

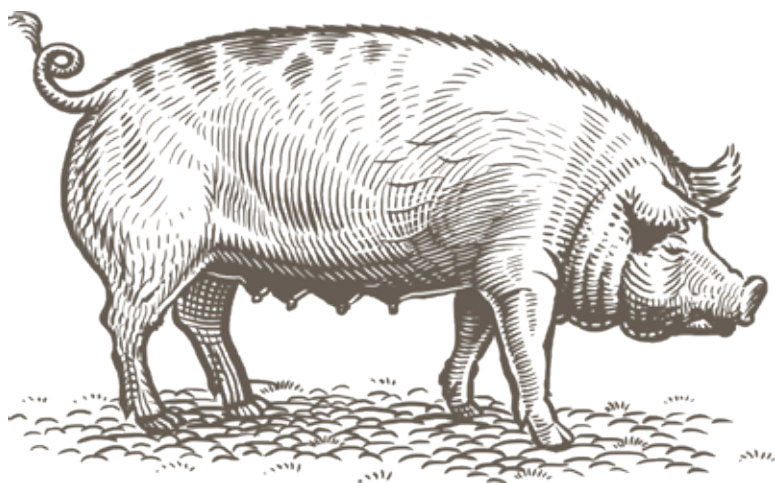


The Animals' Advocate

FEATURE

FIGHTING INCREASED SLAUGHTERHOUSE CRUELTY

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MadMsL is a ring-tailed lemur who found sanctuary through an Animal Legal Defense Fund lawsuit. Meet more animals who were transferred to sanctuaries in May through your support on page 5.

Credit: Anna Ordonio, lemur caregiver at the Endangered Primate Foundation.



Dear Fellow Animal Advocate,

Every hour of every day, animals are in desperate need.

But thanks to you, they’re never alone, and never without a defender.

Thousands of Animal Legal Defense Fund supporters powerfully demonstrated this when they took action in May, joining us in calling on federal agencies to protect two lions who were suffering from illness and improper care at a Texas roadside zoo.

Those lions, Nzuri and Kali, are now safe at a wildlife sanctuary, receiving the specialized treatment they had been denied for far too long. (Learn more about Nzuri and Kali on [page 5.](#))

Your generosity makes it possible for ALDF to quickly pivot to provide such support, as we did when we received the initial tip about Nzuri and Kali’s bleak condition.

It also enables us to stay the course in long-running fights — as is the case for six other animals who also made their way to new sanctuary homes in May.

A black-backed jackal, two vervet monkeys, and three Patagonian caviars (an adorable rodent species that looks a bit like a long-legged jackrabbit) became the latest animals to be transferred to sanctuaries through a settlement we reached in a lawsuit against a rural Pennsylvania zoo — a case that dates all the way back to 2018. Dozens more animals ultimately will be transferred to reputable sanctuaries as a result of this successful lawsuit.

Your support has transformed the lives of these animals who once suffered, **but now will only ever know love and care for the rest of their lives.**

Meanwhile, you’re helping us combat cruelty wherever we find it — from supporting the work that helped remove nine dogs from an alleged abuser ([see page 7](#)) to fighting to stop a dangerous escalation in America’s already-inhumane slaughterhouses ([page 3](#)).

None of this hard fought success would be possible without your steadfast support and care for animals. Thank you!



For the Animals,

Chris Green
Executive Director

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Lindsay Barnett, *Writer*

Nicole Geldart, *Designer*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Green

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Faster Slaughterhouses Cause More Animal Suffering. How ALDF is Fighting Back

Your support is helping ALDF take on some of the harshest cruelty in the factory farming industry. From working to pass and defend state and local laws banning especially inhumane practices (such as the use of gestation crates for mother pigs, veal crates for calves, battery cages for hens used in egg production, and the force-feeding of ducks and geese for foie gras) to fighting to stop the industrial farming of octopuses before it can take root, you have been there every step of the way to protect animals from Big Ag’s worst abuses.

And recently, you helped ALDF stand up against an ill-advised government plan that would increase the speeds at which slaughterhouses can kill and process chickens and turkeys — and would remove altogether the limit on how quickly pigs can be run through slaughterhouses.

A Fast-Moving Problem

Already, slaughter lines are cruelly and dangerously fast.

Chicken slaughter facilities, for example, are currently allowed to kill up to 140 birds *per minute* on each slaughter line. Problems are rampant, making these birds’ last moments even worse. Workers moving this quickly may make mistakes during critical steps. At points in the process when birds are meant to be stunned and rendered insensitive to pain, they may be improperly stunned or missed entirely, leaving them conscious and suffering as they’re moved through the slaughter process. The government’s proposed rule would *increase* the current limit by 25%.

Big Ag industry groups like the Meat Institute have lobbied for years to increase or eliminate line speeds because higher speeds allow for higher production, which in turn facilitates higher profits. ... The USDA is sacrificing public health for industry profit, and we should all stand against these actions.”



ALDF Senior Staff Attorney Christine Ball-Blakely, who leads our slaughterhouse line-speed work. Read Christine’s commentary at aldf.org/linespeeds.

175 chickens could be killed **per minute** on slaughter lines in U.S. slaughterhouses if the proposed government rule is adopted.

60 turkeys could be killed per minute if Big Ag is allowed to get its way.

And under the proposed rule, the current limit of **1,106** pigs slaughtered per hour would be *removed entirely*, allowing slaughterhouses to kill as many pigs as possible, as fast as possible.



In addition to increasing animal suffering, faster slaughter line speeds would put human health and safety at risk. Workers in slaughter plants already have one of the most dangerous jobs on the planet, with injuries common and often severe. Faster line speeds also mean an even more breakneck pace for inspecting animals for signs of contamination or disease — risking consumer health. And faster-moving slaughterhouses also mean that the industry can raise even more animals for slaughter, causing more animal suffering and more pollution from factory farms and slaughterhouses.



Over 14,000 ALDF supporters took a stand, signing on in support of our official comments opposing increased slaughterhouse line-speed limits.

In April, we demanded that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) do right by animals and people alike by withdrawing the proposal to ratchet up slaughterhouse speeds. We also mobilized animal advocates across the country, who joined in by the thousands — declaring their agreement and enabling us to show public support by attaching an astonishing 350 pages of supporter signatures alongside our official comments!

Learn more about the work you’re powering to protect farmed animals at aldf.org/farmedanimals.



TAKE ACTION FOR PIGS: Did you know that it’s currently legal to slaughter “downed” pigs for food? Downed pigs are those who arrive at the slaughterhouse too sick, weak, or injured to stand. A federal bill would ban the slaughter and willful abuse of these pigs, protect them during transport, and restrict a harmful class of animal drug that can contribute to downings. Urge your lawmaker to support the Pigs and Public Health Act at aldf.org/pigsbill.



The lions are being kept in temporary quarters while under a routine quarantine for new residents at the In-Sync Exotics sanctuary in Texas.

Credit: In-Sync Exotics

VICTORY: FROM ROADSIDE ZOO TO SANCTUARY FOR IMPERILED LION SISTERS

In May, ALDF received a tip that would soon change the lives of two white lions we believe to have been suffering for years.

You made it possible for ALDF’s experts to swing into action, filing an official complaint with federal authorities on behalf of the lion sisters, Nzuri and Kali. They’d been showing symptoms of a severe medical condition at a Texas roadside zoo, Sharkarosa Zoo, whose own posted signage noted that both sisters have been suffering with mobility issues since as early as 2023 — apparently enduring years without the care they needed until ALDF stepped in.

What We Saw

Video footage showed Nzuri struggling to stand or walk, yet forced to remain on display in the hot Texas sun with no access to a calm, quiet, comfortable place to retreat from public view. She was “profoundly unsteady on all four limbs ... swaying, with a tendency to lean to the right, limbs regularly crossing over, **stumbling frequently, and falling**,” observed Dr. Monica Bando, ALDF’s staff veterinarian.

For a lion struggling to move, the world can be a scary and upsetting place. While Nzuri and Kali (whose condition appears to be similar) were bred in captivity, they retain the instincts of their wild ancestors. A lion in the wild would roam great distances and must be ready for anything.

“The inability to stand or walk without falling down and then struggling to right oneself is indicative of a severely compromised quality of life,” likely leaving them confused, frightened, anxious, and distressed, noted Dr. Bando.

A Positive Outcome

Shortly after ALDF filed our official complaint, Nzuri and Kali were transferred to a sanctuary, where they were swiftly diagnosed with toxoplasmosis and severe vitamin A deficiency by the sanctuary’s specialized veterinarian with expertise in big cats. Treatment was promptly initiated, and both lions are already showing improvement. Time will tell whether Nzuri and Kali will be able to recover fully after being deprived of appropriate treatment for years by the roadside zoo, but for now, life has vastly improved for these sisters who’ve endured so much — all thanks to you and the work you make possible.

WHO YOU’RE HELPING

Name: Nzuri and Kali

Species: Lions

Background: After Nzuri and Kali were observed suffering from a serious medical condition at the Sharkarosa roadside zoo, ALDF urged federal agencies to enforce the Animal Welfare Act and the Endangered Species Act by confiscating the lions and investigating the roadside zoo.

Status: In May, Nzuri and Kali were transferred to a Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries-verified wildlife sanctuary, where they’ve already undergone critical diagnostics testing and have begun to receive the proper treatment they appear to have been denied for so long.



Now receiving proper veterinary treatment at sanctuary, the sisters have even been seen playing with toys together. Credit: In-Sync Exotics



Kali yawns while relaxing in a temporary quarantine enclosure at her new sanctuary home. Credit: In-Sync Exotics

How You’re Helping: Your steadfast support enables ALDF to step in at a moment’s notice to ensure that animals like Nzuri and Kali are protected and cared for. And you make it possible for us to have the bandwidth to take on multiple cases at once. For example, at the same time as ALDF was taking urgent action for Nzuri and Kali, we were also preparing a second federal complaint involving other animals who need our help at Sharkarosa (including sloths, bobcats, a zebra, a pig, a hyena, a blue-and-gold macaw, and a binturong), while simultaneously preparing for yet another transfer of captive wild animals (including a jackal, two vervet monkeys, and three Patagonian caviars) from a different facility to new sanctuary homes following a lawsuit. We can’t wait to share their stories with you!

Learn more about the work you’re powering to help animals in captivity at aldf.org/captiveanimals.

COMBATING CRUELTY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE PROJECT EXPANDS

Two years ago, you made it possible for ALDF to launch a first-of-its-kind program to help advocates fight cruelty on the ground. Now, you’ve enabled us to expand it.

The Collaborative Response Project is the brainchild of our in-house criminal justice experts, who have spent their careers responding to cases of animal abuse and neglect and fighting for justice for animal victims.

They’ve truly seen it all. One of their major takeaways? When cruelty investigations or prosecutions fail, it’s usually because they lack the tools, training, and inter-agency communication needed to work together to get the job done.

Through the Collaborative Response Project, our experts work with animal control officers, veterinarians, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and others involved at the local level to provide training, case consultation, funding, and critical tools that make it possible to properly investigate and document animal cruelty.

The results have been overwhelming: The first two jurisdictions we rolled the program out to (McHenry County, Illinois, and Clark County, Washington) have seen hundreds of animals saved and hundreds more cruelty cases strengthened through ALDF’s training, mentorship, and resources such as grant funding for animal care and veterinary forensics tools.

This spring, the Collaborative Response Project has been rolled out to its third jurisdiction: Pima County, Arizona, where the need is great and the opportunity to make a difference is huge. Pima County (home to Tucson) is one of the largest counties in the U.S., spanning more than 9,000 square miles, with animal cruelty responders dedicated and passionate, but resources stretched thin. We can — and will — help. Learn more at aldf.org/collaborativeresponse.

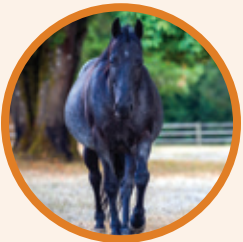
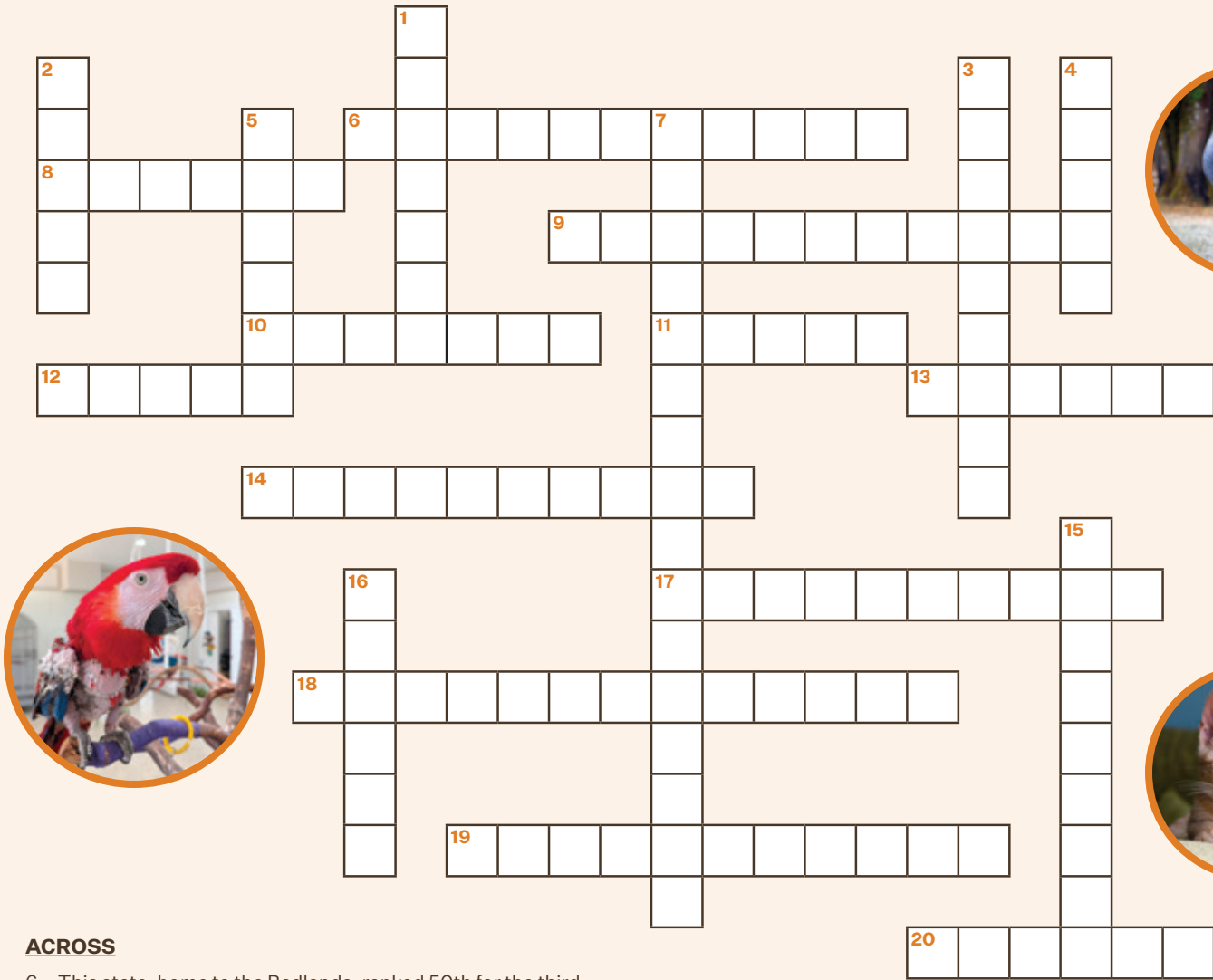
WHO YOU’RE HELPING: In Vancouver, Washington, the Collaborative Response Project was there to help when law enforcement officers discovered nine dogs who had been subjected to beatings and neglect — eight French Bulldogs and a Cane Corso with “obvious injuries to [their] head and eyes,” according to the agency. In partnership with local animal control officers, the dogs were rescued and their abuser was charged with first-degree animal cruelty.



A staffer at the Humane Society for Southwest Washington in Clark County, ALDF’s previous Collaborative Response Project location.



SUMMER 2026 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 6. This state, home to the Badlands, ranked 50th for the third straight year in our U.S. Animal Protection Laws Rankings Report.
- 8. ALDF and a coalition partner filed an ____curiae (“friend of the court”) brief, helping to defend NYC’s ban on foie gras.
- 9. Humans’ closest relatives in the animal kingdom; an ALDF lawsuit helped free three of them from a cruel Hollywood “trainer.”
- 10. Tentacled species that has been protected from cruel “aquaculture” farming in two states and counting, with ALDF advocacy.
- 11. A type of law designed to penalize whistleblowers and undercover investigators; ALDF has sued to stop it in multiple states.
- 12. Nzuri and Kali the ____ found sanctuary in May after ALDF sounded the alarm about their conditions at a Texas roadside zoo.
- 13. ALDF is currently fighting to preserve the ____ Public Safety Act, which protects lions, tigers, cougars, and others.
- 14. ALDF brought the first known viable claim on behalf of a bird (Cranberry the scarlet macaw) under the ____ Species Act.
- 17. ALDF turned this age in 2026 (we’re closing in on our golden anniversary!).
- 18. ALDF’s ____ Response Project helps humane officers, police, vets, and prosecutors work together to fight cruelty.
- 19. This “Traitors” star has helped ALDF promote the Captive Primate Safety Act (send your lawmaker a message at aldf.org/CPSA).
- 20. Pacific Northwest state home to the U.S.’s first statewide animal cruelty prosecutor, and #1 on ALDF’s state rankings list.

DOWN

- 1. The Latin term for volunteer legal work performed by attorneys or paralegals (2,700+ of whom have signed up to help ALDF)!
- 2. Ricki and Ben are ____ who found sanctuary through ALDF lawsuits, after each spending years in cruel roadside attractions.
- 3. Netflix docuseries that exposed millions of COVID-isolated viewers to the harsh realities of roadside zoos.
- 4. ALDF’s Justice Legacy Society is named for an animal of this species, whom we represented in a lawsuit challenging his abuse.
- 5. These small wild equines were saved in one of ALDF’s very first victories, halting a U.S. Navy plan to kill them in 1981.
- 7. A federal law designed to protect animals in labs, zoos, puppy mills, and more; it has been a basis for many ALDF lawsuits.
- 15. This cruel procedure will be performed on fewer cats after ALDF helped three U.S. states ban it last year.
- 16. Landmark California farmed animal protection law; ALDF and our coalition defended it all the way to the Supreme Court.

Note: Answers on back cover (page 11).



FIGHTING FOR ANIMALS USED IN RESEARCH

Animal research has been all over the news recently, and your support has helped ALDF achieve major legal and legislative wins.

At this pivotal moment for animals in labs, we checked in with two of ALDF’s resident experts: Campaign Manager Matt Rossell and Stacy Lopresti-Goodman, PhD, who recently joined ALDF as our Animal Law Education and Scholarship Program Director. Matt’s prior work as an undercover investigator saw him spending two years documenting conditions in a primate laboratory, then using the evidence to force change in the government oversight of research facilities. Stacy is a behavioral scientist and former professor whose work has focused on the psychological impacts of laboratories on dogs and primates; she also previously led a campaign that successfully shut down the University of Connecticut’s primate research lab.

What do you think the average animal advocate might not know, but should, about the animal research industry?

Lopresti-Goodman: Most animals used in laboratories have little to no legal protection. The Animal Welfare Act, the primary federal law governing the use of animals in labs, excludes mice, rats, and fish bred for research, who make up over 99% of animals used in experiments.

Rossell: What I learned from working within multiple research institutions is that frequently the protocols for animal experiments are designed to follow clinical trials in humans, attempting to duplicate data already established with people, or are being conducted in parallel to human studies. I also witnessed a lot of experiments that defied common sense — like baby monkeys with surgically implanted heart monitors intentionally terrorized to study shyness in children, and pregnant monkeys injected with nicotine, to then have their babies taken by C-section so their lungs could be dissected.



Can you tell us about an animal you’ve met who helped shape your thoughts on this issue?

Lopresti-Goodman: In 2015, I was at an event where I met several beagles rescued from labs, including two dogs named George Washington and Alexander “Hammy” Hamilton. At the time, I was a psychology professor and primarily focused on primates in sanctuaries. But many of the dogs’ caregivers kept talking about how they had PTSD. And I realized that no one had studied this! So, meeting dogs like George and Hammy inspired me to be the first researcher to scientifically examine whether dogs rescued from labs would meet the criteria for PTSD. And some did.



Thankfully, my research also found that the longer dogs are out of the initially traumatizing lab environment and in safe, loving homes, they heal. In fact, my research concluded that they are significantly less aggressive, are equally trainable as other dogs, and less likely to engage in what’s often labeled as “unwanted” behaviors. So, I found despite any trauma they endured, they make great companions.

Rossell: She was known only as 16162, the identification number neatly tattooed in black ink on the inside of her thigh. She was treated as a mere data point, but she was so much more — a sensitive, smart rhesus macaque monkey, living most of her life alone. For a social primate, isolation is torture, and she caught my eye because she was pulling out her hair and was nearly bald. As she languished in her cage, I tried everything I could to ease her suffering, from playing soothing ocean music to giving her cardboard tubes and cherry wood to chew on. She was incredibly clever, often banging her puzzle feeder against the side of the cage to force the treats out all at once, effectively outsmarting the device.

What gives you hope for animals trapped in the research industry?

Lopresti-Goodman: Animal experimentation is outdated, ineffective, and cruel. Thankfully, the majority of Americans understand this and oppose animal testing. Data show that the use of dogs and cats in research has significantly declined over the past 50 years and could end in the next decade. What gives me hope is that increased public pressure, legislative support from across the political spectrum, and advances in animal-free science may help expedite this process and move us toward a future where there are no animals in labs.

Rossell: This past year I was able to participate in public hearings in the Oregon Legislature and at the board of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), the parent institution that runs the national primate lab where I worked. The OHSU Board of Directors voted unanimously to pass a resolution authorizing university leadership to explore transitioning the Oregon National Primate Research Center into a sanctuary. This gives me hope! If we can close down one of the flagship national primate research centers, we can eventually close down all of these horrific labs, end this abuse forever, and use the resources on reliable human-based research.



Read the full interview and learn more about how your support is powering the fight for animals in labs at aldf.org/animalsinlabs.



PUTTING YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND TO WORK FOR ANIMALS

As a nonprofit organization, ALDF relies heavily on the generosity of our dedicated supporters — supporters like you — to carry out our mission to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. There are a number of ways donors are choosing to support their favorite causes, one of which is through donor-advised funds.

Donor-advised funds are a quick and simple way to support ALDF's innovative legal work for animals. You can help make a difference for animals by providing the financial support that empowers us to act swiftly and effectively whenever animals' lives or interests are at risk by recommending ALDF as a grantee in your donor-advised fund.

To recommend ALDF as a grantee, you can visit our website at aldf.org/DAF and use the donor-advised fund portal to access your DAF account and make your recommendation quickly and securely online.

If you have further questions, you can contact us at (707) 795-2533 or email us at membership@aldf.org.

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Summer 2026 Crossword Puzzle Answers:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. PRO BONO | 11. AG-GAG |
| 2. BEARS | 12. LIONS |
| 3. TIGER KING | 13. BIG CAT |
| 4. HORSE | 14. ENDANGERED |
| 5. BURROS | 15. DECLAWING |
| 6. NORTH DAKOTA | 16. PROP 12 |
| 7. ANIMAL WELFARE ACT | 17. FORTY-SEVEN |
| 8. AMICUS | 18. COLLABORATIVE |
| 9. CHIMPANZEES | 19. ALAN CUMMING |
| 10. OCTOPUS | 20. OREGON |



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