The Animals’ Advocate

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New Look, Same Mission

Our mission will never change, but every few years we evaluate how we present ourselves to you, our donors and supporters, and to our ever-expanding audience of animal lovers and advocates.
I’m excited to debut our new logo — and new newsletter design.

This streamlined, modern re-imagining of our classic shield-of-protection logo reflects the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s incredible growth over the past four decades. From the beginning, we’ve always been about change. When the Animal Legal Defense Fund was founded “animal law” didn’t even exist. Today, we’re at the forefront of this rapidly growing field of law, reaching new generations of attorneys, judges, and law students dedicating their careers to fighting for animals’ legal rights. No matter our logo, we’ll always be the same organization you trust to fight for justice for animals.

I love our old logo. It will always be special to me and affiliated with the countless victories we secured for animals under its banner. But all organizations must periodically update their designs. It’s like putting a fresh coat of paint on the walls. In fact, our logo has evolved several times over the years, but we never make the decision to change lightly. We’re confident it will communicate our mission to a wider audience than ever before, allowing us to protect even more animals. And that’s what really matters. The Animal Legal Defense Fund’s commitment to our mission — to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system — will never waver.

I hope you love our new design as much as I do. And thank you so much for making our work possible with your support.

For the animals,

Stephen Wells
Executive Director
Justice is the survivor of severe neglect, and he is suing his abuser for the cost of his current and future medical care. Justice is also a horse. The Animal Legal Defense Fund represents Justice in this groundbreaking court case, which asserts animals’ legal right to be a party to a lawsuit.

When Justice was rescued, he was emaciated and suffering from frostbite, rain rot, and lice. He was so malnourished that his rescuers thought he might not survive. The woman who abused Justice pleaded guilty to criminal animal neglect and relinquished him to Sound Equine Options, a rescue organization specializing in horses in Oregon.

Today Justice is 8 years old and getting better every day thanks to a dedicated team of caretakers, veterinarians, and behavioral therapists. But the neglect inflicted permanent injuries that he will live with for the rest of his life. He requires ongoing, expensive specialized medical care — and due to his injuries, he may require surgery in the future.

Justice’s lawsuit, brought by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, argues that because his abuser violated Justice’s right to be free from cruelty, Justice is entitled to sue to recover damages not only for his medical care but also for his physical and psychological suffering. The award would then go into a trust that has been established to help pay for his care.

“This groundbreaking court case asserts animals’ legal right to be a party to a lawsuit.”

It’s easy to forget that animals are still classified as “property” in the United States, and most countries’, legal systems. Science, and common sense, demonstrate that a cat is not a chair – most of us don’t worry about our furniture when
we go on vacation. Animals, including Justice, have complex inner lives – they form strong social and familial bonds and have unique fears, likes, and dislikes. Yet in many ways our laws still regard animals like Justice as though they were things, rather than living beings with inherent rights and interests of their own.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund’s lawsuit on Justice’s behalf, if successful, will be the first to establish that animals have a legal right to sue their abusers in court, substantially advancing the interests of animals in the legal system. Justice is more than a victim of abuse; he is an individual with a better future to look forward to, thanks to legal intervention. With your support, we’re fighting to ensure those guilty of abusing animals have a responsibility to pay restitution to their victims, so animals like Justice can recover and be provided a second chance. Learn more about Justice and our groundbreaking lawsuit at aldf.org/justice.

Upon rescue, Justice was emaciated and suffering from frostbite, rain rot, and lice.

DONOR STORY
After reading about the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Diane realized that supporting animal rescue organizations was not enough.

“I wanted to make sure we were giving to an organization that would attack the problem of animal abuse where it was needed: in our legal system. We must have the laws to hold animal abusers accountable for their actions. We must have an organization dedicated with legal teams to enforce these laws.”

Diane Weinberger, Washington

Diane and her husband have been members of our Partners in Protection monthly giving program since 2013. Join now at aldf.org/partner.

Diane and Sabre the 10-year-old Alaskan Malamute/shepherd mix (courtesy of Diane Weinberger)
In a precedent setting decision, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals held that an Iowa roadside zoo’s inhumane captivity of endangered animals violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Animal Legal Defense Fund originally sued Cricket Hollow Zoo in 2014 for providing substandard care for four tigers and three lemurs. In April, a three-judge panel unanimously affirmed the district court’s 2016 ruling that Cricket Hollow Zoo violated the ESA. The Eighth Circuit’s ruling puts roadside zoos, circuses, and private owners on notice that they can no longer ignore endangered animals’ unique biological and psychological needs. Read more online: aldf.org/ESA

Putting the Precedent to Work

The Animal Legal Defense Fund sent a 60-day notice letter, warning Deer Haven Mini Zoo in Keymar, Maryland of its intent to sue the substandard roadside zoo for violating the Endangered Species Act and state animal cruelty statutes. The USDA has cited Deer Haven for dozens of violations of the Animal Welfare Act, including failing to provide food, shelter, and adequate veterinary care for the animals. Read more online: aldf.org/deerhaven

One of four tigers rescued, thanks to the endangered species lawsuit against Cricket Hollow Zoo.

One of the two ring tailed lemurs at Deer Haven Mini Zoo. (credit: Jason Putsche Photography)
**Florida: Proposition 13**

The Animal Legal Defense Fund and Grey2K collaborated to successfully secure a proposition on Florida’s November 2018 ballot that would ban greyhound dog racing in the state. Greyhound racing is a cruel and exploitive practice that has already been outlawed in 39 states. Read more online: aldf.org/greyhound

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**Trader Joe’s Changes Cage-Free Packaging After Lawsuit**

Thanks to a false advertising lawsuit filed by the Animal Legal Defense Fund against national grocery chain Trader Joe’s for deceptively labeling the eggs it sells, the company has agreed to remove misleading idyllic images of chickens in green pastures from their cage-free egg containers. It’s important for consumers to realize that ‘cage-free’ doesn’t mean ‘cruelty-free.’ The overwhelming majority of cage-free eggs sold in stores come from hens confined to crowded industrial sheds with extremely limited outdoor access, if any. Most spend their entire lives indoors without every experiencing fresh air or sunlight. Read more online: aldf.org/TraderJoes

Eighty percent (80%) of respondents to a survey said they want good living conditions for animals raised for food. 
Source: Consumer Reports
The Animal Legal Defense Fund has been ranked in Nonprofit Times’ Best Nonprofits to Work For: Top 50 for the fourth time. The award affirms our commitment to our exceptionally talented professional staff, fostering a team-oriented environment that allows them to excel at creating tangible legal change for animals.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is honored to receive a James Madison Freedom of Information Award — which honors those holding the government accountable to the public — from the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for our successful lawsuits overturning state Ag-Gag laws.

These laws “gag” would-be whistleblowers and undercover activists by punishing them for recording footage of animal suffering at factory farms.

Thanks to our dedication to transparency and commitment to using your donations wisely, we are proud to announce our 2018 Charity Navigator rating of 4-stars and 2018 Platinum status with GuideStar, their highest possible ratings.

Register

The 26th Annual Animal Law Conference
October 12 – 14, 2018  |  Chicago, Illinois
animallawconference.org

2nd Annual Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Convention
October 12, 2018  |  Chicago, Illinois
This free event is for students only.
aldf.org/studentconvention