



ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

STUDENT CHAPTERS

Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter Sample By-Laws

Important Note: *These sample by-laws are meant to be used as a template. Feel free to modify them to suit your chapter's or law school's requirements (or write your own).*

Any requirements that need to be included are noted in the [Student Chapter Requirements](#) and are in red below.

Article One. Name.

(The Animal Legal Defense Fund requires that affiliated student chapters use "Animal Legal Defense Fund" in the chapter name. You may incorporate your school name in the chapter name, i.e., Lewis & Clark Law School Animal Legal Defense Fund, or Animal Legal Defense Fund - Lewis & Clark Chapter.)

The name of this organization shall be Animal Legal Defense Fund [school name] Chapter.

OR

The name of this organization shall be [school name] Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Article Two. Purpose.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law. *(This paragraph meets the required element. The following paragraph is an example of some other elements chapters have added to their purpose statement.)*

The Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter is dedicated to the goals of educating the law school and surrounding community about institutionalized animal abuse, and engaging in initiatives to combat that abuse. The activities of the student chapter shall include, but not be limited to: hosting speakers, debates, and conferences on current issues in animal law; carrying out research projects for attorneys and organizations promoting animal protection; networking with students, legal professionals, and animal advocates; conducting educational events such as information tables and film screenings; volunteering at animal sanctuaries; supporting local activists; participating in Animal Legal Defense Fund's weeks of action; and advocating for plant-based (vegan) food at their law school.

Article Three. Criteria for Membership.

Membership in the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter shall be open to all students currently enrolled in [school name]. The chapter does not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or any other adverse action based on any legally protected characteristic, including but not limited to race, ancestry, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy/childbirth, political affiliation, disability or medical condition, military /veteran status, genetic information, or age. [Individual membership](#) in the Animal Legal Defense Fund is encouraged but not required for all student chapter members.

Article Four. Officers.

(In this section you can designate titles and roles for officers, if any, of your student chapter. You may also wish to add a list of each officer's duties within the group. The only requirement for student chapter membership in this regard is that there always be a designated contact person responsible for communicating with the Animal Legal Defense Fund.)

The officers of the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter shall be [officer titles]. **The [officer title] will be responsible for communicating with the designated contact person at the Animal Legal Defense Fund.** Qualifications for persons who are eligible to serve as officers of the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter are as follows:

- registration as a student at [school name],
- membership in the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter,
- attendance at a minimum of two student chapter meetings,
- agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of the student chapter,
- and to comply with the mission and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

In the event that an officer, for whatever reason, expected or unexpected, is unable to continue in the capacity of their office, the vacated office shall be filled within two weeks.

Article Five. Elections.

Officers shall be elected each school year by a majority vote of the membership of the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter, shall serve a term of one year, and may be reelected. In the event that no candidate attracts the requisite number of votes for election, a run-off shall be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes.

Students interested in serving as officers shall inform the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter no later than one week prior to the election. In electing officers, each member shall have one vote.

Article Six. Meetings.

Regular meetings of the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter shall be held at least once each semester. Decisions at meetings shall be made by a majority of the members, with every present party agreeing to, dissenting to, or abstaining from every action there decided. A necessary quorum for all decisions shall be at least 51% of all members present at the meeting and must include at least one officer.

Special meetings of the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter may be called by any number of members, who shall inform the [officer title] or the entire membership at least one week prior to the date of the proposed meeting.

Article Seven. Affiliation with the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

(This is a required element of the by-laws. Animal Legal Defense Fund's intention is to ensure that affiliated student chapters are acting in the interests of protecting animals, that organizational activities are consistent with Animal Legal Defense Fund's mission, and that Animal Legal Defense Fund is not directly or indirectly involved in any litigation initiated by a student chapter, or implicated in any policy positions taken, that have not been specifically endorsed/approved by Animal Legal Defense Fund. It is not our intention to burden student chapters with restrictions, but to strike a balance between flexibility for chapters to engage with the animal protection issues they are interested in and protecting Animal Legal Defense Fund's name and brand. We encourage questions and feedback from students about this as the relationship between Animal Legal Defense Fund and its student chapters is important to us.)

Activities of the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter shall at all times be consistent with the mission of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. All public policy positions taken by the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter shall be consistent with the Animal Legal Defense Fund's mission: "to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals."

The Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter will strive for food served at its events to be 100% plant-based (vegan) as this is in line with Animal Legal Defense Fund's mission to protect the lives of animals. (We don't eat our clients!) This is consistent with the [project grant requirement](#) that any food funded by Animal Legal Defense Fund must be plant-based.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter will not purport to speak for Animal Legal Defense Fund or commit it to any position on any matter of public policy or law on behalf of Animal Legal Defense Fund without Animal Legal Defense Fund's prior written consent. No litigation will be initiated, endorsed, or supported in the name of the Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter, without prior written approval of Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Article Eight. Amendments.

Any two current Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter members shall be entitled to propose amendments. Proposed amendments shall be consistent with these by-laws, and shall

be communicated to the Animal Legal Defense Fund and all current student chapter officers, who shall schedule a meeting for the purpose of approving these amendments. Amendments can also be approved via email or online poll. If the date of submission of these amendments is near the date of a regular meeting, then no additional meeting needs to be scheduled. A two-thirds majority of all chapter members must vote on any amendments to this constitution.