



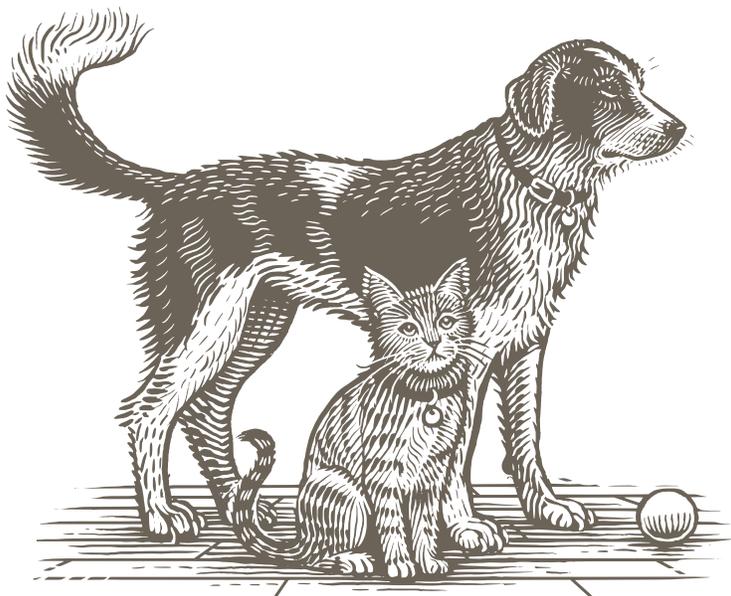
The Animals' Advocate



FEATURE

2025 VICTORIES FOR ANIMALS

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A cat is cared for at the Humane Society for Southwest Washington, which received extensive training, case consultation, and grant funding as part of the Animal Legal Defense Fund's Collaborative Response Project in 2025. Meet more animals who have benefited from the Collaborative Response Project thanks to your support on [page 9](#).



Dear Fellow Animal Advocate,

I know I don't need to tell you that 2025 was a whirlwind year.

But through it all, **you were there for the animals** — enabling the steady, strategic, and always mission-focused work of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

I'm so proud to be in this fight alongside you and all the brilliant staff and volunteer legal professionals of ALDF. Together, we each play a vital role in making our organization the impactful powerhouse that it is.

You made so much possible for animals last year. You've defended farmed animals and the will of voters who so consistently have chosen to protect them from the nightmarish conditions of extreme factory farm confinement. You've fought for transparency from Big Ag and the animal research industry, achieving important gains. You've protected animals from the cruelty of circuses, roadside zoos, puppy & kitten mills, and more. You've defended vulnerable cats from the pain of declawing, an invasive operation that more and more states are at long last deciding to ban, with your help.

In these times, there are so many places and causes that rightly draw our time, our attention, and our hard-earned dollars. The animals can't demand that their voices be heard and their needs be met — **but together, we can demand it for them.** You never have forgotten them, and your support ensures that ALDF can fight for them each and every day, no matter what else may be happening in the world around us.

You make so much possible. I can't wait to see what we make possible for animals together in 2026.



For the Animals,

Chris Green
Executive Director

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Nicole Geldart, *Designer*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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You Made It Possible: 2025 Wins for Animals

Victory for Farmed Animals: Proposition 12 Once Again Upheld by Supreme Court

When given the chance to have their say, voters have time and again chosen to ban some of the cruelest forms of confinement for farmed animals. But animal agriculture interests continue to try to overturn the will of the voters.

You not only helped ALDF successfully advocate for California’s landmark farmed animal protection law, Proposition 12 — but you’ve stood by us as our coalition has intervened numerous times to uphold the law.



Though the U.S. Supreme Court had already upheld Prop 12 in a previous case, a lobbying group, the Iowa Pork Producers Association, tried to take its own lawsuit (in which our coalition had intervened to help defend the law) all the way to the Supreme Court for another bite at the apple. Fortunately, the Court declined to hear the case, once again allowing Prop 12 to stand.

WHAT'S NEXT

Our coalition has intervened in yet *another* lawsuit taking aim at Prop 12 — this one brought by the government itself. That case is ongoing, as is our work in Congress to oppose efforts to pass federal legislation undermining state laws including Prop 12.

Tyson Agrees to Halt ‘Climate-Smart Beef’ and ‘Net-Zero’ Emissions Claims

Our coalition’s lawsuit brought major concessions from the second-largest meat company in the world. We sued to stop Big Ag corporation Tyson Foods from making misleading claims that it produced “climate-smart beef” (a contradiction in terms), and that it would reach “net-zero” greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050 — when, we argued, it actually had no credible plan to do so.

In 2025, we secured critical assurances that Tyson would stop making these claims, as well as a blanket prohibition on the company making similar ones over the next five years, unless an expert we approve determines that they are properly supported by science. Our partners on the case, representing the Environmental Working Group, are Earthjustice, Edelson PC, and FarmSTAND.

WHAT'S NEXT

Our lawsuits challenging a California environmental program’s financial support for Big Ag’s “biogas” scheme, which falsely presents factory farm pollution as a form of “green energy,” will continue in 2026.

Victory for Cows and Consumers as Tillamook Case Allowed to Proceed

Your support helped deliver a major win in ALDF’s lawsuit against the dairy company Tillamook.

Tillamook has attempted to “humane-wash” its reputation, showing imagery of cows grazing in green pastures in coastal Tillamook County, Oregon. In reality, up to 80% of the milk used in its products is actually sourced from the largest dairy factory farm in the country, located across the state in an arid, drought-prone part of eastern Oregon.

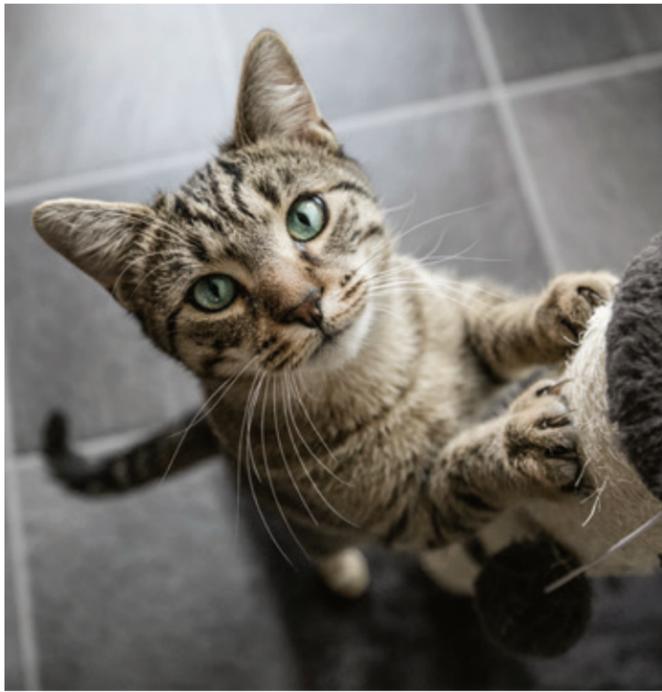
Based on its advertising, Tillamook would like consumers to think its cows live in more humane conditions, raised in pastures on small family farms — while most of them actually live on a factory farm that keeps tens of thousands of cows in industrial conditions, no green pastures to be found.

In 2025, the Oregon Supreme Court sided with ALDF in our lawsuit on behalf of misled consumers, overturning a decision by the court of appeals and allowing our class claims to proceed as pleaded.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Tillamook case continues in 2026, as does our separate lawsuit challenging a government agency’s approval of chicken and turkey label imagery that falsely suggests the animals used in these products are raised outdoors. In reality, the birds used in the contested products are raised indoors in warehouse-like factory farms.





Victories for Cats as Three U.S. States Ban Declawing

With numerous ALDF supporters taking action with their lawmakers, California, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island all banned cruel cat declawing surgeries in 2025 (with each law exempting the very rare cases in which claw removal is medically necessary for the cat).

Declawing is akin to removing a human’s fingers at the last knuckle — a highly invasive procedure that can cause lifelong pain, almost always merely for human convenience.



We’re carrying on the fight to ban declawing in additional states in 2026, building on our momentum at the state and local levels.



“Declawing isn’t a manicure — it’s an amputation that needlessly harms cats to spare sofas.”

ALDF Senior Legislative Affairs Manager Jennifer Hauge

Victory Over Circus Cruelty in Washington

With advocacy from ALDF and coalition partners, Washington has become the latest state to crack down on the exploitation of captive wild animals in circuses and other traveling shows. In 2025, the state banned the use of elephants, bears, big cats, and nonhuman primates in these inhumane events.



With your help, ALDF is fighting to protect captive wild animals around the country. In 2026, our lawsuit continues against a federal government agency over what we

allege is its improper licensure of a roadside zoo that exploits baby bears in cruel cub-feeding encounters. In Congress, we’re on the ground working to pass the Captive Primate Safety Act, which would ban private individuals from possessing chimpanzees or other nonhuman primates and prohibit the sale or transport of these animals for the “pet” trade. We’re also hard at work advocating for the Mink VIRUS Act, which would end mink fur farming in the U.S. and help current mink farmers transition out of the industry.



Victory for Animal Advocates’ Free Speech

The public deserves to know the truth about how taxpayer dollars are used to harm animals. But a largely publicly funded university, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was unconstitutionally censoring critical speech on social media about its infamous primate research laboratory. You enabled ALDF to take action for animals and free speech.

A whistleblower, UW-Madison alumnus Madeline Krasno, sought to spread the word about the cruelty she’d witnessed as a student animal caretaker at the lab. But she soon discovered that her comments on the university’s Instagram and Facebook pages were being automatically hidden from

public view using a tactic called “keyword blocking.” In fact, the university was automatically hiding all comments that used terms such as “monkeys,” “primates,” “testing,” and “cruelty.”

Representing Krasno, we sued the university, resulting in a 2025 victory at the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that UW-Madison had violated Krasno’s First Amendment rights.



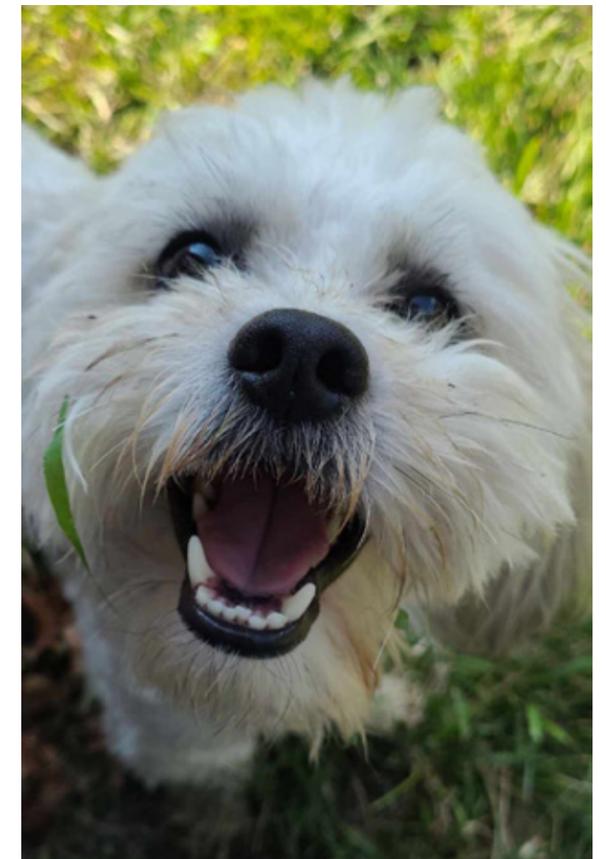
With your support, ALDF is working in multiple states to pass legislation to protect animals used in experiments and improve transparency in the research industry.

Justice for Blind, Deaf Dog Fatally Shot by Missouri Police Officer

In a tragic case out of Sturgeon, Missouri, 2025 brought a settlement that is among the largest of its kind — bringing a measure of justice for a fatally shot dog and his family.

Teddy, a deaf and blind shih tzu, had escaped a fenced enclosure and wandered into a nearby yard. Unable to determine where Teddy belonged, a neighbor called the local police department for help. Body-camera footage shows the responding officer arriving and spending only about three minutes attempting to try to catch Teddy before simply shooting him at close range.

With your support, ALDF was able to provide grant funding to help cover the costs of a lawsuit brought by attorneys Daniel J. Kolde and Eric C. Crinnian. While nothing can bring Teddy back, the settlement means that the City of Sturgeon and its officer will pay \$500,000 for violating the Fourth Amendment rights of Teddy’s guardian.



Victory for Puppies and Families as Class-Action Lawsuit Allowed to Proceed

You're powering ALDF's fight against a network of puppy profiteers who've exploited and harmed puppies and scammed animal-loving California residents.

In a move designed to crack down on the cruel puppy mill industry, California previously banned the retail sale of puppies and kittens in pet stores. But the defendants in our case, we allege, obtained puppies from mills, shuffled paperwork to "launder" them through fake rescue groups, and transported them in inhumane conditions from the Midwest to California, where they were falsely presented by pet stores as "rescue dogs" and sold for high prices to unsuspecting buyers.

In 2025, the case resulted in two important procedural victories, ensuring that this class-action lawsuit can proceed. Meanwhile, one of the defendants in the case, an inhumane animal-transport company, canceled its government registration to transport puppies.



Our case continues. Meanwhile, our lawsuit against a Florida kitten mill that has sold numerous sick and dying kittens to unsuspecting families resulted in important wins on multiple claims in December, and the case continues into 2026. We also continue to advocate for retail pet sale bans like California's in additional states, including a similar New Jersey bill which at press time awaits key votes in the state legislature.



New Laws Protect Companion Animals in Multiple States

In Washington, we supported several important updates to state cruelty laws and helped the state become the latest to enact a "good Samaritan" law — enabling members of the public to intervene to save animals trapped in hot cars (provided certain commonsense measures are taken before a window is broken).

In California, we advocated for the passage of multiple new laws protecting companion animals, including one that updates the legal definition of "stalking" to include threats made to a human stalking victim's companion animal.

And with support from ALDF, Washington, California, and Florida all enacted new laws protecting companion animals during natural disasters.

JOIN US FOR NATIONAL JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS WEEK!

This February 22–28, join ALDF in raising public awareness about crimes against animals and celebrating those who work tirelessly to combat cruelty and neglect.

National Justice for Animals Week is an annual event in which we highlight the need for stronger laws (and better enforcement of existing laws) to stop abuse and neglect and ensure that animal victims' needs are prioritized.

Meet Asha: Every year, we select an animal who has faced cruelty to represent countless other victims across the country. Our 2026 representative is Asha, a cat who survived a disturbing case of abuse but has now embarked on a happy new life in a loving home. Caring professionals from a variety of disciplines (including a prosecutor, law enforcement officers, and multiple veterinarians) joined forces to bring a positive resolution in Asha's case, and you helped ALDF provide funding for her veterinary care and costs associated with forensics work needed to prove the case, as well as case consultation. Asha's abuser received a sentence that included a permanent ban on owning or possessing any other animals and a mandatory psychiatric evaluation and associated treatment. Learn more about Asha and meet animal champions like those who brought justice in her case at aldf.org/njlaw.



Asha thriving in her new home. Her left ear was injured as a result of the abuse she suffered; it is fully healed but the physical damage is permanent.



We hope you can make it (in person or virtually) to the 34th annual Animal Law Conference, co-presented by ALDF and the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School! This year, we'll be convening in Washington, D.C. Additional details coming soon; learn more at animallawconference.org.

Thank you to our 2025 Animal Law Conference sponsors:

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WHO YOU'RE HELPING

26 goats and five sheep, cruelty case survivors

Background: ALDF worked with animal cruelty stakeholders across Clark County, Washington (near Portland, Oregon) to provide critical training, resources, and case consultation through our pioneering Collaborative Response Project. Bolstered by this support, Clark County Animal Protection & Control officers were well prepared when they investigated neighbors' concerns about the treatment of farmed animals at a local property. They worked with their local sheriff's department to lawfully seize 26 goats, five sheep, and other suffering animals.

Status: The malnourished goats and sheep were able to get the veterinary care they needed and were placed in loving foster homes to start their journey to recovery. The defendant was charged with 45 counts of first-degree animal cruelty, and the case is ongoing.

How You're Helping: You enabled ALDF to create critical programs like the Collaborative Response Project, through which our in-house criminal justice experts help local stakeholders fight cruelty and neglect on the ground. The program will expand to additional jurisdictions in 2026.



Above, four of the rescued goats in their caring foster home. At right, some of the animals on the day of the lawful seizure.



Smokey, dognapping survivor

Background: When Smokey's guardian broke up with her then-fiancé, the man responded by entering her house without permission and taking her 4-month-old shih tzu puppy. He then texted her a photo with the caption "he's unharmed," but threatened to kill Smokey if she didn't pay him nearly \$1,500. As law enforcement officials investigated, they discovered that the ex-fiancé had additionally taken Smokey thousands of miles away from his home in Wisconsin all the way to California.

Status: Fortunately, the prosecutor on the case reached out to ALDF for help. With local Southern California collaborator spcaLA, we arranged for Smokey to be held in a safe place — and arranged for a last-minute plane ticket for his guardian to be reunited with her beloved puppy, as well as return tickets for her and Smokey the next day. Smokey is now back home safe and sound with his loving family. The ex-fiancé has been charged with burglary, threats to injure, and disorderly conduct constituting domestic abuse.



30+ cats and kittens, survivors of neglect

Background: When law enforcement officers served a search warrant on the home of a Washington man being investigated for alleged crimes against children, they also discovered dozens of cats and kittens being kept there in squalid conditions. Tragically, 10 cats were also found deceased in the home. Though animal neglect was not what brought the officers to the home that day, their agency's partnership with the Humane Society for Southwest Washington — bolstered by training and support from ALDF's Collaborative Response Project — helped them take action when they observed animal cruelty co-occurring with other alleged crimes. The officers called in Clark County Animal Protection & Control officers to help bring the cats to safety, and presented their case in a way that allowed animal cruelty charges to be brought in addition to the other charges filed against the defendant.

Status: The surviving cats and kittens were taken to the Humane Society for Southwest Washington, ALDF's Collaborative Response Project grantee, which set about rehabilitating them and preparing them for loving new homes. The case against the defendant is ongoing.



One of the kitten survivors, who received care at the Humane Society for Southwest Washington including treatment for a damaged eye. Credit: Humane Society for Southwest Washington

“The Clark County [Collaborative Response Project] has been transformative for our community. By combining resources, training, and expert support, we were able to take on cases that previously would have overwhelmed our teams.”



Justin Pepperling, Humane Society for Southwest Washington Vice President of Veterinary Services

PROTECT 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 ALDF 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**
- **Special invitations and discounts** to online events and webinars
- **Quarterly updates** 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.



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