



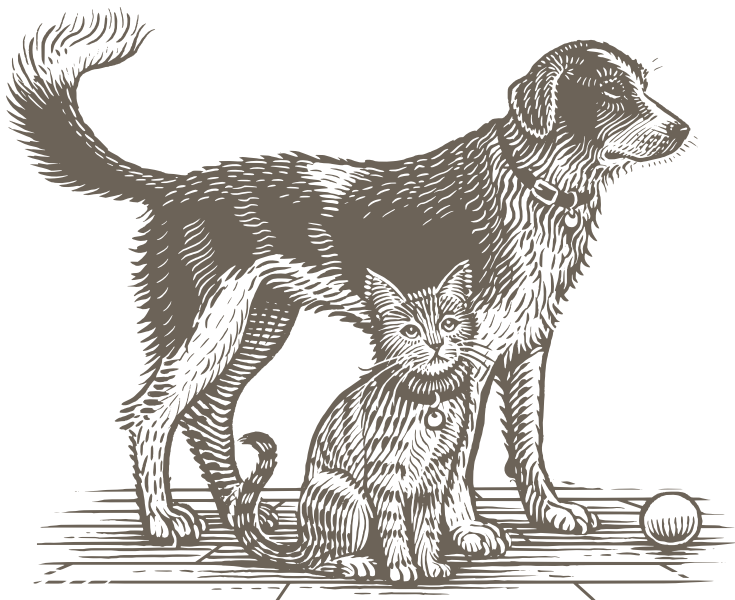
The Animals' Advocate

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF JUSTICE

FEATURE

JUSTICE FOR PUPPIES

pg. 3



Defending Animals
and Free Speech
pg. 5

Standing Up
for Wildlife *pg. 7*

Profile:
Matt Rossell
pg. 8

Remembering
Animal Law Pioneer
David Reuben *pg. 9*

All About Donor
Advised Funds *pg. 10*

Advancement in
Animal Law Awards
pg. 11



One of dozens of wolves transferred to a sanctuary from a Midwestern roadside zoo following a 2017 lawsuit from the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Elizabeth Putsche, *Editor*
Lindsay Barnett, *Writer*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Green

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leslie Barcus, *Chair*
Cameron Icard, *Secretary*

Julie O'Donnell, *Vice Chair*
Jon Feigelson, *Treasurer*

David H. Braff, Heidi M. Hurd, Katherine Stirling, Ginny Tiu

THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND is a nonprofit organization funded almost entirely by individual, tax-deductible contributions. For donation, membership, and change of address inquiries, please email us at membership@aldf.org, or call 707-795-2533.

For information about our work and programs, email us at info@aldf.org. Please see “copyright” link on aldf.org for trademark information.



ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND EST 1979

When animals need help, it's caring people like you who answer the call.

Your kindness makes a difference in their lives, each and every day.

This impact is demonstrated in a recently concluded case, which this past fall resulted in a milestone settlement that will remove 45 animals from an inhumane rural Pennsylvania roadside zoo and place them in sanctuaries.

After enduring squalor and suffering, these animals will live out their lives in peace thanks to you. The animals being rescued include two wolves who have long suffered psychological distress in a barren chain-link cage at this roadside zoo. As social animals, in the wild, wolves form large packs and can roam dozens of miles a day — in contrast to relentlessly pacing back and forth in captivity.

After arriving at the sanctuaries, the two wolves and dozens of other animals from the roadside zoo will enjoy the peaceful protection they deserve, in conditions much closer to the wild than anything they've experienced before.

I know they're going to immediately realize their lives have changed for the better.

This case is just one of numerous lawsuits you've made possible to help animals in roadside zoos and other cruel situations across the country. So many animals are now experiencing comfort and care at last because of your generosity.

There are so many more animals in need — and I'm proud to stand with you in the fight to protect them. Thank you for all you do!



For the animals,

Chris Green
Executive Director



Justice for Victimized Puppies and Their Families

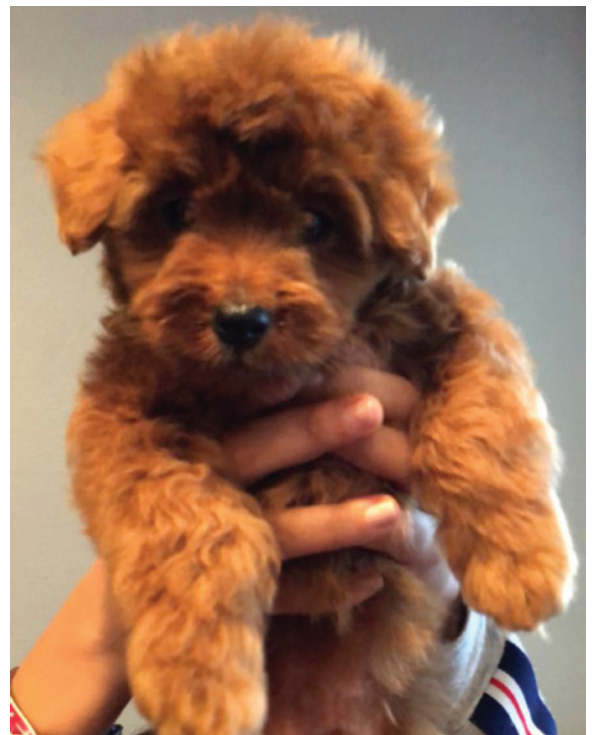
The Animal Legal Defense Fund’s lawsuit against California puppy traffickers who knowingly sold sick animals to unsuspecting families resulted in a milestone win in November.

You made it possible to stay the course over nearly four years of litigation, at last resulting in justice for puppies who’d been treated so callously that some did not survive.

“The Defendants’ scheme is especially heinous due to the physical suffering of the puppies and the resulting emotional toll their illnesses and deaths took on innocent families. Dogs, who are family, are understandably treated differently from generic property by the legislature and courts alike...”



Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Barbara Scheper, in her statement of decision on the Kenney case



Bear’s family soon learned their new puppy was desperately ill. Heartbroken, they made the difficult decision to euthanize Bear, estimated to have been just one month old at the time of purchase.

Families were traumatized, and in some cases financially devastated by vet bills, when they discovered their new puppies were suffering from life-threatening illnesses such as parvovirus.

Falsely presented as sought-after “designer” breeds who were healthy, vaccinated, and old enough to be weaned and sent home with new families, puppies sold by the Kenneys, on websites like Craigslist, were later determined to be significantly younger than advertised — far too young to be separated from their mothers. Some of the puppies were a different sex than promised, or later found to have been dyed when their reddish-brown coat color washed off in the bath, revealing a white puppy. Vaccine records presented to families upon purchase were bogus.

With your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund took this on as an animal neglect and fraud case with pro bono support from the law firm Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy LLP. After a week-long trial, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge issued a decision prohibiting the Kenneys from selling dogs and awarding significant damages to the families of the victimized puppies — including \$100,000 in punitive damages, compensation for veterinary expenses, and \$10,000 in emotional distress damages to each puppy’s family.

While no amount of money can undo a puppy’s suffering, this decision is a monumental one — for these puppies, their families, and countless other animals who stand to benefit when the legal system stands for innocent animals and against their abusers. **Learn more at aldf.org/kenney-dogs.**



Winnie soon fell ill after coming home with her new family. Despite major veterinary intervention, Winnie did not survive. Like Bear, she’d been sold with a bogus vaccination record and her white fur had been dyed.

TAKE ACTION: Craigslist’s current policy not only leaves users at risk of purchasing unhealthy, nonexistent, or stolen companion animals — but it leaves countless other animals not classified as “pets” in danger as well.

Urge Craigslist to ban the transfer of all animals on its platform at aldf.org/craigslist.



Proven Track Record: In an earlier 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.



FIGHTING FOR ANIMALS AND FREE SPEECH

From undercover investigations to the labels on the food we eat, free-speech rights are deeply entwined with the rights of animals to be free from harm.



With your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is leading the fight to protect whistleblowers, undercover investigators, journalists, and

animal advocates who seek to expose the truth about how animals are treated — from factory farms to the forest.

Meanwhile, you're fighting agency capture by the animal agriculture industry, powering the work to ensure an equal playing field for animal-friendly

products in the marketplace, and preserving the ability of humane-minded consumers to access the products they want.



Victory Against Anti-Free-Speech 'Ag-Gag' in North Carolina

For more than a decade, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has been striking down

unconstitutional Ag-Gag laws in numerous states across the country.

In an important victory over North Carolina's Ag-Gag law, the U.S. Supreme Court left the animals' lower-court victory in place by declining the state's petition to hear the case. This law had gone even further than other Ag-Gag laws, penalizing undercover investigations in facilities such as nursing homes and childcare facilities in addition to animal agriculture facilities!



What are Ag-Gag laws? As the public has become more aware of factory farm cruelty, the industry hasn't cracked down on abuse. Instead, it has worked with industry-friendly lawmakers to pass laws, known as Ag-Gag laws, that penalize those who seek to expose cruelty and other harmful practices on factory farms. Learn more and see a video on the dangers of Ag-Gag laws at aldf.org/aggag.



Landmark Win in Wisconsin

In November, your support led to a hard-fought victory at the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

In *Brown v. Kemp*, the Animal Legal Defense Fund represented a filmmaker, an animal advocate, and a journalist whose efforts to document unethical and harmful wolf-hunting practices in Wisconsin were threatened by unconstitutional provisions in a state hunter-protection law.

In its ruling, the Seventh Circuit reversed a lower-court decision, siding with the animals and their advocates in issuing a defense of the activists' free speech.



Fighting Texas' Unconstitutional Product-Labeling Censorship Law

In a lawsuit brought on behalf of plant-based food producer

Tofurky and the Plant Based Foods Association, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is taking on a Texas law that unfairly penalizes the producers of plant-based and cultivated meat products.

Texas legislators claim that the law protects consumers from being “confused” into thinking that products like Tofurky’s are made from slaughtered animals. In reality, it’s designed to undermine plant-based companies by imposing impossible-to-comply-with labeling requirements. Imposing criminal penalties, these requirements would prevent plant-based producers from communicating the nature and contents of their products in a way that complies with federal law. With your help, we’re taking Texas to court.

Learn more at aldf.org/texas.



Proven Track Record: The Court’s decision in the Wisconsin case relied in part on a precedent set through earlier litigation you made possible in *Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Kelly*, which successfully challenged a Kansas Ag-Gag law. In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case, leaving the animals’ lower-court victory intact.





TAKING ON THE USDA’S CRUEL ANIMAL-KILLING WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM

With a name like Wildlife Services, you’d think it would *help* wildlife.

But instead, this rogue federal program — part of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) — is tasked with killing wildlife in vast numbers.

It’s a program largely designed to benefit the animal agriculture industry — such as ranchers who want to remove native wildlife from the rangelands where they graze cows.

And U.S. taxpayers are footing the bill — all with little transparency and little say.

With your help, we’re fighting to stop this cruel and harmful program. In November, the Animal Legal Defense Fund and coalition partners filed an official

petition for rulemaking, urging the USDA to make desperately needed reforms including:

- requiring Wildlife Services to prioritize methods that don’t harm wildlife;
- prohibiting the program from using certain egregiously cruel methods, such as steel-jaw leghold traps, neck snares, M-44 cyanide-spraying “bombs,” body-crushing traps, and shooting animals from airplanes;
- emphasizing humane treatment and methods that don’t require animals to be captured — keeping wild animals wild and safe in their natural habitats; and
- requiring transparency, accountability, and publicly available data.

Learn more at aldf.org/wildlifeservices.



1.85 million
animals were killed by
Wildlife Services in 2022.



including **446**
black bears



492
bobcats

STAFF PROFILE



Name: Matt Rossell

Title: Campaign Manager

Years on Staff: 2

Matt began his animal advocacy career working as an undercover animal abuse investigator — a role in which he helped expose cruelty in its many forms, including in a complaint involving abuse at an animal research laboratory that led to significant regulatory change. Since then, he has directed successful campaigns for animals from imperiled wildlife to dogs in laboratories. At the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Matt oversees work that helps supporters get involved for animals, such as passing local fur sale bans and circus bans.

Get in touch at aldf.org/ordinance.



Free Webinar: In *Exposing Wildlife Services: Using the Freedom of Information Act*, **Matt Rossell** and Animal Legal Defense Fund Campaigner Abbey Benesh shine a light on the program's rampant cruelty — and walk advocates through the process of filing a public records request to find out what actions Wildlife Services is taking in their communities. Programs like Wildlife Services prefer to operate outside of public view; public records requests help advocates fight for accountability. **Watch on demand at aldf.org/webinars.**



30 million+

Animals killed by Wildlife Services in the 10-year period from 2011 to 2021.



\$100 million+

Federal taxpayer dollars spent on Wildlife Services annually.



13,000+

Animal Legal Defense Fund supporters signed on in support of our demand for reforms at Wildlife Services.

HONORING DAVID J. REUBEN

A LIFETIME OF VISIONARY IMPACT



David J. Reuben was a visionary animal protection champion, believing all animals deserve not only our respect, but strong legal protections as well. He was actively involved in combating all manner of animal

injustices — from kittens used in U.S. research, to elephants shackled to concrete blocks in India. When help was needed, countless organizations relied on David to provide his thoughtful advocacy, input, and support.

In 2007, David began a partnership with the Animal Legal Defense Fund to create the Animal Law Program, promoting legal education about animal protection for students in law schools and practitioners in the field. David championed the development of student animal law chapters in law schools across the country and helped to provide additional educational opportunities such as the annual Student Convention.

David's greatest joy was personally meeting these law students who benefited from the programs,

and the law students equally loved speaking with David as he was their biggest fan.

“Many current and former Animal Legal Defense Fund staff have benefited personally from David Reuben’s generosity through the many clerkships and fellowships he directly funded. There have been 31 David Reuben Summer Clerks at the Animal Legal Defense

Fund, several of whom have remained to build their careers here.”



*Animal Legal Defense Fund
Executive Director Chris Green*

David's vision helped usher in other significant innovations at the Animal Legal Defense Fund, such as growing the Pro Bono Program — a network that today consists of over 2,700 volunteer attorneys and paralegals.

David has left an indelible imprint on the field of animal law. The Animal Legal Defense Fund is grateful to have had David's friendship for nearly 30 years.



Group photo of Student Convention 2023 attendees.



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS: THE FASTEST-GROWING WAY TO GIVE TO CHARITIES!

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are charitable giving vehicles administered by public charities. These are a simple, flexible way for supporters like you to manage your charitable giving and help protect animals' lives and interests by recommending gifts/grants to the Animal Legal Defense Fund to support our programmatic work.

Interested in giving through a DAF? Here's how they work:

DAFs are solely for the purpose of supporting IRS-qualified public charities like the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

When you make a tax-deductible contribution of cash, securities, stock, real estate, or other assets to a DAF, it is irrevocable. The funds cannot be returned or used for any other purpose than grantmaking to a charity.

Once you make your contribution, generally, you are immediately eligible to receive the maximum tax deduction that the IRS allows.

Your contribution is placed into a donor-advised fund account where it can be invested and grow tax-free — maximizing your charitable giving and impact!

At any time afterward, you can recommend grants from your account to qualified charities such as the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund accepts DAF grants!

Every year, more and more of our donors are choosing to support us through DAF grants. Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, and American Endowment Foundation are some of the most common DAFs the Animal Legal Defense Fund receives donations from, among many others.

If you have a DAF, or are thinking of getting one, please consider making a gift to the Animal Legal Defense Fund to fuel our fight against cruelty and injustice. You can also access your DAF account through a portal on our website at aldf.org/DAF.

Thank you for your commitment to animals.





VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS AND PARALEGALS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR ANIMALS

The Animal Legal Defense Fund’s work is expanded and enriched through the contributions of pro bono legal professionals who donate their time and expertise to help animals. And their work helps our funding go farther for the animals — with more than \$3 million in legal services donated in the 2023 fiscal year alone.

Every year, we honor pro bono attorneys and paralegals who have made indelible contributions to animal protection. Our 2023 Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award recipients are:

- Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy
- Dykema
- Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
- K&L Gates
- Latham & Watkins
- Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe
- Sullivan & Cromwell
- White & Case

In partnership with Animal Legal Defense Fund staff, honorees have helped challenge inhumane roadside zoos, taken on fraudsters who sell ailing kittens and puppies (including the Kenney family, see page 3), drafted *amicus curiae* (“friend of the court”) briefs, and more. **Learn more at aldf.org/probono.**

BRINGING ATTORNEYS AND ADVOCATES TOGETHER

The 31st annual Animal Law Conference was held in Los Angeles in October, drawing advocates, legal professionals, and law students from across the U.S. and beyond. The foremost event in the field of animal law, the conference is co-presented by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Panel discussions explored topics such as *Animal Agribusiness Exposed*, *Emerging Frontiers in Animal Advocacy*, *Interconnections Between Animal Law and Tribal Law*, and *Local Activism for Animals*.

In his keynote address, Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist Ed Yong spoke of the fascination to be found when we take time to explore the ways that animals experience the world around them.

Thank you to sponsors Carol House Furniture, the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, Stray Dog Institute, and Beyond Meat!



Ed Yong delivering the keynote address.

Videos of all presentations will be available to stream at animallawconference.org.



ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND EST 1979

525 East Cotati Avenue
Cotati, CA 94931 | aldf.org

