

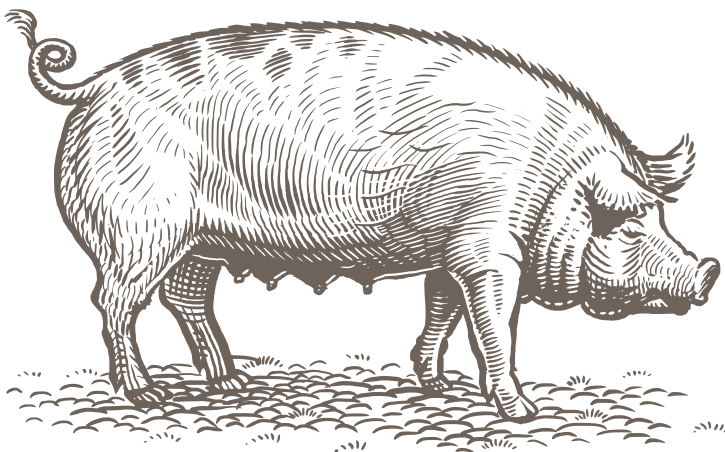


# The Animals' Advocate

FEATURE

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# You're Making a Difference.



Gabriel at his new home at Yesahcan Sanctuary.



**ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND** EST 1979

With so much tragedy in the news, it's important to remember that our individual actions, large and small, can make a difference.

Your support of the Animal Legal Defense Fund helped save the life of an abused and desperate pig named Gabriel.

Gabriel was one of more than 100 farmed animals rescued in April from an illegal backyard slaughter operation, through a collaboration between the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Farm Sanctuary, and local Florida sanctuaries.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit on behalf of a caring neighbor, securing the rescue of Gabriel and another pig, 55 chickens, 46 ducks, five goats, three sheep, a goose, and a pony.

When rescuers arrived, Gabriel was so weak that he couldn't even stand. But after a brief stay in a veterinary hospital, he stabilized and was ready to begin his new life at a sanctuary. Gabriel is a reminder of the individual personality and uniqueness of every animal — and that all animals deserve protection.

For more than 40 years, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has worked to secure legal protections for animals. Farmed animals are frequently abused, with even fewer legal protections than most other species — **but with your support, we're fighting to change that for animals like Gabriel.**

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**For the animals,**

**Stephen Wells**  
Executive Director



## Changing Our Relationship with Animals Preventing the next pandemic

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic is changing many aspects of normal life. It's affected habits, interactions, the way we work, and the way we pass our time. But it is also giving us a unique opportunity to evaluate our relationship with animals on an international level — and the Animal Legal Defense Fund is taking this opportunity to influence policy changes.

For decades, global health experts have feared that unnatural human interference with wild animals would lead to a pandemic-level disaster like the one we're experiencing now.

Human encroachment into animals' territory, destruction of their already-dwindling habitat, the use of wild species for human consumption and traditional medicine, and the environmental damage wrought by factory farming are all major drivers of pandemic risk.

**ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, ABOUT 75% OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES ARE ZOO NOTIC, MEANING THAT THEY SPREAD FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS.**

It's easy to see how human actions such as habitat destruction or the global trade in imperiled wildlife can hurt animals, but the effects of these practices on human health have been less widely understood by the public at large. While the COVID-19 pandemic is deeply tragic, and tragically preventable, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is working to drive public awareness — and governmental action — about the connection between harmful interactions with animals and increased pandemic risk.

As part of our ongoing effort to protect animals and prevent future global health crises, we've partnered with leading scientists and experts in global health, public policy, wildlife conservation, and environmental protection. Together, we're producing a series of educational reports and policy proposals to address the conditions that led to COVID-19 — and will almost certainly cause another crisis if we fail to act.

These in-depth reports will give concerned citizens and elected officials the practical tools they need to understand the problems enabling pandemics — from live animal markets to factory farms to biodiversity loss, and the failings of law underlying them all — and take concrete steps to solve them.



This is a deeply difficult moment in U.S. and world history, but we at the Animal Legal Defense Fund believe that it is also a moment of possibility and openness to change. Your support is powering our work to bring about more humane and compassionate treatment of animals — and an end to the abuses that endanger humans and animals alike.

Learn more online at [aldf.org/whitepaper](https://aldf.org/whitepaper).



### THE MOST MEANINGFUL PART OF MY LIFE

Candis Stern is no stranger to donating her time — serving on multiple boards, including the Humane Society of Huron Valley for 6 years — and co-running a nonprofit for women. She and her sisters inherited their love of animals from their mother. As children, their extended animal family included a horse and multiple cats and dogs. But her love extended to wildlife, including toads, birds, and fish. A few years ago, Candis made her dream a reality, as she founded a small animal welfare foundation — from which she distributes funds to 20 – 25 animal focused nonprofits.

“The Animal Legal Defense Fund, among animal nonprofits, is high on my list because I have always believed that the only way the welfare and treatment of animals would improve would be through legal channels and through the legislative process. These were fairly novel ideas 30 years ago — a time when animal law chapters were just being established in various universities. Helping animals — wild and domestic — is the most meaningful part of my life.”

### Candis Stern

Now, Candis resides in Las Cruces, New Mexico, with her husband, Dave, three cats — ScoBlo, Zorra, and Turbo — and a dog — Sollie. She has been an Animal Legal Defense Fund donor since 1996. Visit [aldf.org/support](https://aldf.org/support).



## THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND AND HOLLYWOOD URGE CONGRESS TO PROTECT BIG CATS

The Animal Legal Defense Fund has teamed up with Gabriela Cowperthwaite, the director of the landmark documentary *Blackfish*, to protect the thousands of tigers and other big cats languishing in captivity in the United States. Dozens of Hollywood celebrities, including Hilary Swank, Iggy Pop, Joaquin Phoenix, Glenn Close, Edie Falco and Olivia Wilde, signed onto a letter drafted by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and Gabriela calling on Congress to pass the Big Cat Public Safety Act.

This legislation is urgently needed — while some states restrict or even ban the private possession of big cats, others have almost no regulations. This not only leaves big cats vulnerable to abuse and neglect, but it also poses a serious public safety risk. The Big Cat Public Safety Act would ban the private possession of big cats across the country, as well as make it illegal for exhibitors, such as circuses and zoos, to allow the public to interact with cubs.

These interactions, where people are allowed to bottle feed or pose with tiger cubs, is dangerous both for the animals and visitors. Cubs are forcibly separated from their mothers soon after birth, resulting in permanent psychological and physical harm because it disrupts the bonding process. Because these cubs can only be used for several months, they are discarded around 12-weeks-old and sold into the illegal wildlife trade, to other roadside zoos, or even killed for their body parts.

**Big cats belong in the wild, not somebody's basement.**

And in cases where they can no longer be safely returned to the wild, they deserve to live in accredited sanctuaries that are able to meet their complex social and physical needs. If you agree, add your voice and sign the letter at [aldf.org/protectbigcats](http://aldf.org/protectbigcats).

Help support the Big Cat Public Safety Act! Lots of shirt styles to choose from, get yours today at [aldf.org/shop](http://aldf.org/shop).



## Protecting Animals Exploited for Their Fur

In 2018, San Francisco banned the sale of fur thanks to the leadership of San Francisco Supervisor Katy Tang. It became the third California city to take a stand against fur, following West Hollywood and Berkeley. Los Angeles adopted a similar ordinance shortly after. But now the law is under attack. The International Fur Trade Federation filed a lawsuit arguing the ordinance is unconstitutional, contending it violates the dormant commerce clause.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund, in conjunction with The Humane Society of the United States, is defending the law in court. In the spring, a district court granted our motion to intervene and defend

the city's right to ban fur. Last year, California became the first state in the nation to pass a similar law banning the sale of this cruel product — so it is even more important that San Francisco's law is upheld.

These laws reflect Californians' desire to protect animals from extreme cruelty. Animals bred in fur farms, including foxes and raccoon dogs, are held in tiny wire cages for their entire lives before being electrocuted, suffocated, gassed, or poisoned so as not to damage their fur. They are frequently skinned alive without painkillers.

With a wide range of faux fur products now available, and more fashion designers moving away from using animal products, there's no justification for fur.

**Learn more at [aldf.org/fur](http://aldf.org/fur).**



## Lawsuit Ends in Victory for Devil's Garden Wild Horses

In 2018, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the American Wild Horse Campaign, and local advocate Carla Bowers filed a lawsuit against the U.S Forest Service to protect wild horses captured from the Devil's Garden Wild Horse Territory in California's Modoc National Forest for slaughter. The legal action prevented the federal government from selling these horses and gave Congress time to take action — which it did, in response to the many Americans who care about wild horses. We dismissed the lawsuit after the passage of an omnibus appropriations package which included language permanently barring the U.S. Forest Service from killing or sending healthy horses or burros to slaughter.





# GOING VIRTUAL!



In order to ensure the safety of participants, we're pleased to be hosting the Animal Law Conference as a virtual event on October 23-25, 2020. The conference, co-presented by the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School, will offer an exciting, interactive experience, allowing attendees to view sessions live or on-demand, interact with presenters and other participants, visit virtual exhibit booths, join topic-specific small group chats, and more! For details and to register, visit: [animallawconference.org](http://animallawconference.org).

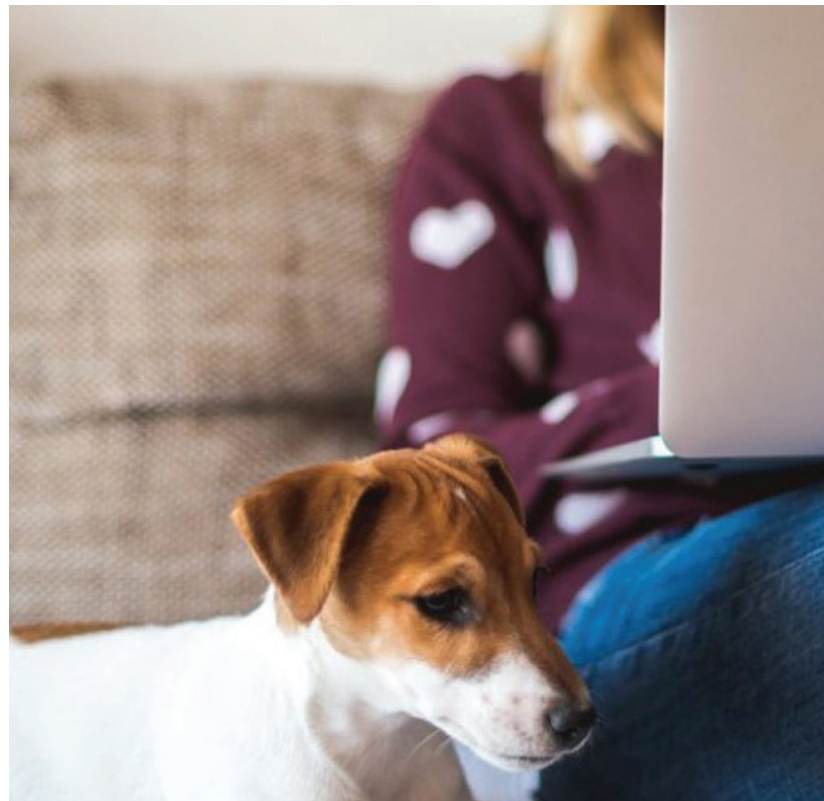
## STREAM ANIMAL LAW WEBINARS FOR FREE

Did you know that you can learn about animal law from the comfort of your home? The Animal Legal Defense Fund has a large library of animal law webinars on topics ranging from legislative advocacy to captive wildlife to factory farming available on our website. Led by animal law experts, these webinars are always free to watch, and new titles are offered every month:

- *Stress and Zoonotic Diseases*
- *Lobbying 101: Advocacy in a New Era*
- *Federal Legislation: Current Issues & New Ideas*
- *Why Pandemics Happen: COVID-19*
- *Tiger King: Questions Answered*

**And many, many more . . . !**

**Check them out at [aldf.org/webinars](http://aldf.org/webinars).**



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