

Critical Caselaw:
Judicial Recognition of
Animal Sentience

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**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND**

1. Do you think it should be the responsibility of the judicial branch or the legislative branch to determine whether animals qualify as victims in criminal and civil cases?
2. Should there be a single definition for victims and if so, how would you define it to include animals? Alternatively, do you think animals should be included in the standard definition of victim or defined separately?
3. Do you think emergency aid laws should apply to animals? If so, should there be certain distinctions for when it applies to animals?
4. In these three cases, laws that are traditionally seen as being for humans were used to protect animals. Do you think this is an approach that should be pursued, or should the focus be on creating laws that specifically apply to animals?
5. In the Oregon Supreme Court opinions, the Court states that animal protection laws were clearly enacted to protect animal victims, regardless of ownership. Do you think this is true? Is that statement represented in practice?