

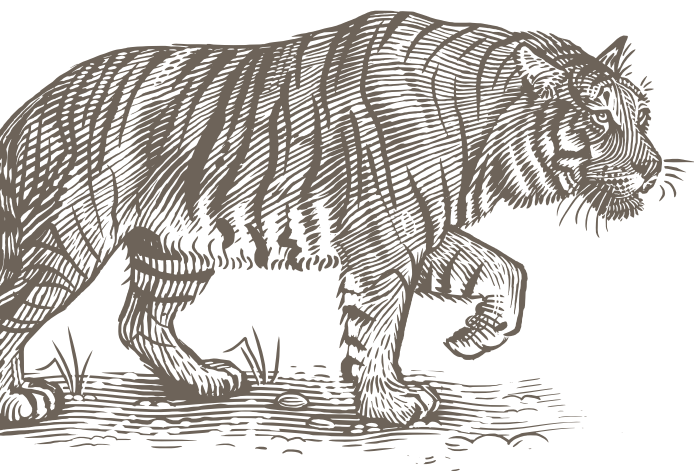


The Animals' Advocate

FEATURE

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40 Years of Fighting for Animals Through the Legal System.



**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND** EST
1979



I've been lucky to share my home, and my life, with animals. As I write this letter, one of my cats, Rumor, is napping on my desk, while Ocho is in my lap purring and making it difficult to type. They are two of the many animals I've had the honor to call family.

Ocho and Rumor have their own unique personalities. Ocho is everybody's buddy, while Rumor approaches the world more cautiously. Each is an individual like all animals. And just like us, they experience pleasure and pain, joy and sorrow. This is as true for wildlife, farmed animals, captive animals, and animals used in research, as it is for companion animals who live in our homes.

Unfortunately, the law doesn't see animals that way. Animals are treated as property under the law — as things — more like toasters than individual living beings. This is a major problem because it means animals are often deprived of meaningful legal protections.

For four decades, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has challenged this legal paradigm through litigation, legislation, and our work in the nation's law schools. Meanwhile, we make sure existing animal protection laws are effective and vigorously enforced.

**We're making a difference in the lives of animals every day.
Thank you for your support.**

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For the animals,

Stephen Wells
Executive Director



Animals' Legal Status

Animals Are Individuals, Not Things.

BY ARIN GREENWOOD | SENIOR WRITER

Tony the tiger was undeniably an individual. But the federal agency charged with protecting him didn't see him that way, and it had tragic consequences. The Animal Legal Defense Fund is fighting with every tool we have for changes in the law so that animals will enjoy a legal status that matches who they are and what they deserve, as living, feeling beings. That way Tony's tragic end may help pave the way for other animals to survive and thrive.

Tony also attracted the attention of animal advocates. The Animal Legal Defense Fund fought for seven years to have Tony moved to a reputable sanctuary, filing multiple lawsuits on his behalf — and our fight for Tony continues, to help other animals be recognized as individuals.

In early 2017, we heard that Tony's health was declining and quickly requested the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspect Tony under the

Tony was a Bengal-Siberian tiger who lived for 17 years in a small cage at a Louisiana truck stop. He'd been brought to the Tiger Truck Stop in Grosse Tete at six months old and was there until he died in October 2017 — an attraction for customers to gawk at, while they purchased gas and food.



Animal Welfare Act. We then submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the inspection report and asked for expedited processing — required under FOIA when delay in providing records “could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual.”

The USDA denied our request because the agency considers only humans to be “individuals.” We challenged the denial but Tony died before we received the results.

Unfortunately, in significant ways Tony's case is not unique, and that's a big problem. The law by and large considers animals as “property” — the same in many respects as a table or chair. Because of this, animals often lack meaningful legal protections. We sued the USDA, challenging its narrow interpretation of “individual,” arguing that the term includes nonhuman animals whose life or physical safety is at risk. The case is currently pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Thanks to the tireless work of animal advocates, including the Animal Legal Defense Fund, there's been some very important progress. For instance, California, Illinois, and Alaska now have laws requiring courts to take companion animals' well-being into account in cases involving their custody. In Oregon, the state Supreme Court has issued groundbreaking decisions ruling that animals are to be treated as more than mere things under the law — like a 2016 ruling holding that when a dog was suspected of being abused, the dog's blood could be drawn without a warrant for investigative purposes; for a mere “thing,” a warrant would be required. The Animal Legal Defense Fund filed an amicus brief on the winning side of that case.

We recently filed an amicus brief in a case involving animal fighting, in which we argued that roosters forced to fight be considered “vulnerable victims” under the law. Not just property, not inanimate things — but victims of a crime.

We fight so animals like Tony have a chance to survive.

There's a long way to go until the law fully recognizes animals for what they are: individuals, not property. Beings, not things. We won't stop working to get there, and every step forward counts.

Read more online at aldf.org/status.



Kansas Ag-Gag Law Challenged

Ag-Gag laws criminalize whistleblowing in agricultural facilities, making it illegal to take photos or videos in slaughterhouses and factory farms. The goal of these unconstitutional laws is to prevent the public from finding out about the cruel treatment billions of farmed animals endure every year in the United States.

We've won lawsuits to strike down key provisions of Ag-Gag laws in Idaho, Utah, and most recently, Iowa. The Animal Legal Defense Fund is now taking on Kansas. In December, we filed a lawsuit arguing the law violates the First Amendment.



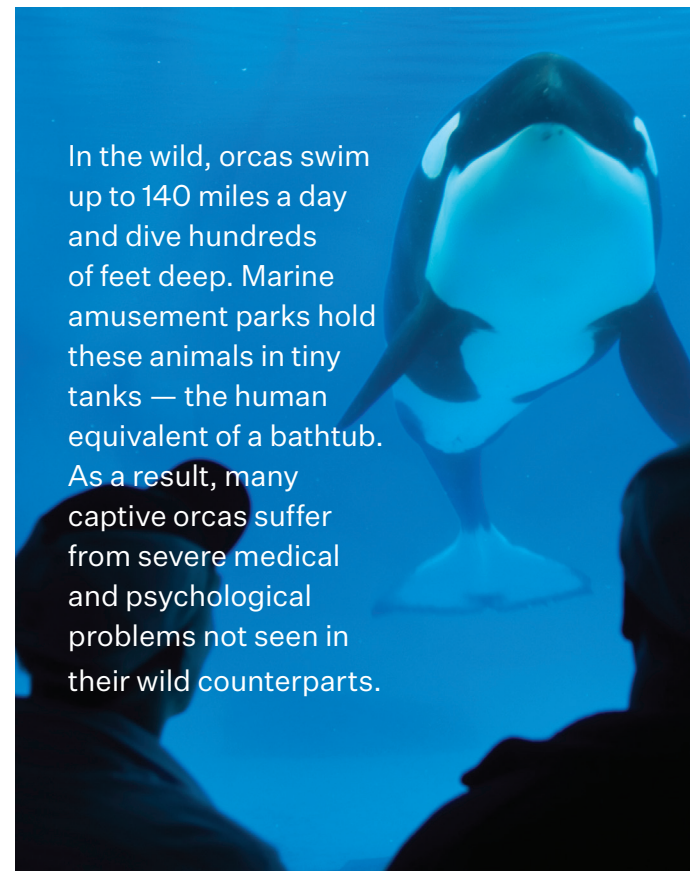
Enacted nearly three decades ago, Kansas has the oldest Ag-Gag law in the United States. Litigation is also pending against the Ag-Gag law in North Carolina. Read more online at aldf.org/AgGag.

Join the Fight for Animals' Legal Status

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is fighting hard to change animals' legal status. We do this primarily through groundbreaking litigation. This year, for example, we filed a lawsuit on behalf of a formerly abused horse named Justice. We are seeking to establish for the first time that animals have the right to sue their abusers. (The case was dismissed by the trial court and is being appealed.)

You can help, too. Participate in our "I Am Not Property" campaign. Print out the "I Am Not Property" sign, and write a note about your animal companion. Then take a picture, and post it on social media with the hashtag #NotProperty.

Read more online at aldf.org/notproperty.



In the wild, orcas swim up to 140 miles a day and dive hundreds of feet deep. Marine amusement parks hold these animals in tiny tanks — the human equivalent of a bathtub. As a result, many captive orcas suffer from severe medical and psychological problems not seen in their wild counterparts.

Better Protections for Florida's Animals

An overwhelming majority of Floridians, approximately 5.4 million, voted to end greyhound racing on November 6, 2018. The passage of Amendment 13 means that commercial greyhound racing will be illegal in the state by the end of 2020. The Animal Legal Defense Fund is proud to have played a role in this historic victory by mobilizing voters as well as filing a legal brief in the lawsuit initiated by greyhound industry groups challenging the validity of Amendment 13.

Read more online at aldf.org/greyhound.

In 2019, our legislative team will be working with the Florida legislature to enact laws that prohibit the use of certain wild animals — including orcas — for entertainment purposes.

Read more online at aldf.org/FOPA.

Expanding Animal Law Resources for Legal Educators

We work closely with law students and law professors, growing the field of animal law. In the fall, the Animal Legal Defense Fund created a new list of resources for legal educators interested in animal law, and we released a series of course guides. Our course guides — focused on companion animals, wildlife, and farmed animals — allow educators to expand the animal law curriculum at their school either by offering a new elective or incorporating the subjects into existing courses. Additionally, law students at schools without animal law courses may use the guides to create a reading group.



Read more online at aldf.org/courseguides.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS

Founded in 1979, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has since grown from one staff member to over 50 in 2019 and continues as the leader in animal law.



In the Animal Legal Defense Fund's first "staff" photo, co-founder Joyce Tischler stands outside of a federal courthouse before a press conference for the organization's "Snowball" lawsuit in the 1980s — a case involving a mistreated dog who was used in biomedical research.

BRRR. If It's Too Cold For You, It's Too Cold For Dogs!

When temperatures dip, it can be deadly for dogs left outdoors. Bring dogs inside where they'll be toasty — and safe. Worried about a dog out in the cold? Call the police for help.

Read more online at
aldf.org/cold.



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