

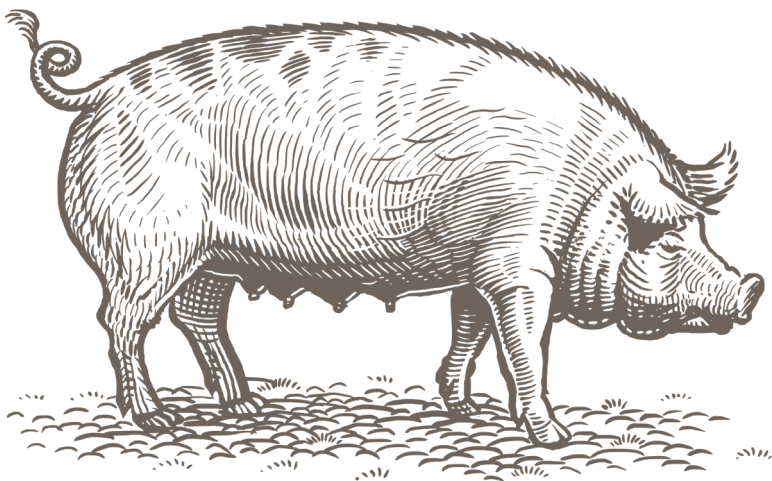


# The Animals' Advocate

FEATURE

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Studley is a victim of animal cruelty. Thanks to donors like you, his multiple leg fractures were treated and his leg was not amputated. Read his full story on page 5.

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# ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND EST 1979

## It's great to be back!

A decade ago, I was honored to launch the Animal Legal Defense Fund's Legislative Affairs Program as its inaugural director. Strong animal protection laws are the bedrock of so much that we do, from civil impact litigation to removing animals in harm's way and protecting them from further cruelty.

Since the beginning of our Legislative Affairs Program, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has been instrumental in enacting important laws for animals — from the Big Cat Public Safety Act to anti-puppy-mill laws and beyond. The Legislative Affairs team also has fought tirelessly to protect animals from laws that would hide their suffering or allow it to continue. We've beaten back scores of Ag-Gag laws across the country over the years, and then coordinated closely with our Litigation Program to overturn others that already were in place.

Through the power of impactful coalitions, we further assisted California voters in passing Proposition 12, and then intervened when industry associations challenged the law. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the landmark farmed animal protection law, and we are now engaged in a national battle to preserve the Court's decision and prevent the EATS Act from being added to the U.S. Farm Bill.

There's no place like the Animal Legal Defense Fund — with our dedicated focus on protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. That's all down to

the power of our mission, the hard work and dedication of our staff and board, and the generosity and care of supporters like you.

In September, I returned to the Animal Legal Defense Fund after several years helping build the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School. There we expanded the opportunities for students interested in animal law, increased both the quantity and quality of academic research in the field, and utilized our unique platform to inform and educate the world about animal protection issues. We also launched the Animal Law & Policy Clinic, which now empowers law students and trains them to become future leaders in the field working on real-life lawsuits and policy projects — including representing the Animal Legal Defense Fund in the fight to ensure basic standards of psychological well-being for primates in biomedical research and protecting imperiled Tule elk.

I am so happy to be back as this organization's new executive director, and deeply grateful for everything you do to advance this critical work. The animals need us, and there's so much more good to be done!



**For the animals,**

**Chris Green**  
Executive Director





## Cruel Factory Farm Hit with False-Claims Lawsuit

Undercover investigation exposes unbelievable abuse of mother pigs and piglets

**F**actory farm cruelty is sadly well-known to animal advocates. But the scale of animal suffering at these facilities can be hard to fathom.

Thanks to you, the Animal Legal Defense Fund can address this cruelty head-on, including through a recently unsealed lawsuit against a large corporate pig-breeding operation, Holden Farms. According to the company, it kept a jaw-dropping *72,000 mother pigs* for breeding last year. And an undercover investigation by Animal Outlook into a Holden Farms breeding facility in Utica, Minnesota, gives a heartbreaking glimpse into these animals' lives.

Astonishingly, Holden Farms received more than \$2.5 million in Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan funding under the CARES Act — money that was predicated on the company's certification that it was not engaging in any illegal activity under federal, state, or local laws. But in reality, our

### HOLDEN FARMS BY THE NUMBERS:

**16<sup>TH</sup>**

Largest Pork Producer in the U.S.

**72,000**

Number of Mother Pigs Reported in Possession in 2022

**\$2,570,054**

Amount of Holden Farms' Taxpayer Funded Paycheck Protection Program Grant



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**“If a teenage boy were to cut off the tails of animals and yank off their testicles, he might be arrested and castigated for his cruelty; if he grows up and becomes CEO of a company that does this on a mass scale, he will get rich and be praised for his business acumen.”**



New York Times journalist *Nicholas Kristof*, covering the investigation into Holden Farms

lawsuit alleges, the investigation established that Holden Farms “engages in systematic and ongoing violations of the Federal Swine Health Protection Act, the Minnesota anti-cruelty law, and the Minnesota anti-garbage feeding law.” Undercover footage documented:

- mother pigs being kicked and beaten — in some cases when they were already too sick or injured to walk;
- a piglet being tossed around like a football before hitting a water pipe so hard that the pipe burst and the piglet fell to the ground, unable to move;
- multiple piglets who’d fallen through slats in the factory farm floor into an underground waste pit, where they were left to die; and
- numerous mother pigs with severe, untreated prolapses, including a mother who died with her internal organs exposed while her babies struggled in vain to nurse.

The investigation also revealed the facility’s management team acknowledged that not enough food was being ordered for the pigs because of company-imposed penalties when facilities ordered more than needed. As a result, pigs were denied food on most weekends.

But another aspect of the pigs’ diet was even more alarming: Mother pigs were being fed a “slurry” containing the feces, bodily fluids, and intestines of piglets who died at the facility.



## The Lawsuit

The investigation took place over four months in late 2019 and early 2020. Animal Outlook reported its findings to local law enforcement, but authorities never even responded.

When government law enforcement fails to take action, it’s up to animal advocates to step in. Your support enables the Animal Legal Defense Fund to stay the course in complex or lengthy cases. This case is both — but the details are so deplorable that they demand a response.

In 2021, the Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a Files Claim Act lawsuit against Holden Farms under seal — meaning that the case could not yet be made public, a requirement when non-governmental entities bring claims under this law. At the request of the government, the lawsuit remained under seal until August 2023. But we can now spread the word about this egregious cruelty — and the work you’re powering to fight it. **Learn more at [aldf.org/holdenfarms](https://aldf.org/holdenfarms).**



## HELPING DOGS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

**W**hen animals are in urgent need, you enable the Animal Legal Defense Fund to step in to help. Take Studley, a dog for whom you recently made a life-changing difference.

This brave and loving dog deserves the world. But like far too many innocent animals, he was the victim of extreme cruelty.

Studley's guardian was a victim, too. When she told her abusive partner that she no longer wanted to live with him, he attacked and threatened her. Studley ran to help, growling at the abuser in an effort to stop the attack.

In response, the abuser threw Studley from a second-story balcony, causing leg fractures — then dragged the injured dog back upstairs by his legs.

Fortunately for Studley and his guardian, that's when law enforcement arrived on the scene. Though Studley was whimpering in pain, the officers noted how sweet and friendly he was.

### **A Fresh Start**

It looked like Studley's leg would have to be amputated. But fortunately, the prosecutor on the case reached out to the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Thanks to you, we were able to fund the surgery that saved Studley's leg. Today, he's made a full recovery and is thriving in a new adoptive home. His abuser pleaded guilty to animal cruelty and domestic abuse charges, receiving a 21-month sentence and a five-year ban on possessing any animals.

### **Funding Care for Dogs Seized Through Federal Dogfighting Cases**

Meanwhile, you enabled the Animal Legal Defense Fund to provide funding for 15 dogs seized through federal dogfighting cases who are currently awaiting placement with adoptive families. This funding will ensure that the dogs are housed and provided with enrichment and loving care while allowing necessary time to give them a second chance at life. **Learn more at [aldf.org/15dogs](https://aldf.org/15dogs).**



# ANIMAL PROFILE

**Name:** Lloyd

**Case Type:** Dog Fighting

**Background:** One of 133 dogs rescued in Detroit’s largest-ever dogfighting bust in January, Lloyd was emaciated and tethered outdoors with a thick chain in the cold Michigan winter. He needed treatment for internal parasites and babesia, a tick-related illness.



*Lloyd meets the Detroit Lions mascot and players at an event promoting adoption.*

**Status:** Loving life after rescue! Lloyd “enjoys quiet mornings in the sunshine,” according to rescue partner Bark Nation, and he’s blossomed into a snuggler who loves people. He even got to attend Detroit Lions training camp, where he befriended team mascot Roary the lion and team members Derrick Barnes, James Houston, and Chase Lucas!

**How You’re Helping:** You enable the Animal Legal Defense Fund to say “yes” when animal victims need our help. In the Detroit rescue, we dispatched two cruelty casework experts to the scene, including Animal Legal Defense Fund Animal Cruelty Investigations Manager Linda Fielder and a forensic veterinarian to assist with examinations of the dogs. Thanks to you, we were also able to provide vital funds to cover immediate costs for medical treatment and care for the dogs. **Learn more about the criminal justice work you power for animals like Lloyd at [aldf.org/criminaljustice](https://aldf.org/criminaljustice).**



## **RESCUE UPDATE: Dogfighting Survivors Embark on New Lives**

In January, you made it possible for the Animal Legal Defense Fund to assist in Detroit’s largest-ever dogfighting bust. At press time, nearly 90 of the dogs rescued in the case have either found loving adopters or been placed with partner shelters to await their forever homes. We were proud to partner with Bark Nation and local law enforcement on the case. **Learn more at [aldf.org/133](https://aldf.org/133).**

# A FAMILY'S LEGACY OF SERVICE SUPPORTS THE NEXT GENERATION OF ANIMAL LAWYERS

**K**athryn “Kathy” Casey remembers growing up with parents who were very generous to animals with their time, money, and talents — particularly rescue animals and those in shelters. Her mother, Rosemary Todino, served for years as the formidable volunteer president of the Jersey Shore Animal Center (JSAC) and is credited with making the organization what it is today. Her father, Joseph Todino, was a successful entrepreneur who gave generously to JSAC in addition to serving as a board member and business consultant.



*Kathy with her cat Finnegan.*

Kathy’s parents instilled in her a passion for helping animals paired with mindful philanthropic giving that remains an integral part of her adult life.

Already the primary funder of the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s **Diversity in Animal Law Project**, Kathy was excited when she learned about a new partnership being forged between the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the George Washington University Law School. The **Animal Legal Education Initiative (ALEI)** would be dedicated to developing animal law as a stand-alone legal discipline fully integrated into legal education.

Kathy knew this was the perfect opportunity to honor her parents’ lifelong legacy of care and compassion for animals.

“The ALEI’s mission to educate the upcoming generation about animal issues is a source of tremendous hope for me,” notes Kathy.



**What is the Animal Legal Education Initiative?** Launched in 2022, the initiative will fully integrate animal law education as a legal discipline while providing curriculum, clinic, and research resources to enable the next generation of law students to become knowledgeable and skilled attorneys in all facets of animal law, including civil, criminal, and regulatory law.  
**Learn more at [aldf.org/alei](https://aldf.org/alei).**



“I dream that young people who are learning about the plight of animals in our world and those that are pursuing and will pursue careers in animal law will usher in a new reality and a more just world for the creatures with whom we share this Earth. I think it’s critical to reach people while their hearts and minds are still capable of outrage, before they’ve become inured to institutionalized abuse and cruelty as part of the status quo.”

In July, Kathy presented the Animal Legal Defense Fund with a transformational four-year gift named in honor of her parents, **The Joseph and Rosemary Todino Assistant Dean, Animal Legal Education Initiative**. This gift will fully fund the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s commitment to ALEI, underwriting the Assistant Dean and Director, Kathy Hessler. Dean Hessler has been a clinical law professor for 30 years and has been teaching animal law for 22 years. She was the first law professor hired to teach animal law full-time.

Kathy hopes that her visionary commitment to animal law education will “educate armies of young minds that will enshrine more and better protections in the law and bring us ever closer to eliminating wanton cruelty and institutional abuse of living creatures,” adding: “I know that ALEI is an initiative that my parents would applaud. I have



been supporting the Animal Legal Defense Fund for several years and I continue to be impressed with the combination of its tender heart and nuts-and-bolts pragmatism. This organization understands that winning hearts and minds is important, but winning small victory after small victory in court will really change the reality of life for animals. I hope that, as a culture, we’ll come to consider it self-evident that animals are not commodities but living, feeling beings.”

**Learn how you can join Kathy in powering the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s work at [aldf.org/support](http://aldf.org/support).**

## Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve

Make a statement of compassion and care for all animals without even saying a word! The Animal Legal Defense Fund’s exclusive tees and hoodies raise awareness for animal protection issues, from companion animals to farmed animals to wildlife — while helping to raise crucial funds for the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s work.

**Order now at [aldf.org/shop](http://aldf.org/shop).**







## ACROSS THE COUNTRY, LEGISLATIVE MILESTONES FOR ANIMALS

**W**ith your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is hard at work across the U.S. advancing critical legislation for animals and defeating bills that would undermine progress.

 **New Jersey Bans Gestation and Veal Crates**

In a victory 13 years in the making, New Jersey banned the cruelest forms of confinement for mother pigs and calves raised for veal. You made it possible for the Animal Legal Defense Fund to stay the course and enabled our on-the-ground efforts to secure bipartisan support.

 **Oregon Bans Sale of Cosmetics Tested on Animals**

You're powering the fight to make cruel cosmetics testing on animals a thing of the past. With your help, Oregon enacted a ban on the sale of animal-tested cosmetics, such as shampoo and mascara, becoming the 11th U.S. state to enact this type of legislation.







### **Connecticut Tackles Cruelty from Multiple Angles**

Before Connecticut’s new animal cruelty omnibus bill was signed into law, the state’s cruelty laws hadn’t been improved in about a decade. Your support allowed the Animal Legal Defense Fund to work diligently for several years advocating for the provisions in the law, including closing a loophole that prevented the prosecution of those who sexually abuse animals.



### **Oregon Protects Puppies and Kittens from Cruel Mills**

Following advocacy from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Oregon enacted a new retail pet sale ban to protect puppies and kittens from cruel commercial breeding mills, which churn out animals for profit with no regard for their physical or psychological health.



### **Missouri Legislation That Would Have Imperiled Puppies and Kittens Defeated**

Special interests sought to undermine Missourians’ ability to pass local retail pet sale bans, but the Animal Legal Defense Fund helped prevent this preemption legislation from becoming law.



### **Oklahoma Bills to Reduce Penalties for Dogfighting and Cockfighting Defeated**

The Animal Legal Defense Fund helped defeat Oklahoma legislation that, astonishingly, would have lessened penalties for those convicted of dogfighting and cockfighting crimes.

**Take Action:** Support animal-friendly bills at the federal level and in your state at [aldf.org/take-action](http://aldf.org/take-action).



# BUILDING BETTER REGULATIONS FOR ANIMALS FROM THE GROUND UP

Animals are often at the mercy of government regulations, but they're unable to weigh in on what they need. That's why it's critical that the Animal Legal Defense Fund take part in the regulatory process through comments and rulemaking petitions designed to shape policy.

## Strengthening the Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is the primary federal animal protection law in the U.S. — but it has many weak points, exclusions, and omissions. With your help, we not only file lawsuits and official complaints to ensure that the existing law is enforced — we also work to increase protections from the ground up.



In response to a request for comment, we urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to make much-needed improvements to the AWA to protect both captive animals and the public, including:

- banning direct contact between animals and visitors in facilities such as roadside zoos and traveling shows;
- requiring that AWA-regulated facilities provide daily enrichment for animals;
- creating clear species-specific standards for animals' well-being, such as ensuring that social species are housed in groups; and
- requiring AWA-regulated facilities to provide continuing education on animal handling for their staff.



## Standing Up for Eagles and Migratory Birds

When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced plans to craft a new rule for the public exhibition of certain bird species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act, we had important feedback to share.

In our comments, we urged the agency to create strong standards for the well-being of eagles and migratory birds exhibited to the public, and to avoid creating an alternative permitting scheme that could undermine the protections they already have. Additional recommendations included ensuring that birds aren't constantly tethered and requiring species-specific enrichment and the ability to perform natural behaviors, such as flying or nesting.

**Learn more about the regulatory work you're powering for animals at [aldf.org/regulation](https://aldf.org/regulation).**



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