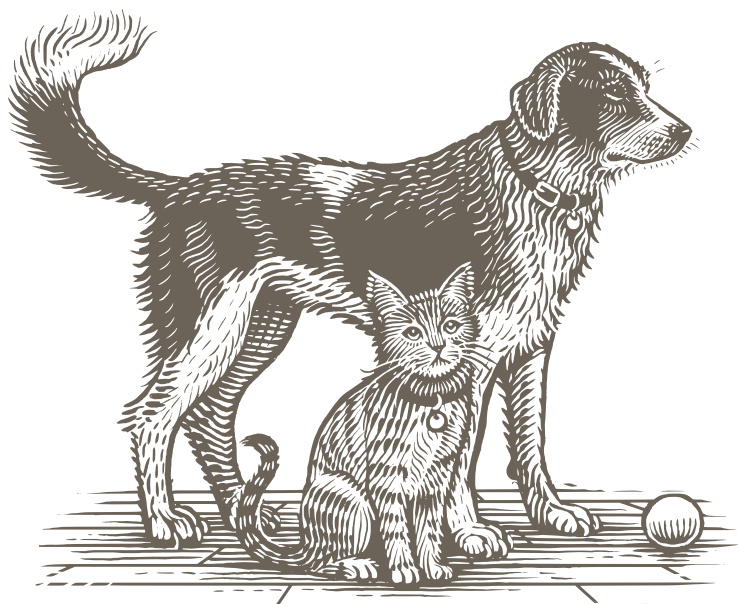




The Animals' Advocate

FEATURE

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Ben has spent more than a decade at sanctuary after previously being confined to a filthy, cement-floored cage at a roadside zoo. Your support powers happy endings like Ben's; learn more on page 7.

Photo credit: Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), whose expansive California sanctuary Ben now calls home.

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Dear Fellow Animal Advocate,

A few months back, **a bedrock protection for animals could have been lost** in Arkansas.

Prosecutors there nearly were denied the ability to bring charges for illegal cockfighting — even though Arkansas has long had laws on its books criminalizing this notoriously cruel activity, just like every other state in the U.S.

But **you stopped this dangerous legislation in its tracks**, and in the process saved untold numbers of vulnerable roosters from ever being subjected to the pain and indignity of cockfighting. (Learn more on page 11.)

Your steadfast support enables the Animal Legal Defense Fund to mobilize at a moment's notice to take on cruelty. It also powers the long-term strategic work that enables us to set legal precedents and advance important legislative protections for animals.

This support allows us to fight cases for animals all the way to the end, even when that may take years. For example, we recently notched a major victory in our current case challenging the dairy company Tillamook over its deceptive advertising — a lawsuit we originally filed six years ago in 2019! You'll find the happy update on the case on page 9.

It truly is remarkable what a scrappy band of lawyers and policy experts can accomplish with the power of your support behind us.

Animals across the country are better off thanks to you. I'm so grateful for all you do.



For the animals,

Chris Green
Executive Director



Demanding Justice for Exploited Kittens

You're helping ALDF bring a cruel kitten mill to court

There aren't many animals as vulnerable as kittens. So when they're exploited, they need a defender — and thankfully, the kittens of Adorable Stars have you.

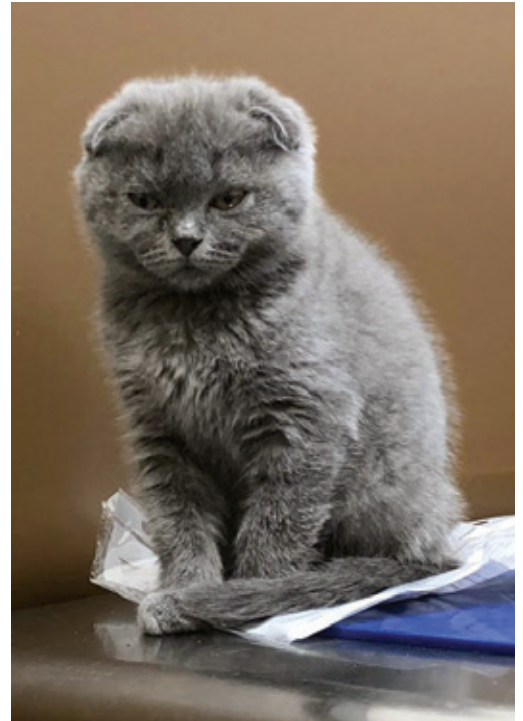
Your support is powering ALDF's fight to bring justice for kittens and their guardians who've been victimized by this inhumane Florida kitten mill.

While many people now know about the cruelty of puppy mills, fewer are aware that kitten mills also exist, raising animals in similarly poor conditions and denying them basic needs such as proper veterinary care — but selling them at high prices to unsuspecting families.

Adorable Stars claims to be a reputable breeder of sought-after kitten breeds such as Scottish Folds, British Shorthairs, and Maine Coons, advertising them online, including through a popular live-streaming “kitten cam.”

But in reality, many of the kittens it sells are desperately sick with preventable, communicable diseases and parasite infestations — despite the mill making explicit representations to buyers that they are healthy, vetted, and properly vaccinated.

Numerous kittens have died following Adorable Stars' inhumane practices — leaving their guardians devastated and faced with large and unexpected vet bills. Some kittens, like Ori (see inset),



Nova, a Scottish Fold kitten sold by Adorable Stars, suffered from such serious health problems that she ultimately did not survive.

Despite health and vaccine assurances made by Adorable Stars, kittens sold by the mill have been diagnosed with:

- Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP)
- Panleukopenia (feline distemper)
- Feline herpesvirus
- Infectious anemia
- Congenital heart issues
- Bone conditions
- Respiratory infections
- Chronic breathing issues
- Protozoal parasites
- Ringworm
- Giardia

survive but spread infections or parasites to humans and other animals and live with lifelong health problems after enduring the mill's failure to engage in proper animal husbandry and provide required vaccinations and necessary veterinary care.

Our lawsuit seeks to hold the mill and its owners accountable for animal cruelty, fraud, and the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine. Most importantly, we're **fighting to make sure that no kittens ever again suffer because of Adorable Stars.**

At press time, the case awaits a hearing on our motion for summary judgment, expected late this summer. ALDF Pro Bono Network member White & Case is our co-counsel on the case. Learn more at aldf.org/adorablestars.



Stock kitten photo via Getty Images

WHO WE FIGHT FOR

Name: Ori

Background: Sold by Adorable Stars with a health guarantee, Ori nonetheless arrived at his new home with ringworm that spread to his guardian, as well as more than a dozen other people and a medically fragile rescue dog who came in contact with the kitten after he came home from the mill. But worse still, Ori's guardian soon found him unable to walk; X-rays revealed a broken femur, described by his veterinarian as a rare injury in a young kitten. He was taken to an orthopedic specialist, who additionally diagnosed hip problems and a degenerative disease.

Status: After surgery for his broken leg, Ori has regained the ability to walk, though he still suffers from ongoing bone problems and struggles to navigate stairs. He takes regular medication for osteoporosis and chronic respiratory issues.

How You're Helping: Your support enables ALDF to fight for justice for animals like Ori and the other young victims of Adorable Stars.



NATIONWIDE IMPACT: YOU PROTECT ANIMALS ACROSS THE U.S.

In **Arkansas**, your generosity allowed ALDF to step in to help bring justice for a dog named Willow, who suffered a devastating leg injury caused by a cruel leghold trap. We've offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

In **California**, a state bill to ban inhumane cat declawing cleared a key legislative hurdle, winning unanimous support in the state Assembly with co-sponsorship from ALDF. At press time, the bill awaits a committee hearing in the state Senate.

In **Florida**, we co-hosted Florida Humane Lobby Day, empowering supporters from across the state to gather in the Capitol and meet with their legislators to advocate for animal protection bills — including Trooper's Law, which outlaws restraining and abandoning a dog during a natural disaster. Named for a dog who was rescued by a state trooper after being found tied up in rising floodwaters during last year's Hurricane Milton, the bill was signed into law in May.

In **Oklahoma**, we co-presented a three-day workshop designed to help early-career prosecutors learn to prepare for trial in cases of animal cruelty and domestic violence, as well as provided training for veterinarians who may need to appear as expert witnesses at trial. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office.

In **Oregon**, we helped defeat a bill that would have undermined the state's ban on the use of dogs to cruelly chase and hunt wild cougars.





Attendees learn strategies for investigating and prosecuting animal cruelty crimes at an ALDF-hosted training session in Puerto Rico.

In **Puerto Rico**, our criminal justice experts were on the ground providing training and support for animal sheltering staff, veterinarians, law enforcement officers, and others involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against animals. The U.S. territories are severely under-resourced in their fight against cruelty, and your generosity helps support and empower the vital work of local animal advocates!

ALDF and our coalition partners took on a secretly implemented U.S. Department of Agriculture policy that imperils countless animals in laboratories — arguing our case at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in **Virginia**. Learn more about the case at aldf.org/aaalac.

In **Washington**, advocacy from ALDF and our supporters helped secure four important legislative wins for animals this spring. One new law bans the use of certain captive wild animals in circuses and traveling acts in the state, including elephants, bears, big cats, and nonhuman primates. Another ensures that during natural disasters, evacuating families have access to emergency shelters that accept not just humans, but their companion animals too. The third new law strengthens the state's cruelty statutes, including by banning those convicted of animal-fighting crimes from owning or living with animals. The fourth provides civil immunity for "good Samaritans" who intervene to rescue animals trapped in hot cars, provided

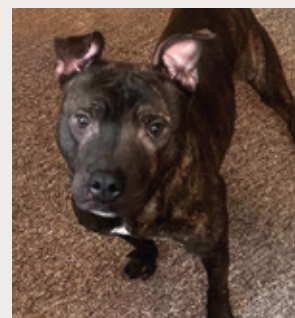


ALDF staff at our co-hosted screening of the docuseries "Chimp Crazy," highlighting the issue of primates kept as "pets," on Capitol Hill.

that they follow basic guidelines like notifying law enforcement. (Find out where your state stands on this issue at aldf.org/hotcars!)

In **Washington, D.C.**, we're hard at work advocating for multiple federal animal protection bills including the Captive Primate Safety Act, which would ban the private possession of chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates, as well as interstate or foreign trade in these animals as part of the cruel "exotic pet" industry. Urge your lawmakers to support the bill at aldf.org/protectprimates.

In **Wisconsin**, ALDF helped secure a positive outcome for a puppy who was cruelly slammed to the ground by his guardian's then-boyfriend, shattering his femur. It appeared that the puppy's leg would have



Feeling better post-surgery.

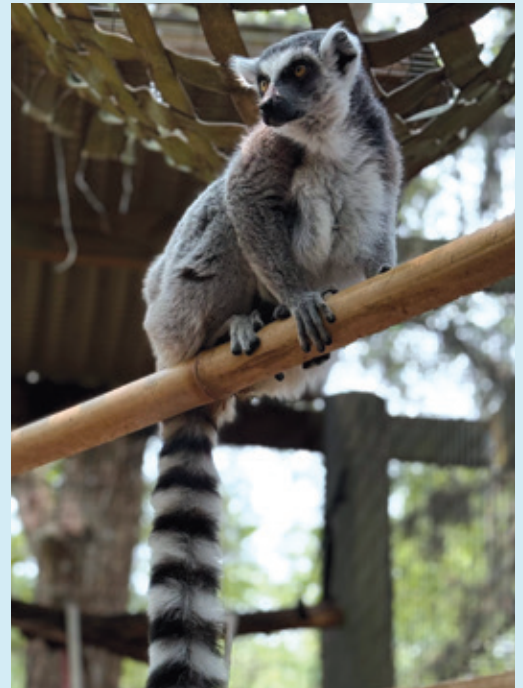
to be amputated, but instead, an emergency grant made possible by your support allowed him to have a more intricate and costly surgery that successfully repaired the leg. Post-surgery, the puppy is healing and thriving under his guardian's care, while the man who abused them both has pleaded guilty to multiple felony charges involving domestic violence and animal cruelty. He was sentenced to two years in prison and three years of extended supervision, including a multi-year animal possession ban.

RESCUED: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Name: MadMsL (formerly known as Mrs. Lemur)

Background: Previously confined all alone at a rural Pennsylvania zoo in a cage so small it couldn't even be properly cleaned, MadMsL (pronounced "Mademoiselle") was among the dozens of animals for whom ALDF secured the promise of sanctuary following our lawsuit against the zoo. She was among the first animals to be transferred through this agreement, and the rescue process for other animals is ongoing.

Status: Now living happily at the Endangered Primate Foundation's Prosimian Sanctuary in Florida (where her caregivers felt she needed a new name to go along with her fresh start). Ring-tailed lemurs are a highly social species, but after living alone for so long, MadMsL was understandably a little shy upon her arrival at sanctuary. But today, she's often found snuggled up with her new friends, has taken on a leadership role alongside the troop's dominant female, and is especially close with another ring-tailed lemur named Google.



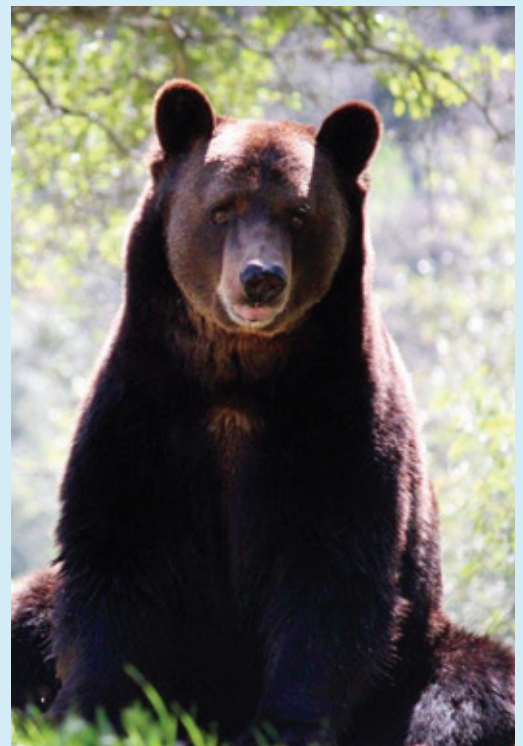
Credit: Anna Ordonio, Lemur Caregiver, Prosimian Sanctuary

Name: Ben

Background: Once forced to live in a cramped, dirty 12-by-22-foot chain-link cage at Jambbas Ranch Tours, a North Carolina roadside zoo, Ben ultimately found sanctuary after we joined with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and two concerned residents to bring a lawsuit against the facility.

Status: Ben now has two acres to explore, complete with a swimming pool and oak trees he loves to shake to get himself some tasty acorns, at the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) sanctuary in California.

The Difference You Make: Your generosity means that ALDF can stay the course, no matter how long it takes to win animals the protections they need. After our initial case brought Ben to sanctuary and resulted in Jambbas being banned from exploiting other bears, we brought a second lawsuit that led to the U.S. Department of Agriculture suspending Jambbas' license to exhibit *any* captive wild animals under the Animal Welfare Act.



Credit: Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)



Credit: The Wild Animal Sanctuary

Names: Buddy and Missy

Background: Part of a lawsuit brought by ALDF and PETA against Pymatuning Deer Park, a Pennsylvania roadside zoo where they faced inadequate care and conditions.

Status: As a result of the case, Buddy and Missy were among the animals who were transferred to The Wild Animal Sanctuary, where they now enjoy species-appropriate care and plenty of room to roam.



Credit: Center for Great Apes

Name: Angel

Background: Born into the inhumane and dangerous primate “pet” trade before being sold to a cruel trainer in the entertainment industry, Angel’s life was marked by suffering until your generosity allowed ALDF to step in. We sued the trainer, resulting in Angel and two other chimpanzees being transferred to reputable sanctuaries.

Status: Angel is now living happily at the Center for Great Apes sanctuary in Florida, where she recently celebrated her 28th birthday. At the sanctuary, she was able to reunite with her mother Daisy, who’d also previously been exploited for entertainment. Today, Angel enjoys time with friends, trying on accessories such as hats and scarves, “reading” magazines, and sleeping outside under the stars.



Credit: Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary

Names: Max and Rocco

Background: Among eight pigs rescued last year from life in an animal research lab through a collaboration between ALDF and sanctuary partners Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary, Wildlings Forest Sanctuary, Leo’s Animal Sanctuary, and New Life Animal Sanctuary (which specializes in rescuing animals from research labs and played a significant role in securing the pigs’ release).

Status: Now loving life at Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary in Oregon, where “every day their unique personalities shine a little more,” according to Lighthouse Executive Director Gwen Jakubisin (who also serves as social media specialist at ALDF!). After life in a lab, Max has blossomed into a friendly guy who loves attention, while shyer Rocco has developed a taste for adventure and loves exploring his new surroundings at the sanctuary.



VICTORY: OREGON SUPREME COURT SIDES WITH ANIMALS IN TILLAMOOK DECEPTIVE-ADVERTISING CASE

To hear Tillamook tell it, the company's dairy products are sourced from small family farms where the cows are treated well and spend their days grazing in the rolling green hills of Tillamook County, Oregon.

And many well-meaning consumers believe it — because Tillamook goes out of its way to obscure the truth: that up to 80% of the company's milk actually comes from the largest mega-dairy in the country, located across the state in the eastern Oregon desert.

The mega-dairy keeps **more than 70,000 cows**, including over 32,000 in active dairy production at any given time. None of them get to graze in lush

pasture — instead, they're crowded into a warehouse and milked by machines on a robotic carousel.

Not only do these cows profoundly suffer — but the sheer scale of the mega-dairy causes environmental destruction and uses vast quantities of water in an already arid region.

Some of Tillamook's ads have encouraged consumers to "Say Goodbye to Big Food." The company misleads them into supporting the very same factory-farm conditions they may be trying to avoid by purchasing Tillamook products — and conceals its true production practices, which could help consumers make purchasing decisions that align with their beliefs.

You help ALDF fight for cows and consumers alike — powering our class-action lawsuit against Tillamook over this deceptive advertising, which misleads the public and violates multiple Oregon consumer protection laws.

In April, the Oregon Supreme Court sided with the animals in overruling a lower-court decision and allowing our lawsuit to proceed as a class action. We continue to litigate the case, joined by co-counsel Sugerman Dahab and Tim Quinelle, PC. Learn more about how you help ALDF fight Big Ag's false "humane-washing" claims at aldf.org/humanewashing.

"Tillamook sells its dairy products by selling a fairy tale — that you can be a billion-dollar company and still source from small-scale farms where cows receive individualized care and access to pasture. This is completely at odds with the level and magnitude of suffering that takes place at industrialized dairy facilities."



*ALDF Managing Attorney
Amanda Howell*

HELP ANIMALS ALL YEAR LONG — BECOME A PARTNER IN PROTECTION

You can help animals every single day of the year by becoming a **Partner in Protection!**

Partners in Protection are compassionate individuals who make automatic, monthly contributions — of any amount — to support one mission: **the safety and protection of all animals.**

This dedicated group provides the reliable foundation we depend on to keep fighting animal cruelty, holding abusers accountable, and strengthening legal protections for animals — no matter how long it takes. Their steadfast support empowers the Animal Legal Defense Fund to act swiftly whenever animals are in danger.

Monthly giving is a simple yet powerful way to deepen your commitment and make a lasting difference. And right now, we need more Partners standing strong beside us — because we're stronger together.

Will you join the 4,400+ individuals already making a monthly impact and become a Partner in Protection today?

PERKS OF BEING A PARTNER

To show our appreciation, Partners in Protection receive:

- **A welcome pack with free gifts**
- **Special invitations and discounts** to online events and webinars
- **Quarterly impact reports** showing how your gifts fight cruelty
- **The knowledge that you're helping to protect animals' lives every single day**



IT'S EASY TO JOIN!

Choose the option that works best for you:

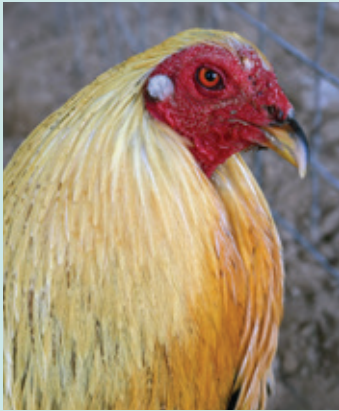
Online: Visit aldf.org/PIP and fill out the secure online form.

Mail: Complete the reply form in the enclosed letter, or send a voided check in the pre-paid envelope (don't forget to note your monthly amount!).

Phone or Email: Reach us at partners@aldf.org or call **(707) 795-2533** and we'll help you set up your gift.

Thank you for standing up for animals and standing with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. We can't wait to welcome you as our newest Partner in Protection — and work together to build a more just world for animals.

VICTORY: CRUEL COCKFIGHTING BILL DEFEATED IN ARKANSAS



In Arkansas, a dangerous bill would have undermined the state's ban on cockfighting, making this deeply cruel and illegal blood "sport" nearly impossible to prosecute.

But thanks to you, ALDF was able to help stop this legislation in its tracks.

Cockfighting is outlawed in all 50 states, but unfortunately, animal abusers have gone underground, where they continue to hold these illicit events.

Upon learning that the Arkansas bill was about to receive a last-minute hearing in the state Legislature, our coalition swung into action, mobilizing ALDF's unique resources to educate lawmakers about the bill and the scourge of cockfighting.

Few activities on Earth are as cruel; roosters used for cockfighting are often mutilated (with their sensitive combs crudely removed from their faces), drugged, and outfitted with knife-like devices on their legs designed to make fights even bloodier and more lethal.

ALDF staff dropped everything to craft an opposition memo highlighting both the legal and moral reasons to reject the bill. Members of the state Senate's judiciary committee used our memo to frame their questions during the hearing, and state prosecutors relied on it to frame their own arguments against the bill.

Fortunately, this harmful legislation was defeated in committee, failing to reach a vote in the full state Senate and ending its chance of passage for the year. Your steadfast support allows us to remain vigilant to any future attempts to revive it.

Learn more about how ALDF works to protect every farmed animal, from cows to fish to roosters, at aldf.org/farmedanimals.



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