

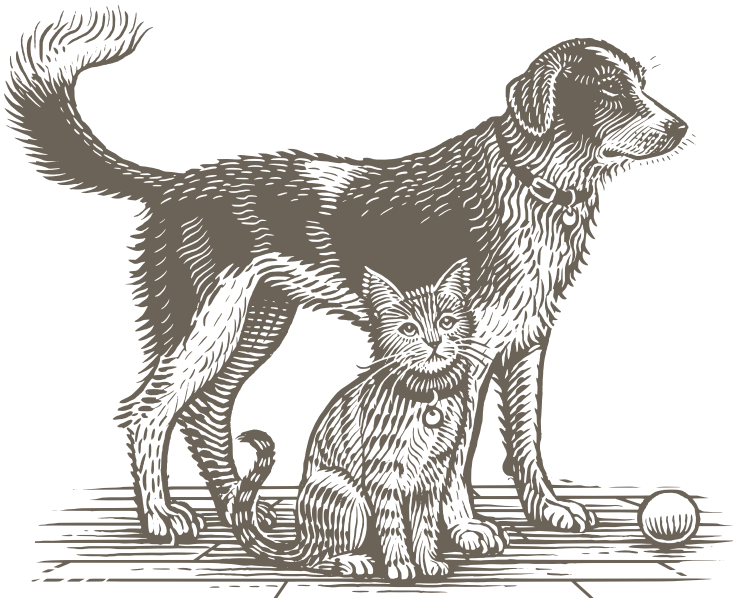


# The Animals' Advocate

FEATURE

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**Add Your Name:**  
Sign the Animal Bill of Rights,  
or share it with friends or family,  
at [animalbillofrights.com](http://animalbillofrights.com).

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# ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND <sup>EST</sup> 1979

**Anyone who's ever spent time with an animal knows that they think and feel, just like us.**

But our legal system has yet to fully recognize animals as the unique individuals they are. That's why they need people like you and me to fight for them. With your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund advocates for animals of all kinds — dog and cat, pig and cow, tiger and elephant.

To help guide this work, we put it into words in six core tenets — the Animal Bill of Rights. They are:

1. **The Right** of animals to have their interests represented in court and safeguarded by the law without impediments.
2. **The Right** of animals to have their status recognized under the law as living, feeling beings capable of a wide range of positive and negative experiences.
3. **The Right** of animals to be protected under the law from exploitation and cruelty.
4. **The Right** of animals in the wild to self-determination and an environment that allows them to engage in behavior natural to their species.
5. **The Right** of animals under human care to have their species-specific and individual needs fulfilled to maximize their physical, emotional, and mental well-being.
6. **The Right** of animals subject to criminal acts to be legally recognized as crime victims.

I know you share these values — because every day, you help make them a reality. I hope the following pages fill you with pride at the way your support is bringing the Animal Bill of Rights to life — and giving animals the protection, care, and recognition they deserve.

Thank you for all you do to make a kinder world not only possible, but inevitable.



**For the animals,**

**Stephen Wells**  
Executive Director





# Victory for Dogs in a California Puppy Mill — and Animals Statewide

A groundbreaking legal strategy paves the way for protecting countless more animals.

**I**n June, your support led to a milestone legal victory for animals throughout California. It's a court ruling with wide-ranging implications for animal protection in the nation's most populous state.

In our lawsuit challenging the inhumane and illegal conditions in a Northern California puppy mill, the Animal Legal Defense Fund stepped in to help vulnerable dogs when they needed it most.

The case, first filed in 2017, relies on a little-known aspect of California law that enables certain specially incorporated societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCAs) to enforce state and local animal protection laws in civil court.

We're representing one such SPCA in the lawsuit, which in 2018 led to a lower court granting our

**ANIMAL BILL OF RIGHTS**  
The Right of animals to have their interests represented in court and safeguarded by the law without impediments.  
*Complete Animal Bill of Rights: pg. 2*

request for a preliminary injunction against the puppy mill.

Conditions at the facility — which housed as many as 50 dogs in a residential neighborhood — led to numerous complaints from the public, with neighbors citing issues such as unsanitary conditions and dogs running loose, clearly in danger. Strong odors emanated from the mill, and flies were prevalent. It was clear that legal



**Proven Track Record:** In another civil case, *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Woodley*, we presented extensive evidence of cruelty toward hundreds of dogs in a severe hoarding situation, and a North Carolina court gave us custody of every single animal on the property. More than 300 dogs were able to begin happy new lives through the resulting rescue effort.

action was required to protect these dogs, but government law enforcement did not have the necessary resources.

In 2020, our lawsuit led to a court finding the mill liable for violating a California law governing companion animal breeders. The mill operator sought to have the ruling overturned, leading to the latest victory for California animals when the right of SPCAs to enforce animal protection laws was affirmed on appeal.

Sometimes, a case may take years to make its way through the court system. But every hearing, every hour spent in preparation, is worth it — both for the individual animals we fight for, and the countless others who stand to benefit from the precedents we set. **Learn more at [aldf.org/pupmills](https://aldf.org/pupmills).**



## GIFTS IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY

**S**ometimes, the perfect way to celebrate or memorialize a loved one — whether human or animal — is to make a gift to a cause they hold dear.

Whether you're marking a milestone for an animal-loving friend or family member, or honoring a life well lived, a donation in their name to the Animal Legal Defense Fund is a meaningful way to honor them while making a difference for countless animals in need.

Depending on your preference, we'll send recognition of your gift by mail or as an e-card to your chosen recipient — customizable by species, if your gift is in honor of a beloved animal companion.

**To make a gift in honor or in memory of someone special, no matter their species, visit [aldf.org/support](https://aldf.org/support).**





# ADVANCING ANIMALS' STATUS AND PROTECTIONS UNDER THE LAW

**W**ith your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund works in courthouses, statehouses, and the halls of Congress to elevate animals' legal status.



In Massachusetts, this advocacy helped lead to the enactment of the “Beagle Bill,” ensuring that dogs and cats used in research can be adopted into loving homes after their time in the laboratory comes to an end.

Every animal deserves to be part of a family. This new law not only gives them that chance, but also recognizes them as individuals with their own needs — not merely “research subjects” to be used and discarded.

## ANIMAL BILL OF RIGHTS

The Right of animals to have their status recognized under the law as living, feeling beings capable of a wide range of positive and negative experiences.

*Complete Animal Bill of Rights: pg. 2*

In Colorado, we helped enact a new law building on the state’s greyhound racing ban. As a holdover from Colorado’s racing past, an outdated state law failed to recognize greyhounds as companion animals. That meant that greyhound breeders were exempted from certain basic regulations for animal care — a loophole that left dogs in danger. As any

greyhound guardian can attest, these gentle dogs are every bit as much a companion as any other dog — and now, state law properly treats them as such.

**“It’s about providing some voice and insight into what the experience of the victim is. And in criminal animal-cruelty cases, the victims are animals.”**



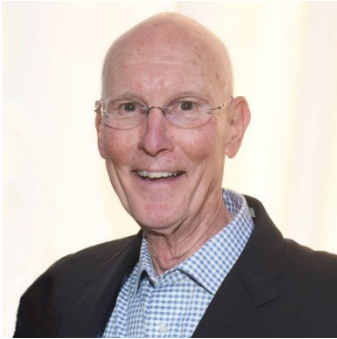
*Animal Legal Defense Fund Legislative Affairs Manager Brian Hackett, to The Press of Atlantic City*

Meanwhile, we helped achieve Delaware lawmakers’ passage of the *Izzy the Cat Act*, a bill that recognizes animals as more than just their “fair market value,” which may be nothing for some animals. The bill’s namesake was severely injured by a third party, requiring major veterinary care. But Izzy’s guardians, not the person who harmed Izzy, were forced to shoulder the treatment costs because state law capped the recoverable damages for an animal’s harm at their “fair market value” — as if an animal were simply replaceable. The *Izzy the Cat Act* removes this arbitrary limit. At press time, it awaits the governor’s signature.

In multiple states, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is working to secure the passage of Courtroom Animal Advocate Program (CAAP) laws, which give animal cruelty victims a designated legal advocate in the courtroom to ensure just outcomes in these cases. In New Jersey, CAAP legislation made important progress when it unanimously passed through a key committee. If the bill is enacted, New Jersey will become the third U.S. state to implement a CAAP law, joining Connecticut and Maine. **Learn more at [aldf.org/caap](http://aldf.org/caap).**

## ‘THE LAWS NEED TO CHANGE’: REMEMBERING AN ANIMAL HERO

Animals lost a champion in June with the passing of Robert “Skip” Trimble — but they’ll reap the rewards of his work for years to come.



A tireless advocate and generous philanthropist, Skip was passionate about protecting animals under the law. He served for more than a decade on the Animal

Legal Defense Fund Board of Directors, including as board chair, and was an important benefactor for the Animal Legal Defense Legislative Fund. “The laws need to change if animals are going to be given the respect they’re due on this earth, and there’s nobody better equipped to change laws than lawyers,” he once remarked.

An accomplished attorney, Skip was inspired to use his expertise to help animals. He became known as “the godfather of animal law” and Texas’ top animal advocate, helping to create both the Texas Humane Legislation Network and the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.

“What I’ll remember most about Skip was his fantastic sense of humor and his quintessentially Texan storytelling ability,” reflects Animal Legal Defense Fund Executive Director Stephen Wells. “Wherever Skip was, a crowd gathered around him, laughing and listening. Bringing these gifts to his work as an animal advocate made him legendary when lobbying skeptical legislators. Everyone loved Skip!”

A driving force behind countless victories for animals, Skip helped shut down Texas’ last horse slaughterhouses, launch spay/neuter programs, pass a retail pet sale ban in Dallas, and more. He served on Dallas’ Animal Advisory Commission and provided leadership and pro bono counsel to numerous animal causes.

“Skip’s accomplishments will continue to benefit animals and to inspire those of us lucky enough to have known him, to work harder to pass animal protection laws and to do it with grace, humility, and humor,” Wells adds. “Skip will be sorely missed.”

Like Skip, you can leave a legacy of legal protection for animals. **Learn more at [aldf.org/support](https://aldf.org/support).**







## STANDING UP FOR ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY

**A**cross the U.S., captive wild animals are suffering in inhumane roadside zoos. The Animal Legal Defense Fund approaches this problem through a combined strategy of litigation and legislative advocacy — working to both improve and enforce the laws to protect these animals.

### ANIMAL BILL OF RIGHTS

The Right of animals to be protected under the law from exploitation and cruelty.

*Complete Animal Bill of Rights: pg. 2*

In Wisconsin, your support led to the governor's veto of a dangerous bill that would have exempted roadside zoos licensed under the federal Animal Welfare Act from state regulations governing the care of captive wild animals. A similar bill was also defeated in Minnesota, in large part due to constituents' calls to key lawmakers driven by advocacy from the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

In Massachusetts, an Animal Legal Defense Fund-backed bill to ban the use of elephants, bears, big cats, primates, and giraffes in circuses has made important progress in the state legislature. At press time, the bill has cleared a key committee vote, an important milestone on the road to passage.

In the case of Texas roadside zoo operator Jason Clay — who in early 2022 was the subject of two legal actions from the Animal Legal Defense Fund — a federal grand jury in June charged Clay with alleged illegal wildlife trafficking. The charges, which relate to the alleged trafficking of a young chimpanzee in violation of two federal laws, could bring a sentence of as much as five years in prison.

Over a period of years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Clay for a wide variety of violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Numerous animals have died in his care or vanished from his facilities without the documentation required to legally sell or transfer them. In one instance, several endangered lemurs were simply lost by one of Clay's roadside zoos — likely dying in the Texas elements. Bhagavan “Doc” Antle, a roadside zoo operator made infamous in Netflix's *Tiger King*, was also charged by the grand jury, along with three other individuals.

We're encouraged to see federal action in Clay's case. Meanwhile, we continue to litigate cases against multiple roadside zoos across the U.S., including in Pennsylvania and Washington state.

**Learn more at [aldf.org/captiveanimals](https://aldf.org/captiveanimals).**



# PROTECTING ANIMALS IN THE WILD

**Y**our support is powering critical progress for wildlife across the U.S., including a monumental legal victory for endangered and threatened animals.

## ANIMAL BILL OF RIGHTS

The Right of animals in the wild to self-determination and an environment that allows them to engage in behavior natural to their species.

*Complete Animal Bill of Rights: pg. 2*

In July, a federal court sided with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, overturning a series of harmful rule changes that weakened the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2019.

We sued the government in response to these changes — which made it easier to “delist” species under the ESA, allowed economic factors to be considered when deciding whether a species should be protected, prevented species newly listed as “threatened” from immediately receiving protection under the ESA, and made it harder to designate areas as “critical habitat” for protected species.

The decision of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California means that animals will be better protected by the ESA — a law that has been instrumental in preventing the extinction of iconic species such as the bald eagle and grizzly bear.

### **Legislative Progress for Imperiled Wildlife**

In California, we’re advocating for a bill to protect native wildlife — from cougars to tortoises — by planning and creating additional safe crossings to protect them from vehicle strikes. At press time, it has passed the state Assembly and two key Senate committees.



In Massachusetts, we helped enact vital anti-poaching legislation, ensuring the protection of countless animals in the wild. The new law modernizes penalties for poaching and makes Massachusetts the 50th state to join the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, enabling it to share information on poaching incidents in other states to prevent convicted poachers from harming animals in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts also saw critical progress toward ending the use of anticoagulant poisons used by some people to inhumanely kill rodents. These poisons have caused secondary poisoning that has killed numerous other animals as well, including dogs and eagles. At press time, a bill curtailing their use has passed the Massachusetts House and is being considered in the state Senate.

**Learn more at [aldf.org/wildlife](https://aldf.org/wildlife).**

# FIGHTING FOR FARMED ANIMALS

## — ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT

Corporate animal agriculture fails to see farmed animals as thinking, feeling beings — but with your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund fights tirelessly to improve the lives of these animals.

### ANIMAL BILL OF RIGHTS

The Right of animals under human care to have their species-specific and individual needs fulfilled to maximize their physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

*Complete Animal Bill of Rights: pg. 2*

This year, we'll take that fight all the way to the Supreme Court.

In *National Pork Producers Association and American Farm Bureau Federation v. Ross*, we intervened to help California defend its landmark farmed animal protection law, Proposition 12, against a lawsuit brought by two industry groups.

Proposition 12 — overwhelmingly approved by California voters in 2018 — protects mother pigs,

### Victory Against Kansas Ag-Gag:

In *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Kelly*, we took on Kansas' Ag-Gag law, the oldest of its kind in the nation, which for decades had restricted the protected speech of whistleblowers and undercover investigators seeking to expose factory farm cruelty. Kansas appealed its loss to the Supreme Court, which has declined to hear the case — allowing a lower-court ruling overturning the law to stand. Learn more at [aldf.org/aggag](https://aldf.org/aggag).



hens in the egg industry, and calves raised for veal from some of the cruelest forms of intensive confinement.

But factory farm interests, not content to abide by the will of voters, took California to court in an effort to undermine the law. The Animal Legal Defense Fund has helped defend the constitutionality of Proposition 12 against multiple industry challenges. These cases have each been universally decided in the animals' favor.

After repeated court losses, the industry groups petitioned the Supreme Court to take up their case. The court has agreed, with oral arguments expected to take place in October. We'll be there.

Voters and consumers care about animals — and it's long past time for the industry to catch up. Your support is powering the fight to end factory farm cruelty. **Learn more at [aldf.org/farmedanimals](https://aldf.org/farmedanimals).**



# ANIMAL PROFILE

**Name:** Norman

**Background:** Rescued as a week-old calf from a dairy operation. Because male calves are seen as having no value to the dairy industry, they are typically sold into the veal or beef industries — or even simply killed.

**Status:** Now 10 years old, Norman is thriving at Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary, an Oregon-based farmed animal rescue organization.

**How You're Helping:** Your support of the Animal Legal Defense Fund enables us to fight for animals like Norman — whether we're taking on the factory farming industry in court, lobbying for animal protection legislation such as the *Farm System Reform Act*, or creating innovative resources to educate local officials about relevant laws and regulations for prosecuting farmed animal cruelty where they live.



## STAFF PROFILE

**Name:** Gwen Jakubisin

**Title:** Social Media Specialist

**Department:** Communications

Gwen shares important updates about the Animal Legal Defense Fund's cases and legislative actions — and opportunities for supporters to take action. As the executive director and resident caretaker at Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary, Gwen interacts with unique individuals like Norman every day. Each of the nearly 400 animals in Gwen's care inspire her to fight for animals' legal recognition. **Years On Staff:** 2 ½



**Gwen** is one of many experts speaking at the 30th annual Animal Law Conference. Thank you to Platinum Sponsor the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy and Silver Sponsor the Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation.

**November 4 – 6, 2022 • Portland, Oregon & Online**  
[animallawconference.org](http://animallawconference.org)

# A FORCE MULTIPLIER FOR ANIMAL VICTIMS

When animals are victims of abuse and neglect, it takes a team of knowledgeable professionals — including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, veterinarians, and animal sheltering professionals — to fully address the situation, from removing the animals from harm through building a solid criminal case to hold cruelty offenders accountable.

But not every agency, officer, or prosecutor possesses this detailed knowledge or has the resources on hand to fully tackle these complex cases. Thanks to you, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is able to step in to provide expert guidance that can make all the difference in bringing a successful case against cruelty and preventing further abuse.

## ANIMAL BILL OF RIGHTS

The Right of animals subject to criminal acts to be legally recognized as crime victims.

*Complete Animal Bill of Rights: pg. 2*

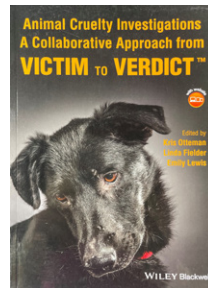
## Providing the Framework for Cruelty Investigations

For Animal Cruelty Investigations Manager Linda Fielder, this work is a calling. Prior to joining the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Linda spent years overseeing cruelty investigations at a state humane society, helping countless animals find safety and comfort after experiencing abuse or neglect.

Linda loved this on-the-ground work helping animals in need — but her calling led her to the Animal Legal Defense Fund and “the opportunity

to expand the work I had been doing on a local and state level to a national level,” she recalls.

It’s a calling that she shares with Animal Legal Defense Fund Managing Attorney Emily Lewis and veterinarian Dr. Kris Otteman. Together, the three experts have co-authored a new book, *Animal Cruelty Investigations: A Collaborative Approach from Victim to Verdict*.



Coco

The book will help local authorities navigate difficult cases like that of Coco, a dog who tragically died from abuse inflicted by her guardian’s boyfriend in Massachusetts. Coco’s abuser was convicted and received an 18-month sentence; the conviction was recently upheld on appeal. Bringing this measure of justice for Coco required the collaboration of law enforcement officers, a veterinarian who examined Coco and testified about her injuries, and diligent prosecutors who brought the successful case.

**Learn more about the criminal justice work you make possible at [aldf.org/criminaljustice](https://aldf.org/criminaljustice).**



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