



The Animals' Advocate

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With your help, in 2024 ALDF worked with sanctuary partners to secure the release of eight Göttingen pigs who'd spent their early lives being used in animal research, arranged for their sanctuary placement and transport, and provided initial funds to get them started in their happy new lives. Most animals used in experiments don't make it out of the research lab alive, but these pigs are now loving life in their new sanctuary homes (where they were transported in pairs to make sure they'll always have a friend!).

Photo: Rocco at Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary. Credit: Beth Lily Redwood / Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary.

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Dear Fellow Animal Advocate,

You helped make 2024 a truly impactful year for animals.

Animals like Rocco (at left), who once suffered in a research laboratory, now know the peace of sanctuary thanks to you. Rocco is among a dozen animals who found rescue through ALDF’s work last year, including wolves, a ring-tailed lemur, and a scarlet macaw.

Meanwhile, in states across the U.S., wildlife will be able to thrive thanks to the legal and legislative work you supported — from majestic mountain lions and other native species who will be protected from cruel poisons and tragic vehicle strikes in California, to sea turtles and other marine animals who will be spared the unintended suffering caused by now-banned balloon releases in Florida.

With your help, we also attacked the factory farming industry on multiple fronts last year. These included bringing new lawsuits such as a landmark challenge to agribusiness giant Tyson Foods’ “greenwashing” of its environmentally disastrous beef products, as well as leading the legislative charge to prevent cruel industrial octopus farming from taking hold.

These 2024 victories are just scratching the surface — and with your support, ALDF is poised to go even farther in 2025, when we expect to meet Big Ag corporation Foster Farms in court, fight against cruelty to “downed” pigs in Congress, and much more.

Your compassion is the heartbeat of this work. Thank you for all you do to power this fight!



For the animals,

Chris Green
Executive Director



2024 Litigation Victories

Stock lemur photo
via Getty Images

✓ Lawsuit Brings Suffering Animals to Sanctuary

Thanks to you, ALDF was able to secure major concessions from a rural Pennsylvania zoo, leading to the transfer of long-suffering gray wolves, a solitary ring-tailed lemur, and a nearly featherless scarlet macaw to sanctuaries where they will live out their lives in peace. They're among dozens of animals who will ultimately be rescued.

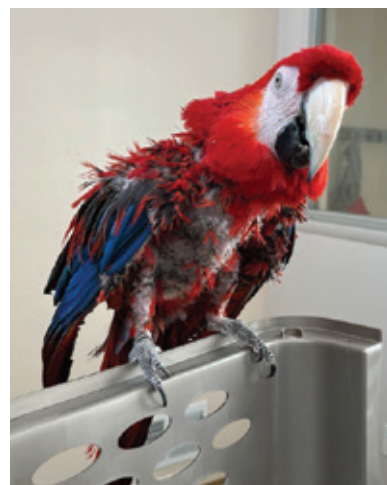


Ridge and Arrow upon arrival at sanctuary. Credit: Pet Travel Transport.

Ridge and Arrow were confined to a nearly barren, dirt-floored enclosure only about 20 by 30 feet in size. There, they repeatedly paced back and forth, a classic symptom of

psychological distress often seen in captive animals. They also received inadequate veterinary care, including delayed care for Ridge's broken leg at the roadside zoo. In their new home at a wolf sanctuary in eastern Pennsylvania, they'll have room to roam and the expert care they need to thrive.

Mrs. Lemur was kept alone for years in a tiny glass enclosure. Ring-tailed lemurs are a highly social species who thrive in troops, but for many years Mrs. Lemur's only interactions were with humans and a lone guinea pig who occupied the neighboring cage. At the Endangered Primate Foundation's Prosimian Sanctuary, she will have the space, care, enrichment, and social opportunities to help her be psychologically healthy at long last.



Scarlet at sanctuary. Credit: Best Friends Animal Society.

Scarlet was denied the ability to fly at the roadside zoo. Notably underweight, she'd plucked out nearly every one of her feathers — a hallmark of trauma in birds — and the feathers that remained bore markings known as “stress

bars.” In Scarlet's new home at Best Friends Animal Society's Parrot Garden, she'll have the opportunity to live as a parrot should, with proper care and fellow parrots to befriend.

✓ Advocates' Freedom of Speech Defended from Government Censorship

Our coalition's case on behalf of an animal-research whistleblower and other advocates resulted in the National Institutes of Health's censorship of their critical social media comments being ruled unconstitutional. Previously, they'd been silenced by the agency's automatic blocking of comments that used terms such as “animal,” “testing,” “monkey,” and “cruel.”

✓ Government Changes Course to Protect Imperiled Tule Elk

Prioritizing local dairy ranchers over protected Tule elk, the National Park Service (NPS) for years maintained a high fence to confine elk within an area of California's Point Reyes National Seashore — denying them access to critical food and water sources and causing many to die of starvation or dehydration. Our coalition sued the agency and took additional regulatory action to protect the elk. In December, the NPS announced it would at last tear down the deadly fencing and allow the elk unfettered access to food and water.



LOOKING FORWARD

Taking Big Ag to Court

In our coalition's case representing the Environmental Working Group, we're suing factory farm giant Tyson Foods for falsely marketing beef products as “climate-smart.” In reality, Tyson's greenhouse gas emissions are larger than those of Austria or Greece! Meanwhile, at press time our lawsuit against Foster Farms is expected to go to trial in early 2025. We're demanding the Big Ag corporation stop using a highly inhumane and water-wasting method of killing chickens at a Central California slaughterhouse. Foster Farms is responsible for 60% of all water use in the town of Livingston, primarily because it cruelly electrocutes chickens in water before killing them — all while town residents struggle through drought.





Fighting Factory Farm Cruelty — by Land and Sea

As humans learn more about octopuses, these fascinating animals are increasingly being recognized as the intelligent individuals they are. (They can even solve complex puzzles, make their way through mazes, and perform other impressive cognitive feats!)

But as solitary ocean-dwellers, they’re also deeply shy, feeling threatened by other octopuses. That would make the meat industry’s plan to raise them in factory-farm-like conditions especially cruel. Confining them together in aquatic pens would subject them to constant fear and agitation — and octopuses have even been known to eat their own arms when stressed.

In 2024, your support enabled us to fight for octopuses at both the state and federal levels. In Washington state, our advocacy alongside coalition partners led to the passage of the world’s first ban on octopus farming. Next, an ALDF-led bill was signed into law in California, banning



octopus farming before it could gain a foothold in the state and also prohibiting the sale of farmed octopus. And as is often the case, state-level progress creates national momentum. With ALDF’s support, a bipartisan federal bill to ban octopus farming was also introduced in the U.S. Senate!

LOOKING FORWARD



Building on Our Progress

Thanks to you, we’re bringing the fight to ban octopus farming to multiple additional states in 2025 and continuing to advocate for the passage of the federal Opposing the Cultivation and Trade of Octopus Produced through Unethical Strategies (OCTOPUS) Act. Factory farming is just plain cruel — and it’s vital to stop its spread.



Protecting ‘Downed’ Pigs

For years, ALDF has fought through the legal system to protect so-called ‘downed’ animals — those who arrive at slaughter too weak or sick to stand. Now, with your help, we’re co-leading the effort to pass a federal bill called the Pigs and Public Health Act to protect downed pigs and prevent them from entering the food supply.



MORE LEGISLATIVE WINS FOR ANIMALS IN 2024

A small sample of the important new laws you made possible for animals:



In **Washington**, you helped pass a ban on the sale of cosmetics tested on animals, making it the 12th U.S. state to protect animals from cruel experiments for products like lipstick and mascara.

In **California**, you achieved major wins for wildlife, expanding the state’s ban on certain rat poisons that have harmed countless wild animals who consume poisoned rodents, and have even caused accidental poisonings of dogs, cats, and children. With the passage of this law, California now has the most stringent restrictions on anti-coagulant rodenticides in the country. Meanwhile, our advocacy for the Room to Roam Act will help protect wildlife habitat by directing cities to consider and protect wildlife connectivity in their land-use plans.

In **Massachusetts**, your support powered a new law that will help both animals and humans impacted by domestic violence. It does so by expanding the definition of the word “abuse”

under state law to add “coercive control,” including threatening to harm a domestic violence victim’s animal companion. All too often, animals are additional victims in domestic violence cases — and fear for an animal’s safety may keep a human victim in a dangerous situation.



Also in **Massachusetts**, a years-long fight to protect elephants, bears, big cats, primates, and giraffes from circus cruelty resulted in a new law being enacted with your help!

In **Rhode Island**, we successfully advocated for new legislation to ban cruel “captive hunting,” in which wild animal species are bred specifically to be killed in high-paid hunting excursions.

In **Florida**, a ban on outdoor balloon releases was signed into law, protecting countless wild animals who all too often suffer and die when they mistake balloons for food or become caught in balloon strings.

Learn more about the legislative work you’re powering and find opportunities to take action at aldf.org/legislation.



2024 CRIMINAL JUSTICE VICTORIES

✓ ALDF-Supported Special Prosecutors Make Strides for Animals

Too often, criminal animal cruelty falls through the cracks due to heavy prosecutorial caseloads, budget shortfalls, or a lack of experience with the intricacies of animal-related cases. You enable ALDF to provide financial support for animal-focused special prosecutors, each with a unique mandate to investigate and prosecute crimes against animals throughout their state.

In Washington, Animal Crimes Assistant Attorney General Scott Halloran brought a landmark case to secure justice for squirrels, crows, songbirds, and a kitten who'd been cruelly shot by a local man.

(The kitten survived the attack, but numerous wild animals sadly did not.) Halloran's office secured guilty pleas on three felony counts — including the first-ever felony cruelty convictions involving wildlife victims in the state's history. The defendant was sentenced to three years of community custody for mental health treatment, with the possibility of a prison sentence should he violate the terms of his custody.

In Virginia, Senior Assistant Attorney General Michelle Welch took on an inhumane roadside zoo, Natural Bridge Zoo, in a case that led to the rescue of dozens of long-suffering animals including monkeys, giraffes, parrots, tortoises, and a miniature donkey.

LOOKING FORWARD

Helping U.S. Territories Protect Animals

With your support, ALDF has been instrumental in helping local animal advocates combat cruelty in the U.S. territories, including inspiring the Northern Mariana Islands to adopt their first animal protection laws (in 2020) based in part on ALDF's Model Laws. Guam also revamped its existing animal protection laws in 2021, relying heavily on our Model Laws. In 2024, we held a multi-part training series for animal protection stakeholders in Guam, and in 2025 our criminal justice experts will travel to Puerto Rico to provide tailored training sessions on investigating animal cruelty.



✓ Amicus Briefs Lead to Landmark Outcomes for Animals

Beyond our own cases, ALDF provides amicus curiae ("friend of the court") briefs to ensure positive outcomes for animal victims — with impacts that can resound for years to come.

In **Ohio**, our amicus helped convince the Ohio Supreme Court that all cats and dogs — not just those under human care — are entitled to protection under the state's companion animal cruelty statute. Astonishingly, a lower court had previously ruled that unowned cats and dogs didn't count as "companion animals," in the case of a stray kitten who'd been cruelly doused with bleach. (The kitten survived and has since been adopted into a loving home.)

In **Washington**, our amicus helped save the life of a dog named Thor. The Washington Supreme Court agreed with our argument that a lower court violated due process when it forced Thor's guardian to choose between going to jail for nearly a year herself, or surrendering Thor to be killed because she'd violated a "dangerous dog" ordinance by leaving him unattended on her porch — though he hadn't left the premises or harmed anyone.

LOOKING FORWARD



Collaborative Response Project Enters Second Year

With your help, we're continuing the expansion of our innovative Collaborative Response Project, which brings the expertise of our criminal justice professionals directly to animal cruelty professionals on the ground. Under this program, ALDF experts gather together animal shelter staff, veterinarians, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and others involved in cruelty case response, providing training, funding, and case consultation to help them work together to most effectively protect animals in their communities.

Learn more about how you're helping to fight animal cruelty at aldf.org/criminaljustice.

National Justice for Animals Week starts February 23

But you can strengthen the fight for animal justice right now!

National Justice for Animals Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the legal victories that supporters like you have helped achieve for animals, and to rally our community to fuel our fight for animals who still need protection and justice.

Starting now, all donations made in honor of National Justice for Animals Week will be matched up to \$30,000! Donate online at aldf.org/justiceweek to double your impact today.





Arianna Skipper of the firm White & Case accepts an Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award.

HONORING VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS AND OTHERS FOR ANIMALS

Volunteer lawyers and paralegals are vital to ALDF’s work, enabling us to fight for animals in courtrooms throughout the country and helping every donor dollar go as far as it possibly can to support the cause. In the 2024 fiscal year, members of our Pro Bono Network contributed more than 5,000 hours of volunteer legal work, equating to \$3.3 million in donated services. (If you’re a legal professional interested in volunteering, learn more at aldf.org/probono!)

At the Animal Law Conference, we honored some of these dedicated volunteers, as well as attorneys who have directly assisted community members with animal-related legal help and academics whose work has underscored important animal litigation.

Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award

Alston & Bird • Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy • Dykema • Fenwick & West • Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
K&L Gates • Latham & Watkins • McDermott Will & Emery • White & Case • Winston & Strawn

Compassionate Counsel Award

Tarak Anada • Nora Constance Marino

Animal Law Ally Award

Dr. Adam Feltz • Dr. Silke Feltz

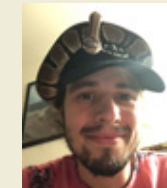
Animal Law Conference

Co-presented by ALDF and the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School, the Animal Law Conference was held in Portland, OR, and online in October 2024. For 32 straight years, the conference has brought together leading attorneys and advocates to strategize, share expertise, and form key connections with others fighting to protect animals under the law. Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Carol House Furniture; Gold Sponsors Stray Dog Institute, Beyond Meat, and MissionWired; and Silver Sponsors Cat Koshkin & Patrick Cleary!



LAW STUDENT PROFILE

Animals don’t just need good lawyers today — with you by our side, we’re in this fight for the long haul. You enable ALDF to work directly with law students and professors, providing programmatic support and mentorship for approximately 100 ALDF Student Chapters at law schools across the U.S., as well as creating educational opportunities, clerkships and externships, scholarships, and more to help empower young leaders in animal law and policy, like Mason:



Name: Mason Liddell

Legal Education: Third-year law student at the University of Colorado Law School, Boulder, CO

A lifelong animal lover and the co-founder of Colorado Law’s ALDF Student Chapter, Mason has spearheaded chapter members’ efforts to launch new animal law courses, draft regulatory comments and legislation to protect imperiled wildlife, support animal-friendly ballot initiatives, host animal law events, contribute more than 600 hours of pro bono work to animal-focused organizations, and more. The group was honored as one of our ALDF Student Chapters of the Year in both 2023 and 2024. Mason has additionally served as an ALDF summer clerk, and last year was named the inaugural recipient of the Stacey Gordon Sterling Scholarship, awarded in memory of the late animal legal education pioneer and former ALDF program director.



Mason presenting at the ALDF Student Convention.



Mason with fellow members of the ALDF Colorado Law Student Chapter and ALDF Law School Programs Attorney Alyssa Crowell.

“Being involved with a student chapter gave me the resources to try bigger and better projects with other students. The most important part of that help, I would say, is ALDF’s community. Without the Animal Law Program’s willingness to brainstorm and connect me with people in the broader legal field, I don’t know if the Colorado Law chapter would have had the confidence or ability to push for as much change as it has.”

Mason (pictured at right tabling alongside a fellow ALDF Colorado Law Student Chapter member).



Learn more about the legal education opportunities you make possible at aldf.org/legaleducation.

HELP ANIMALS ALL YEAR LONG AS A PARTNER IN PROTECTION!



Animal Legal Defense Fund Partners in Protection are individuals who make automatic monthly contributions (of any amount!) to help realize one goal: the safety and protection of all animals.

This dedicated group of donors provides the financial foundation we depend on to keep up the fight to protect animals and bring abusers to justice — for as long as it takes to succeed. These Partners in Protection empower ALDF to act swiftly and effectively whenever animals' lives or interests are at risk. With their loyal, steadfast support, we're able to focus our energies and resources solely where they belong — on fighting animal cruelty and injustice.

It's a simple, yet powerful way to strengthen your impact in this fight — because there's still so much work to be done, and we need more Partners standing strong beside us. We're stronger together!

Will you take your commitment to animal protection to the next level by joining 4,000 others as a Partner in Protection with a monthly gift today?



There are perks, too! To show our appreciation for their generous commitment and trust, Partners in Protection receive:

- New member welcome packs (free gifts!).
- Special invitations and discount codes to online webinars and events.
- Quarterly impact reports that illustrate how their donations are being used to win the case against cruelty.
- Exclusive print publications such as ALDF's Annual Report.

Ready to become a Partner in Protection, but don't know how? Here are three easy ways:

1. Visit us online at aldf.org/PIP and complete the online form to start your automatic monthly gifts.
2. Fill out the reply form attached to the enclosed letter or enclose a voided check and return it to us using the pre-paid envelope provided.
3. Email us at partners@aldf.org or call our Membership Services at (707) 795-2533 and someone will assist you with starting your monthly gift over the phone.

Thank you for always standing up for animals and standing with ALDF. We look forward to welcoming you as the newest member of our Partners in Protection and working with you to make our society a better place for animals.



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