

Animal Victims and  
Restorative Justice

*Brittany Hill, Criminal Justice Program Fellow*



**ANIMAL LEGAL  
DEFENSE FUND**

1. Do you think restorative justice can be an adequate intervention for some crimes against animals? Why or why not?
2. If a restorative justice model like the one used in Charlie's case example was applied to similar cases, do you think the amount of crime committed against animals would be reduced? Why or why not?
3. If restorative justice is used as an intervention for crimes against animals, do you think a trust should be set up for the animal victim's medical needs? What are some pros and/or cons of requiring a trust to be set up?
4. An integral aspect of restorative justice is recognizing the one who experiences harm as the victim. In animal crimes, animals—the ones who experience harm—are considered victims. What other legal avenues can be employed to recognize animals as crime victims?
5. Do you think the concept of restorative justice helps or hinders the argument for legal personhood? Do you think legal personhood for nonhuman animals must be recognized before restorative justice can be utilized in cases involving crimes against animals?