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# Annie the Dog, the Abuse She Suffered, and Her Victim Impact Statement

By Donald Garlit

*An impetus for publishing Annie's story at this time comes from the introduction of HB 4592 earlier this year (see Page 16) which also permits animals' voices to be heard in courtrooms.*

This article is in several parts including an overview, a victim impact statement, a blog, and an update about Annie with many nice photos. We do not want to dwell on the abuse she suffered although it will be mentioned. The story does have a positive ending which offers guidance to lawyers and us as individuals.

## Overview

The events that occurred to Annie happened in 2009 with court proceedings concluding in 2010. Why so long to write about it? Reasons are offered although they are not excuses. There is no question that this article could have been done earlier although its lessons still apply.

First, the case should be memorialized and understood. It serves as a possible model for animal law and other attorneys.

Second, there is interest in victim impact statements on behalf of animals recently. This could be one of the earliest examples.

Third, the victim impact statement may be more common under the proposed Michigan law HB 4592 referenced above.

Eventually, Annie persevered and found a new home. That is the positive ending that we will see at the end of the article.



Annie  
All Annie photos courtesy of Barb Michniewicz and Jerry Nordblom

## The Letter and Victim Impact Statement

Annie was adopted after the tragic events mentioned below. Her guardians, Barbara Michniewicz and Gerald Nordblom, submitted a letter to Judge David Swartz of the Washtenaw County Circuit Court on her behalf. The letter was the basis of Mr. Nordblom's Victim Impact Statement for Annie at the sentencing hearing which Judge Swartz permitted.

*continued on next page*



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## Co-Editor's Note

Welcome to the second issue of the Newsletter for 2019. We are now in our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a section. The Section had its initial official meeting at the 1995 State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting. Our Section is the first state-wide animal law section in the United States; something that we can all take pride in.

Our lead article is a moving one about Annie the dog and a victim impact statement on her behalf. The statement helped bring some measure of justice for her and she is now a happy and loved family dog. The case took place a number of years ago although its message is important and possibly timeless. A victim impact statement can have an important influence at the time of sentencing. There is an interest in victim impact statements for animals across the country.

Other articles includes several about the Section's major awards (Brandi, Sadie, and Wanda Nash), an update on the Nonhuman Rights Project legal work for client elephants, results of the Section Council election at the Annual Meeting, and the Legislative Tracker™ (from Attorneys for Animals) showing positions of the Animal Law Section as voted by Section Council. Other articles include recent animal law news and the financial report for the section. Please see the calendar of recent events on the last page to get an idea of the high level of interest in animal law across the country and world.

We continue to print the issue in all color including photographs and graphics. We are using better quality paper. This greatly increases the visual appeal of the Newsletter. The photographs are much clearer with this approach.

We have a major article for upcoming publication and I believe that you will find it most interesting. The article discusses dogs in court rooms.

As always I will make my standard request, please remember that this is your newsletter, too. Helpful articles are always needed. In fact, if we can get one good main article for each issue, we can do the rest. Please consider writing an article that will be of interest to your fellow Section members.

Donald Garlit  
Newsletter Co-Editor  
[donaldgarlit@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldgarlit@yahoo.com)

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**Annie the Dog ...** *continued from page 1*

The letter follows:

February 19, 2010

Honorable David Swartz  
Circuit Court Judge  
22nd Circuit Court  
200 N. Main  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8645

Dear Judge Swartz:

Thank you for allowing us to present a statement on behalf of the puppy, Brownie, who was beaten and is the other victim in this horrific, senseless story, in addition

to the human victim. We are the family that adopted the dog and have renamed her Annie. Despite all the challenges she has faced, we want you to know that she is still a sweet spirited girl!!

It is our understanding that Mr. Rutley beat her with a tire iron and then abandoned her, with two broken legs, missing teeth and unable to walk, in a city park where she had to spend the night. She is fortunate that she was found the next day by a person concerned with her welfare. It is only because of the incredible, heroic effort of the clinic and staff of the Humane Society of Huron Valley that she is even alive today. Most other humane societies or rescue organizations would have not been able to save her, not because they wouldn't want to but because they wouldn't have the resources and staff.

Dr. Meredith Mallory, Chief Veterinarian at HSHV and one of the surgeons involved in her surgeries, has told us the following about what she has endured and what she will face in the future as a result of her beating:

1. She had multiple fractures in both her left knee and her right elbow as well as a gum laceration/tooth loss. In order to achieve these widespread injuries he would have likely had to hit her at least 3 times with great force.
2. She has endured 8 hours worth of surgery so far spanning over three different major procedures. The knee fracture was bad enough that it could not even be stabilized with metal pins and therefore had to be amputated. The left elbow is held together with a surgical steel bone plate, 4 screws, numerous pins and surgical wire.
3. It will take about 1 year after the initial injury for the fractured bone fragments of the elbow to heal and strengthen completely. Then she will have to endure a fourth surgery to remove any of the metal that can be removed, so that it doesn't cause her pain or be a source of infection later in life. Some of the metal implants she will carry permanently.
4. Because she was just a puppy and because the injury occurred in the elbow joint, her right front leg will always be a little shorter and turned out, so she will hobble on the front leg while trying to balance without a rear leg.



After her surgeries, the poor puppy was released from HSHV to a foster home where she was in such pain and debilitation that she could only lay on the floor and suffer. For several weeks, she had to be literally carried outside for potty breaks. We

got an idea of her condition when we first adopted her and noticed she barked quite a bit. We asked the foster mother



about this. She told us that it was her "fault" because when Annie first came to her home, the puppy was so traumatized she didn't act like a dog, so that when she eventually started to bark, the foster mother encouraged her because it demonstrated she was beginning to recover.

Her injuries are so severe that we have not been able to allow her off leash from the time we adopted her in November until just three weeks ago. Consequently, Annie, who is a young, high energy herding dog, only now is able to walk and run free.

As Dr. Mallory has told us, her recovery is far from over. We believe that she is still in pain. Many times when she comes in from being outside, or at night, she is restless and seems very uncomfortable. When this happens, we give her pain medication and she settles down. She may very well have to continue pain medication, which could lead to other problems such as liver failure. She is obviously handicapped because of the loss of a rear leg and may very well suffer from arthritis of her other injured front leg.

Some people will probably ask, "why the fuss, she is only a dog". But the point is that both of these beatings are the symptoms of the same pathetic problems Mr. Rutley has. When we as a society allow and condone the abuse of our animals, how long will it be before we are turning our back on the inhumane treatment of other humans? As India's great leader Gandhi so eloquently stated, the morality of a society can be judged by the way its animals are treated. We ask you your honor to impose the stiffest sentence possible to the defendant. We also request that he be required to pay restitution to the Humane Society of Huron Valley for all expenses incurred during Annie's treatment.

Sincerely,

Barbara Michniewicz and Gerald Nordblom

cc: LeAnn Kaiser, Victim Advocate  
Thomas Mihalic, Probation Officer

See the blog below for more information about the sentencing hearing, Annie's victim impact statement, and the results of the hearing.

## Annie Today

Annie is a happy active dog today and happily still with us after all these years. I have met her and she is a loving family dog who lives in the country with access to large acreage. She is loved by her guardians, Barb and Jerry, and has left her tragic past behind.

These pictures show her today running, smiling, sitting, and leading the kind of life a dog should live.

## Conclusion

There is now greater interest in animal victim impact statements. For instance, see an article by the Animal Legal Defense Fund at: <https://aldf.org/article/victim-impact-statements-in-cases-of-animal-cruelty/>

Annie survived as a result of people taking proactive actions to save her life. These people include the person who

reported her in the park after being beaten, the Humane Society of Huron Valley veterinary team headed by Dr. Meredith Mallory, the woman who fostered her,



and her guardians, Barb and Jerry. Judge David Swartz should be thanked for allowing her story to be told in court and have an impact on the sentencing decision.

Most of all we need to recognize Annie's incredible will to live, determination, and perseverance. Hopefully, she has forgotten much of the past events that impacted her so tragically.

In the end, she got a special and loving home. 🐾

# Annie's Song: A Blog about Annie and the Sentencing Hearing

By Bee Friedlander

***Co-Editor's Note:** This blog was originally published by the Animals and Society Institute, Inc., <https://www.animalsand-society.org/> and is republished with permission. ASI is an Ann Arbor-based think tank that delivers both research and education about how we interface with other animals. ASI's work gives activists, educators and practitioners the knowledge to do their job. ASI's Human-Animal Program equips people who are working in prevention and treatment of animal abuse with state-of-the-art resources. ASI trains human service providers to identify, evaluate, and treat individuals who have abused animals. ASI's Human-Animal Studies Program promotes the development of Human-Animal Studies, a rapidly growing interdisciplinary field that examines the complex and multidimensional relationships between humans and other animals. ASI provides leadership in the field by working with scholars and other interested parties to develop programs, events and publications and other resources that expand the availability of courses and resources in institutions of higher learning.*

It was a dramatic moment in Judge David Swartz's courtroom in Ann Arbor recently [Note: In early 2010], as the prosecutor handed him several pictures. The images depicted a young puppy, badly injured and heavily bandaged, looking up at the camera as if to ask "why?" Then, as the judge listened intently, her guardian began to address the court.

The story began late last summer [Note: Summer 2009]. A Good Samaritan walking her dog in a local park found an injured, cowering Australian shepherd-mix puppy. A cruelty investigator for the Humane Society of Huron Valley took her to the shelter where she received emergency veterinary treatment (Note: See Annie after surgery at <http://www.ann-arbor.com/news/ypsilanti-man-accused-of-beating-dog-with-tire-iron-convicted-of-animal-cruelty/>). Around the same time, police told the investigator that a woman had reported her puppy missing and she suspected her boyfriend was involved. Connecting the dots, the cruelty investigator showed pictures of the puppy who was at the shelter to the woman, and she identified her as 5-month-old Brownie.

A police investigation concluded that the boyfriend, Eric Rutley, angry that his girlfriend was not home at the expected time, beat Brownie with a tire iron, injuring her legs and knocking out several teeth. Prosecutors ultimately brought

charges against Mr. Rutley, including felony animal torture, domestic violence and witness intimidation.

After several weeks, the veterinarians concluded that the rear leg couldn't be saved and the puppy had another surgery to amputate it. After recuperating in a foster home, Brownie was adopted by friends of mine, a couple with the time to devote to her and lots of land for her to roam. Their love of animals is clearly demonstrated by the fact that they share their home with two other dogs and numerous cats - all rescues - and by the volunteer work they do for several local animal organizations. They renamed her Annie, and she continues to thrive in her new home.

In February, Mr. Rutley pleaded no contest to the domestic violence and animal torture charges and pleaded guilty to two others.

But Annie faces more surgery and both the quality and length of her life have been compromised by the beating. My friends felt strongly that Annie's voice should be heard by the judge when he considered the appropriate sentence. Both the prosecutor (who, by the way, had refused to reduce the animal torture charges in negotiating a plea bargain) and the victim advocate assigned to the judge fully supported the idea, and encouraged Barb and Jerry to write a letter before sentencing and arranged for Jerry to speak at the hearing.

Their letter outlines Annie's medical condition and future prognosis: her eight hours of surgery to date; the knee that was so severely fractured it had to be amputated; the elbow "held together with surgical steel bone plates, four screws, numerous pins and surgical wire"; the additional surgery she faces about one year from the initial injury to remove "any of the metal that can be removed, so that it doesn't cause her pain or be a source of infection later in life." And, "her right front leg will always be a little shorter and turned out, so she will hobble on the front leg while trying to balance without a rear leg." The veterinarian has told them that Annie's injuries are consistent with her being hit "at least 3 times with great force."

The Animals and Society Institute also submitted a letter to Judge Swartz. As part of our Rapid Response program we contact judges to urge that the sentence include psychological treatment with the AniCare model to prevent recurrence of the violent behavior. In this case, however, our main point was to acknowledge the importance of allowing the victim, Annie, to be considered; the letter said in part that animals "can appreciate not only the physical pain of abuse, but the more emotional pain of an exploitative relationship." It appeared to us that Mr. Rutley would be sentenced to prison, and we mentioned that he should receive AniCare or other treatment before his eventual return to society.

At the sentencing hearing, after arguments by the prosecutor and defense attorney, the stage was set for the Victim Impact Statement. The judge listened carefully to Jerry's words as he spoke on behalf, and in the voice, of Annie:

I was only 5 months old. He got mad at my owner. Then he hurt me -- he beat me at least 3 times. He broke out some teeth and broke 2 legs and then he took me to a park and he left me -- but I couldn't walk and I was afraid.

Jerry had another message for Judge Swartz: "despite all the challenges she has faced, we want you to know that she is still a sweet spirited girl."

In the end, Mr. Rutley was sentenced to 24 months to 4 years, the maximum allowed under Michigan's sentencing guidelines. I attended the hearing and it was clear to me that the judge was moved by Annie's story as he told the defendant he wished that he could give him a longer sentence.



Annie's voice was heard loud and clear in that courtroom.

Her will to live, her capacity to again enjoy life and begin to trust members of the species that so horribly abused her is a lesson that Annie can so beautifully teach us all.

Posted on March 07, 2010 at 09:08 am -- Author's Site

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# State Representative Tommy Brann Earns Animal Law Section's Brandi Award

By Bee Friedlander and Donald Garlit

State Representative Tommy Brann received the Animal Law Section's Brandi Award in a ceremony at Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary in Lake Odessa on June 7.

The award, established in 2000, recognizes a person in the legal or legislative profession who has done something notable for animals and has been awarded to prosecutors, judges, and legislators. Rep. Brann was nominated because he sponsored bills to strengthen Michigan's animal cruelty laws and worked tirelessly to get them passed and signed into law as PA 452 of 2018 and PA 652 of 2018.

Rep. Brann was nominated by Section member Donald Garlit who wrote in part:

Representative Brann's interest in tougher animal cruelty laws comes from a compelling personal story, and anyone hearing his testimony in support of the bills in the House and Senate Committee hearings could not help but be moved. He relates that in the 1990s, when he was cleaning tables at his restaurant just before closing, he overheard two women talk about a third woman, with whom they had a dispute. The two women agreed that the best way to get back at the third was to harm her dog, to whom she was very much attached. Although he was unable to do anything back then, he said that once he was in the Michigan House, he would be able to change the laws. HB 4332 particularly singles out for higher penalties, crimes against an animal done to cause distress to, or exercise control over, a person. In tribute to his late dog, he designated the legislation as the Howie Bill.



State Rep. Brann with Section Members: (L-R) Kate Brindle, Bee Friedlander, Rep. Brann, Sue Brann, and Don Garlit

The Brandi Award honoree may designate a Michigan animal-related nonprofit to receive an honorarium. Rep. Brann selected [Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary](http://www.mackenzies.info), the Mid West's largest sheltered no-kill sanctuary. It was founded by the Azzar family in 1999 after the passing of their beloved dog Mackenzie, with a goal of saving dogs in need and placing them in loving homes. Ceremony attendees received a special tour of this most impressive sanctuary located in a beautiful rural property of about 90 acres.

Rep. Brann was joined at the ceremony by his wife Sue who is a Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary volunteer. He gave a most sincere and moving talk at the ceremony to attendees who included sanctuary staff and volunteers as well as Animal Law Section members. He stayed after the ceremony and discussed his interest in animals with the Animal Law Section attendees. 🐾

Below: State Rep. Brann with Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary volunteers and staff as well as Animal Law Section members



# Animal Advocate: Jessica Rundle Earns Animal Law Section's Wanda Nash Award

*Co-Editor's Note: The following article is courtesy of Sheila Pursglove and the Legal News.*

By Sheila Pursglove, Legal News

Michigan State University College of Law student Jessica Rundle was honored on April 23, 2019 with the State Bar of Michigan's Wanda A. Nash Award for exceptional scholarship in animal welfare.

"This award is a huge honor. It represents involvement in a growing field that is changing rapidly," Rundle said. "Animals have no way to advocate for themselves though they serve so many functions for us."

Graduating from MSU Law this month, Rundle has served as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Animal and Natural Resource Law*, growing membership from 11 returning members to a total of 30 members, with 12 editors completing notes on topics related to animal or natural resource law.

"Serving as editor-in-chief was a great experience," she said. "It allowed me to collaborate with a talented editorial board, and interact with authors."

The *Journal* hosted a very successful spring conference, "The Dilemma of Wild Horses and What To Do With Them," focusing on the protection and management of wild horses and burros on public lands.

"Our conference was a great experience," Rundle said. "We were able to bring in experts in the field from both the public and private sectors to bring attention to an issue that many people — especially on this side of the country — are unaware of."

Her work on the *Journal* was the reason MSU Law Professor David Favre nominated her for the Nash award, named for the founder of the SBM's Animal Law Section. It's the fifth consecutive year the award has been earned to a Spartan law student.

In her 2L year, Rundle studied Wildlife Law that dealt in part with hunting regulations and wildlife management.



(L-R) Awardee Jessica Rundle, Wanda Nash's daughter Wendy Pearson, and Section member Kate Brindle with daughter Della

She also worked to resurrect the MSU Law chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF), which had become inactive.

She found a student to serve as the group's president and took on the role of treasurer.

Although Rundle is passionate about animals and wildlife, her main area of interest is public interest law, and her goal is to work for a nonprofit organization in Michigan.

During her years at MSU Law, she interned at Elder Law of Michigan and at the Resolution Services Center in Lansing.

At the same time, Rundle was a charitable trust assistant at the Department of Attorney General in Lansing, a student clinician at the law school's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and, in her final semester, she interned at Crenshaw Peterson & Associates in Okemos.

As she bids farewell to MSU Law, Rundle will carry away fond memories of her time in law school.

"I've enjoyed the environment — it feels like a tight-knit community within a huge university and I've made long-lasting connections," she says.

The Sterling Heights native makes her home in Lansing with her husband and two dogs — a Saint Bernard mix and a Shepherd mix. In her leisure time, Rundle enjoys gardening.

She also calls on her past education — an associate of arts degree from Macomb Community College, a B.A. in history from Oakland University and a master's degree in history and political science from Texas A&M University-Central Texas — by serving as an adjunct instructor in political science at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and history at Jackson Community College.

"I enjoy teaching because it gives me a way to shape future scholars and keeps me sharp in my disciplines," she says. 🐾

# Dan McKernan of Barn Sanctuary Earns 2019 Sadie Award

Dan McKernan, founder and executive director of Barn Sanctuary farm animal sanctuary, received the Animal Law Section's Sadie Award on June 23, 2019 at a ceremony at the sanctuary located in Chelsea, Michigan.

Dan was nominated by Section member Maggie Sadoff who wrote in her nomination:

This remarkable young man quit his day job and transformed his family farm into a sanctuary to provide a forever home to abused, abandoned, and injured domesticated farm animals including cows, pigs, goats, etc. (similar to Sasha Farm, but much smaller operation). He recently traveled cross country to rescue a pig who suffered frostbite after being frozen to the side of a truck (Patricia the pig, unfortunately, didn't make it).

The Sadie Award, created in 2001, recognizes exceptional efforts on behalf of animals from those not involved in the legal or legislative system. It comes with a \$250 honorarium, which was presented to Barn Sanctuary at the June 23 ceremony.

The attendees participated in a long and comprehensive tour of Barn Sanctuary after the ceremony was completed. This tour included being able to meet and/or see the animals and hear their stories. While many of the stories were sad,

they are all well cared for and in a safe place now.

There is a short video (about 3 minutes) on YouTube that demonstrates Barn Sanctuary's work, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPy\\_6APncU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPy_6APncU)

More about Barn Sanctuary is available at <https://www.barnsanctuary.org/>



Awardee Dan McKernan of Barn Sanctuary with Animal Law Section members

# NhRP Fights for Personhood for Elephants

By Ann Griffin

Previous articles in this newsletter have provided updates regarding the Nonhuman Rights Project's work on behalf of chimpanzee clients Leo and Hercules. The NhRP also represents several elephants and is seeking personhood and transfer to sanctuary on their behalf.

Three of the NhRP's elephant clients, Beulah, Karen, and Minnie, are or were owned by Commerford Zoo in Connecticut. All three of the elephants were kidnapped from the wild at a young age and made their way to the zoo through various hands. The Commerford Zoo has been cited dozens of times for violations of the Animal Welfare Act. It forces the elephants to perform tricks and give rides to children and adults and subjects them to cruel treatment, including the use of bull hooks.

Sadly, two of the three elephants have recently passed away. On September 15, 2019, Beulah passed away at the age of 54 of unknown causes. She was on display in Massachusetts as part of the Eastern States Exhibition. Karen passed away in March 2019 at the age of 38. The NhRP is continuing to try to determine exactly how and when Karen died.

The NhRP's work continues to free Minnie from the zoo and secure her release to a sanctuary. Their work on behalf of Beulah, Karen, and Minnie started with a petition for a common law writ of habeas corpus in a Connecticut trial court. Unfortunately, they have been unsuccessful at the trial and

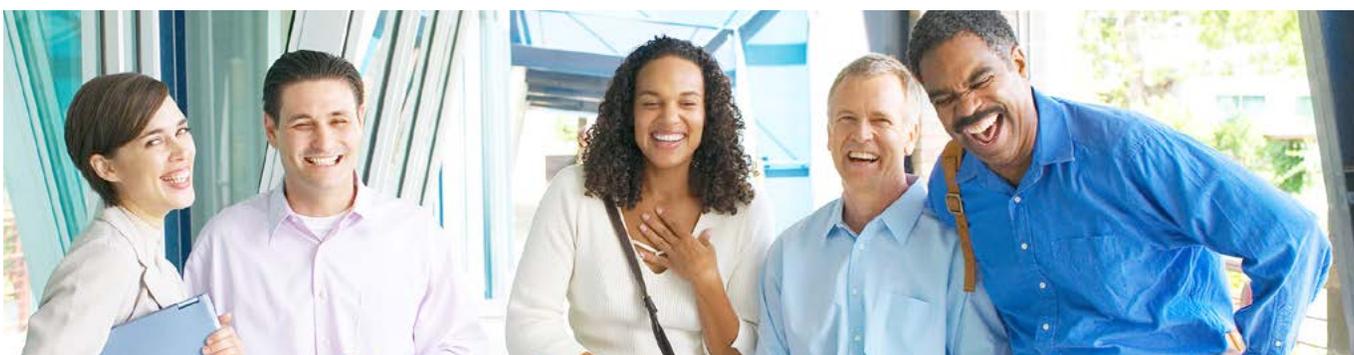


appellate levels. Full details of the proceedings may be found at <https://www.nonhumanrights.org/clients-beulah-karen-minnie/>.

Because Minnie is now alone at the zoo, her living conditions are even more oppressive and inappropriate because elephants are very social animals. The NhRP is also working to secure a release to sanctuary for another lonely elephant, Happy, who es-

entially lives alone at the Bronx Zoo. Although the Bronx Zoo has two elephants, they are separated, and the zoo insists that Happy doesn't get along with other elephants. Experts believe this is a direct result of their space limitations and that Happy's relationships with other elephants would be very different in a sanctuary. Like their other clients, Happy was brought to the U.S. as a baby and went to the Bronx Zoo when she was 7. She is now 48.

The complicated timeline of Happy's case began with the NhRP's petition for a common law writ of habeas corpus and transfer to a sanctuary in October 2018. All of the details may be found at <https://www.nonhumanrights.org/client-happy/>. In encouraging news, the Bronx County Superior Court held a nearly 5-hour hearing on September 23, 2019, and the court gave the NhRP time to delve into its arguments on Happy's behalf. The judge has scheduled a second hearing for October 21 to hear arguments on additional motions and to hear the merits of the habeas corpus petition. 🐘



**Invite someone you know to join the fun. Invite someone to join the Animal Law Section.**

# Recent Animal Law News

By Donald Garlit

**Co-Editor's Note:** *The news below includes brief summaries of important and newsworthy items of interest. We chose these as being of most interest to our members. Many items are now appearing in the legal and national press and not all can be included.*

*You will see that some items cover situations in countries other than the United States. Improving conditions for animals is achieving worldwide interest.*

*Normally we only cover cases that have been fully adjudicated or legislation that has been signed into law. We are not following those approaches in all updates as there are several situations in the early stages that present interesting legal or legislative approaches that may be discussed below.*

*Additionally, we will continue to discuss recent cases which have involved dog attacks and animal cruelty which have resulted in serious charges against the owner/guardian. It appears that prosecutors are taking these situations much more seriously especially when there is a past pattern of dog aggression or animal cruelty.*

## Man Charged with 2nd-Degree Murder in Dog Mauling Death of 9-Year Old Girl in Detroit

Emma Hernandez, 9, was attacked by three dogs while riding a bike in an alley on Detroit's west side in late August 2019. She died during the attack. The owner of the dogs, Pierre Cleveland, has been charged with 2<sup>nd</sup>-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and having a dangerous animal causing death.

The dogs were seized by Detroit Animal Control and were expected to be euthanized according to reports published shortly after the attack.

We will continue to report this case as it develops.

Source is Detroit Free Press at: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2019/08/22/man-charged-girls-dog-mauling-death-family-friends-hold-vigil/2089925001/>

## Animal Law and Policy Clinic Begins at Harvard Law School

The Harvard Law School in an article about the clinic states: "The Animal Law & Policy Clinic will provide students with direct hands-on experience in litigation, legislation, administrative practice, and policymaking, both in the U.S. and internationally."



Katherine Meyer and Nicole Negowetti will lead the program. Meyer is one of the founders of Meyer Glitzenstein & Eubanks, a leading environmental and animal public interest law firm based in Washington, DC. Negowetti joins the clinic from Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic.

The Animal Law and Policy Clinic will be part of the Animal Law and Policy Program lead by Faculty Director Professor Kristen Stilt.

Source is Harvard Law School at: <https://today.law.harvard.edu/animal-law-and-policy-clinic-launches-at-harvard-law-school/>

## Law, Ethics & Animals Program (LEAP) to Begin at Yale Law School in 2019-2020 Academic Year

As noted in an article from Yale Law School: "The program is dedicated to developing new strategies to address industrialized animal cruelty and its impacts, and to drawing attention to the questions of conscience raised by humanity's treatment of animals." The program will be headed by Professor of Law Doug Kysar and Senior Research Scholar & Lecturer on Law [Jonathan Lovvorn](#). (Lovvorn is also Chief Counsel for Animal Protection Litigation at the Humane Society of the United States.) Viveca Morris is the executive director of the program.



An animal law course will be offered in the fall. A new Climate, Animals, Food, and the Environment Law & Policy Lab (CAFE Lab) will be offered in the spring. The Yale Law School articles notes: "The CAFE Lab, perhaps the first of its kind, will develop innovative legal and policy strategies to address the externalized costs of industrial animal agriculture – a top contributor to climate change, animal suffering, human exploitation, and environmental degradation."

Source is Yale Law School (read for many more details) at: <https://law.yale.edu/yls-today/news/law-ethics-animals-program-launch?fbclid=IwAR3vD4bZPQn9iEjQzK9pqgtdbkHlsINmOr9pLE8TU4F59bbttr91AqRzgHA>

### Oklahoma City University School of Law Announces Animal Law Program

The School of Law administration notes that there is a high interest in Animal Law among the students. The program will consist of several parts including networking, lectures by practitioners, a public lecture given by a nationally recognized expert in animal law, and an opportunity for students and a faculty member to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Animal Law Conference in Portland, Oregon in October.



Funding is made possible by the Kirkpatrick foundation.

Source is The City Sentinel at: <http://city-sentinel.com/2019/08/ocu-school-of-law-introduces-new-animal-law-program/>

### California Becomes First State to Ban Fur-Trapping

Governor Newsom signed a bill on September 4, 2019 to ban fur trapping in California. This will end a long history of fur trapping in the state going back about two hundred years. Fur trapping has declined over the years as the California population has increased to almost 40 million people.

The following are from the Los Angeles Times article linked below discussing the number of fur trappers remaining in the state and the history of trapping:

“ [Assemblywoman Lorena] Gonzalez said that [the roughly six dozen trappers still working in the state](#), down from more than 5,000 a century ago, cannot afford to pay the full cost of implementing and regulating their industry.”

and

“Before California’s population ballooned to roughly 40 million people, fur trapping played a significant role in the extirpation of wolves and wolverines and the severe declines of sea otters, fishers, martens, beavers and other fur-bearing species.”

Note that that the bill states that revenue in 2017 for fur trapping licenses (133 licenses) and fur dealer licenses (4 licenses) totaled about \$17,000 – a fraction of the cost of a single full-time game warden.

The effective date is January 1, 2020.

Sources are:

Los Angeles Times at: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-09-04/fur-trapping-ban-california-law>

The bill text as published by the California Legislature: [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB273](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB273)

### Brazil Ends One-Year Agricultural Pesticide Toxicity Test on Dogs – Last Major Market to End Test

The Brazilian health regulatory agency announced major changes in early August 2019 including ending the dog toxicity testing requirement. This is estimated to save the lives of thousands of dogs including many in the United States as some testing previously required for product sale in Brazil was done in the United States.

There was much major media coverage of over 30 beagles that were released from pesticide tests in Michigan in late March and early April 2019. The release effort was spearheaded by the Humane Society of the United States. The dogs were released to the Michigan Humane Society for adoption and all were adopted. These dogs were being used for toxicity tests required by Brazil.

Source is Humane Society of the United States at: [https://blog.humanesociety.org/2019/08/breaking-news-brazil-will-no-longer-require-one-year-pesticide-test-on-dogs-reforms-will-save-animal-lives-in-the-country-and-in-the-u-s.html?credit=blog\\_post\\_080519\\_idhome-page](https://blog.humanesociety.org/2019/08/breaking-news-brazil-will-no-longer-require-one-year-pesticide-test-on-dogs-reforms-will-save-animal-lives-in-the-country-and-in-the-u-s.html?credit=blog_post_080519_idhome-page)

### US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Announces Plans to End Testing on Mammals

The EPA made the major announcement of a plan to end requirements for testing of chemicals and pesticides on dogs, mice, rabbits, and other mammals in mid-September 2019. There will be substantial reductions in the number of animals tested by 2025 and an end to all such testing by 2035. The EPA “will focus on investing in nonanimal alternative technologies that are more reliable and do not cause animal suffering” per the article linked below.

Source is Humane Society of the United States at: <https://blog.humanesociety.org/2019/09/breaking-news-epa-moves-to-end-animal-testing.html>

### New Zealand Animal Law Association (NZALA) Shows Interest in Animal Law and Includes News and Blog Section

The News and Blog section of its website includes news and actions of the group. Many issues in New Zealand are similar to those in the United States. For instance, NZALA and SAFE for Animals filed proceedings against the New

Zealand government for failure to ban farrowing (gestation) crates in early 2019.

See the News and Blog section of the website at: <http://nzala.org/news/>

## Lawyer in Canada Sues on Behalf of Rodents Killed by Glue Traps – Retail Store Defendants Raise Standing Issue

Source is MSN and the Canadian Press at: <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/other/activists-should-be-allowed-to-speak-on-behalf-of-animals-in-court-lawyer-argues/ar-AAEYKfb>

## “A case of man vs beast: the fight for nonhuman rights” in the New Statesman from April 2019

The article discusses the history of the Nonhuman Rights Project and the work of founder Steven Wise as well as many interesting thoughts on animal cognition and self-perception. The article includes commentary on societal and legal implications of the possible recognition of animal rights, including countervailing viewpoints.

Source is the NewStatesmanAmerica website at: <https://www.newstatesman.com/culture/nature/2019/04/case-man-vs-beast-fight-nonhuman-rights>

## New York and New Jersey Ban Pet Leasing – Become 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> States with Ban

*Note: We covered the controversial practice of pet leasing in this column in the Fall 2018 issue of the Animal Law Section Newsletter.*



Governor Cuomo of New York in late 2018 and Governor Murphy of New Jersey in August 2019 signed laws banning the leasing of dogs and cats. California and Nevada banned the practice in 2017. Similar legislation was introduced in Pennsylvania in early 2019.

The practice had led to misleading statements to people including at least one case where a consumer claimed that she believed that she had purchased an animal and later was told the transaction was a lease. There have also been allegations of excessive finance fees.

Wags Leasing which provided financing to pet stores and others is now apparently in bankruptcy proceedings as of mid-2017.

Sources are:

ASPCA at: <https://www.asPCA.org/news/new-york-latest-state-reject-pet-leasing>

Philadelphia Inquirer at: <https://www.inquirer.com/business/pet-leasing-new-jersey-ban-phil-murphy-20190809.html>

Pennlive.com at: <https://www.pennlive.com/politics/2018/08/rent-a-pet-seriously-its-a-thi.html>

Reno Gazette Journal at: <https://www.rgj.com/story/money/business/2017/06/20/bristlecone-holdings-filed-bankruptcy-over-11-3-m-loan-default/378128001/>

## Michigan Woman Convicted of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder in Death of Husband – Parrot was a “Witness”

*Note while this story dates from mid-2017, we think our readers may find this of interest as it demonstrates an unusual intersection between animals and the law.*

Husband, Martin Duram, was shot and killed by his wife. After his death, his previous wife received the parrot named Bud. Testimony was allowed in court by the previous wife that Bud would say “don’t (expletive) shoot” in Martin Duram’s voice. Defendant wife was convicted and sentenced to life without parole. The murder occurred in Newaygo County.



There is little available about the issue of hearsay testimony. One blog suggested since a parrot cannot be a “declarant” as the parrot is not a person and normal hearsay rules do not apply.

Source is Detroit Free Press: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2017/07/20/parrot-murder-trial/494828001/>

## Orangutan Sandra Leaving Argentina for Sanctuary in United States – Judge Elena Liberatori Previously Ruled Sandra was a Nonhuman Person with Rights Not an Animal

*Note: We mentioned the case of Sandra in this column in the Winter 2017 issue of the Animal Law Section Newsletter.*

Judge Liberatori made her original ruling in 2015. A resolution has been delayed for years as the original zoo that Sandra was in closed and turned into an ecopark. Caretakers urged that she remain in their custody as transfer might be too traumatic. As she had never lived in the wild, transfer to the wild was not possible. Additionally she is a hybrid orangutan meaning a cross between Sumatran and Bornean orangutans and there was concern about her acceptance in a pure bred population.

The present plan as of late September 2019 is that she will travel to the Sedgwick County Zoo in Kansas for health checks. If her health checks out, she will eventually be sent to the Center for Great Apes in Florida to live with other primates. She is the only individual in her enclosure in Argentina.

Sources is AP News at: <https://apnews.com/7019f1ed2eb04b27b96134a44ded4bdd?emci=ac1dfba5-b4e0-e911-b5e9-2818784d6d68&emdi=d9fede02-b5e0-e911-b5e9-2818784d6d68&ceid=1182330>

## Wild Animals in Circus Ban to Begin in 2020 in UK



The UK government will let regulations expire in January 2020 that permit the use of wild animals in the circus. This follows the previous bans put in place in Ireland and Scotland. A similar ban is being considered in Wales.

Much like the United States economic factors have played a role in the state of the circus as an enterprise. Polls show that the citizens of the UK are overwhelmingly opposed to the circus. There are only two circuses that have wild animal licenses and the two have a total of nineteen animals between them.

Source is the Independent at: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wild-animals-circus-ban-england-2020-defra-government-a8230691.html>

## Canada Becomes the First Country to Ban the Importing and Exporting of Shark Fins.

The ban was passed in Parliament and Royal Assent was received in late June 2019. The ban appears to have taken place immediately. Canada banned shark finning in its own waters in 1994.

Source is Turtle Island Restoration Network at: <https://sea-turtles.org/canada-bans-importing-exporting-of-shark-fins/>

## French Court Rules in Favor of Maurice, the Crowing Rooster

Maurice lives on an island off the southwest coast of France. As a rooster, he often crows. A retired couple who have a vacation home near him complained that his crowing made their holidays stressful. They brought a complaint.

Thousands in France were following the case as they said that it reflected an attack on rural values which are an important cultural aspect of France.

The judge ruled in Maurice's favor in early September 2019. The judge stated that Maurice is simply being a rooster and the crowing is in his nature. Maurice was awarded 1,000 euros although the money will go to a fund for those lost at sea. Maurice and his guardian, Corrine Fesseau, were represented by lawyer Julien Papineau.

*Note: Students of culture and history will see important overtones in this case. Rural values are eternal values that define*

*France and as noted above many thought this was an attack on important basic rural values and culture. Additionally, the Gallic rooster is an unofficial symbol of France as a nation so an attack on a rooster (perhaps) is seen as an attack on France itself.*

*In any event Maurice prevailed and the symbols remain intact!*

Source is the The New York Times at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/05/world/europe/france-maurice-rooster.html>

## Illinois Bans Sale of Cosmetics Tested on Animals – Becomes 3<sup>rd</sup> State to Enact Ban after California and Nevada

The Illinois ban on selling of cosmetics that have been newly tested on animals takes effect on January 1, 2020. It was signed by Governor Pritzker in August 2019. Senator Linda Holmes, Representative Jonathan Carroll, and the Animal Welfare Institute were instrumental in securing passage of the bill.

Worldwide almost 40 countries have banned or limited the use of animals in cosmetics testing.

Source is The Humane Society of the United States at: <https://blog.humanesociety.org/2019/08/cruel-cosmetics-banned-in-illinois-third-u-s-state-to-do-so-after-california-nevada.html>

## Bruiser the Dog Bites Jogger – Euthanasia Order Overturned – per Court of Appeals Unpublished Ruling in July 2019 - His Actions Do Not Justify Destruction

Bruiser (described as “a black and tan German Shepherd dog”) bit a jogger in 2017 in Alpena County. The jogger received 3 stitches for his wounds. Both the district court and circuit court concluded that Bruiser was a “dangerous animal” who might have caused serious injury or likely to cause death or serious injury in the future and ordered him euthanized. He had not bit anyone before.

The Court of Appeals ruled that he is “a dangerous animal” within the definition of the statute as he bit a person. However, he did not cause death or serious injury to the person as the bite did not rise to that level. Secondly, he was not considered to be likely to cause death or serious injury in the future. The district court based its decision on a conclusion that there was only a “possibility” of Bruiser causing death or serious injury in the future.

The case was remanded to the district court.

Sources are:

State of Michigan Court of Appeals Unpublished Ruling at: <http://www.michbar.org/file/opinions/ap-peals/2019/070219/70881.pdf>

Detroit News at: <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2019/07/03/bruiser-german-shepherd-dog-euthanized-biting/39653377/>

# Legislative Update through October 3, 2019

**Co-Editor's Note:** The Section has a robust Legislative Committee and the Section Council takes positions on a variety of animal related measures pending in the Michigan Legislature. Since the beginning of the current two-year legislative session in January 2019, the Section has weighed in on 23 bills or resolutions. These positions are available on the "Public Policy Positions" page of the Section's website, <https://www.michbar.org/sections/animalpp>, which is available to the general public.

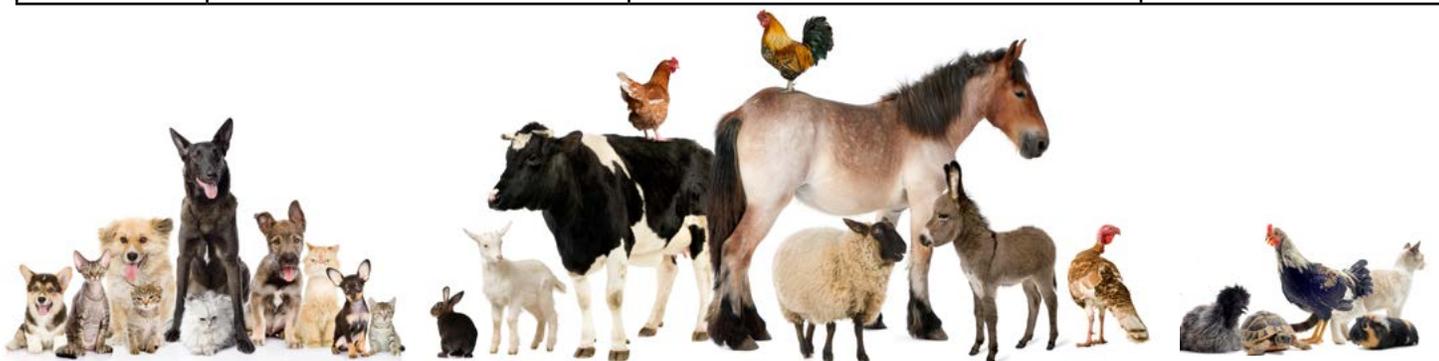
We thank [Attorneys for Animals, Inc.](#) ("AFA"), a Michigan non-profit, for revising its signature Legislative Tracker™ to reflect the Section's positions for publication in this newsletter. AFA and the Section have a long history of cooperation. In fact, when AFA was founded in the early 1990s, one of its major goals was to form an Animal Law Section, which it accomplished in 1995. The two organizations share many members, and several Section Council members are actively involved in AFA. If you aren't familiar with its work, please review its [website](#) and consider becoming a member.

Attorneys for Animals Legislative Tracker™ (2019-2020 Session: to October 3, 2019)			
Prepared for SBM Animal Law Section			
MICHIGAN			
Bill #	Description	Actions	Animal Law Section Action
<a href="#">HB 4035</a>	New act to prohibit local government regulating dog based on breed/perceived breed; Rep. Ellison + 9 co-sponsors (bipartisan)	1/15/2019 Introduced, referred to Local Gov't (3 sponsors on committee)	In review
<a href="#">SB 0012</a>	Amends Horse Racing law of 1995, creates a new class of license, third party facilitator licenses, to facilitate wagering on simulcast and live horse racing; Sen. Lauwers	1/15/2019 Introduced, referred to Agriculture	<a href="#">Oppose</a>
<a href="#">SB 0037</a>	Allow feeding, baiting deer, elk; Sen. VanderWall	1/16/2019 introduced, referred to Nat Res; 4/10, 5/15 hearings (testimony, no vote)	<a href="#">Oppose</a>
<a href="#">HB 4092</a>	Amends code of criminal procedure to provide immunity from prosecution for forcible entry into a motor vehicle to rescue animal; Rep. LaFave + 8 co-sponsors (bipartisan)	1/24/2019 introduced, referred to Judiciary (3 sponsors on committee)	<a href="#">Support with recommendations</a>
<a href="#">SB 0063</a>	Provides deduction for costs, care, maintenance of service animal; Sen. Alexander + 4 co-sponsors	1/24/2019 introduced, referred to Finance (2 sponsors on committee)	<a href="#">Support</a>
<a href="#">HB 4102</a>	Amends dog fighting law to include "other thing of value" in prohibition on profiting from dog fights (part of package revising penal code to encompass cryptocurrency); Rep. Marino + 4 co-sponsors (bipartisan)	1/29/2019 introduced, referred to Finance (3 sponsors on committee); 3/13, referred to Judiciary; 3/19, reported with recommendation and without amendment; 4/9, passed, given immediate effect Roll Call # 37 Yeas 108 Nays 1; 4/10 referred to Senate Judiciary	<a href="#">Support</a>



<a href="#">SB 0174</a>	Overhaul of Animal Industry Act; related bills amend various statutes, are tie-barred to 0174 (SB 0175-0183); Sen. Daley + 4 co-sponsors (bipartisan)	3/7/2019 introduced, referred to Agriculture (4 of 5 sponsors on committee); 6/6 hearing with sub bill	<a href="#">Oppose with recommended amendments</a>
<a href="#">HB 4340</a>	Revises "hunter harrassment law" to criminalize recording hunter/fisher with intent to harrass; Rep. Reilly + 4 co-sponsors	3/12/2019 introduced, referred to Nat Res (2 of 4 sponsors on committee); 5/21, committee hearing, testimony taken, no vote; 6/4, referred with recommendation to Ways and Means, with sub H-1	Oppose; submitted testimony and testified at 6/4 hearing
<a href="#">SR 0030</a>	Encourage NRC to add Sandhill crane as game species; Sen Zorn + 6 others (bipartisan)	4/9/2019 introduced, referred to Nat Res (1 sponsor on committee); 4/24, reported with recommendation and without amendment; 4/25, placed on Order of Resolutions	<a href="#">Oppose</a>
<a href="#">HB 4439</a>	Allows feeding of wildlife, birds under certain circumstances; Rep. Cole	4/9/2019 introduced, referred to Nat Res	<a href="#">Support</a>
<a href="#">HR 0061</a>	Encourage NRC to add Sandhill crane as game species; Rep. Lower + 6 others (bipartisan)	4/10/2019 introduced, referred to Nat Res (2 sponsors on committee)	<a href="#">Oppose</a>
<a href="#">HB 4455</a>	Designates the shelter pet as the official state pet; Rep. Kuppa + 9 others (bipartisan)	4/16/2019 introduced, referred to Gov Ops	<a href="#">Support</a>
<a href="#">SR 0038</a>	Encourage USFWS to de-list gray wolves, turn over to state management; Sen. McBroom + 6 others	4/23/2019 introduced, rules suspended, referred to Nat Res (2 of 7 sponsors on committee, including chair); 4/24 hearing, reported favorably w/o amendment; 4/25, placed on Order of Resolutions	<a href="#">Oppose</a>
<a href="#">HB 4496</a>	Requires research facilities to offer animals no longer used for research to animal protection shelters for adoption, and to report to MDARD; Rep. Hertel + 14 others (bipartisan)	4/24/2019 introduced, referred to Reg Reform	<a href="#">Support</a>
<a href="#">HR 0087</a>	Encourage USFWS to de-list gray wolves, turn over to state management; Rep. Markannen + 16 others (16 R, 1 D)	5/2/2019 introduced, referred to Nat Res; 9/10 hearing, reported with recommendation w/o amendment; 10/2, adopted by House on voice vote	<a href="#">Oppose</a>

<p><a href="#">SB 0316.0317</a></p>	<p>Makes it a crime to knowingly provide an animal to another who intends to abuse, mistreat the animal; or to provide an animal to another who intends to use it in fighting; Sens MacDonald (316), Wojno (317) + 2 others (bipartisan)</p>	<p>5/14/2019 introduced, referred to Judiciary (1 of 4 sponsors is chair)</p>	<p><a href="#">Support</a></p>
<p><a href="#">HB 4592</a></p>	<p>Amends 750.50 to allow appointment of advocate (law student or lawyer) in criminal prosecutions related to treatment, welfare or custody of animals, to represent the interests of the animal or the interests of justice + 12 others (bipartisan)</p>	<p>5/15/2019 introduced, referred to Judiciary (1 co-sponsor on committee)</p>	<p><a href="#">Support</a></p>
<p><a href="#">HB 4593</a></p>	<p>Amends Public Health Code to require veterinarian determine devocalization procedure is for therapeutic purpose, before performing the procedure; Rep. Sneller + 12 others (bipartisan)</p>	<p>5/15/2019 introduced, referred to Agriculture (1 co-sponsor on committee)</p>	<p><a href="#">Support</a></p>
<p><a href="#">HB 4594</a></p>	<p>New act, amending 750.50 to ban private ownership of non human primates; imposes misdemeanor penalties; Rep. Ellison + 10 co-sponsors</p>	<p>5/15/2019 introduced, referred to Agriculture (1 co-sponsor on committee)</p>	<p><a href="#">Support</a></p>
<p><a href="#">HB 4595</a></p>	<p>Requires carrier pigeon permit applicants to comply with all local ordinances; Rep. Liberati + 10 co-sponsors</p>	<p>5/15/2019, introduced, referred to Agriculture (1 co-sponsor on committee)</p>	<p><a href="#">Support</a></p>
<p><a href="#">HB 4596</a></p>	<p>New act to establish and promote community cat programs, exempt caretakers from certain state, local laws, Rep. Pohutsky + 9 co-sponsors</p>	<p>5/15/2019, introduced, referred to Agriculture (1 co-sponsor on committee)</p>	<p><a href="#">Support</a></p>
<p><a href="#">HB 4641</a></p>	<p>Tie-bar with 4593, amends 750.50 to make it crime to devocalize by other than vet; Gay-Dagnogo + 11 co-sponsors</p>	<p>5/21/2019 introduced, referred to Agriculture (2 co-sponsors on committee)</p>	<p><a href="#">Support</a></p>



<a href="#">HB 4687</a>	Allow feeding, baiting deer, elk; Rep. Hoitenga + 4 co-sponsors	6/4/2019 introduced, referred to Gov. Ops; 9/17 hearing, no vote	<a href="#">Oppose</a> : submitted testimony at hearing
<a href="#">SB 352</a>	“Cross reporting” bill amending animal crimes statute to add requirement for CPS workers to report animal abuse; Sen. Lucido	6/5/2019 introduced, referred to Judiciary (sponsor is chair)	<a href="#">Support</a>
<a href="#">SB 419</a>	Provide for registration and regulation of animal rescues; Sen. Lucido	8/20/2019 introduced, referred to Agriculture	In review
<a href="#">SB 429</a>	Amends animal crimes bill to require veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse of companion animals; Sen. Lucido	8/20/2019 introduced, referred to Judiciary (sponsor is chair)	In review
<a href="#">HB 4860</a>	Revises LCA to exempt non-residents from regulation; Rep. Albert	8/29/2019 introduced, referred to Agriculture	In review
<a href="#">HB 4910, and 4911</a>	Emotional Support animals, 4910 is new statute, Rep. Hall + 12 co-sponsors (bi-partisan); 4911 amends LL/Ten Act, Rep. Cambensy + 13 co-sponsors (bi partisan)	9/3/2019 introduced, referred to Reg Reform (both bills-sponsor on Committee)	In review
<a href="#">HB 4931</a>	Amend motor vehicle code to prohibit operating vehicle with dog on lap; Rep. Garrett + 21 co-sponsors (nominally bi-partisan)	9/10/2019 introduced, referred to Transportation (3 co-sponsors on Committee, 1 is Minority Vice Chair)	In review
<a href="#">HB 4941</a>	Increase time for court to hold hearing on dogs seized from fighting operations; Rep. Miller	9/11/2019 introduced, referred to Judiciary	In review
<a href="#">HR 154</a>	Call on NPS to institute moose hunt on Isle Royale; Rep. Johnson + 4 co-sponsors (bi-partisan)	9/11/2019 introduced, referred to Nat Res	In review



# Animal Law Section Council and Officers Nomination Report

*Co-Editor's Note: The following memorandum was sent to Section members via SBM Connect in late August. The Annual Meeting was held on September 28, 2019 and all members listed are now on the Section Council.*

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Animal Law Section Members  
**From:** Nominating Committee: Jennifer Pierce, Donna Lassa, Bee Friedlander  
**Subject:** 2019 Nominating Committee Report (for the period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020)  
**Dated:** August 28, 2019

Pursuant to the updated Section bylaws (Article III, Sections 1-6), officers are to be elected for a two-year term, after which they are term limited. This year, the Chair Elect becomes Chair and the Chair becomes Immediate Past Chair; and the Chair Elect, Secretary and Treasurer positions are open.

Council members are elected for 3-year terms and there are two positions to be filled. In addition, there are two vacant Council seats resulting from Council members being nominated for officer positions, thereby vacating their seats; the replacements are to be elected at the annual meeting as well ("Special Election", Section 6).

Those new to the Council have their "P" number beside their names. We welcome and thank Tricia Smith, Margaret Sadoff, Steve Bieda, Celeste Dunn and Tracy Sonneborn for agreeing to serve.

**The Animal Law Section's annual business meeting is Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The meeting will be held at the Michigan Humane Society's administrative office at 30300 Telegraph Road, Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48015.**

### Officers

The committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of officers:

**Chair:** Allie Phillips (current Chair Elect)  
**Chair Elect:** Katherine Brindle (current Council member)  
**Secretary:** Tricia Smith, P79899, Dowagiac  
**Treasurer:** Donald Garlit (current Council member)  
**Immediate Past Chair:** Ann Griffin

### Council

There are four council positions expiring in 2019. The services of Richard C. Angelo, Jr., Christopher Iannuzzi, Kieran Patrick Marion and Brittany L. Taratuta are recognized with appreciation.

The committee is pleased to recommend the following slate for council positions:

#### **Term expiring 2022:**

**Jen Pierce**  
**Anna Scott**  
**Margaret Sadoff, P74198, Ann Arbor**  
**Steve Bieda, P48011, Warren**

#### **Term expiring 2021 (to fill Brindle's seat):**

**Celeste M. Dunn, P61819, Clarkston**

#### **Term expiring 2020 (to fill Garlit's seat)**

**Tracy A. Sonneborn, P41416, East Lansing**

# Treasurer's Report – 2018-2019 FY

## (11 Months ended August 31, 2019)

This is a brief summary of the Animal Law Section's financial status as of August 31, 2019 (11 months of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year).

Membership totaled about 205 members for the 2018-2019 FY. This is a decrease of about 15% from the prior Fiscal Year (September 30, 2018).

Revenue for the year to date is \$4,665.

Expenses for the year to date are \$2,273.

Net income is \$2,392.

The major expenses for the year included one issue of the Newsletter (\$884), honorariums for the various Section Awards (\$750), expenses for the Award ceremonies (\$392), and other miscellaneous expenses including teleconference calls, postage, and credit card fees from the SBM related to member payments of SBM annual dues (\$247).

Expenses related to the Annual Meeting should be minimal this year. We have always believed that it is important for the Animal Law Section to have a presence at the SBM Annual Meeting to support the SBM as well as to increase the Section's visibility and credibility. However, SBM Sec-

tions will not be holding meetings at the SBM Annual Meeting beginning in 2019. Our Section Annual Meeting was held this fiscal year at the Michigan Humane Society.

The expenses for this issue of the Newsletter will be charged to the upcoming fiscal year as it will be published in October.

The funds balance at the end of August was \$14,586; an increase of \$2,392 compared with the prior FY year-end balance of \$12,194.



Respectfully submitted,

Donald Garlit for  
Anna Scott  
Treasurer  
September 2019



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the State Bar of Michigan*  
<https://www.facebook.com/Animal-Law-Section-of-the-State-Bar-of-Michigan-1671014726460307/>

## Upcoming Events

**October 24, 2019** – Lesniak Institute for American Leadership's annual Fall Gala in Union, New Jersey. Honorees are Rutgers University Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and Free All Captive Elephants (formerly Save Nosey Now). Note that Ray Lesniak served in the New Jersey State Senate from 1983 to 2018. Details are at: <https://www.lesniakinstitute.org/gala/>

**October 25-27, 2019** – 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Animal Law Conference – Representing Animals: Elevating Animal Status. Held in Portland, Oregon and sponsored by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Center for Animal Legal Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School, and the Lewis & Clark Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter. Details are at: <http://animallawconference.org>

### Conferences Already Concluded

**September 10-11, 2019** – Animal Law, Ethics and Policy Conference at Liverpool John Moores University. Details are at: <https://10times.com/animal-law-ethics-and-policy-conference>

**September 28, 2019** – Second New Zealand Animal Law Conference 2019: Creating a Better Legal System for Animals sponsored by New Zealand Animal Law Association and Auckland University of Technology. Details are at: <http://nzala.org/conference2019/>

**October 4-6, 2019** – Canadian Animal Law Conference – sponsored by Animal Justice and Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Details are at: <https://www.canadiananimallawconference.ca/>

**October 9, 2019** - Animal Shelter Law – presented by the Animal Law Committee of the American Bar Association in Orlando, Florida. Details are at: <https://www.americanbar.org/events-cle/mtg/inperson/379057704/>

**October 12, 2019** – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual California Animal Law Symposium presents Animals in Entertainment: Utilizing Litigation, Legislation and Elections to Combat Abuse at Golden Gate University, San Francisco. Symposium is sponsored by Golden Gate University and Animal Legal Defense Fund. Details are at: <http://www.calsymposium.com/>

**October 17, 2019** - International Scientific Conference “Domestic, European Union and International Standards in Legal Protection of Animals” at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. Conference is sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland. Details are at: <https://www.umcs.pl/en/invitation,16669.htm>

**Co-editor's note:** *We know some of these events will have been concluded before the Section Newsletter is printed. We have kept the events on the list to show that the status of animal law and trends is of great interest around the world.*