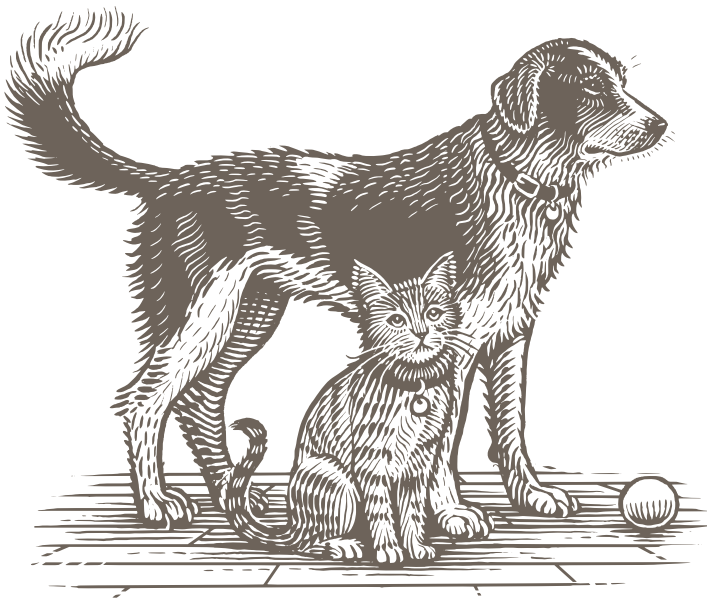




The Animals' Advocate

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LAWS RANKINGS
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RELEASED

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Strengthening Protections for Animals.



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In the course of any given year, the news media and legislatures across the country reference the Animal Legal Defense Fund's annual *U.S. State Animal Protection Laws Rankings Report* hundreds of times. That's because the Animal Legal Defense Fund's rankings are the result of our legal analysis of over 4,000 pages of state animal cruelty statutes nationwide, making them a highly respected and authoritative resource unlike any other.

That's important because state laws form the bulwark of legal protections for animals. Every state has its own unique animal cruelty law – while there is no comprehensive federal animal cruelty law at all. That means that animals, and their advocates, must rely on the strength and thoroughness of their own state's animal cruelty code.

Ranking these statutes by comparison has become an important tool for motivating animal advocates and legislators to work to improve their state's laws and, therefore, their rank. States in the top ranks use the report to brag about the good job they're doing to protect animals because lawmakers know that Americans care about animals! And states in the bottom tier of rankings often use their rank to push lawmakers to make changes.

Check out the story on our 2019 rankings, our 14th annual report, to see how your state ranked. And if you're not happy about it, contact your state legislators and let them know!

Animals can't tell them, but we can.

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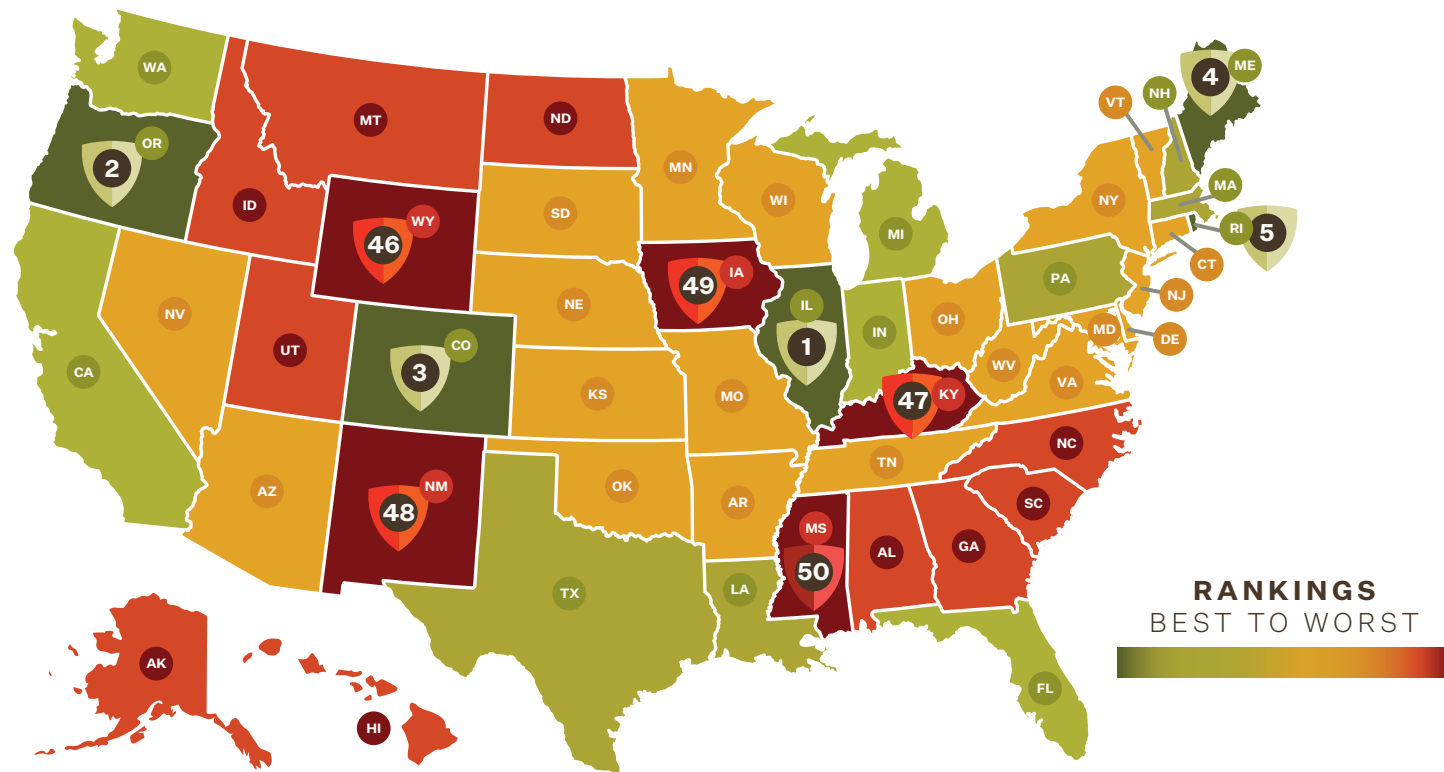
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For the animals,

Stephen Wells
Executive Director

ILLINOIS IS #1, MISSISSIPPI #50, IN 2019 STATE RANKINGS



For the 12th year in a row, Illinois has taken first place in the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s 14th annual *U.S. State Animal Protection Laws Rankings Report* — a comprehensive assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each state and territory’s animal protection laws, and a look at animal protection law trends.

Oregon ranked second in this year’s *Rankings Report*, followed by Colorado (3), Maine (4), and Rhode Island (5). For the first time in 13 years Kentucky was not dead last. Mississippi now resides at the bottom with the weakest animal protection laws, followed by Iowa (49), New Mexico (48), Kentucky (47), and Wyoming (46). New Hampshire (14) and Montana (37) were the most-improved states in 2019. Last year, New Hampshire was ranked at number 19, with Montana at 43.

Trends highlighted in the report include possession bans and animal fighting paraphernalia laws. Possession bans are post-conviction remedies allowing courts to prohibit convicted animal abusers

from keeping or living in the same household as an animal. Twelve states have created or strengthened their possession ban statutes over the past two years. A new trend this year was the emergence of animal fighting paraphernalia laws, which define and criminalize the possession of objects and instruments used to further animal fighting ventures. In 2019, four states adopted animal fighting paraphernalia laws.

The *U.S. State Animal Protection Laws Ranking Report* lays out the disparity in states’ animal protection laws. However, the report also presents an opportunity to improve laws everywhere. New animal protection laws continue to be implemented around the country by motivated lawmakers and their constituents — just like you.

Read and download the report here:
aldf.org/rankingsreport



Protecting Pigs from High-Speed Slaughter

In December 2019, the Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture for issuing a final rule allowing pig slaughterhouses nationwide to police themselves and kill pigs at unlimited speeds.

Previously, slaughterhouses were capped at killing 1,106 pigs per hour. The lawsuit, filed with a coalition of animal protection groups, challenges the euphemistically named “Modernization of Pork Slaughter” rule, which lifts speed limits while also slashing the number of government inspectors overseeing slaughter operations and privatizing humane handling and food safety inspection.

While the largest animal agriculture companies stand to profit, the Modernization of Pork

Slaughter rule increases pigs’ suffering, threatens consumer and worker safety, and poses serious environmental risks. The rule violates federal laws requiring reasoned agency decision-making and consideration of the environmental impacts of federal actions, as well as laws meant to protect animals from pain and suffering at slaughter and to ensure food safety.

The factory farming and slaughter “industries” require more oversight, not less. The Animal Legal Defense Fund is committed to fighting the high-speed pig slaughter rule in court.

Read more here: aldf.org/farmedanimals

SAVE THE DATE!

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
OCTOBER 23-25, 2020

IMPACTS ON ANIMALS IN A
CHANGING CLIMATE



TOP LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS FOR 2020:

Possession Bans, Killing Contests, Ending Puppy Mill Loophole

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is working across the country to strengthen animal protection laws. Here are some of the top legislative priorities for 2020:

ADVANCING POSSESSION BAN LEGISLATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

This Massachusetts bill would prevent a person convicted of certain animal cruelty crimes from accessing animals — possessing, adopting, fostering, etc. — for a court-ordered length of time. Possession bans are one of the most effective ways to ensure a person does not re-offend. A majority of states have related laws, but some are limited to specific crimes or species.



PASSING THE HONEST PET PROVIDERS ACT IN CALIFORNIA

This bill closes a legal loophole through which puppy mills masquerading as rescues are currently getting around California's statewide ban on retail stores' selling of commercially bred cats, dogs, and rabbits.



BANNING KILLING CONTESTS IN NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is supporting legislation introduced in these states that would prohibit competitions at which contestants typically compete for cash or prizes for killing the largest, smallest, and/or greatest number of animals. In 2019, the Animal Legal Defense Fund was instrumental in passing the Massachusetts ban — joining Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Vermont in limiting or prohibiting killing contests.



Read more here: aldf.org/legislation



The Animal Legal Defense Fund works at the state and local levels to advance important legislation. We advocate for laws that promote or protect the lives and interests of animals, and we oppose legislation that would be detrimental to animals' well-being.

LEGACY OF PROTECTION

Patricia Binder and Dorothy Berman

Dorothy Berman was born and raised in New York. She grew up in the Great Depression, and never saw herself as having money. Nevertheless, she gave periodic donations to many animal charities, including the Animal Legal Defense Fund, throughout her life.

Dorothy passed her love of animals on to her children, Jeffery and Patricia — known as Jeff and Pat. They grew up with animals — like dogs Sam and Daisy, and a cat named Smokey. Through their adult lives, Jeff and Pat continued to enjoy the company of animals. When Dorothy passed away in 2009 at age 92, her estate went to her children — along with her beloved cat Molly who went to live with Jeff. Influenced by their mother's love of animals, both Jeff and Pat included the Animal Legal Defense Fund in their estate plans.

When Pat passed, at age 66, Jeff was appointed her trustee. In December 2019, Jeff provided a donation of \$249,899 to the Animal Legal Defense Fund. It was a bequest from Pat and, Jeff reflects, "from Dorothy as well."

Today, these funds are propelling protections for animals further. Pat and Dorothy's love of cats and dogs lives on through their legacy — strengthening animal protection laws and funding legal programs that expand the criminal justice system to recognize the basic rights of animals.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund's expert attorneys offer free assistance to law enforcement and

prosecutors, to ensure victims of animal abuse get the justice they deserve. These programs wouldn't be possible without the generosity of individuals just like Pat and Dorothy. Jeff states that Dorothy and Pat will always be remembered as animal lovers. Through this bequest they will live on, as well, as animal protectors. On behalf of animals, we thank the Berman family for their support.



Dorothy Berman and Patricia Binder



To learn about ways you can support our mission, visit aldf.org/support.



Lawsuits Challenge Unconstitutional Labeling Laws



In February 2020, the Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit on behalf of vegan food producer Miyoko's Creamery, challenging the California Department of Food and Agriculture's attempts to stop Miyoko's from using phrases like "100% dairy and cruelty free" and "cultured vegan plant butter" on its products. The agency even told Miyoko's to remove a photograph from its website of a woman hugging a cow, accompanied by the text "Milk plants. Hug Cows."

We have been at the forefront of demanding fair treatment of plant-based foods in the face of industrial animal agribusiness' attempts to strongarm state and federal lawmakers and regulatory agencies into preventing plant-based products from using commonly understood terms in their marketing and packaging.

In addition to representing Miyoko's, we've filed lawsuits in Arkansas and Missouri challenging the constitutionality of laws that would prohibit the use of "meat" terminology like "veggie burger" or "vegan sausage" for food that does not come from slaughtered animals. In December 2019, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas granted a preliminary injunction preventing Arkansas from enforcing the law.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is working to ensure these unconstitutional laws are struck down and that plant- and cultivated cell-based products are treated fairly in the marketplace.

Find out more here: aldf.org/advertising

WISCONSIN ROADSIDE ZOO SUED FOR VIOLATING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against Special Memories Zoo — a roadside zoo in Greenville, Wisconsin — for keeping tigers and other animals in squalid conditions that violate the Endangered Species Act as well as state laws protecting captive wild animals.

In September 2019, the Animal Legal Defense Fund offered to transfer the animals at the zoo to reputable sanctuaries at no cost to Special Memories Zoo. Given critical concerns about these animals' safety and well-being — and Special Memories Zoo's ongoing legal violations — the offer remains open.



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