



The Animals' Advocate

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF JUSTICE

FEATURE

VICTORY FOR ENDANGERED BIG CATS AND LEMURS

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Following the Animal Legal Defense Fund and PETA's lawsuit against the Pennsylvania roadside zoo Pymatuning Deer Park, endangered animals from the facility were transferred to The Wild Animal Sanctuary in 2022. They include Nila, who was previously held in an inadequate enclosure at Pymatuning but now has ample room to roam at sanctuary. Learn about other big cats you've helped protect on page 3, and meet ring-tailed lemurs also thriving at sanctuary following the Pymatuning lawsuit you made possible on page 4.
Photo credit: The Wild Animal Sanctuary

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ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND EST 1979

As the Animal Legal Defense Fund marks our 45th anniversary this year, we're naturally reflecting on where we've been, and where the animals still need us to go.

Thanks to you, we've made major strides for animals, including multiple milestone victories against the cruel factory farming industry in just the past few years. (Learn more about those on page 7.)

The industry is a well-funded foe with powerful allies.

In 2018, you enabled the Animal Legal Defense Fund to help secure the passage of the California farmed animal protection measure Proposition 12. But when Prop 12 passed, the factory farming industry didn't respect the will of the voters. Instead, it has sought to undermine the law at every turn.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund fought industrial animal agriculture interests all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark case that saw Prop 12 upheld last year. And we're continuing the fight now, when at press time, industry-friendly lawmakers are seeking to include wording in the federal Farm Bill that **could invalidate Prop 12, Question 3 in Massachusetts, and other state-level farmed animal protection laws.**

If such wording were to become law, it would not only harm animals, but also threaten the rights of states to enact their own laws related to agriculture and food safety. Years of progress could be undone. **With your support, we're working day and night to make sure that doesn't happen.**

It is caring people like you who stand between animals and those who profit from abusing them.

Thank you for all you do.



For the animals,

Chris Green
Executive Director

P.S. I recently was honored to host our most recent Animal Law Symposium, *State Confinement Laws and the Future of Farmed Animal Policy*, this past April. The symposium featured panel discussions covering the full spectrum of this issue, from the passage of farmed animal protection laws to their defense from industry litigation to the fight against federal bills to undermine them, and beyond. The symposium is now available to stream for free on demand at aldf.org/symposium. If you're moved by this issue, I hope you'll watch to learn more about the impactful work being powered through your support.



Milestone Settlement Brings Protection for Endangered Big Cats and Lemurs

With your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has secured a positive and safe outcome for endangered tigers, lions, and ring-tailed lemurs at a Texas facility that had been the subject of a multi-year lawsuit.

We sued the National Foundation for Rescued Animals, an animal exhibitor doing business as Tiger Creek Animal Sanctuary, in March 2022 over concerns for the well-being of endangered tigers, lions, and ring-tailed lemurs based on firsthand accounts from former employees of the facility, photographic evidence, and an official warning issued to Tiger Creek by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, among other information.

Immediate Improvements, and a Fail-Safe

In February, we reached a settlement with Tiger Creek that will protect these animals immediately. That's important, because time was truly of the essence for these animals — and a potentially protracted lawsuit could have stretched on for years, leaving them vulnerable while the case progressed through the legal system.

In the settlement, we secured major gains for the animals, including Tiger Creek's agreement to not breed any endangered species; prevent unnecessary human interactions with endangered

or threatened species; obtain an attending veterinarian with specific expertise in the care of "exotic" species; and provide much-needed enrichment, veterinary care, and proper nutrition for the lemurs in its care.



As a result of the settlement, Tiger Creek has agreed to come into compliance with the standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) within two years — a move that will require significant upgrades to the animals' care and conditions — and to earn an official AZA accreditation within five years.

In the interim, a neutral veterinary expert will make site visits to ensure the well-being of animals at Tiger Creek. If the facility fails to meet the deadline for AZA accreditation, the settlement requires that it transfer all endangered and threatened animals to reputable facilities that we choose.

Learn more at aldf.org/tigercreek.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

RESCUED LEMURS THRIVE AT SANCTUARY

In 2022, you enabled the Animal Legal Defense Fund, with PETA, to challenge the inhumane conditions animals endured at a Pennsylvania roadside zoo called Pymatuning Deer Park. Endangered animals at Pymatuning have since been transferred to The Wild Animal Sanctuary, where they're now thriving with room to roam and species-appropriate care.

Name: Aurelia and Gaius

Species: Ring-tailed lemurs

Case: *Animal Legal Defense Fund and PETA v. Pymatuning Deer Park*

Background: At Pymatuning, the ring-tailed lemurs were kept in an enclosure so small that it couldn't even be properly cleaned. Intelligent and curious primates, lemurs have significant enrichment needs in order to keep them active and engaged — but Aurelia and Gaius were denied proper enrichment at the roadside zoo.

Status: Now loving life at The Wild Animal Sanctuary's Texas location, Aurelia and Gaius have ample opportunities to climb and forage in the ways that come naturally to them. They live in a spacious enclosure with perches, swings, rope ladders, and toys galore. Their new hobbies include solving challenging food puzzles!

How You're Helping: You enable the Animal Legal Defense Fund to stand up for animals suffering at roadside zoos and other situations of inhumane captivity, including in another case that recently concluded with a settlement that will send numerous animals, including a lemur, from a different Pennsylvania roadside zoo to new sanctuary homes.

Learn more about this work at aldf.org/roadside.




Photo credit: The Wild Animal Sanctuary



LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS FOR THE ANIMALS

You're powering the Animal Legal Defense Fund's fight for strong animal protection laws across the country, with recent progress including:

 **Victory!** Following advocacy from the Animal Legal Defense Fund and our supporters, Maryland enacted a ban on the use of animals including elephants, bears, lions, tigers, and nonhuman primates in circuses and traveling shows throughout the state.



Want to help pass a ban on circus cruelty where you live?

View our on-demand webinar with Animal Legal Defense Fund Campaigns Manager

Matt Rossell, whose prior experience as an undercover investigator for animals included a stint investigating a circus, at aldf.org/circus.



✓ **Victory!** The city of Arlington, Massachusetts, has passed the strongest retail pet sale ban in the nation! Retail pet sale bans help fight the cruelty of the commercial breeding mills that supply puppies and other animals to pet



stores. Importantly, Arlington's ban not only protects puppies and kittens, but all mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish!

Want to help pass a retail pet sale ban where you live? View an on-demand webinar at aldf.org/retail.

✓ **Victory!** Oregon enacted legislation strengthening the state's cruelty laws and making it a crime to interfere with an investigation into animal abuse or neglect.

✓ **Victory!** Washington passed the world's first law banning cruel octopus farming and the import of farmed octopus into the state! Meanwhile, the California Assembly has passed similar legislation, the Oppose Cruelty to Octopuses (OCTO) Act, which at press time awaits a vote in the state Senate.



✓ **Introduced!** The Strengthening Welfare in Marine Settings (SWIMS) Act would ban the import, export, or breeding of orcas, beluga whales, pilot whales, and false killer whales for public display across the U.S. Send a message to your lawmaker urging them to become a co-sponsor at aldf.org/swims.

✓ **Critical Progress!** For years, advocates have fought to finally end cruel "pigeon shoots" in Pennsylvania. A state bill that would end these events passed a crucial committee vote during Pennsylvania Humane Lobby Day, when supporters of the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Humane Society of the United States joined together to advocate for animals at the State House!

✓ **Introduced!** The Captive Primate Safety Act would ban the private possession of nonhuman primates throughout the U.S., as well as prohibiting interstate or foreign commerce in these animals for the cruel "pet" trade. Urge your lawmaker to co-sponsor this important bill at aldf.org/cpa.

✗ **Defeated!** A dangerous "puppy mill preemption bill" in Missouri would have blocked local progress against puppy mills. The Animal Legal Defense Fund helped mobilize animal-loving Missourians against the bill, preserving the rights of cities and counties to enact their own retail pet sale bans to protect animals from puppy mill cruelty. Missouri is a hot spot for mills and home to some of the worst offenders in the country, making this victory especially noteworthy.



Find quick, easy opportunities to take action for animal-friendly legislation at aldf.org/take-action.



45 YEARS OF JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS

CELEBRATING THE MILESTONES YOU'VE MADE POSSIBLE

This year marks 45 years since the Animal Legal Defense Fund's founding. In that time, supporters like you have enabled animal law to grow from a fledgling field into one that has achieved monumental wins impacting millions of animals.

We've seen major progress even in the five years since our 40th anniversary — milestones that could only have happened with the help of advocates like you. Here are just a handful:

Farmed Animals Victorious at the Supreme Court (2023)

California's landmark farmed animal protection law, Proposition 12, went into full effect this year, protecting mother pigs, hens in the egg industry, and calves raised for veal from being confined in crates and cages so small that they can't even turn around or flap their wings. But this never would have happened if the factory farming industry had its way. After Californians approved Prop 12, the industry set out to undermine the law — and the will of the voters.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund and coalition partners intervened in multiple lawsuits — including *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross*, a pork-industry lawsuit that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. There, the animals were victorious when the Court upheld Prop 12 in 2023.

Meanwhile, we've successfully advocated for multiple state bills and regulations banning some of the cruelest forms of farmed animal confinement, including a hard-fought ban on gestation crates for mother pigs in New Jersey, and improved hen housing requirements in Arizona, Nevada, and Massachusetts.



Federal Law Enacted to Protect Big Cats (2022)

After a years-long fight from the Animal Legal Defense Fund and fellow advocates, the Big Cat Public Safety Act was signed into law. The law bans private individuals from acquiring tigers, lions, and other big cats as “pets,” and ends the cruel “cub-petting” industry throughout the U.S.

Protecting Whistleblowers Who Expose Factory Farm Cruelty (multiple victories)

You’ve powered the fight against unconstitutional “Ag-Gag” laws, which are designed to penalize whistleblowers and undercover investigators who seek to expose factory-farm cruelty. Together, we’ve achieved milestone wins in a series of lawsuits challenging Ag-Gag laws. Two states, Kansas and North Carolina, sought to take these cases all the way to the Supreme Court, which declined to hear both cases in 2022 and 2023, respectively — allowing the animals’ lower-court victories to stand.



Get your own “45 Years of Justice for Animals” T-shirt and shop additional animal-friendly designs at aldf.org/shop!



Victory for Columbian Hippos Securing Legal Right to Vital Evidence in U.S. Court

After the death of the Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, hippos from his personal zoo escaped and took up residence in the nearby Magdalena River, where they’ve since thrived and multiplied. Colombian authorities have considered killing them en masse, and a local attorney and activist brought a lawsuit seeking to have them humanely sterilized instead. We joined the hippos’ cause by filing a legal application on their behalf under a little-known statute, seeking to take depositions from U.S.-based experts. In granting our request, a federal judge for the very first time recognized that animals as plaintiffs in a foreign matter were entitled to obtain discovery in a U.S. court.

Legal and Legislative Wins for Puppies (multiple victories)

Your support has helped secure numerous retail pet sale bans at the state and local levels, including a major 2023 victory when New York enacted its own statewide ban. Meanwhile, we’ve taken on sham rescue groups and puppy traffickers, including in a lawsuit against traffickers who knowingly sold sick and parasite-ridden puppies to unsuspecting families. In 2023, the court found that the traffickers had committed neglect and fraud, banned them from selling dogs, and awarded significant monetary damages. The case also led to an important ruling affirming the right of specially incorporated SPCAs, including one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, to enforce California’s animal cruelty laws.



THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GIVE

As an Animal Legal Defense Fund supporter, we know that the well-being and protection of animals is important to you — and that you're willing to fight for as long as it takes for the legal change needed to ensure animals' safety. But changing the law takes a lot of time, so it's imperative that we plan ahead to ensure the animals we care about are protected well into the future.

How, you ask? By leaving a gift to the Animal Legal Defense Fund in your will! Bequest gifts in a will or trust are the most common estate gifts we receive, and they're one of the best ways donors can leave a lasting legacy of justice and protection for animals for decades to come.

To make a bequest, all you need are a few key pieces of information which are included below:

Animal Legal Defense Fund
525 East Cotati Avenue
Cotati, CA 94931

Tax ID: 94-2681680

You may also want to include our phone number, 707-795-2533, and our email address **estates@aldf.org**, for ease of getting in touch with our organization.

Below is some sample language that may be helpful to you:

"I give and bequeath to the Animal Legal Defense Fund, EIN # 94-2681680, a nonprofit organization, located at 525 East Cotati Avenue, Cotati, California, 94931, USA _____"

If you have any questions about making a bequest to the Animal Legal Defense Fund, please email **estates@aldf.org** or call **707-795-2533 x1034**.



Have you already included the Animal Legal Defense Fund in your giving plans? If so, please share your gift details with us at **aldf.org/shareyourlegacy**.

CREATING LASTING LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR ANIMALS

Advancing animal protection is a shared passion for San Francisco Bay Area supporters Brian Cooley and Stacy O’Connell. Brian, a technology journalist and member of the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s Board of Directors, and Stacy, an event strategy consultant, are both ardent advocates for animals. In addition to serving on the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s Board, Brian has chaired the Marin Humane Society’s Advocacy Committee since 2015, and the couple have saved many lives over the past two decades by fostering and adopting shelter cats at risk of euthanasia due to health or behavioral issues.

Brian and Stacy are equally passionate about the welfare of farmed animals since “that’s where the majority of cruelty happens.” Knowing that “factory farms only exist because we keep buying those products,” Brian and Stacy went from pescatarian to vegetarian and then embraced a plant-based diet so that they could directly affect the lives of farmed animals as consumers.



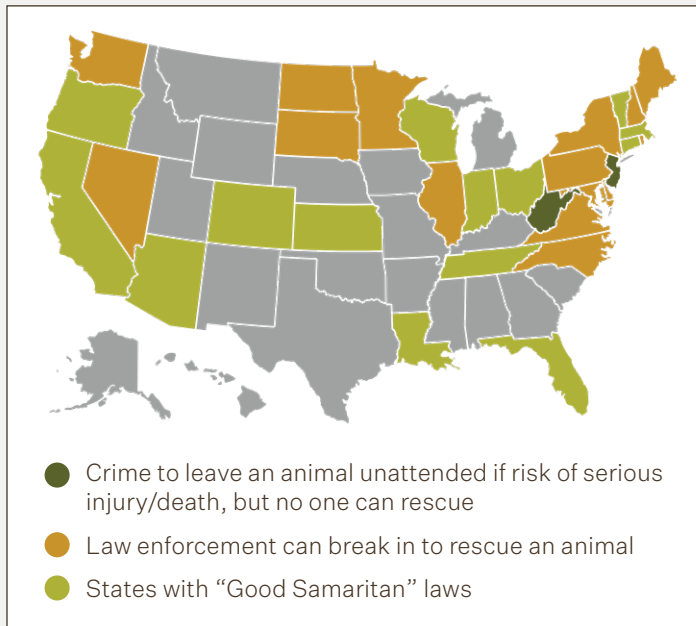
Supporting the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s work is important to Brian and Stacy “because legal wins have traction.” They recognize that “most people still don’t know the misery that billions of animals go through in agriculture, fiber, testing, and entertainment,” and are committed to spreading the message in any way they can, both professionally and personally. By partnering with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Brian and Stacy are confident they are creating lasting legal protections for animals across the country.

Join Brian and Stacy in supporting our legal advocacy for animals at aldf.org/donate.



HOT CAR DANGER: KNOW YOUR STATE'S LAWS!

No matter the time of year, it's always dangerous to leave an animal unattended in a parked car. But with summer in full swing, it's a perfect time to revisit your state's laws to be prepared in case you encounter an animal in distress.



More than half of all U.S. states now have laws on their books governing who may legally intervene, and under what circumstances, when an animal is trapped in a hot car. But these laws vary — some only allow certain public officials, such as animal control or law enforcement officers, to break into an unattended vehicle to rescue an animal, while others allow individual "Good Samaritans" to intervene. (Most states that allow private individuals to rescue a distressed animal from a hot car still require them to contact law enforcement before breaking into the vehicle.)

Learn more and find out how to approach your elected officials about improving your state's law at aldf.org/hotcars.



SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in Portland, Oregon, or online for the 32nd annual Animal Law Conference this October 18–20! The conference is the premier event in the field of animal law, co-presented by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School. You don't need to be a legal professional to attend!

Learn more and find video of previous Animal Law Conferences at animallawconference.org. Interested in sponsoring? Email sponsorALC@aldf.org.



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