



**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND** EST
1979



2021

ANNUAL REPORT



2021 **ANNUAL REPORT** CONTENTS

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Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to share with you the powerful difference you're making for animals.

Through your support of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, you're making it possible to pursue groundbreaking lawsuits — like those taking on cruel roadside zoos, such as our precedent-setting Cricket Hollow Zoo case which was upheld in a resounding appeals-court win.

You've helped achieve milestone victories, including successfully defending San Francisco's fur sale ban from an industry challenge and defeating the government's attempt to dismiss our case challenging the cruel treatment of "downed" pigs who arrive at slaughter too weak or sick to stand.

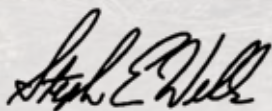
You're powering vital legislative advocacy, creating critical progress for animals such as Colorado's new law banning the use of big cats, bears, nonhuman primates, and elephants in circuses, and New Mexico's prohibiting the use of cruel traps and poisons on public lands — the latter named Roxy's Law after a beloved dog who tragically died in a snare trap.

In addition, you're supporting essential criminal justice work to hold abusers accountable and prevent future cruelty, while helping to secure the future of the animal law field, ensuring that animals have staunch legal defenders for years to come. You've made it possible to create a suite of new law school scholarships for students wishing to pursue animal law, ensuring that the next generation of animal attorneys are at the top of their game and represent diverse backgrounds and experiences.

In these pages, you'll learn how your support led to important victories for animals in the 2021 fiscal year — and is laying the groundwork for so many victories yet to come.

Thank you for all you do to make this work possible.

For the animals,



Stephen Wells | Executive Director





LEGISLATION

The Animal Legal Defense Fund had its most successful legislative year to date.

We were able to introduce and enact animal protection legislation despite — and in response to — continued uncertainty about the ongoing and evolving impact of a global pandemic that has impeded the legislative process, logistics, and legislative priorities.

Our victories include the passage of an astounding 44 animal protection bills. This success is attributed to strategically aligning the Legislative Affairs Program to play a larger role in the legislative arena, both by leading campaigns to pass animal protection legislation and participating in a supporting role as a member of various animal protection coalitions.

We also reframed our efforts 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.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

We continue to work on COVID-19 response and proactive opportunities. The Animal Legal Defense Fund supports the *Farm System Reform Act*, which would immediately prohibit the creation or expansion of large factory farms and require ceasing operations by 2040. The bill would also hold large factory farms responsible for their environmental impacts. It is the first step in shifting away from our current factory farming model and toward a more sustainable agricultural system.



The *Preventing Future Pandemics Act*, sponsored by Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Reps. Mike Quigley (D-IL) and Fred Upton (R-MI), would address the risk of zoonotic disease transfer by shutting down commercial wildlife markets within the U.S. and ending the trade in live wildlife for human consumption, including import and export.

The pandemic revealed to a national audience how broken and fragile the animal agriculture system is. As workers became infected, slaughterhouses slowed down and even halted production. This led to millions of animals remaining on factory farms longer than intended, where they outgrew the size to which slaughterhouses are configured to slaughter them. Due to the consolidation of slaughterhouses under four multinational corporations — Tyson, Cargill, JBS, and National Beef — farmers had nowhere to take the genetically modified animals. They were advised by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to kill animals en masse. Workers were forced to kill animals by suffocation with foam, gassing with carbon dioxide, and even **ventilation shutdown**. The animals' bodies were disposed of by burying (which can contaminate groundwater) or burning them — usually after being put through a wood chipper for faster decomposition. Instead of increasing regulation on factory farming, Congress is subsidizing these dangerous and cruel practices with tax dollars. We are working to ban the cruelest forms of **depopulation** and related subsidies.



U.S. Senator Cory Booker with Animal Legal Defense Fund Strategic Legislative Affairs Manager Kathleen Schatzmann in New Jersey



Depopulation:

An animal agriculture industry euphemism for mass extermination of an entire flock or herd of animals who are no longer profitable to the industry. Methods used for depopulation are separate from the killing methods identified by the USDA as “euthanasia.”

Ventilation Shutdown:

Involves turning off the airflow in a windowless barn, sealing any vents, and filling the barn with steam to raise the temperature up to 120 degrees, leaving the animals to die from a combination of heat stress and suffocation.



The Animal Legal Defense Fund is a leader in garnering support for the *Big Cat Public Safety Act*, sponsored by Reps. Mike Quigley (D-IL) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Susan Collins (R-ME), Tom Carper (D-DE), and Richard Burr (R-NC). The *Big Cat Public Safety Act* would ban the private possession of big cats and prohibit direct public contact with big cat cubs. In 2020, the bill passed the House of Representatives for the first time. It did not pass the Senate but gained more momentum than it had previously. It was reintroduced in April 2021.

Big Cat Public Safety Act:

In partnership with *Blackfish* director Gabriela Cowperthwaite, the Animal Legal Defense Fund sent a letter to Congress urging the passage of the *Big Cat Public Safety Act*. The letter was also signed by Joaquin Phoenix, Rooney Mara, Kate Mara, Edie Falco, Iggy Pop, Ireland Baldwin, Kim Basinger, Ruby Rose, Paul Wesley, Christian Serratos, Nikki Reed, Ian Somerhalder, Teresa Palmer, Glenn Close, Anjelica Huston, Justin Theroux, Christopher Walken, Mena Suvari, Steve Aoki, Alan Cumming, Ed Begley Jr., Alison Pill, Jane Lynch, Olivia Wilde, Kate del Castillo, Charlotte Ross, Kristin Bauer, Sarah Silverman, Whitney Cummings, Jenny Slate, Hilary Swank, and Jackson Galaxy.



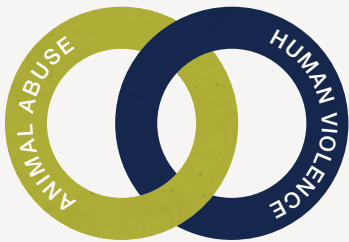
Actress Kate Mara hosted an Instagram Live chat with Animal Legal Defense Fund staff to raise awareness of this important bill. Mara is pictured wearing a Big Cat Public Safety Act T-shirt available at aldf.org/shop.



With assistance from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Iggy Pop penned a letter to Florida Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, urging them to co-sponsor the Big Cat Public Safety Act. The action was covered by Rolling Stone magazine.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund's Legislative Affairs Program continues to advance:

- The *Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act*, which would strengthen enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). We hosted a congressional briefing alongside Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi's (D-IL) office on the critical need for enhanced enforcement of the AWA by informing congressional offices about the *Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act*.
- The *Captive Primate Safety Act*, which would prohibit interstate or foreign commerce in nonhuman primates for the wild animal pet trade and prohibit the private possession of primates. This would include sale, transport, and acquisition — and crack down on the cruel and dangerous trade in primates as “pets.”
- The *Child and Animal Abuse Detection and Reporting Act*, which encourages cross-reporting by requiring that data collected by the federal government from state child protection agencies include information about animal abuse as a risk factor for child abuse.



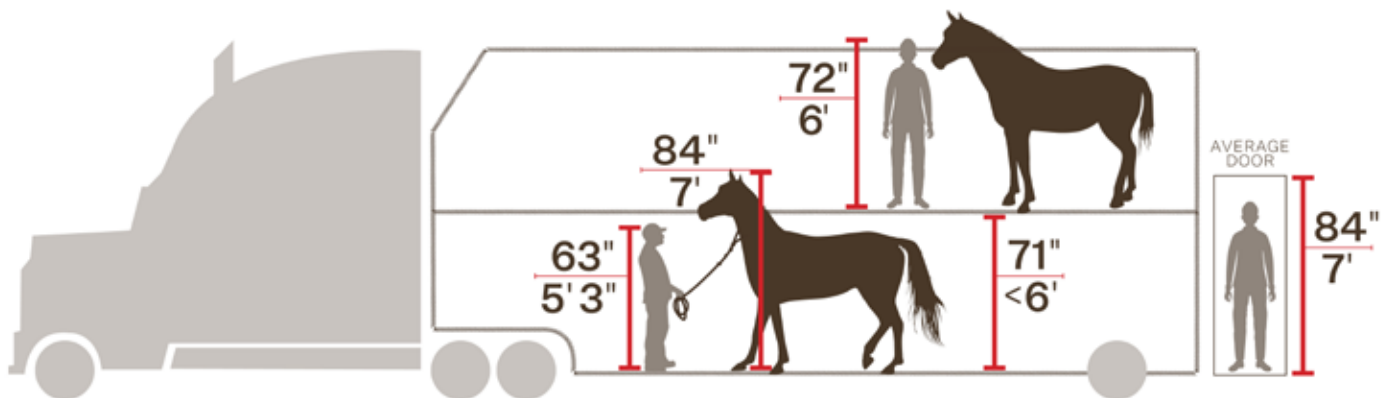
People who hurt animals don't stop with animals. There is an established link between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans — regularly referred to as “The Link.”

This link makes it critically important that cruelty toward animals be taken seriously by law enforcement, and by society at large. This is for the sake of the animals themselves, and for people who are also at risk.

- The *Horse Transportation Safety Act*, which would prohibit the transport of horses in double-decker trailers.

HAULING HORSES IN DOUBLE-DECK TRAILERS IS DANGEROUS AND INHUMANE

Urge your representative to protect horses and co-sponsor the Horse Transportation Safety Act.



aldf.org/horsetransportationsafetyact

STATE AND LOCAL VICTORIES

The Animal Legal Defense Fund continues to strengthen our presence within local and state legislatures and build upon our trusted relationships with policymakers to enact strong animal protection laws.

We championed numerous achievements at the state and local levels to address issues such as breed discrimination, which makes renting or owning a home challenging for those with certain breeds of dogs and became of paramount concern during the pandemic.

2021:

44 NEW STATE AND LOCAL LAWS WERE ENACTED



West Hollywood, California

A housing ordinance was passed stating that the presence of an unauthorized companion animal could not be used as grounds for eviction for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

Nevada

A new law bans breed discrimination in property insurance policies by disallowing insurers to charge a higher premium or deny insurance because of a dog's breed.

Illinois

Two bills passed that will prevent breed discrimination in housing and by insurance companies. By tackling breed discrimination, we can help ensure families stay together during an already uncertain time.

Maine passed a companion animal custody bill requiring that an animal's best interest is considered when awarding possession in a divorce. Without such provisions, companion animal custody is typically decided similarly to the way objects, like furniture, are divided in a divorce. This legislation requires consideration of which party is the animal's primary caregiver and what would be the best situation for them in the future.

Arizona and Texas passed possession bans. These laws empower judges to prohibit people convicted of animal cruelty from having future contact with animals. There is a well-established pattern of abuse that often occurs with animal abusers, and these new laws will help prevent those who have committed cruelty from having the opportunity to do so again in the future.



218,059
EMAILS GENERATED
TO LEGISLATORS



1,041
PHONE CALLS GENERATED
TO LEGISLATORS

A suspected animal cruelty reporting bill passed in Kentucky. Often, veterinarians are the only ones who see — or are able to recognize — signs of cruelty. In Kentucky, suspected animal cruelty can now be reported to those who are legally able to intervene.

The Florida cross-reporting law requires reciprocal reporting between child protective services and animal control officers. When an officer responds to a suspected child abuse case and also suspects animal abuse, it requires them to notify animal control. Domestic abuse, child abuse, and animal abuse are interconnected, and this new law will help protect both children and animals from abusive situations.

We continue to advance Courtroom Animal Advocate Program (CAAP) bills in several states. These priority bills allow volunteer attorneys or supervised law students, appointed at a judge's discretion, to serve as advocates for an animal's interest. Our justice system is overburdened, and an advocate can provide the court with more complete information — ensuring that the interests of animal victims are addressed.

Additional state advancements for animals' legal status include:

- Preserving a Texas Licensed Breeder Program which was in danger of abolishment and will continue to prevent puppy mills from operating across the state.
- Passing *Bella's Act* in California, further clarifying the state's retail pet sales ban intended for stronger enforcement.
- Advancing a Massachusetts spay/neuter budget allocation.
- Passing a law to address injured police canines in Florida.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund has been instrumental in enacting numerous local retail pet sales bans to end the sale of commercially bred animals at pet stores — most notably in San Antonio, Texas; Orange County, Florida; and Plymouth, Massachusetts. These ordinances are critical in building momentum for state legislation, including campaigns currently underway.



Farmed Animals

Due to the lobbying power of the animal agriculture industry, farmed animal protection legislation is challenging to pass. But it is essential that we continue to build on progress and fight for farmed animals' protection.

Nevada recently became the ninth state to ban extreme confinement for hens used in the egg industry and the sale of eggs from caged hens. The new law also requires enrichment in hens' housing, allowing them to engage in natural behaviors such as perching and dust bathing. With this ban, Nevada follows a nationwide cage-free trend that is anticipated to continue with other states.

Colorado passed a bill prohibiting **battery cages** and requiring all eggs sold in the state to be cage-free by the end of 2024, and another which offers greater protections to agricultural workers — including whistleblowers.

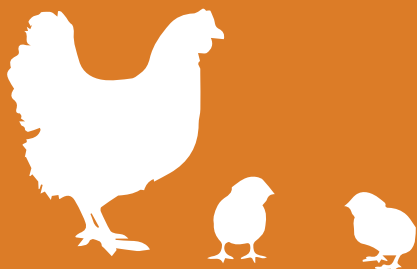
A live market moratorium was extended in New York, prohibiting the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets from issuing licenses to animal slaughter establishments or live poultry markets within a 1,500-foot radius of a residential building in New York City. The law extends the existing moratorium for an additional four years.

In Texas, we prevented a provision of a bill that would have prohibited whistleblowers at animal agriculture facilities from coming forward. These provisions are commonly referred to as Ag-Gag laws.

As active leaders in the Stand Up to Factory Farming coalition, we continue to advance the proposed Oregon mega-dairy moratorium to prohibit the construction of new mega-dairies and expansion of existing mega-dairies — defined as facilities with more than 2,500 cows. Mega-dairies cause extreme suffering for cows, and also use vast amounts of water and create significant air pollution, putting the environment and surrounding communities at risk.

Battery Cages:

The majority of commercial eggs are produced by hens confined to battery cages. There are typically multiple hens per cage, and the size is so small that hens can't even spread their wings — leading to extreme physical and psychological stress, illness, and injury. Due to the tight confinement, the front of baby chicks' beaks is seared off to prevent chickens from pecking each other to death.



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Wildlife Trafficking and Exploitation

Florida and Connecticut passed wildlife trafficking bills. Florida added crimes against wildlife to the list of racketeering offenses under the state's *Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act*, resulting in harsher penalties for people who illegally take, kill, sell, purchase, or possess wildlife. In Connecticut, the new law bans the import, possession, sale, or transport of body parts of African elephants, lions, leopards, black rhinos, white rhinos, and giraffes.

Colorado and Washington banned wildlife killing contests. In killing contests, participants receive money and prizes in various categories, including largest animal killed and highest number of animals killed.

Hawaii passed the *Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact*, which will ensure that wildlife officials can prevent convicted wildlife poachers from coming to the state to circumvent their loss of hunting privileges in other states. The compact allows for reciprocal recognition of hunting, trapping, and fishing license suspensions or revocations. Our efforts in Massachusetts, the only U.S. state that's not a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, continue.



Additional state advancements for wildlife include:

- Securing passage of the *California Ecosystems Protection Act*.
- Passing a ban on trapping and poisoning on public lands in New Mexico.
- Passing a dangerous wild animal law in Nevada.
- Passing the *New Hampshire Wildlife Protection Act*.
- Passing a shark-fin ban and an increase in penalties for bear poaching in Florida.
- Securing a ban on “exotic” animals used in performances such as circuses and traveling shows in Colorado.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund also played a key role in passing several municipal ordinances, including multiple restrictions on wild animal acts and a local ban on new fur sales in Massachusetts.





As our Legislative Affairs Program continues to grow, we will continue to build momentum and pursue increased protections for animals across all exploitive industries. Working together with the Criminal Justice and Litigation teams, our strategy continues to strengthen, with the end goal of passing laws that can — and will — be enforced. Thank you for your ongoing support.

For the animals,

Kimberly Kelly

Kim Kelly | Legislative Affairs Program Director

LITIGATION

This year marked major milestones in multiple high-impact strategic lawsuits against individuals and industries that exploit animals.

In the past five years, the department has grown three-fold, from a team of seven to over 20 attorneys and professional staff when our new class of Litigation Fellows joins us this fall. Thanks to that growth, in the past fiscal year we initiated 47 new legal matters and had a total of 152 open legal matters: a record year.

To best leverage that growth and enable future expansion, the Litigation Program underwent a major restructuring. This included identifying lead attorneys to manage our work on priority issues: (1) factory farming and environmental litigation, (2) civil enforcement of cruelty laws and animals' legal status, and (3) wild animals, including those in captivity.



40
VICTORIES IN 2021



98
YEARS OF ATTORNEY
EXPERIENCE

FACTORY FARMING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The litigation team had an outstanding year, securing many significant precedent-setting victories for farmed animals. One by one, our cases are impacting factory farming's business model and removing barriers faced by plant-based producers.

Environmentally, factory farms are egregious polluters that deplete both the quantity and quality of habitat for wild animals. In December 2020, we won two remarkable victories that will empower us and other advocates to hold the factory farm industry accountable for its destructive practices.

First, in *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Azar*, a case challenging the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of a drug given to animals — which the drugmaker claims lowers emissions without meaningfully reforming factory farm practices — the court ruled that the Animal Legal Defense Fund showed sufficient evidence of illegal agency action. We now move forward in proving the drug should not have been approved. Likewise, in *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Foster Farms and City of Livingston*, a case challenging a chicken slaughterhouse's extreme exploitation of local water sources in California's drought-prone Central Valley, the court ruled that the Animal Legal Defense Fund has the right to sue private industrial slaughterhouses to protect California's precious water resources.

Standing:

In order to bring a lawsuit, the plaintiff must have “standing.” Legal standing is the requirement that the party filing a lawsuit has been, or will be, harmed by the defendant — and that the court can remedy this harm.



Adding to these two victories, in January 2021 we filed *Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement v. Council on Environmental Quality*, a lawsuit challenging the agency’s implementation of regulations that allow federal agencies to fund new factory farms and slaughterhouses without addressing the environmental impacts of these facilities nationwide, arguing that it is a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

40+
ACTIVE FACTORY
FARMING CHALLENGES

We submitted two petitions for government action — first, urging the FDA to stop the use of an animal drug known to be deadly to farmed animals and toxic to aquatic organisms, including threatened and endangered species, and second, urging the USDA to stop funding “depopulations” of thousands of animals at once on factory farms without regard to their suffering or the environmental impact of the practice.

Factory farms are the primary perpetrators of animal abuse in the U.S., and we continue our long-running fight for transparency in industrial animal agriculture — including fighting the industry’s attempt to hide factory farm cruelty through Ag-Gag laws. As litigation proceeds in Kansas, Arkansas, North Carolina, and two challenges in Iowa, multiple cases went before appeals courts for further review of lower courts’ decisions, leading to resounding victories. The appeals court in the Kansas case, *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Kelly*, upheld our victory, striking down that state’s law. The appeals court in the Arkansas challenge, *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Vaught*, reversed the lower court’s decision, ruled that the Animal Legal Defense Fund has sufficient **standing** to bring the case, and remanded it to the lower district court to hear arguments to determine the constitutionality of the law.



Tag-Gag:

The term Tag-Gag is a play on the term Ag-Gag. Both types of laws are designed by supporters of the animal agriculture industry to impede First Amendment rights of free speech. Tag-Gag laws seek to restrict terms companies can use on packaging and labels to describe plant-based food products. Terms the laws and regulatory agencies have tried to regulate include “burger,” “sausage,” “milk,” “cheese,” and “butter.”



We have had success in our challenges of state laws seeking to prohibit plant-based products from using terms such as “burger” and “sausage,” and other **Tag-Gag** laws that attempt to favor animal-product producers over plant-based producers. After filing a lawsuit challenging Louisiana’s law on behalf of Tofurky, *Turtle Island Foods v. Strain*, the state agreed not to enforce the law until its legality is decided, allowing plant-based producers to continue labeling their products accurately. In *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Food Safety Inspection Service*, we challenged the USDA’s approval of misleading imagery on the packaging of chicken products, depicting chickens in sunny pasture settings instead of the windowless, warehouse-like factory farm conditions in which they actually live.

Finally, we are well-positioned for success in the coming year with several exciting cases in development and some of our key environmental cases entering phases where we will start getting more information from the industry about their problematic practices.

CIVIL ENFORCEMENT AND ANIMALS' LEGAL STATUS

The Animal Legal Defense Fund continues to break new ground, creating clever and unique strategies to end abuse of animals via civil court orders. Building on previous successes, we gained momentum, garnered numerous victories, and continue to set a foundation for expansion in the future.

In *Caru SPCA v. Anthony*, we challenged the legality of a dog breeder and hoarder operating in a residential area. The court entered a permanent injunction prohibiting the defendant from possessing dogs and authorizing the rescue of any dogs on the property. The rescue order is stayed pending resolution of the defendant's subsequent appeal, which we will litigate in the coming year in hopes of setting **precedent** in California, confirming that laws related to or affecting animals can be privately enforced by corporations formed to prevent cruelty to animals, known as societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCAs).

Precedent:

In the American legal system, law is primarily developed in two ways: by the legislative branch, and by the judiciary branch through legal decisions. "Precedent" refers to previous court decisions that either guide or bind future courts considering cases with similar facts.

When a lower court's ruling is affirmed by an appellate court, it sets a precedent. This precedent then serves as proof to future courts that the law was accurately applied in the challenge and can be used again in a similar argument.



Using this same California provision and legal theory in *Loy v. Kenney*, we filed a lawsuit against multiple members of the Kenney family for selling sick newborn puppies on Craigslist and other online platforms. For years, the Kenney family has defrauded consumers in Southern California by misrepresenting the health, age, and breed of puppies by dyeing underage puppies and faking immunization records in order to bolster their fictitious marketing. Many of the puppies have died due to diseases concealed by the Kennes and caused by the Kennes' failure to provide needed vaccines and veterinary care. The case survived motions to dismiss, again finding that SPCAs have standing to enforce laws to protect animals, and is scheduled for trial in 2022.



"Winnie began having constipation, which turned into severe diarrhea ... she had fleas and parasites that had made it into her bloodstream. Winnie was admitted to the hospital, and treated for anemia and given a blood transfusion. After three weeks in the hospital, Winnie was euthanized on the veterinarian's recommendation. She had canine distemper, and never weighed over one pound. The veterinarian also told [the family] that Winnie was closer to four weeks old ... not eight weeks as the Defendants had told them."

—Excerpt from Loy v. Kenney complaint.



Zahar was diagnosed with an upper respiratory infection, ringworm, a ruptured abscess, a stomach tumor, a seizure disorder that did not respond to medication, and FIP. Due to her diminished quality of life, Zahar was euthanized.

In another case, numerous kittens became gravely ill after being purchased from Adorable Stars in Orlando, Florida — with some fatalities — leading the Animal Legal Defense Fund to seek to stop the unlicensed exhibitor and breeder via civil enforcement in *Rozetti v. Adorable Stars*. The lawsuit seeks to shut down the breeding operation permanently, hold the owner accountable for animal neglect and cruelty under Florida law, and secure financial relief for three kitten purchaser plaintiffs who have been left with thousands of dollars in damages and severe emotional stress related to their kittens' health problems.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund's groundbreaking lawsuit *Justice v. Vercher* is awaiting a decision from the Oregon Court of Appeals, after oral arguments were held last year. The lawsuit is filed on behalf of a horse named Justice who suffered starvation, frostbite, and other grave injuries due to his abuser's failure to provide him with basic care, including food and shelter. As a result of Gwendolyn Vercher's criminal neglect, Justice has permanent injuries that will require costly medical care for the rest of his life. The lawsuit seeks damages for Justice's ongoing care — to be placed in a legal trust established on his behalf.

Justice v. Vercher

In 2018, the Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a groundbreaking lawsuit on behalf of an 8-year-old horse named Justice. If successful, this lawsuit will be the first to establish that animals have a legal right to sue their abusers in court. The case is currently awaiting a decision on appeal.



Scan this code with your smartphone to watch the short documentary Justice v. Vercher, narrated by Nikki Reed, to learn more about Justice.



WILD ANIMALS

Netflix's *Tiger King* exposed many to the shadowy world of roadside zoos and captive animal attractions. Thanks to the support of members like you, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has been leading the fight against these roadside zoo facilities for years, including our precedent-setting victories against the infamous Cricket Hollow Zoo in Iowa — with one case resulting in the rescue of hundreds of animals.

This year, the Litigation team expended significant time and financial resources on our roadside zoo docket, filing new lawsuits and engaging in the time-intensive discovery process in cases against Olympic Game Farm in Washington, *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Olympic Game Farm*, and Farmers Inn in Pennsylvania, *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Lucas*. Both cases allege violations of the Endangered Species Act and state public nuisance standards based on violations of state animal protection laws.

We also obtained an important victory against Special Memories Zoo, a Wisconsin roadside zoo, in *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Special Memories Zoo*. The facility closed shortly after we filed a suit against it, and in January 2021 the court permanently banned Special Memories Zoo, as well as its owner and manager, from ever possessing or exhibiting animals again — other than the dogs kept as their “personal pets” — or working with any business that does so.

8

CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ROADSIDE ZOO CASES

All told, our current roadside zoo cases seek to protect and save the lives of nearly a thousand individuals currently held in inhumane conditions in these facilities, prevent thousands more from ever facing lives in those conditions, and set precedent that will help hundreds of thousands, if not millions, more animals. This important work will only continue to expand in the future as we are actively developing several additional strategic lawsuits targeting roadside zoos.





Thank you for your support and dedication to animals and increasing and enforcing their protections. It is an honor to represent animals and their interests in courtrooms across the country on your behalf.

For the animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Eliseuson". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Tony Eliseuson | Litigation Program Director

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PUPPIES AND KITTENS



At puppy and kitten mills across the U.S., animals suffer every day — but victory over these cruel facilities is in sight.

With your help, we're taking on inhumane commercial breeding mills from multiple angles, filing high-impact lawsuits, supporting anti-mill legislation, and launching innovative campaigns to help animal advocates have their say. The 2021 fiscal year saw important progress in this fight.

A critical element of fighting mill cruelty is stopping the retail sale of puppies and kittens in pet stores — a key revenue stream for mills. With your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund was instrumental in passing numerous retail pet sales bans, including ones in San Antonio, Texas; Orange County, Florida; and multiple Massachusetts localities. These bans prohibit pet stores from selling puppies, kittens, and in some cases, rabbits, instead encouraging stores to partner with animal shelters and rescue groups to offer rescued animals for adoption. We also endorsed two federal bills, the *Puppy Protection Act* and the *Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act*, to protect dogs from some of the cruelest mill conditions and improve regulatory enforcement for commercial breeding operations.

Our lawsuit to stop an illegal “puppy laundering” scheme — in which mill-bred puppies were falsely presented as “rescues” and sold in California pet stores to skirt the state’s retail pet sales ban — led to a settlement with a fake rescue group that agreed to no longer illegally import puppies bred in Midwest puppy mills into California. Previously, the case led to the closure of a pet store chain that sold “laundered” puppies bred in mills.

Life in a Puppy Mill:

Dogs used for breeding in puppy mills typically spend their lives in barren wire cages, never getting the chance to run or play. Denied proper veterinary care and kept in filthy conditions, they frequently suffer from preventable health problems as a result. When they're no longer viewed as profitable, mother dogs may be abandoned or even killed. Meanwhile, puppies bred in these mills often suffer lingering health and behavioral challenges.



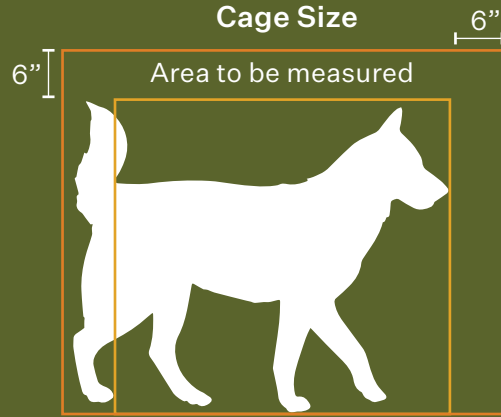
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6 Inches:

The amount of space each dog in a USDA-licensed puppy mill is required to have beyond her body length, measured from her nose to the base of her tail, under current federal law. The *Puppy Protection Act* would increase this space requirement, among other improvements. The Animal Legal Defense Fund has endorsed this bipartisan bill.

Cage Size



USDA Cage Standards:
Cage must be 6 inches larger than the dog on all sides.



“Unscrupulous puppy sellers are using the internet to sell dogs who have been bred, raised, and kept in bad conditions and sometimes even misrepresented to the customer what the animal is and the circumstances of the breeding.”

Managing Attorney Christopher Berry, to the *San Jose Mercury News*

BEYOND BRICK-AND-MORTAR

While pet stores are a key sales venue for mill-bred animals, online sales are also very common, with websites like Craigslist among the most-used platforms. While Craigslist’s official policy prohibits companion animal sales, they actually happen quite frequently on the platform — with many sellers exploiting a loophole that permits “rehoming” animals.

In the 2021 fiscal year, we launched a campaign urging Craigslist to protect animals and consumers alike by banning all posts about animal sales and transfers. This would help stop unscrupulous breeders and dealers like the Kenney family, California-based puppy launderers who’ve routinely used Craigslist in their scheme to defraud consumers.

Your support powered important victories in our ongoing lawsuit against the Kenneys, including a preliminary injunction banning them from advertising or selling puppies while the case proceeds. In another noteworthy ruling, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge affirmed the ability of societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCAs) to enforce California’s animal cruelty laws, a pivotal win for animals throughout the state. An SPCA is among the plaintiffs in the Kenney case, along with nine individuals who purchased puppies desperately ill with preventable diseases or suffering from major parasite infestations. Some of those puppies died — but with your help, we’re fighting to protect other innocent animals from the same fate.

Fighting for Kittens:

Puppy mills may attract more headlines, but kitten mills are also a significant problem. In the 2021 fiscal year, the Animal Legal Defense Fund took on a Florida mill called Adorable Stars, which markets itself as a “luxury” kitten breeder and uses the popularity of its live-streaming “kitten cam” to lure unsuspecting families. Behind the camera, many of the kittens suffer from preventable illnesses, parasite infestations, and other health problems — and some have died shortly after arriving at their new homes. We’re representing several individuals who purchased desperately ill kittens in their lawsuit against the mill and are also urging the USDA to initiate an investigation into this unlicensed operation. You can send your own message to the USDA at [aldf.org/protectingkittens](https://www.aldf.org/protectingkittens).





CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Animal victims don't necessarily understand what a global pandemic means — but they can feel its impact, day by day, hour by hour.

Already under-prioritized in many jurisdictions due to limited legal protections and a lack of enforcement of existing law, animal cruelty cases faced an additional, major setback as COVID-19 swept the nation. The pandemic upended the ability of the legal system to respond to and address cruelty situations in a timely manner, from the investigation of an animal abuse or neglect situation to a hearing on the removal of animal victims or the trial of the accused. For an animal victim, one more day subjected to physical abuse without relief, one more hour languishing in a cage held as “evidence,” matters significantly — and could mean life or death.

With time of the essence, the Criminal Justice Program stepped up to meet the many challenges faced by both animal victims and the dedicated law enforcement officers, prosecutors, veterinarians, and other professional stakeholders who work tirelessly each day to prevent and address animal cruelty across the country. We quickly pivoted from our established models for case support and trainings to provide our much-needed resources in new and creative ways, even expanding our support offerings with the goal of impacting as many animal victims as possible. Almost overnight, we transformed our traditionally in-person trainings to virtual models with the help of key partners, expanded our staff resources to include new veterinary experts to further bolster our expertise, and increased our financial assistance capacity for rescue entities who were left stranded with animal victims in their care as court dockets froze.

\$40,605

COST OF CARE GRANTS
FOR ANIMAL VICTIMS HELD
DURING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

ASSISTED IN 95 ANIMAL
CRUELTY CASES



\$22,767

VETERINARY CARE AND
VETERINARY FORENSICS
GRANTS FOR ANIMAL VICTIMS



Finally, and more difficult to quantify but equally important: In this challenging year, we were there to provide support for those many professionals on the front lines of cruelty case work for the betterment of animals. In any “normal” year, our attorneys and experts field countless calls from exasperated prosecutors and law enforcement officers looking for help navigating the legal and logistical complexities of animal cruelty cases — such as 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, due to court delays and other logistical hurdles caused by in-person limitations. It is in these conversations and connections — talking case strategy with a prosecutor prepping for trial, outlining the next steps in a complex investigation with an animal control officer — that we truly make a major impact for the hands-on professionals doing this work across the country, and the animals suffering in abusive homes or wasting away in abandoned structures.

VIRTUAL TRAININGS

We partnered with nationally renowned groups including Justice Clearinghouse, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys in exploring and successfully implementing virtual trainings such as webinars specifically addressing the nuts and bolts of virtual court appearances — a real-time need for keeping animal cruelty cases moving through the system and getting animal victims into better situations.

2,850
ATTENDEES TRAINED

DEMOGRAPHICS

- PROSECUTORS
- JUDGES
- ANIMAL CONTROL
- LAW ENFORCEMENT
- VETERINARIANS
- LAW STUDENTS



National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

- *Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse*
- *Animal Cruelty and Juvenile Offending*
- *Animal Hoarding: Issues in Family Law Cases*





Justice Clearinghouse

- *The Status of Animals in Criminal Cruelty Cases: What Animal Protection Professionals Need to Know*
- *Preserving the Bond and Preventing Cruelty: The Veterinarian's Role*



The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

- *Remote Orders of Protection*



International Veterinary Forensic Science

- *Success with Large Animal Seizures*

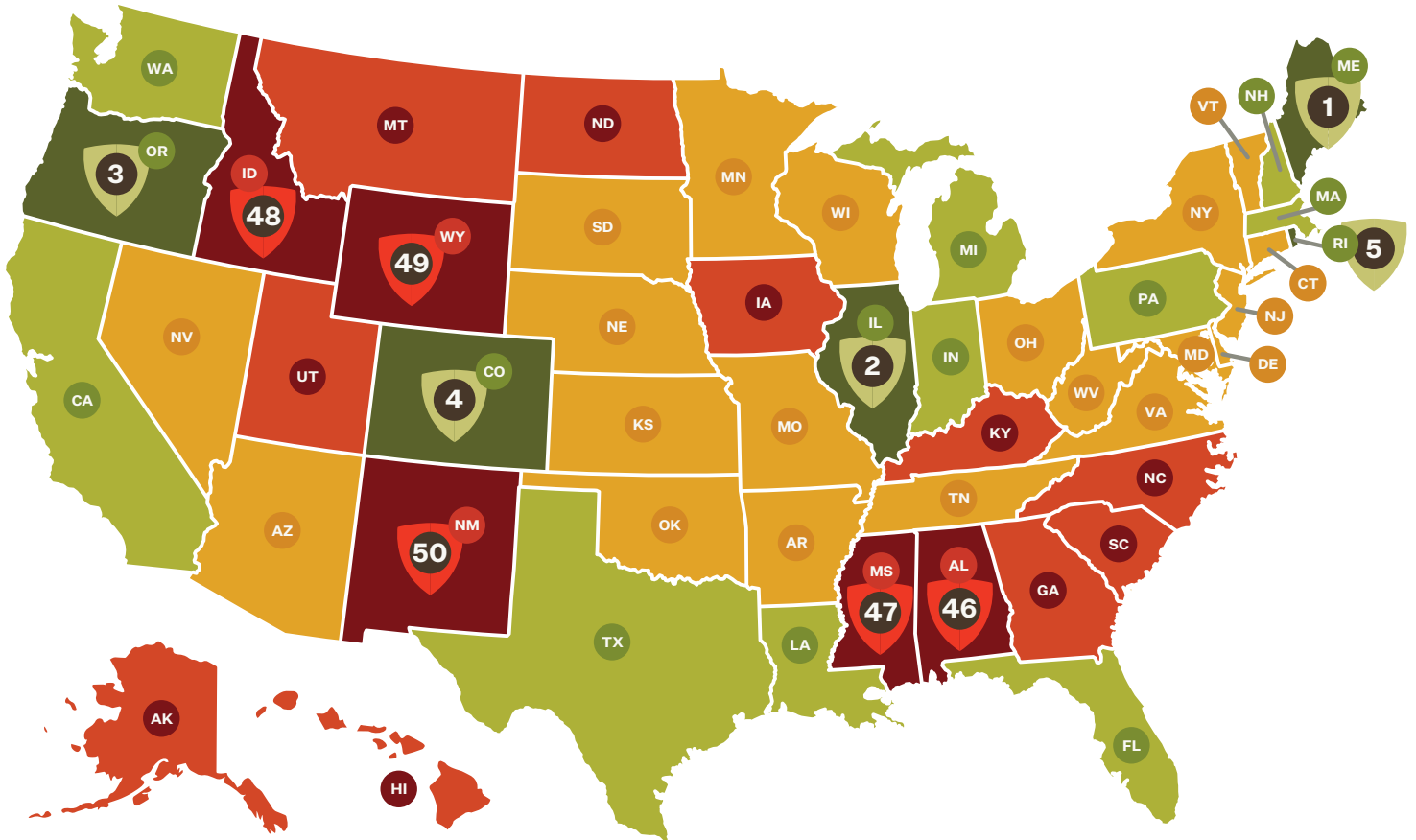
“ Great webinar! The different scenarios offered great examples and advice to expand my understanding. ”

Justice Clearinghouse training attendee

PUBLICATIONS

U.S. State Animal Protection Laws Ranking Report

Our 15th annual Rankings Report highlights the strengths and weaknesses of animal protection laws nationwide. This year, Maine rose to the top spot after creating a Courtroom Animal Advocate Program (CAAP), allowing a third-party legal practitioner in the courtroom to advocate for the interests of animals in cruelty cases.



RANKINGS BEST TO WORST:

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 MAINE | 11 TEXAS | 21 VERMONT | 31 MARYLAND | 41 NORTH CAROLINA |
| 2 ILLINOIS | 12 INDIANA | 22 KANSAS | 32 NEW YORK | 42 NORTH DAKOTA |
| 3 OREGON | 13 MICHIGAN | 23 DELAWARE | 33 SOUTH DAKOTA | 43 SOUTH CAROLINA |
| 4 COLORADO | 14 NEW HAMPSHIRE | 24 TENNESSEE | 34 ARKANSAS | 44 KENTUCKY |
| 5 RHODE ISLAND | 15 PENNSYLVANIA | 25 WISCONSIN | 35 MISSOURI | 45 UTAH |
| 6 MASSACHUSETTS | 16 VIRGINIA | 26 MINNESOTA | 36 ALASKA | 46 ALABAMA |
| 7 LOUISIANA | 17 NEW JERSEY | 27 CONNECTICUT | 37 MONTANA | 47 MISSISSIPPI |
| 8 CALIFORNIA | 18 NEBRASKA | 28 ARIZONA | 38 IOWA | 48 IDAHO |
| 9 FLORIDA | 19 WEST VIRGINIA | 29 OKLAHOMA | 39 HAWAII | 49 WYOMING |
| 10 WASHINGTON | 20 NEVADA | 30 OHIO | 40 GEORGIA | 50 NEW MEXICO |

- Territories*
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | 3 PUERTO RICO | 5 NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS |
| 2 U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS | 4 GUAM | 6 AMERICAN SAMOA ISLANDS |

aldf.org/staterankings



Scan this code with your smartphone to watch *The Case for Courtroom Animal Advocate Programs*, a film narrated by Anjelica Huston.



Farmed Animal Cruelty Prosecution Guides

An essential resource for prosecutors and law enforcement, our Farmed Animal Cruelty Prosecution Guides educate these professionals on how to use their states' animal cruelty laws when faced with a farmed animal cruelty situation. This year, we published six additional guides in California, Colorado, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Oklahoma.



Farmed Animal Cruelty Guides are now available (print and online versions).

IN 2021 SIX GUIDES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO:

358

PROSECUTORS

2,585

POLICE
DEPARTMENTS

427

ANIMAL SHELTERS

37

FARMED ANIMAL
SANCTUARIES



May I get several copies for myself and colleagues?



Guide recipient

SPECIAL PROSECUTORS

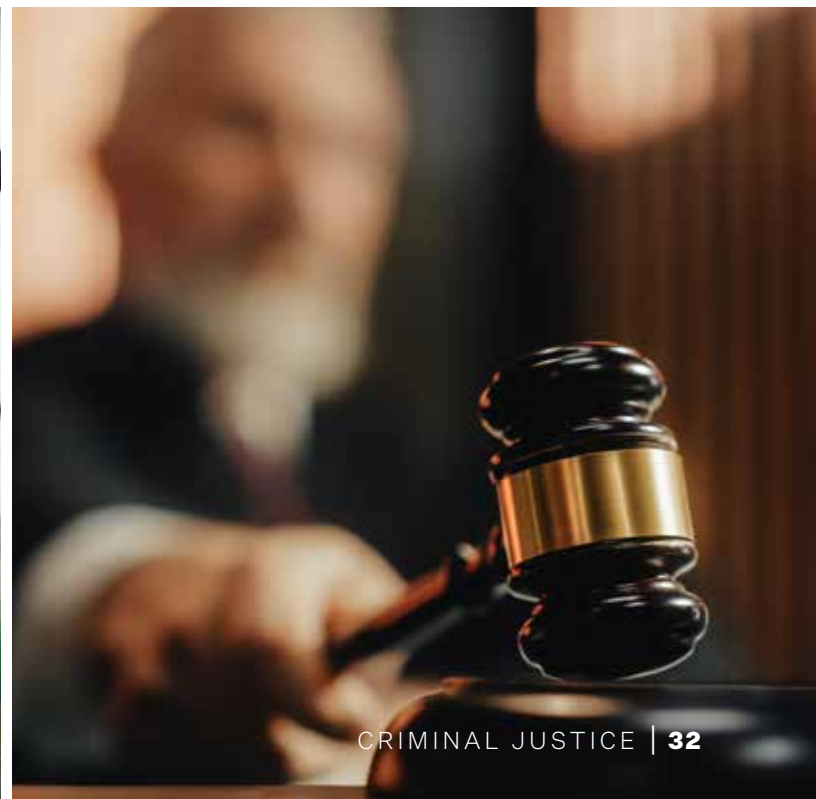
By supporting the work of animal-focused special prosecutors in state attorney generals' offices, we help combat cruelty across entire states. This year, we expanded the breadth of these efforts by supporting the Virginia Attorney General's Animal Law Unit and its statewide casework bringing animal cruelty offenders to justice. Highlights include:



In Virginia, following an investigation by the Attorney General's Animal Law Unit (supported by the Animal Legal Defense Fund), Bhagavan "Doc" Antle, the owner of Myrtle Beach Safari, was charged with one felony count of wildlife trafficking, one felony count of conspiracy to wildlife traffic, four misdemeanor counts of conspiracy to violate the Endangered Species Act, and nine misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty.



In Oregon, Deputy District Attorney Jake Kamins secured a major indictment of 274 counts of cruelty against the co-owners of a sham rescue that had subjected countless dogs and cats to egregious conditions of neglect.





Thank you for your support in helping us win the case against animal cruelty, most especially in these challenging times.

For the animals,

Lora Dunn

Lora Dunn | Criminal Justice Program Director



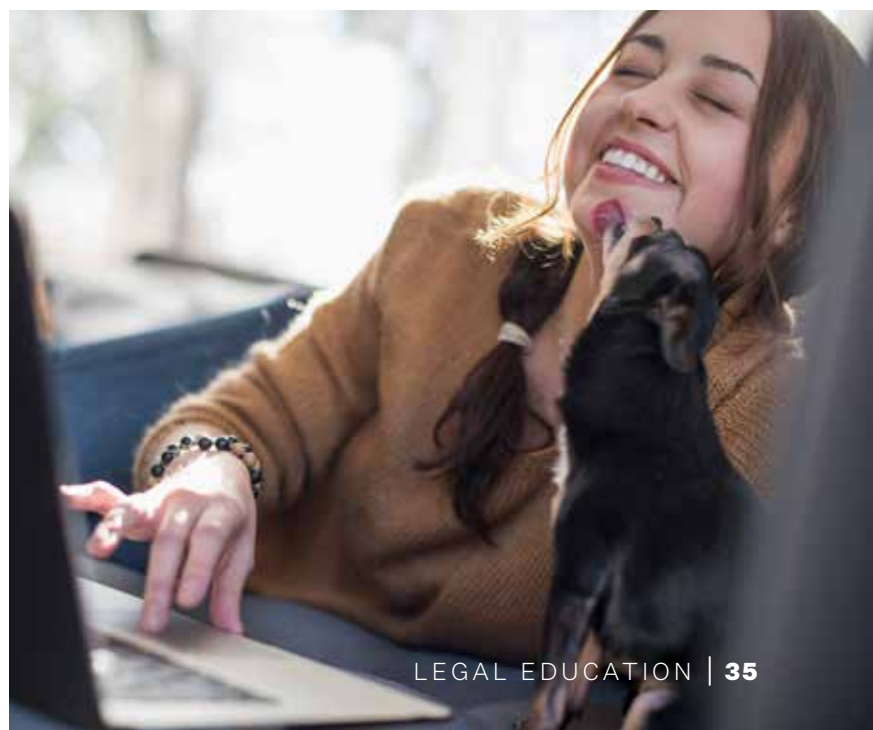
LEGAL EDUCATION

For two decades, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has championed the teaching and development of animal law in law schools.

Our work depends on a strong corps of attorneys who are knowledgeable and experienced in animal law, whether they work for animal protection nonprofits, government agencies, or in private practice. Twenty years ago, only nine law schools offered animal law courses; today, more than 160 law schools have offered at least one animal law course. In 2020, the Animal Law Program celebrated its 20th birthday! And 2021 saw the beginning of rapid growth as we pursued opportunities to partner with additional law schools, found innovative ways to support faculty and students, and seized the opportunity to expand our educational outreach beyond law schools.

ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND STUDENT CHAPTERS

Our work with law students seeks to engage them in animal law and working for animals while they are still in law school. Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapters continue to be the core of that work. Currently, 95 law schools have active student chapters. Student chapters were extra creative this year since law schools were remote, and we awarded 20 project grants for events including the California Animal Law Symposium and a symposium at American University focused on animal agriculture and its impacts on both workers and animals in factory farms, as well as its social justice implications. At our Student Convention in October, the student chapters at Florida A&M College of Law and American University Washington College of Law were jointly awarded the 2020 Student Chapter of the Year award.



OUTREACH

Our work in law schools is only one aspect of our promotion of animal law education. We also produce programming to engage attorneys and others who are interested in animal law issues and the work of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Animal Law Conference

The 2020 Animal Law Conference marked the 28th anniversary of this premier event, co-presented by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School. Originally scheduled to be an in-person event, we pivoted to a fully virtual one due to health and safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. Although it was disappointing not to bring the animal law community together face to face for the most established academic animal law conference in North America, there were some silver linings. While we usually welcome approximately 400 attendees at the live conference, we were able to expand our reach to participants who would not have been able to travel to an in-person event, including even more law students than in prior years. Via the virtual format, we registered over 600 attendees, including 175 law students and more than 200 attorneys. It's exciting to see such important animal law information, presented by the leaders in the field, reaching a growing and engaged audience.

“I appreciate how well informed and professionally active the speakers are. The level of expertise, integrity, preparation and the quality of information given impressed — no — thrilled me.”

Jean Maust

ADDITIONAL ON-DEMAND VIEWS
AS OF THE END OF 2020 AND
STILL GROWING



350

“The online presentation was seamless and easy to navigate. I also love that the recordings are posted so I can go back and watch those that I missed.”

Daina Bray, attorney

Animal Law Symposium

The 2021 Animal Law Symposium, titled “COVID-19 and Animals,” was held April 23–24, corresponding with the release of the third installment in the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s white paper series on the same topic. Symposium panels included prominent experts discussing the ongoing risk of zoonotic diseases from factory farming and captive wild animals. As with the Animal Law Conference, the virtual format of this year’s symposium allowed us to expand participation. Between the live views during the event and later on-demand views, the symposium reached over 600 people.



“The topic was timely and a galvanizing choice. There is work to be done but there is hope for making positive change while the world is in flux and attention is turned to the conditions of farmed and captive animals.”

Animal Law Symposium attendee





“

The speakers were well informed, offered great resources and ideas, adding to my existing knowledge and also helped generate new ideas on how to go about incorporating the content into my own work as a new researcher.

”

Animal Law Symposium attendee



SCHOLARSHIPS

Advancement of Animal Law Scholarships

Since 2008, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has awarded Animal Legal Defense Fund Advancement of Animal Law Scholarships to law student members of our student chapters, based upon demonstrated commitment to the organization's mission. Recipients are actively involved with their law school's student chapter and show promise in the field. Several current leaders in animal protection law, including multiple Animal Legal Defense Fund employees, are past recipients of the Advancement of Animal Law Scholarship. In 2021 we awarded scholarships to seven very impressive students, all of whom are already doing amazing work for animals.

Diversity Scholarships

The Animal Legal Defense Fund has formed partnerships with two historically Black law schools — Howard University School of Law and North Carolina Central University School of Law — to offer scholarship packages, with the goal of reducing the financial burden of law school for students interested in animal law, offering exposure to animal law issues, and ensuring that more diverse voices are being represented within the field. Recipients receive a \$25,000 scholarship to help defray tuition costs, a paid summer clerkship position at the Animal Legal Defense Fund, a stipend to help purchase a laptop and animal law books, and free registration for the Animal Law Conference. A similar scholarship was set up for a member of a federally recognized tribe who is a student at a U.S. law school. Recognizing that a lack of diversity hinders the development of animal law, we are continuing to develop relationships with law schools with diverse student bodies to develop opportunities in animal law for their students.



Center for Animal Law Studies Summer School Scholarships

Although most law schools have offered an animal law course at some point, the majority of law students still do not have regular access to animal law courses, and few have access to advanced animal law courses. The Center for Animal Law Studies offers an online animal law curriculum in the summer that allows students to earn animal law credits they can transfer to their law schools. This year, the Animal Legal Defense Fund awarded scholarships to eight students, covering the full tuition for one course each. Recipients had the opportunity to learn from renowned animal law faculty, taking courses such as Animal Rights Jurisprudence, Aquatic Animal Law, Companion Animal Law, and The Law & Ethics of Animal Testing.

“ I am so thankful and honored to be entrusted with the responsibility and expectations that come with being a recipient of this scholarship. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to be a member of such a powerful and noble cause. ”

North Carolina Central University School of Law scholarship recipient

COURSE GRANTS

As university and law school budgets have been slashed over the past several years, many law schools have cut their animal law courses — most of which are taught by adjunct faculty — or postponed starting new courses. Animal law courses are crucial to both the development of animal law and the training of future animal law attorneys. In 2021, supported by the generosity of the International Society for Animal Rights, we ramped up our course grant offerings, enabling us to provide 20 course grants for the 2021–22 academic year. These grants have funded courses including new animal law survey courses, a course in companion animal law, and an animal law clinic.

CLERKSHIP AND EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Each year, Animal Legal Defense Fund clerkships and externships give students an opportunity to be trained by top experts in animal law. Clerks and externs are integral members of a program team and work on projects that further the current work of the program and advance the mission and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. They also participate in activities that allow them to network across the organization with Animal Legal Defense Fund staff and other students while supporting the mission and goals of the organization. Through these programs, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has for many years provided students with invaluable opportunities to gain real experience working on animal law cases and issues — indeed, several of our current attorneys began their careers at the Animal Legal Defense Fund as student clerks.

Modern law school curricula increasingly require students to gain practical experience before they graduate. As more and more students want to gain that experience in animal law, this year we revitalized and made some changes to these already-excellent student programs to make them even more robust experiences for students and more visible to law schools. Our summer clerks are now paid, temporary Animal Legal Defense Fund employees who work for 10 weeks during the summer. Our 2021 class of summer clerks included 12 law students from law schools across the U.S.; three of those students had the honor of being named **David Reuben Summer Clerks**. During the academic year, semester externs earn academic credits from their law schools for experience they get working with and learning from Animal Legal Defense Fund attorneys.

David Reuben Summer Clerks:

Since 2007, animal advocate and philanthropist David Reuben has partnered with the Animal Legal Defense Fund to create and fund a concentrated summer clerkship program in which animal law experts train and mentor law school students in two key areas: criminal law and litigation. Dozens of law students have been honored as David Reuben Summer Clerks, and many have gone on to noteworthy careers in animal law.



“This was so well-organized and run. I felt like it made excellent use of the time - thank you!!! The tips on how best to get involved and keep members engaged in these virtual times were quite helpful.”

2L Student, University of Denver, Sturm College of Law

LAW STUDENT EVENTS

Student Chapter Kickoff

We started off the law school year by inviting law students to an exclusive students-only, online Student Chapter Kickoff event. Forty-seven students from student chapters around the country joined us for a highly interactive webinar to hear more about our student chapter resources and plans for the year, guess at a few trivia questions, learn about animal law legislation, and get to know each other.

Student Convention

In October, the annual Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Convention was well attended by 130 students. The convention was held remotely over two days this year. A highlight was a career panel that gave students the opportunity to ask questions and hear insights from leaders in the field of animal law. Panelists from varying backgrounds answered student questions, shared their stories, and offered valuable advice. This year's Student Scholarship Panel gave three students the opportunity to showcase their work in the area of environmental impacts on animals. All three students focused their work on aquatic or semi-aquatic animals and engaged the audience in discussions of aquaculture in New Zealand, a frog-killing fungus, and Burmese pythons.

Career Planning in Animal Law

Our spring student webinar brought students and animal law experts together in a conversation on career planning in animal law. Three attorneys answered questions directly from students on clerkships, curriculum planning, and interviewing.

Animal Law Academy

Through the Animal Law Academy, we produce free webinars on animal law issues relevant to the work of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. With so many people staying at home over the past year, we greatly expanded our Animal Law Academy. The 27 webinars produced in 2021 included two new series — *Critical Caselaw* and *Student Papers* — along with webinars presented by several Animal Legal Defense Fund staff members. Between live and on-demand participation, Animal Legal Defense Fund webinars garnered over 3,000 views in 2021.

“Another excellent webinar. We learn so much from these fact-based presentations. Speaker was excellent--extremely knowledgeable, obviously passionate about animals but professional, friendly demeanor, interesting.”

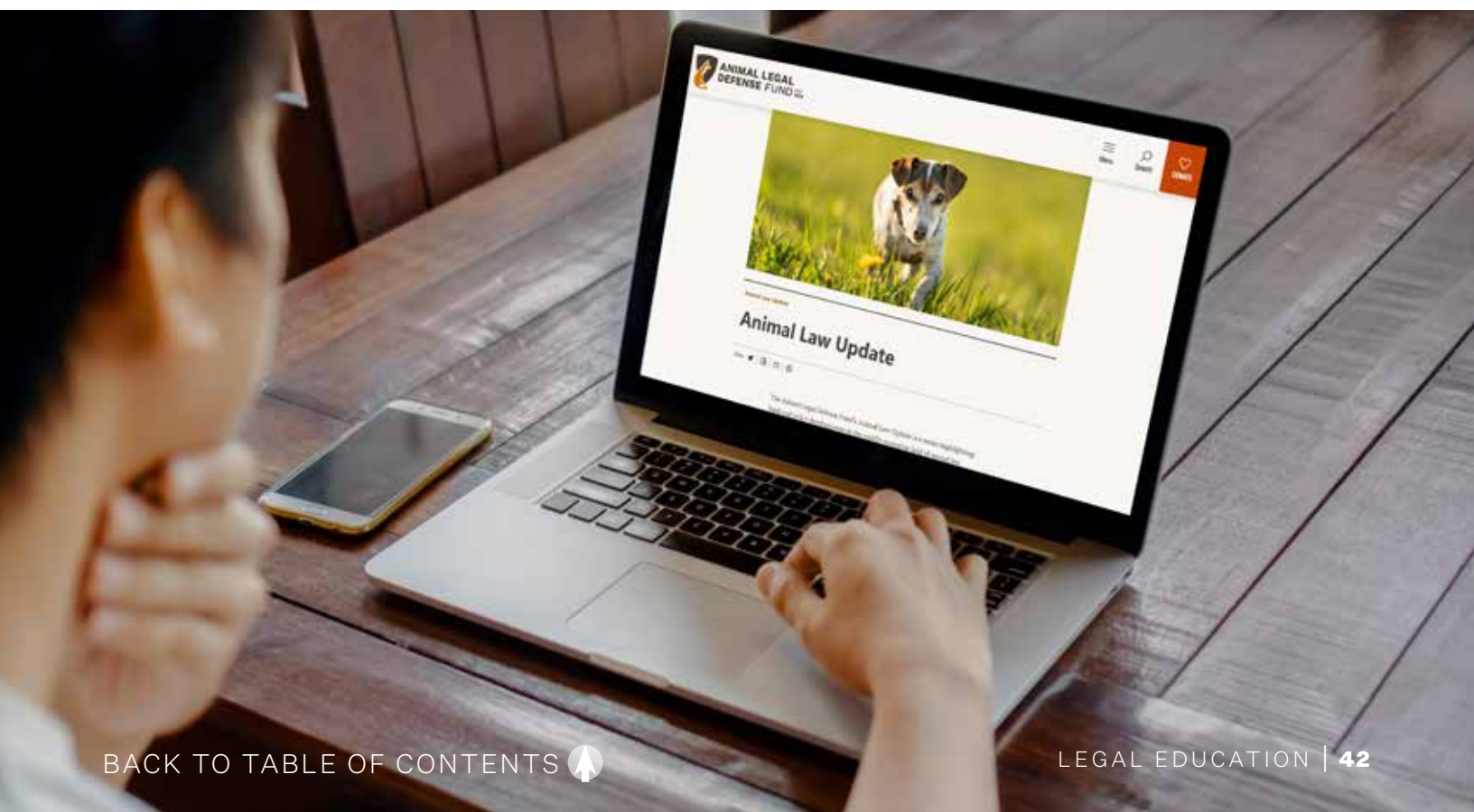
“Factory Farms: Generating Environmental Injustice in North Carolina” webinar participant

Animal Law Updates

Animal Law Update is an ongoing series of articles highlighting legal and policy developments in animal law. We added ten articles to the library this year, which now holds over eighty articles published since 2016. New articles published this year include “Madras High Court Uses Child Custody Approach to Resolve Dispute Over Legal Ownership of Elephant”; “France to End Mink Farming, Use of Wild Animals in Traveling Circuses, and Captivity of Orcas and Dolphins in Marine Parks”; “New California Laws Aim to Save More Companion Animals in Shelters”; and “New Kentucky Law Allows Veterinarians to Report Animal Cruelty.”

“More transparency is urgently needed in animal agriculture, not less. With broad implications for animal protection, worker rights, environmental justice, and public health, the animal agriculture industry must not be allowed to seek cover behind unconstitutional special protections that enable it to operate in secret with no public accountability for its practices, including the mistreatment of countless vulnerable animals who — with scant legal protections — are trapped inside windowless sheds behind closed and tightly locked doors.”

Animal Legal Defense Fund Senior Policy Program Manager Nicole Pallotta,
“Though Ruled Unconstitutional, Industry Continues Pushing Ag-Gag Laws:
Updates in North Carolina, Kansas, Iowa, and Ontario”





Thanks to your support, we are training the next generation of lawyers, judges, and politicians. And through our programming, law students, attorneys, and advocates are seeing the diversity in legal disciplines that touch and affect animals — and that *all law* is animal law.


For the animals,

Stacey Gordon Sterling

Stacey Gordon Sterling | Animal Law Program Director



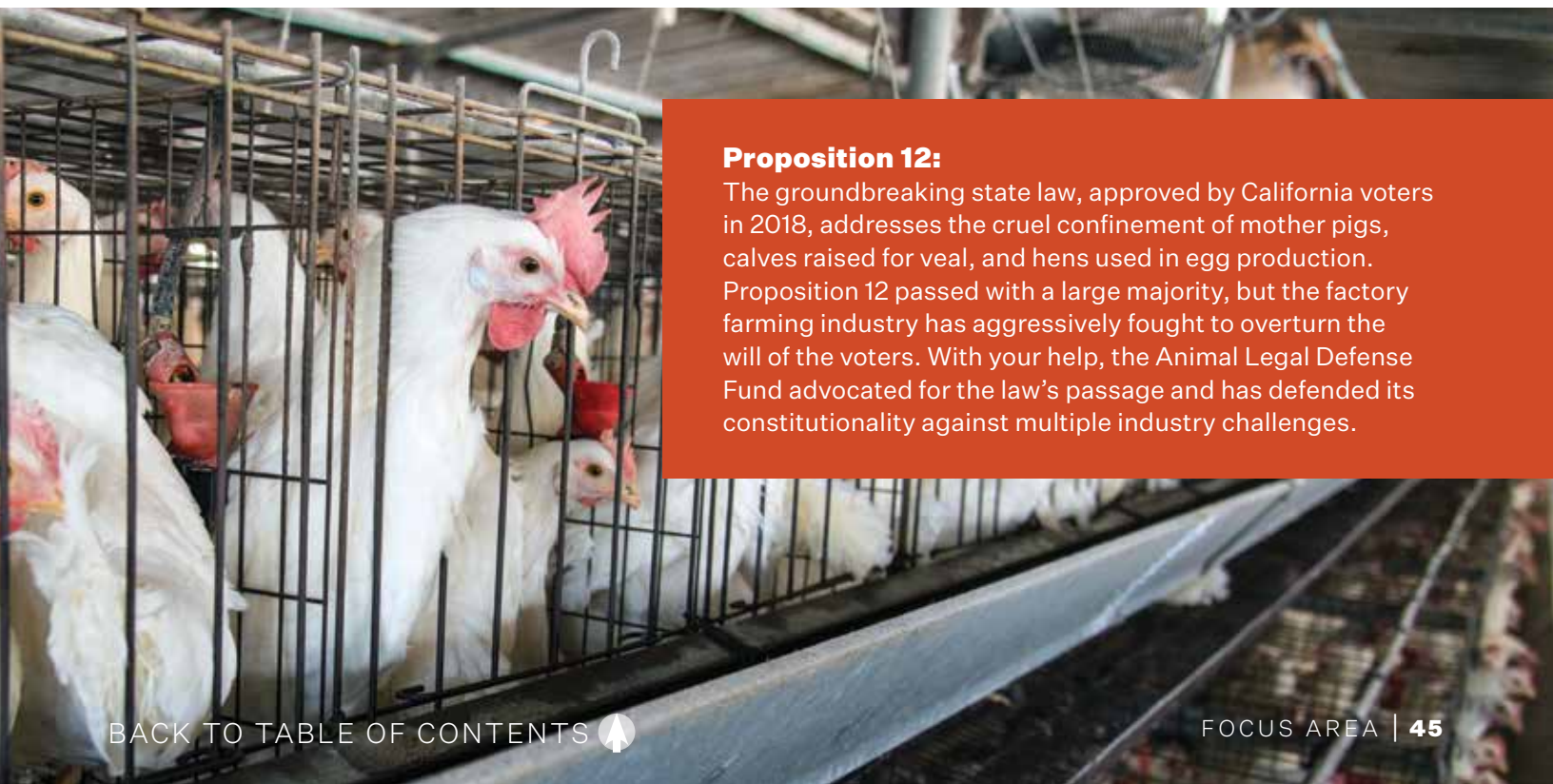
CHALLENGING CRUEL CONDITIONS FOR FARMED ANIMALS

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#) 

With your support, the fight to stop farmed animal abuse made major strides in the 2021 fiscal year. Together, we made critical progress against cruel extreme confinement and the most inhumane forms of slaughter, defended states' ability to pass laws improving conditions for farmed animals, and protected consumers' right to know the truth about the way their food is produced.

We successfully defended California's landmark farmed animal protection law, Proposition 12, against an industry challenge, with the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirming a lower court ruling in the animals' favor.

In battery cages on factory egg farms, chickens are so tightly confined that they can't even stretch their wings. Thanks to you, we helped bring an end to battery cage housing systems for hens in Colorado and Nevada — laws that apply both to in-state production and the sale of eggs produced out of state.



Proposition 12:

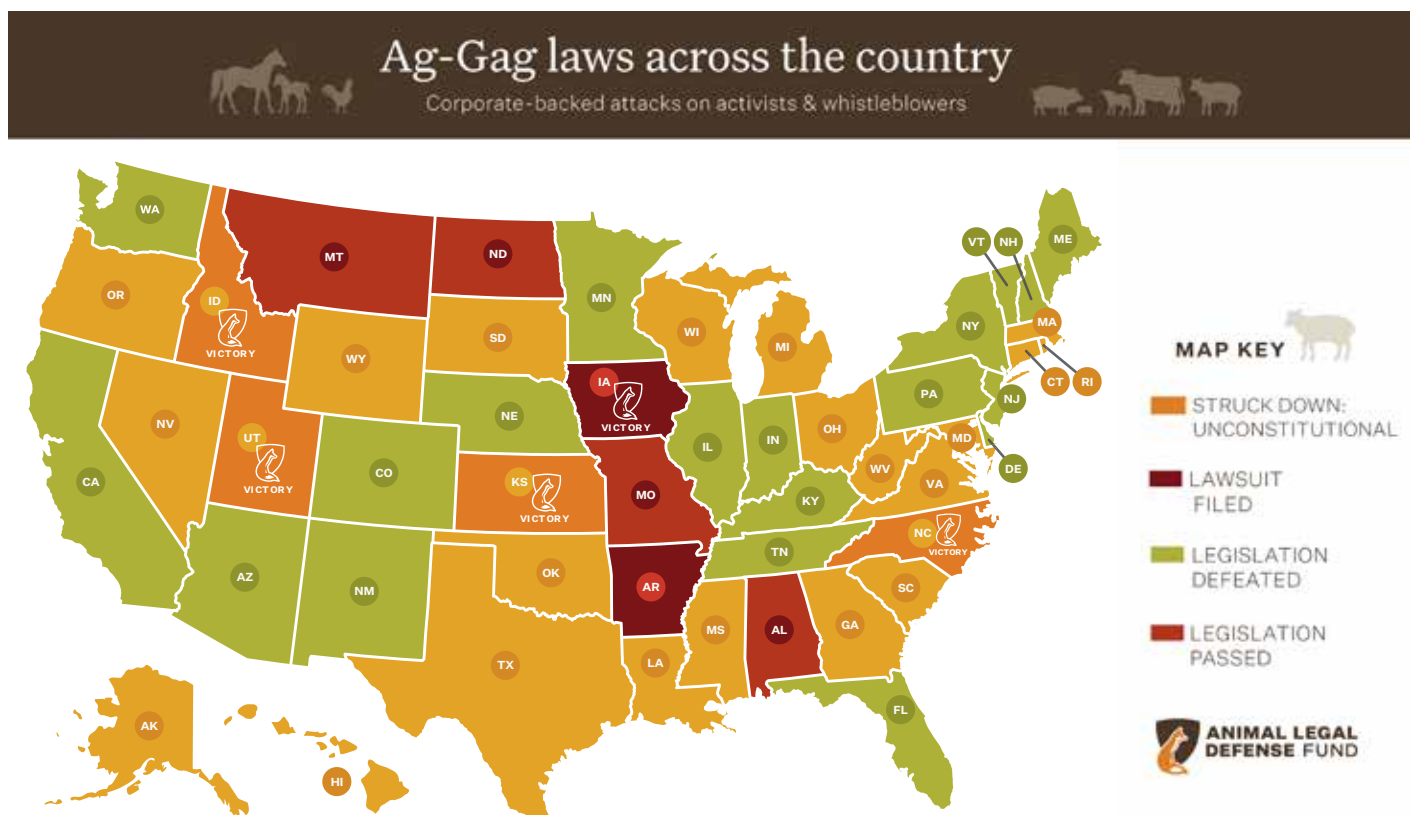
The groundbreaking state law, approved by California voters in 2018, addresses the cruel confinement of mother pigs, calves raised for veal, and hens used in egg production. Proposition 12 passed with a large majority, but the factory farming industry has aggressively fought to overturn the will of the voters. With your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund advocated for the law's passage and has defended its constitutionality against multiple industry challenges.



DEFENDING FREE SPEECH THAT EXPOSES CRUELTY

When people learn about abuse in factory farms and slaughterhouses, they're understandably outraged. But rather than addressing this cruelty directly, corporate animal agriculture interests often simply try to hide it from the public. In statehouses across the U.S., industry-friendly lawmakers have passed Ag-Gag legislation — unconstitutional laws meant to deter whistleblowing and undercover investigations on factory farms. With your support, we made important progress against Ag-Gag in the 2021 fiscal year, helping to stop dangerous Ag-Gag legislation in Texas and laying the groundwork for key courtroom victories in multiple states at the start of the 2022 fiscal year.

Whistleblowers and undercover investigators help bring cruelty to light — so it's easy to see why corporate animal agriculture interests want to silence them. Without an undercover investigation by Animal Outlook, we wouldn't have learned about rampant cruelty at California factory farm Dick Van Dam Dairy. Undercover footage propelled our lawsuit against the dairy and underpinned our campaign urging Target to stop selling products from Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) — a dairy cooperative whose suppliers have included Dick Van Dam Dairy and other factory farms where cruelty has been documented — until abuse can be rooted out of its supply chain.



FIGHTING CRUELTY AT SLAUGHTER

The cruelty of corporate animal agriculture doesn't end on the factory farm. It continues through transport and slaughter, pervading virtually every aspect of farmed animals' lives. You're powering the work to challenge methods of slaughter that are cruel to animals and harmful to workers, nearby communities, and human health.

We sued the industry giant Foster Farms over its use of a cruel, water-wasting method of killing chickens at a facility in drought-stricken central California. It employs a "live-hang" slaughter method, which requires workers to handle still-conscious chickens and shackle them upside down — a highly distressing process for the birds, who may become injured as they struggle to break free. Next, they're subjected to a process called "electric immobilization," in which the shackled, still-struggling birds are run through a pool of electrified water. California's state constitution prohibits "the waste or unreasonable use" of water, and our lawsuit seeks to compel the slaughterhouse to switch to a less cruel and water-wasting method. Already, a court has found in favor of our right to sue Foster Farms, a crucial step in the case.

Our coalition's lawsuit challenging the USDA's failure to protect "downed" pigs — those who arrive at the slaughterhouse too sick, weak, or injured to stand — saw important progress when a federal judge ruled that our case can proceed, rejecting the government's bid to have it dismissed. Downed pigs are at increased risk for inhumane handling, and their entry into the food system endangers human health.

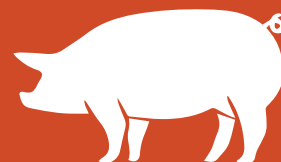
47 Days:

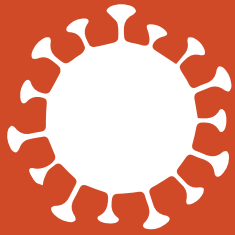
The average age of so-called "broiler" chickens at the time they're slaughtered for human consumption in the U.S. An estimated one in 20 of these birds will die on the factory farm before they even reach that age. In a sanctuary setting, they can live for years.



500,000+:

The number of pigs who arrive at slaughterhouses unable to stand or walk every year in the U.S. The USDA currently permits these pigs to be killed for human consumption, but with your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is challenging this cruel, dangerous practice in court.





Learn More:

Read the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s educational resources and policy proposals to prevent future animal-exploitation-linked pandemics at aldf.org/whitepaper.



PREVENTING FUTURE PANDEMICS

Of the estimated nine billion land animals killed for human consumption each year in the U.S., nearly all are raised on factory farms. And the factory farming model isn’t just inhumane — it also poses a serious risk to public health. The danger of zoonotic disease is ever-present in the industrial animal agriculture system, but that risk is especially potent in the wake of COVID-19. In the 2021 fiscal year, we advocated for critical reforms to protect animals and prevent future pandemics.

The pandemic took a heavy toll on workers and animals alike in industrial animal agriculture facilities, causing a slowdown at slaughterhouses that resulted in the cruel mass “depopulation” of animals on factory farms. The Animal Legal Defense Fund launched a series of billboards near slaughterhouses and an online tip portal enabling whistleblowers to anonymously report cruel mass-slaughter incidents, worker safety issues, and other concerns. And we filed an emergency petition with the USDA, urging it to take action against the cruelest forms of depopulation: ventilation shutdown, in which animals are essentially baked alive, and suffocation with water-based foam.

We also advocated for important legislation, including the *Farm System Reform Act* — which would place a moratorium on the construction or expansion of the largest factory farms and require preexisting ones to cease operations by 2040. Meanwhile, we helped secure the extension of a moratorium on certain live-animal markets and storefront slaughterhouses in New York state.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

The factory farming system benefits from numerous exemptions and loopholes that allow it to skirt rules other industries are required to obey. Even still, corporate animal agriculture interests are seeking to do away with commonsense regulations such as slaughterhouse line-speed limits that protect both animals and workers. In our lawsuit over the USDA's decision to allow most pigs to be slaughtered with no line-speed limit at all, the court rejected the agency's request to dismiss the case, allowing it to proceed.

Meanwhile, we took on the USDA over its failure to protect consumers from deceptive marketing practices, citing in our lawsuit the agency's approval of Perdue Farms' "Fresh Line" labels, which portray chickens and turkeys grazing outside in green grass. In reality, the birds raised for these products spend their lives confined in warehouse-like factory farms.

And our challenge to the FDA over its hasty approval of the beta-agonist drug Exuperior, which the drugmaker claims reduces ammonia on feedlots, received a big win when the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruled that the case may proceed. Beta-agonists cause physical and psychological problems in animals and have been linked to heart and respiratory issues in consumers.





COLLABORATION

There's simply no way around it — the pandemic has led to many negative impacts in our country for humans and animals alike.

But fortunately, the Animal Legal Defense Fund's Pro Bono Network is made up of resilient people dedicated to our mission. Our volunteers not only acknowledge the myriad problems animals face in our country, but raise their hands to be part of the solution — even if it means balancing demanding work responsibilities from home while trying to care for an ill family member or helping their children with virtual schooling. The willingness of Pro Bono Network members to roll up their sleeves and pitch in to protect animals however they can continues to provide glimmering rays of hope.

Our Pro Bono Network continues to grow year after year, and now almost 2,600 legal professionals have signed on to share their expertise to help animals. In 2021, volunteer attorneys and paralegals contributed more than 5,000 pro bono hours in support of the Animal Legal Defense Fund's work, accounting for more than \$2.7 million in donated services. They assisted on a variety of cases involving issues such as roadside zoos, puppy trafficking, Ag-Gag laws, rollbacks to the Endangered Species Act, and more. Pro Bono Network members also took on dozens of matters to directly assist nonprofit organizations dedicated to animal protection and 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 wrongful dangerous-dog designations.

2,600

PRO BONO NETWORK
MEMBERS

5,000

PRO BONO
HOURS DONATED

EQUIVALENT TO **\$2.7+**
MILLION



But our Pro Bono Network members haven't just helped animals in the courtrooms and the legislatures in the last year — they adopted new companion animals, increased their donations toward our work, volunteered at farmed animal sanctuaries and companion animal rescues, signed up to mentor law students, and educated their colleagues by organizing virtual animal law events through their local animal law bar sections or hosting Animal Legal Defense Fund speakers at their law firms. And while many were isolating at home, they invested time in looking out for the animals in their neighborhoods, promoted Speak Out for Farmed Animals Week, expanded their knowledge of pressing issues by picking up the latest animal law books and attending our informative webinars, and took action via Animal Legal Defense Fund action alerts. And while some of the individual acts may appear modest, collectively they have been incredibly significant.



Transitioning to a virtual work life has been a challenge for many of us, but with so much at stake for the animals, we weren't about to let the pandemic prevent us from achieving our goals for engaging an even broader array of supporters for this important work. We pivoted to new outreach methods during the crisis and continued to leverage our robust Pro Bono Network. We participated in webinars on *How to Advocate for Animals With or Without a Law Degree: Volunteer Opportunities* as well as *Pro Bono Goes Green* for D.C. Pro Bono Week, gave virtual presentations to community organizations and large law firms across the country, and offered "Careers in Animal Law" presentations to law students in Seattle and Washington, D.C. We also participated in radio interviews, wrote articles on animal law volunteer opportunities for various bar associations and magazines, recorded videos and promoted the Animal Legal Defense Fund's Diversity Scholarships, delivered animal protection presentations for Black History Month, wrote about "How HBCU Law Students Can Make a Difference for Animals — and Help Vulnerable Communities Along the Way," and much more.



I know our work for animals is far from over, but I continue to be uplifted by the passion and dedication of the Animal Legal Defense Fund Pro Bono Program team and our Pro Bono Network. Together, we are working toward greater justice for animals in communities across the country, and we have never been stronger. Thank you to all of our supporters for making these wonderful accomplishments possible.

For the animals,

Tom Linney | Pro Bono Program Director

FINANCIAL REPORT FY2021

Statement of activities for the year ended June 30, 2021

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants and contributions	\$11,611,043
Bequests and estates	2,182,093
In-kind contributions	2,722,238
Program service revenue	109,109
Investment income (net)	1,306,745
Other income	91,523
Total revenue and support	\$18,022,751

EXPENSES

Program services:

Legal programs	\$10,608,767
Public education	3,251,223

Supporting services:

General and administration	965,746
Fundraising	2,161,462

Total expenses	\$16,987,198
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Change in net assets	1,035,553
-----------------------------	------------------

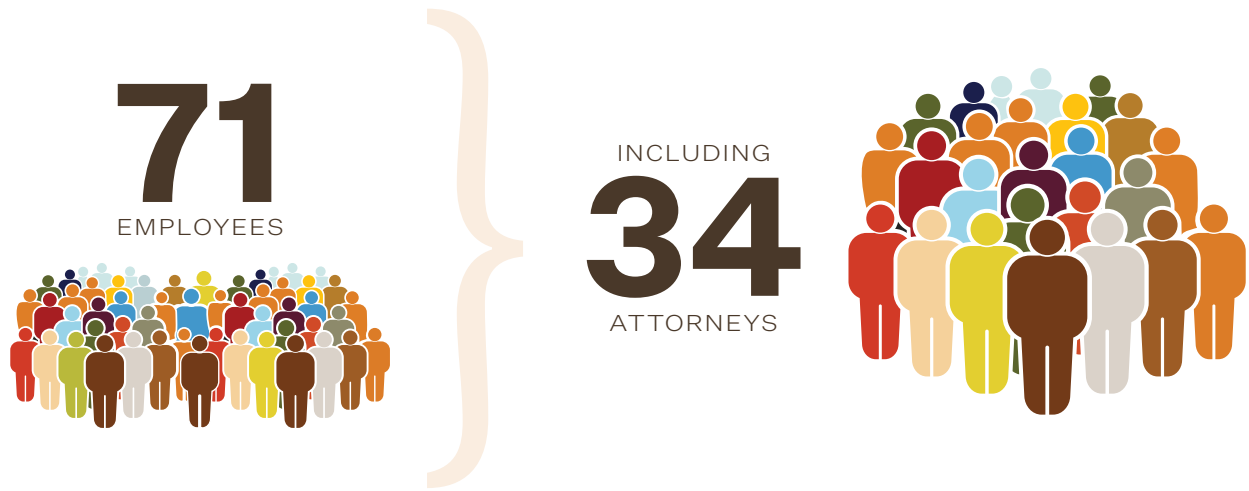
Net assets at beginning of year	18,684,143
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NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$19,719,696
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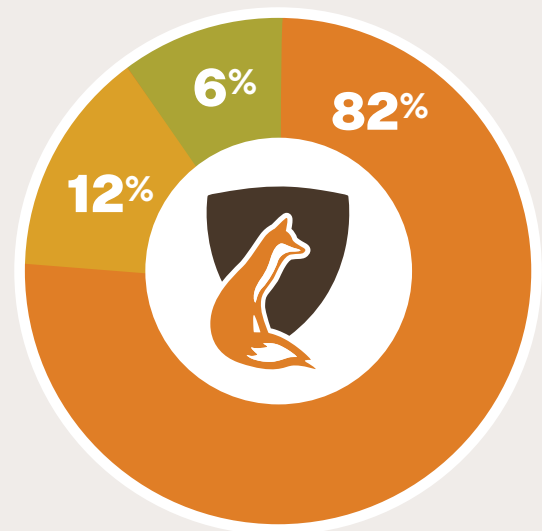
ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND 2021



HOW WE SPEND DONATIONS

PROGRAMS: \$13,859,991
ADMINISTRATION: \$965,746
FUNDING: \$2,161,462

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is proud to be a four-star Charity Navigator-rated nonprofit, a 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.



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THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND'S MISSION is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system.

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