th anniversary of the Animal Law Conference, co-presented by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School, and the Lewis & Clark Law School Student Animal Legal Defense Fund chapter, will take place in Chicago, Illinois this year. More information at www.animallawconference.org.

Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Member

Pre-Registration: Opens May 15

General Registration: Opens June 1



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2nd Annual ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND STUDENT CONVENTION

OCT. 12, 2018 CHICAGO, IL

The 2nd Annual Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Convention will provide an opportunity for students to meet and receive career advice from leaders in the animal law field. Students will also have a chance to meet and network with Student Animal Legal Defense Fund chapter members from different schools across the country. This free event is for students only. More information at aldf.org/studentconvention

Free Registration for Law Students: Opens May 15

The 2017 Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Convention





Stormy, Willow, and their foals

Winning the Case Against Cruelty

Catch up on some of the latest news in our work for stronger enforcement of anti-cruelty laws

WILLOW & STORMY RUN FREE

Willow & Stormy were severely neglected, and both were pregnant and malnourished when law enforcement found them. They were lucky to just survive, but today Willow & Stormy are thriving. And their foals are, too! The prosecutor handling the case contacted us, and we provided support to ensure that key witnesses were available to testify in this important case. Now, the person who abused these horses is behind bars. We honored Willow & Stormy by naming them this year's mascots for the Animal Legal Defense Fund's National Justice for Animals Week.

TRACKING CRUELTY NATIONWIDE

Until 2016, the FBI's crime statistics

database, the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), did not even track animal crimes as their own category. For many years, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and the National Sheriffs' Association lobbied for change. When the FBI announced plans to track and report more detailed information on animal crimes in the NIBRS, we knew it was a huge step forward for animals. The first batch of data has recently been released and we're reviewing it closely. We're still pushing for improved reporting, but we're also celebrating this opportunity to analyze detailed information about animal crimes across the country.

You can read more news on our recent cases at aldf.org/press-room.

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Our Legacy of Love Program has reached capacity and is now closed. We are not accepting new applications. Donors currently enrolled in the program must send us a copy of their will and enrollment forms within the next 30 days. If we do not receive these materials, we will be unable to hold your spot in the program. This change is to ensure we can provide the best possible care for animals enrolled in Legacy of Love. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the program administrator at (707) 795-2533 x1046 or dthompson@aldf.org.

**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND**

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Citizens for Jay

We stand with advocates in Washington to secure justice for Jay, a family cat who was beaten, stabbed, and thrown off a balcony before he died. The county prosecutor declined to press charges, but we won't give up on getting Jay his day in court. We are supporting a group of concerned citizens who are seeking justice on Jay's behalf, and we recently submitted an amicus ("friend of the court") brief backing up their arguments in court. As a victim of cruelty, Jay deserves justice, and his killers should be held accountable for their cruelty.



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



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Bella Inspires
Commitment
to Stronger Laws



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Willow Thrives
While Abuser
Is Behind Bars