



**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND** EST
1979



2020



ALL OUR CLIENTS ARE INNOCENT

YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.



Dear friends,
I don't need to tell you that 2020 was a tumultuous year. As the world locked down due to COVID-19, the work to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system only intensified.

The pandemic is the tragic result of humans' harmful interactions with animals — and countless more animals have suffered in its aftermath. Farmed animals were inhumanely “depopulated” on factory farms because of slaughterhouse slowdowns. Animals in laboratories were killed when research experiments were halted. Animal victims held as “evidence” in cruelty cases languished due to courtroom delays.

You were there to stand up for these animals — while also creating needed change to stop the next pandemic before it happens. With your support, the Animal Legal Defense Fund advocated for policy reform to combat the root causes of animal-linked pandemics and produced educational resources and expert webinars to illuminate the connection between animal harm and human illness.

Meanwhile, you took on inhumane roadside zoos, factory farm abuses, unscrupulous animal dealers, fur-industry interests, cruel wildlife-killing contests, and more. You helped protect wild spaces and the animals who depend on them. And you supported prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers in the fight against animal abuse.

We hope these pages fill you with pride at the powerful difference you're making. Thank you for all you do to make this work possible.



For the animals,

Stephen Wells | Executive Director

Gabriel was rescued after an Animal Legal Defense Fund lawsuit shut down a backyard butcher in Florida. He now lives at Yesahcan Sanctuary.

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About the Animal Legal Defense Fund

The Animal Legal Defense Fund was founded in 1979 to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. To accomplish this mission, the Animal Legal Defense Fund files high-impact lawsuits to protect animals from harm; provides free legal assistance and training to prosecutors to ensure that animal abusers are held accountable for their crimes; supports tough animal protection legislation and fights harmful legislation; and provides resources and opportunities to law students and professionals to advance the emerging field of animal law. For more information, please **visit aldf.org**.



LITIGATION

Despite 2020's challenges, the Litigation Program had another record-setting year. We initiated more than 60 new legal matters and celebrated victories large and small in over two dozen cases. Three of our most important victories rescued over **100 individuals** who are now living in sanctuaries. This includes Gabriel, a pig whom we saved from a Florida backyard slaughter operation, as well as two wolves, Nikko and Atlas, and Fancy, an 8-year-old Labrador, who were rescued from a notorious wildlife trafficker and exhibitor in Ohio.

In addition to the important work to save these lives, some of the many other litigation highlights include successfully invalidating unconstitutional Ag-Gag laws in North Carolina and Kansas, victories we're now defending on appeal; obtaining a final judgment against a puppy mill operator in California, a win that included a permanent possession ban for the operator and gave us the right to rescue and rehome all the dogs; successfully settling litigation against the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services agency, securing significant protections against cruel killing practices in California while the agency completes an updated environmental analysis; and continuing to challenge state attempts to stifle plant-based alternatives with a major First Amendment victory when a federal court granted a preliminary injunction allowing Miyoko's Creamery to use terms like "cultured vegan butter" and "plant-based cheese." We also continued our successful defense of California's Proposition 12, protecting farmed animals from the most egregious factory farm abuses.



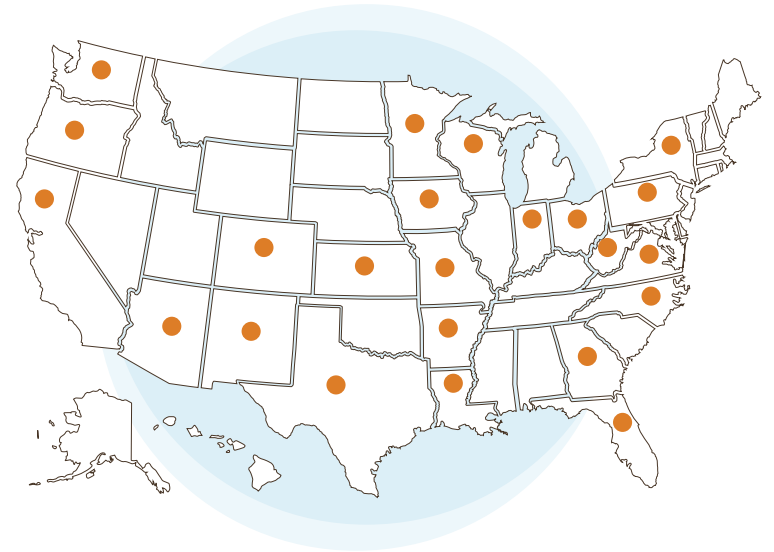
For the animals,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Tony Eliseuson in black ink.

Tony Eliseuson | Litigation Program Director



OVER 25 STATES DIRECTLY IMPACTED



136

ONGOING
LEGAL MATTERS

60+

NEW LEGAL
MATTERS FILED

29

VICTORIES AND
SUCCESSES



LEGISLATION

The past year was fraught with unforeseen challenges and legislative advocacy was no exception. Legislatures delayed or suspended sessions and, once reconvened, pandemic relief legislation was paramount for lawmakers. Still, the Animal Legal Defense Fund had a remarkably successful year, passing nearly two dozen bills at the local and state levels, and significantly invested in the federal realm, prioritizing our farmed animal campaign, and advancing key wildlife legislation, including the Big Cat Public Safety Act. This success is partly attributed to reframing our work to call attention to the inherent connection between animal exploitation and zoonotic disease and to push for reform to mitigate harm from the ongoing crisis and prevent the next pandemic.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund was proud to play leading roles in the passage of numerous bills, including the landmark California Ecosystems Protection Act. The law, authored by Assemblymember Richard Bloom, and co-authored by Senator Henry Stern and Assemblymember Laura Friedman, places safeguards on the use of the most toxic rat poisons — second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides (SGARs) — with limited exceptions, providing critical protection for the state's iconic wildlife.

We also led or supported numerous other bills to protect farmed animals, companion animals, and wildlife and played key roles in passing several municipal ordinances including a slew of retail pet sales bans, restrictions on wild animal acts, and a ban on new fur sales in Wellesley, Massachusetts. These ordinances are critical for protecting animals locally, but also build momentum for state level legislation, including campaigns currently underway.



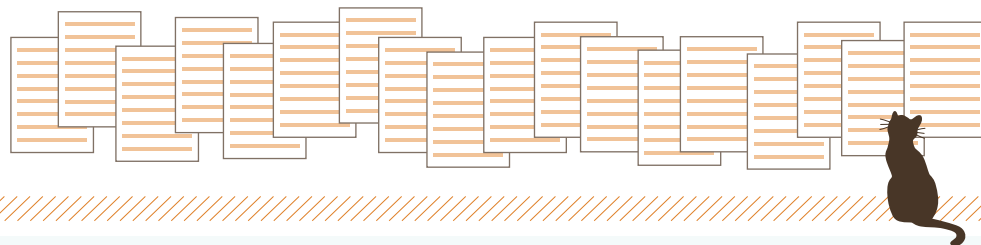
For the animals,

Kimberly Kelly

Kimberly Kelly | Director of Legislative Affairs



18 BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW



186,415

NUMBER OF ADVOCATE EMAILS SENT
TO LEGISLATORS

18

MUNICIPALITIES
WHERE WE
ENGAGED

23

STATES
WHERE WE
ENGAGED

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

For many of us, 2020 was an especially difficult year — including those professionals who work tirelessly day in and day out to abate animal cruelty. Our Criminal Justice Program attorneys field countless calls each year from exasperated prosecutors and law enforcement officers looking for help navigating the legal and logistical complexities of animal cruelty cases (like the conundrum that animals are both legal “property” and “evidence” of a crime, but also living beings who need proper care). This past year brought additional challenges to these already difficult situations: With many courts severely delayed, some animal cruelty cases were put indefinitely on hold, leaving many animal victims in a state of limbo.

The Criminal Justice Program stepped up to meet these needs, adding new veterinary experts to our team to further bolster our expertise. We increased our financial assistance capacity for several rescue entities who were left stranded with animal victims in their care as court dockets froze. We also pivoted our training model to reach new and additional virtual audiences, partnering with Justice Clearinghouse, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys on remote webinars, specifically addressing the nuts and bolts of virtual court appearances — a real-time need for keeping animal cruelty cases moving through the system. We were also proud to launch a new partnership with the Virginia Attorney General’s Animal Law Unit in supporting their statewide casework bringing animal cruelty offenders to justice.

As we continue to fight for all animal victims, we thank you for your support.



For the animals,

Lora Dunn | Criminal Justice Program Director



A LAW IS ONLY
AS STRONG
AS ITS
ENFORCEMENT

700+

ADVOCATING
FOR STRONGER
ANIMAL
PROTECTION LAWS

ANIMALS INVOLVED IN 88 CASES

295 COMPANION



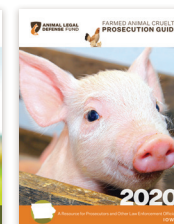
279 FARMED

46 WILDLIFE



80 CAPTIVE

349



PROSECUTORS' OFFICES RECEIVED STATE-SPECIFIC
FARMED ANIMAL CRUELTY GUIDES FOR PROSECUTORS

LEGAL EDUCATION

The Animal Law Program turned 20 in 2020 and started off a third decade by hiring a new Director to expand our legal education programs and law school partnerships. With the goal of increasing access to animal law educational opportunities in law schools, we engage with students and animal law faculty through programming for Student Chapters, Student Chapter project grants, clerkships, scholarships, and course grants to fund new animal law courses. In 2020, our plans for expansion quickly shifted to pandemic response. The challenge was to continue to engage students in the remote environment and ensure that pandemic-related financial challenges didn't impact animal law course offerings. Animal Law Program activities to engage Student Chapters and law school communities in 2020 included 13 webinar discussion guides, 16 registration grants for students to attend the virtual Animal Law Conference, 27 Student Chapter project grants, a Student Chapter program guide titled Organizing for Animals in the Digital Age, and six emergency scholarships. At the end of 2020, there were 103 active Student Chapters in U.S. law schools.

The Animal Law Program also educates anyone interested in animal law issues through our popular Animal Law Academy webinars. The past year was the perfect time to expand the Animal Law Academy and we produced 27 free webinars, including the first two webinars in our new Critical Caselaw series. More than 2,300 people attended Animal Legal Defense Fund webinars in 2020.

In 2021, watch for some new opportunities for students and exciting new partnerships.



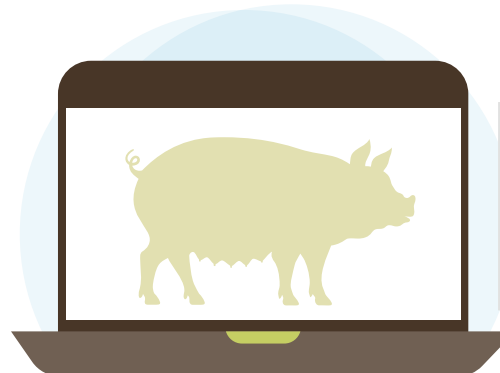
For the animals,

Stacey Gordon Sterling

Stacey Gordon Sterling | Animal Law Program Director



250+% INCREASE IN WEBINAR ATTENDANCE



99.3% SAID
WEBINARS LEFT
THEM BETTER
EQUIPPED TO
PROTECT
THE LIVES AND
ADVANCE THE
INTERESTS
OF ANIMALS

154

REGISTRANTS

STUDENT CONVENTION

100% SAY THEY WILL APPLY WHAT THEY
LEARNED TO THEIR WORK OR STUDIES



58

CLERKSHIPS

27

WEBINARS

12

SCHOLARSHIPS



POLICY

The Animal Legal Defense Fund's policy department captures the animal protection movement with a wide-angle lens. Charged with tackling systemic problems in new ways, we work to create change for animals who are abused on a monumental scale.

We fight to protect farmed animals — more than nine billion of whom are killed each year in U.S. slaughterhouses alone — from the most egregious cruelties of industrial agriculture, while also seeking reforms to enable greater accountability for factory farms. We build strategic partnerships to combat abuse and advance legal protections for animals.

And we're currently leading a change-making coalition that's taking the United States government to court to demand that our lawmakers protect nature and restore wild spaces — arguing that government's failure to do so amounts to a violation of our basic rights as Americans. Through this groundbreaking litigation, we're fighting not only for Americans' right to liberty, but ultimately for the protection of every animal who depends on an intact, preserved habitat to survive and thrive.

In 2020, we oversaw nine policy projects and developed six innovative new policy proposals.

Each effort to protect an animal is worthwhile. Through the groundbreaking work of our policy department, we're working to protect not one animal or even a million — but every animal on Earth.



For the animals,

Carter Dillard | Senior Policy Advisor



THE LEGAL VOICE FOR ALL ANIMALS

BROADENING LEGAL PROTECTIONS

ALL ANIMAL LIFE



611

ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE REGISTRANTS



96.7% SAY THE CONFERENCE INVIGORATED THEIR PASSION FOR PROTECTING THE LIVES AND ADVANCING THE INTERESTS OF ANIMALS



COLLABORATION

Protecting animals under the law is an immense task that spans jurisdictions, methods, and disciplines. It requires the committed efforts of every Animal Legal Defense Fund staffer — and then some.

Fortunately, through our Pro Bono Program, more than 2,500 legal professionals representing hundreds of law firms have signed on to share their expertise to help animals.

The partnerships we build with law firms, attorneys, and paralegals help power every aspect of our work. These dedicated professionals assist with preparing, filing, and arguing lawsuits; conducting legal research; drafting amicus briefs; mentoring animal law students; and much more.

In 2020, 162 volunteer attorneys and paralegals contributed nearly 5,000 pro bono hours in support of the Animal Legal Defense Fund's work, accounting for more than \$3 million in donated services. Network members also took on dozens of cases to directly assist members of the public who contacted the Animal Legal Defense Fund with animal-related legal concerns, ranging from companion animal custody issues to veterinary malpractice to objections to wildlife-killing programs. Our Pro Bono Network fielded requests from 43 U.S. states last year, working to pair animal advocates in need with legal professionals best positioned to help.

At the Animal Legal Defense Fund, all our clients are innocent — and they deserve the very best representation. Thanks to the members of our Pro Bono Network, that's just what they receive.



For the animals,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Tom Linney in black ink.

Tom Linney | Pro Bono Program Director



THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST PRO BONO NETWORK EDUCATING MINDS AND CHANGING HEARTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

2,500



VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY MEMBERS
FROM HUNDREDS OF LAW FIRMS

PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH OUR TEAM OF LEGAL VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS BY OUR SIDE

4,996

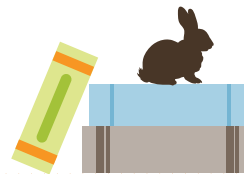
HOURS DONATED

133

CASE ASSISTS

\$3+ MILLION

IN VALUE DONATED



THANK YOU

62,388



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

3,404



PARTNERS IN PROTECTION
MONTHLY DONORS



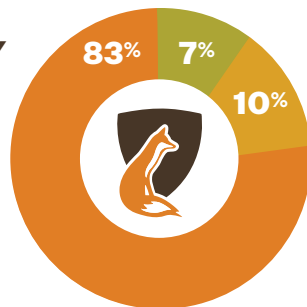
WE SPEND DONATIONS WISELY

PROGRAMS \$17,844,706

ADMINISTRATION \$1,575,742

FUNDRAISING \$2,109,688

Audited Fiscal Year 1/1/2019-6/30/2020



The Animal Legal Defense Fund is proud to be a four-star Charity Navigator rated nonprofit, Platinum-level GuideStar Exchange participant, a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity, and have been awarded the America's Best Charities Seal of Excellence, ensuring that we meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness.



The Animal Legal Defense Fund is a nonprofit organization funded almost entirely by individual, tax-deductible contributions. For donation, membership, and change of address inquiries, please email us at membership@aldf.org, or call 707-795-2533.

For information about our work and programs, email us at info@aldf.org.

73
EMPLOYEES



INCLUDING

33

ATTORNEYS



THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2020 (UPDATED 5/21)

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525 East Cotati Avenue | Cotati, California 94931



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