



## Recent Animal Law News

By Donald Garlit

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**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.*

*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.*

### **City of Detroit Pays \$60,000 Settlement to Woman Whose Three Dogs were Killed during a Home Raid**

**Co-Editor's Note:** *This story was previously covered in the Late Summer 2017, Spring 2018, and Spring 2019 issues of the Newsletter.*

Nikita Smith's three dogs were shot and killed during a marijuana raid by the Detroit Police Department Major Violators Unit while executing a search warrant. One of the dead dogs was behind a closed door. The charges of marijuana possession were later dropped when the officers failed to appear in court.

The City of Detroit argued against plaintiff's federal civil rights lawsuit claiming that the dogs were unlicensed and she had no property interest in them. The trial court agreed with this argument. However, this decision was reversed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and remanded for trial. The City of Detroit then decided to settle.

Smith's attorney (and Animal Law Section member) Chris Olson was quoted as saying about the case:

“The decision was significant because it denies police a ‘get out of jail free card’ if the deceased dog is later discovered to have been unlicensed,” he continues. “The decision is especially significant because the vast majority of dogs are unlicensed. The upshot is that the Fourth Amendment prohibits police officers from shoot-



## Co-Editor's Note

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Welcome to the first issue of the Newsletter for 2020. 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.

Much has happened since the publication of the last issue. The world continues to struggle with COVID-19 as well as other issues and it has impacted the Animal Law Section as you would expect. We had the Wanda Nash Award ceremony in March at Michigan State University's College of Law. MSU shut-down the next day so our timing was lucky. The State Bar of Michigan building was shut-down. The SBM print shop which prints this Newsletter is having a limited reopening. Many courts are closed so there are fewer cases to report in this issue. The SBM Annual Meeting may be virtual in whole or part this year.

Our lead article is a summary of Recent Animal Law News from Michigan, the USA, and around the world. The initial summaries are news stories about Section members, Michigan, and Michigan State law professors. Other summaries in the article include the many bans on certain uses of animals being enacted in the United States and around the world and a major animal-related legal judgement in Ohio.

Other articles include an op-ed (our first!) on the pandemic and uses of animals, the Wanda Nash Award ceremony, an update on the Nonhuman Rights Project legal work for client elephants as well as a related story from Pakistan, a report about the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund at MSU, and an analysis of insurance requirements related to animals in Michigan. Other articles include financial reports for last year and this year. The calendar of recent events shows only one conference as many have been canceled this year.

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 like to include many animal photos, too.

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.

Finally, I want to thank co-editor Ann Griffin for her help and effort over the years as she is ending her years as co-editor. Ann taught legal writing for many years and her writing, editing, and proofing made a great contribution to the Newsletter. Maggie Sadoff joins as co-editor and you will see her writing in this issue with two articles. Maggie's background includes a Master in Public Health degree from the University of Michigan.

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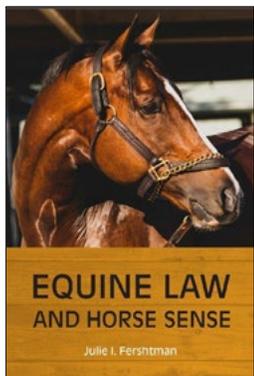
**Recent Animal Law News ... continued from page 1**

ing dogs where the shooting is more intrusive than necessary, and citizens do not have to pay a dog license fee to enjoy their Fourth Amendment rights.”

This is the latest of a series of expensive payouts by the City of Detroit as a result of dog shootings by the Detroit Police Department. The dogs were named Debo, Mama, and Smoke.

Source is Reason at: <https://reason.com/2019/05/10/detroit-will-pay-out-60000-to-woman-whose-dogs-were-shot-on-a-marijuana-raid/>

### **Section Member Julie Fershtman Authors New Book, *Equine Law and Horse Sense***



Noted equine law attorney Julie Fershtman’s latest book on a wide-range of equine law activities has been published and is available now through the ABA website. It should soon be available on Amazon.

The book earned her an Equine Media First Place Award from American Horse Publications. The book received a Silver Award from the Independent Book Publishers Association in May.

Reviews are limited at this point as release appears to be limited until July. Julie’s website (linked below) has more details on the book,

Source is Julie Fershtman website at: <http://equinelaw.net/>

Book on sale at: <https://www.americanbar.org/products/inv/book/376025158/>

### **Section Member Professor David Favre Writes Article: “Is it ethical to keep pets and other animals? It depends on where you keep them”**

Professor Favre’s newest book scheduled to be published in 2020 will discuss seven legal rights of animals which he believes an ethical society should adopt to protect animals.

One of the rights is “right to place” which is discussed in the article linked below. Basically, this is “access to sufficient space to live a natural life.” The article summarizes the concept based in part on his observations at his farm.

What about the “right to place” of cats? Professor Favre notes: “Behavioral scientists haven’t studied cats enough to fully understand their needs.”

More details and a review of the book will be included in the Newsletter once it is published.

Source is The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/is-it-ethical-to-keep-pets-and-other-animals-it-depends-on-where-you-keep-them-126422>

### **Michigan Ranks in Top Tier and Number 13 in 2019 US State Animal Protection Law Rankings**

The Animal Legal Defense Fund conducts the study each year. Michigan had ranked as high as Number 5 in past years. Kentucky which has consistently been the lowest ranked state moved to Number 47 in 2019.

The detailed report can be found in a link within the summary of the report.

Source is the Animal Legal Defense Fund at: <https://aldf.org/project/us-state-rankings/>



### **Professor Carney Anne Nasser of Michigan State’s College of Law Discusses Netflix’s “Tiger King” and Wildlife Trafficking Legal Issues in ABA Interview**

Netflix’s “Tiger King” has generated much controversy and, hopefully, insights about the insidious nature of the captive tiger business. Professor Nasser was interviewed about her work and the show.

Here are a few highlights of the interview. Professor Nasser is one of only four full-time animal law professors in the world. She informed Federal prosecutors about paperwork issues for tiger transfers which lead to the case against Tiger King Joe Exotic. She says that Joe Exotic “is a monster who deserves to be in prison.” There are about 5,000 captive tigers in the United States – and about 3,900 in the wild! She is working on a law school seminar about Tiger King which will involve the web of wildlife law including trafficking.

Read the interview. It is very interesting.

Source is ABA Journal at: <https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/animal-law-attorney-talks-tiger-king>

## Trinidad and Tobago Increases Prison Time Maximum by 30-Fold for Animal Cruelty Convictions – also Increases Monetary Penalties

Maximum animal cruelty conviction penalties were increased in early May and are now TT \$100,000 (about US \$14,800) and 5 years in prison. Prior maximums had been TT \$400 (about US \$60) and a 60 day sentence.

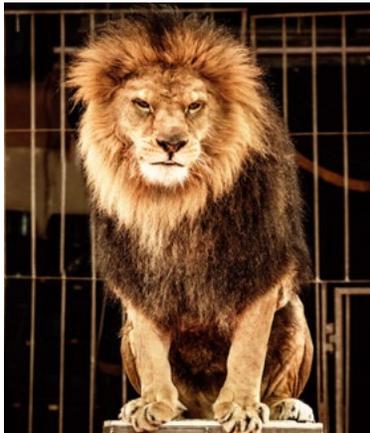
The Police Service established a special anti-cruelty unit last year.

Source is Lady Freethinker at: [https://ladyfreethinker.org/this-country-signed-new-harsher-animal-cruelty-laws/?texturl&utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://ladyfreethinker.org/this-country-signed-new-harsher-animal-cruelty-laws/?texturl&utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

## California Becomes First State to Ban New Fur Products (with numerous exceptions) and Third State to Ban Circus Use of Wild Animals

Governor Gavin Newsome signed both bills into law in October 2019.

AB 44 bans the sale or manufacture of new fur products in the state beginning January 1, 2023. There are several exceptions with one of the primary exceptions being fur products from legally trapped wild animals. There are other exemptions such as fur used for religious purposes or traditional tribal purposes. Los Angeles and San Francisco have already banned the sale of new fur products.



A reason for the relatively long time before the law takes effect is to provide fur dealers an opportunity to sell their remaining inventory legally. Interestingly, some reporting stated it did not cover the sale of dog or cat fur. While those items are noted in the law as exempt from coverage that is because the sale of dog and cat fur is illegal under Federal law.

SB 313 prohibits the use or exhibition of an animal in a circus “other than a domestic dog, domestic cat, or domesticated horse” in California. The law apparently took effect immediately.

California is the third state with such a ban following New Jersey and Hawaii. There are over 150 local jurisdictions which have full or limited bans on circus wild animals including New York City. Country-wide full bans are very common outside the United States.

Source is KPIX 5 in San Francisco at: <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/10/12/newsom-signs-bans-fur-wild-animals-circuses/>

Text of AB 44 (fur ban) is at California Legislative Information: [http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB44](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB44)

Text of SB 313 (wild animals in circus ban) is at California Legislative Information: [http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200SB313](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB313)

## Montgomery County, Ohio (Dayton) to Pay \$3.5 Million to Survivors of Dog Attack Victim Klonda Richey in Settlement

*Note: This case was previously covered in the Summer 2016 issue of the Newsletter regarding the attack and an Ohio Second Appellate District Court of Appeals ruling.*

Klonda Richey of Dayton repeatedly called Montgomery County Animal Control about a threat posed by her neighbor’s two dogs. The two dogs have been described as “pit bulls, mastiffs, or cane corsas” although they are commonly identified as cane corsas in the media. Montgomery County Animal Control never took decisive action.

Ms. Richey was attacked and killed by the dogs in 2014. She made as many as 24 calls regarding the dogs in the months before her death. Police had to shoot and kill both dogs before they could approach Richey’s body.

The settlement of late March 2020 (it required formal county board approval which was expected and no information says otherwise) is the largest on record against an animal control agency after a dog attack.

Source is Animals 24-7 at: <https://www.animals24-7.org/2020/03/28/montgomery-county-to-pay-3-5-million-to-survivors-of-klonda-richey/>

## China Bans Wildlife Trade and Consumption in Response to Coronavirus Crisis



China issued a ban on non-aquatic wildlife trade and consumption in February. However, there are major exemptions for fur, research, and medicinal purposes. Wildlife markets were previously banned.

The city of Beijing passed a ban on hunting, trading, and eating of wild animals including some aquatic animals effective June 1. Enforcement of both bans is expected to be difficult.

Sources are:

- Lady Freethinker (“Working for a Compassionate World”) at: <https://ladyfreethinker.org/beijing-bans-hunting-and-eating-wild-animals/> and
- The New York Times at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/27/science/coronavirus-pangolin-wild-life-ban-china.html>

## Louisiana Bans Sale of Shelter Animals to Research Labs

Governor John Bel Edwards signed the law in late June 2019. Shelters are prohibited from taking stray or unwanted animals solely to kill them for use in research. The law also prohibits shelters selling for research or experimentation. The law took effect on August 1, 2019.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) conducted an investigation which exposed Louisiana State University's practice of buying "test subjects" from local shelters for experiments. Citizens and legislators were appalled at the practice as shelters are supposed to be safe havens.

Source is US News & World Report at: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/louisiana/articles/2019-06-29/louisiana-shelters-face-limits-on-providing-research-animals>

## Cat Declawing Bans Continue to be Enacted in United States – Including New York State and St. Louis

Cat declawing can cause many behavioral and other problems (they are basically defenseless if they get outside) for cats. Bans (except for exceptional situations) are beginning to be enacted around the United States.

The State of New York became the first state to ban the practice in July 2019.

More recently, St. Louis banned the practice in December 2019 (with a 21-1 vote in favor at city council) becoming the first city in the Midwest and 10<sup>th</sup> city in the United States to take such action.

Most cities with the ban are in California although Denver (and Denver County) banned the practice in 2017.

Country wide bans are common outside the United States primarily in the European Union and other European countries. Some other countries that ban declawing include Australia, New Zealand, and Israel.

Sources are:

- Alley Cat Allies at: <https://www.alleycat.org/alley-cat-allies-applauds-st-louis-for-moving-toward-banning-the-declawing-of-cats/> and
- Declawing.com at: <https://www.declawing.com/countries-that-outlaw-declawing>

## China Changes Classification of Dogs from Livestock to Companion Animals

China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has re-classified dogs as companion animals. This is very important for purposes of the meat trade as dogs are not exempted from livestock trading. Many changes are happening in China as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Only a minority of China's citizens eat dog meat. Many citizens are opposed to the dog meat trade as theft of companion animals for the trade is frequent.

The link below has more information although note that it is also a blog and op-ed.

Source is Humane Society International at: <https://blog.humanesociety.org/2020/04/chinas-recognition-of-dogs-as-companion-animals-bodes-well-for-its-animal-welfare-future.html>

## US Interior Department Disbands So-Called "International Wildlife Conservation Council" Amid Challenges

The council was established in 2017 with a two year mandate to advise on ways to increase trophy hunting and relax import restrictions on large wild animal hides and parts. An investigation revealed that the council was largely comprised of trophy hunters.

A lawsuit ensued from a coalition of various environmental and pro-animal groups claiming that the one-sided make-up of the council violated Federal advisory board rules.

The council held its last meeting in October 2019 and the Interior Department has no plans to re-appoint it at this time.

Source is The Associated Press at: <https://apnews.com/8570435359a2cef4c226de114f53377e>



## New York City Enacts Bird Friendly New Building Construction Requirement

City Council passed a requirement in December 2019 that 90% of the first 75 feet of all new construction or major renovations be constructed with glazed glass or other material visible to birds. The bill passed by a council vote of 43-3. The effective date is December 2020.

New York City Audubon estimates that between 90,000 and 230,000 birds are killed in the city each year from building collisions. Several California cities have similar requirements.

Source is Audubon at: <https://www.audubon.org/news/new-york-city-passes-landmark-bill-make-more-buildings-bird-friendly>



### **Brooks Animal Law Digest – Sent Weekly Online – No Charge Subscription**

The digest is published weekly with sections on This Week’s Spotlights, Legislative Updates, Case Law Updates, and Agency Updates. The digest is published with the assistance of the Animal Law and Policy Program of the Harvard Law School. Articles are included regarding the environment.

The mission of the Wheaton, Illinois based Institute is as follows:

The Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy, Inc. is a US-based national independent think tank pursuing a paradigm shift in human responsibility towards, and value of, non-human animals by advancing animal law, animal policy, and related interdisciplinary studies.

Brooks Institute and digest subscription information are available at: <https://thebrooksinstitute.org/>

### **Supreme Court of Brazil Upholds Cosmetic Animal Testing Ban in State of Amazonas**

The ban was challenged on constitutional grounds and the Supreme Court of Brazil upheld the prohibition of cosmetic animal testing in both products and ingredients. The 11 justices voted unanimously to uphold the ban. Amazonas now joins 7 other states in Brazil with the prohibition. (There are 26 states in Brazil.) The eight states with the prohibition contain about 70% of Brazil’s national cosmetic industry. It appears some long-term single substance toxicity tests on animals for cosmetics are still allowed under Federal law.

Thirty-nine countries have already enacted similar bans including European Union countries and India.

Sources is Humane Society International at: <https://www.hsi.org/news-media/brazil-supreme-court-upholds-amazonas-cosmetic-testing-ban/>

### **Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act – Federal Felony Animal Cruelty Law – Signed into Law in November 2019**

The law passed both houses of Congress unanimously and was signed into law in late November 2019. Media reports state that the new law will allow federal law enforcement and prosecutors to charge those who commit animal cruelty acts in areas under Federal jurisdiction with felonies. However, a reading of the legislation is unclear on the matter and appears to not specifically detail that interpretation. This will probably be a matter for the courts to interpret.

On the other hand, the bill does expand the scope of 2010’s Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act to include participants in crush videos. Previously it had included only individuals who made or distributed the videos.

Sources are

- Humane Society of the United States at: <https://www.humanesociety.org/news/extreme-animal-cruelty-can-now-be-prosecuted-federal-crime> and
- Public Law 116-72 from congress.gov at: <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ72/PLAW-116publ72.pdf>

### **Colorado Bans Wildlife Killing Contests – Joins 5 Other States with Similar Bans**

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission banned wildlife killing contests by a vote of 8-3 in May 2020. Information that follows is from the article from the Pagosa Daily Post linked below: “The decision prohibits contests for black-tailed, white-tailed and Gunnison’s prairie dogs, Wyoming (Richardson’s) ground squirrels and all furbearer species. The estimated effective date of this ban is June 30, 2020.”

Colorado joins five other states with similar bans. The states and their enactment dates are Arizona (2019), California (2014), Massachusetts (2019), New Mexico (2019), and Vermont (2018). Partial bans exist in five other states. Michigan does not have a ban.

The contests which have a competitive goal of how many animals are killed are banned. These bans do not apply to lawful hunting or fur trapping.

Sources are

- Pagosa Daily Post of Pagosa Springs, Colorado at: <https://pagosadailypost.com/2020/05/01/colorado-bans-wildlife-killing-contests/> and
- Center for Biological Diversity (with detailed prohibited species list) at: [https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/colorado-bans-cruel-wildlife-killing-contests-2020-05-01/?utm\\_source=eco&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=eco1035&utm\\_term=Wildlife&emci=b7b6899e-c58f-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=ea154796-8c90-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=504267](https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/colorado-bans-cruel-wildlife-killing-contests-2020-05-01/?utm_source=eco&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eco1035&utm_term=Wildlife&emci=b7b6899e-c58f-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=ea154796-8c90-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=504267)

### Professor Paula Frasch Announced as Endowed Scholar for Animal Law and Policy at Lewis & Clark Law School

The announcement was made in late April and the complete name of the endowed chair is Brooks McCormick Jr. Scholar of Animal Law and Policy (note Brooks Animal Law Digest summary mentioned earlier in this article). Mr. McCormick was the former Chair of International Harvester (now Navistar) and shared his life with many companion animals. Professor Frasch is the founder of the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Source is Lewis & Clark Law School at: <https://law.lclark.edu/live/news/43391-endowed-scholar-announced-for-animal-law-and?fbclid=IwAR0-2MhLUgNVWMqnNz9jVd-7vuFQ-refp2GIUgv2aTuY53Cb5KqQ9yKfL17o>

### Chicago Ends Horse Draw Carriage Rides after 150 Years

The Chicago City Council voted 46-4 in late April to not renew the last 10 remaining licenses to operate horse-drawn carriages in the city. The carriage rides are regarded as distressing to the horses and a danger in automobile traffic although somewhat popular with tourists and newlyweds.

Montreal banned the horse-drawn carriage business at the end of 2019. It appears that the first horses were brought to Montreal in 1655 for carriage and other uses. Accidents and a horse death in 2017 and 2018 brought much bad publicity to the carriage horse business in Montreal.

Many cities have banned the horse carriage rides in recent years. However, New York City continues to allow them to operate in spite of occasional horse collapses and deaths.

Sources are

- Animals 24-7 at <https://www.animals24-7.org/2020/04/25/whoa-shouts-chicago-to-horse-drawn-carriages/> and
- <https://www.animals24-7.org/2020/01/01/montreal-carriage-horse-trade-ends-after-354-years/>

### Desmond's Law (Voluntary Court-Appointed Advocates for Animals in Abuse Cases) in Action in Connecticut

*Co-Editor's Note:* We covered Desmond's Law in the Winter 2017 Issue of the Newsletter.

Desmond's Law was named after a dog who was beaten, starved, strangled to death, and dumped during a long-term domestic violence situation. The law was effective in October 2016 and provides voluntary animal advocates (often law students always supervised by attorneys) to speak for the animal in court cases.

An article from the Pew Trust details how the system works in Connecticut. Prosecutors often have little time to fully investigate and understand every animal cruelty case and the voluntary advocates can assist in this area including court appearances. Defense attorneys argue that the advocates can bias the judge and court against animal cruelty defendants.

Source is Pew Trust at: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/02/22/advocates-stand-up-in-court-for-abused-animals> 🐾



# Food for Thought: The Pandemic, Factory Farms, Diet, and the Law

By Maggie Sadoff

*Co-editor's Note: This is the first op-ed that we have ever published. The discussion at this time is totally appropriate.*

In the movie *The Matrix* there is a pivotal scene in which Morpheus offers Neo a choice: take the red pill and face the harshness of reality or take the blue pill and remain blissfully unaware of it. We are currently faced with a similar choice. Scientists and health professionals warned for decades of an inevitable global pandemic yet most of us were surprised by the scale and speed at which Covid-19 appeared and ravaged our lives.

Some have called the pandemic the great equalizer due to its global reach across race and socioeconomic lines although its effects have been far from equally distributed. We are told that we're all in this same boat together. Truth is, we have *always* been in this same boat together on this big blue marble of a planet and our choices matter, individually and collectively. We are currently living out the consequences of our collective choices. The pandemic has forced us to slow down, step back, and re-evaluate what is essential to our lives. What do we value most? What are we willing to give up, reduce, or postpone? What individual sacrifices are we willing to make to serve ourselves as well as the greater good?

## An Essential Question

A question on my mind lately: Is meat production essential? For the vast majority of Americans, the answer is apparently yes. A 2018 Gallup poll reported that only 5% of U.S. adults self-identified as vegetarian and 3% identified as vegan.<sup>1</sup> Diet is a personal choice in a wealthy society where we have many choices. People often want what they don't need. But times are changing. Prior to the pandemic, the meat industry's stranglehold on the protein market was already being challenged by the Impossible Whopper<sup>®</sup> and other plant-based protein alternatives. The dairy industry was sufficiently threatened by the popularity of plant-based milk that it lobbied (unsuccessfully) to have the word "milk" removed from these products.

The movement toward a largely plant-based diet is growing for several reasons - health, environmental, and ethical considerations among them. As more people add plant-based meals to their diets, the demand for meat, dairy, and eggs will continue to decrease. However, food customs and traditions

are deeply ingrained in our society and many of our traditions are centered around animal flesh. Some cannot imagine a Thanksgiving without a turkey or a Christmas without a ham. Most never stop to think about how that turkey or pig got to the plate. We have become completely disconnected from our food sources. We buy meat that has been butchered and wrapped in plastic, much of which bears little resemblance to the animal from where it originated. Essentially, the entire process of meat production has been sanitized for your protection. The meat industry literally does not want you to know how the sausage is made. Musician and hunter Ted Nugent once said that if you can't kill your own animal you should not be eating meat. I don't agree with "the Nuge" on much, but I have to give him some credit for this one. America's demand for cheap, plentiful beef, poultry, and pork is responsible for creating the monstrosity that is the factory farm industry (also known as Confined Animal Feed Operations or CAFOs). If meat eating was left only to the those willing to hunt and kill for it, factory farms would be obsolete.

## Factory Farms – Too Big to Fail?

Factory farming is a multi-billion-dollar industry. According to MDARD, livestock farmers (meat and dairy) contribute a little over \$5 billion to the Michigan economy.<sup>2</sup> The President's invocation of the Defense Production Act demonstrates just how much political sway the factory farm industry wields. Due to decades of industry consolidation,





there are only a small group of facilities responsible for the nation's meat supply. Most of these plants are concentrated in the Midwest and owned by a handful of corporate entities.<sup>3</sup> If getting meat to consumers is such a critical enterprise, why rely on so few plants? The situation is analogous to the rate limiting step in a chemical reaction – if the rate limiting step fails, the whole reaction fails. Thus, he who controls the rate-limiting step controls the entire process. Despite, the President's mandate to forge full steam ahead, many plants remained closed or were operating at reduced capacity as they struggled to find ways to simultaneously ramp up production while adhering to new safety guidelines.

Although the U.S. meat industry is subject to regulation and must meet certain health and safety standards, regulations are not always strictly enforced. There are very few inspectors relative to the number of factory farms and punishments for violations often amount to little more than a parking ticket for a multi-billion-dollar industry. In addition, there has been significant deregulation of the industry under the current administration. Initiatives include increasing the speed of slaughter for both chickens and hens and a push toward more industry self-regulation. Deregulation is designed to protect corporate dollars, not to protect the health or safety of food animals or processing workers.

There is general agreement (conspiracy theories aside) that our current crisis originated in a Wuhan wet market. But a pandemic could just as easily have originated in a factory farm right here at home. Factory farms are far from sterile, disease-free environments and have been the source of viral outbreaks in the past. For example, the deadly 2009 H1N1 outbreak which killed tens of thousands in the U.S. and hundreds of thousands worldwide was traced back to a North Carolina pig CAFO.<sup>4 5</sup> More recently, an outbreak of bird flu in April 2020 at a South Carolina turkey farm was contained before it could spread, but resulted in the culling of tens of thousands of birds.<sup>6</sup> CAFOs create prime conditions for incubation and spread of disease due to overcrowding, stress, and lack of fresh air and sunlight.

The reality is that the mass breeding, confinement, and slaughter of animals for food on an industrial scale is dirty business - both for the animals at the front end and for

the meat processing plant workers who toil under crowded conditions designed for speed, not safety. The reality is that factory farming is an unsustainable enterprise that fails on numerous fronts: animal welfare, worker safety, and environmental protection. The Farm System Reform Act of 2019 (S.3221), introduced in January by New Jersey Senator Cory Booker (a vocal vegan), proposes a moratorium on new and expanding factory farms and a phaseout of all factory farms by 2040 in addition to other industry reforms. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on January 21, 2020. A House version of the bill has also been introduced and was referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment on May 6, 2020.

### Casualties of the Meat Production Machine

On April 28, 2020 the President deemed meat processing facilities “critical infrastructure,” invoking the Defense Production Act to prevent meat shortages, in part, and to protect meat production corporations from liability, in part. In April 2020, U.S. meat production ground to a halt as 20 North American processing plants shutdown due to Covid-19.<sup>7</sup> A JBS beef plant in Plainwell, Michigan was shut down briefly over a weekend in April after 60 employees tested positive for Covid-19.<sup>8</sup> The number of positive cases later rose to 86 about a week later. One JBS employee from that facility has died from the virus as of the time of this writing.<sup>9</sup> As of April 2020, the CDC reported there were 4,913 confirmed Covid-19 cases and 20 Covid-19 related deaths among U.S. meat and poultry processing workers in 115 facilities as reported by 19 states.<sup>10</sup> Since that report, Covid-19 cases and deaths among these workers continue to grow.

Farm animals have become indirect pandemic casualties. The shutdown of processing plants led to wasteful “depopulation” of livestock due to space constraints as well as efforts to minimize the cost of maintaining animals that cannot be processed (read: make money). Hundreds of thousands to millions of animals (depending on the species) were destroyed *en masse* using measures that are considered draconian even by factory farm standards. Piglets were aborted and animals were gassed, drowned, or shot, then either dumped in landfills or composted for fertilizer.<sup>11,12,13</sup> An Iowa factory farm simply

turned off the ventilation system and left thousands of pigs to die of heat suffocation over several hours.<sup>14</sup> This too is a consequence of our choices.

### What Will You Choose?

America's historical overdependence and overconsumption of meat does not render it "critical infrastructure." Americans can survive without meat in the short term and reduced demand will likely continue over the long term. Eating meat and animal products is a personal choice. Each of us will have decisions to make about what our lives will look like going forward. Will we take the red pill and face some unpleasant truths? Or take the blue pill and remain blissfully unaware of the consequences of our choices? The future will be framed by our choices, individually and collectively. And if you think your individual choices do not matter, remember - the world changed forever because someone wanted to eat pangolin. 🦔

### About the Author

*Maggie Sadoff is an animal advocate and currently serves as a council member for the Animal Law Section. She works as a scientific consultant on litigation-based projects. A long-time vegetarian, Maggie adopted a vegan lifestyle in January 2019 after reading Jonathan Safran Foer's book Eating Animals. Her degrees include a Master in Public Health from the University of Michigan.*

### Endnotes

- 1 Snapshot: Few Americans Vegetarian or Vegan by RJ Reinhart, August 1, 2018. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/238328/snapshot-few-americans-vegetarian-vegan.aspx>
- 2 "Covid-19 May Force Farmers to Kill, Throw Away Livestock" by Keith Matheny, Detroit Free Press, May 1, 2020. <https://www.freep.com/in-depth/news/local/michigan/2020/05/01/covid-19-may-force-farmers-kill-throw-away-livestock/3040852001/>
- 3 "Powerful Meat Industry Holds More Sway After Trump's Order" by Michael Corkery, David Yaffe-Bellany, and Ana Swanson, New York Times, April 29, 2020. [https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/29/business/coronavirus-trump-meat-plants.html?campaign\\_id=2&emc=edit\\_th\\_200430&instance\\_id=18054&nl=today'sheadlines&regi\\_id=50834887&segment\\_id=26267&user\\_id=b4a8b440c2121282ab3ca5fde88ecb8f](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/29/business/coronavirus-trump-meat-plants.html?campaign_id=2&emc=edit_th_200430&instance_id=18054&nl=today'sheadlines&regi_id=50834887&segment_id=26267&user_id=b4a8b440c2121282ab3ca5fde88ecb8f)
- 4 "The Next Pandemic Could Easily Come From Our Factory Farms" by Mackenzie Aime, Food & Water Watch, May 1, 2020. <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/news/next-pandemic-could-easily-come-our-factory-farms>
- 5 2009 H1N1 Pandemic, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last reviewed June 11, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/2009-h1n1-pandemic.html>
- 6 "Highly pathogenic bird flu detected on South Carolina Turkey Farm" by Don Jenkins, Capital Press, April 10, 2020. [https://www.capitalpress.com/nation\\_world/agriculture/highly-pathogenic-bird-flu-detected-on-south-carolina-turkey-farm/article\\_2c5e596c-7ab2-11ea-b255-739c2e2fc046.html](https://www.capitalpress.com/nation_world/agriculture/highly-pathogenic-bird-flu-detected-on-south-carolina-turkey-farm/article_2c5e596c-7ab2-11ea-b255-739c2e2fc046.html)
- 7 "Piglets aborted, chickens gassed as pandemic slams meat sector" by Tom Polansek and P.J. Huffstutter, Reuters, April 27, 2020. <https://news.yahoo.com/piglets-aborted-chickens-gassed-pandemic-214016970.html>
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- 9 "Plainwell meat plant's coronavirus case count rises to 86" by Ryan Boldrey, MLive, April 27, 2020. <https://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/2020/04/plainwell-meat-plants-coronavirus-case-count-rises-to-86.html>
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- 14 "Hidden Video and Whistleblower Reveal Gruesome Mass-Extermination Method for Iowa Pigs Amid Pandemic" by Glenn Greenwald, The Intercept, May 29, 2020. <https://theintercept.com/2020/05/29/pigs-factory-farms-ventilation-shutdown-coronavirus/>



# Underwriting Fido: Can Pet Ownership Affect Your Eligibility for Insurance in Michigan?

By Charolte McCray

**T**ypically, no. Michigan's Essential Insurance Act<sup>1</sup> limits the factors that insurance companies can consider when deciding whether to insure "eligible persons." Most people qualify as "eligible persons" when they buy insurance for their residence, whether they rent or own their homes.<sup>2</sup> DIFS Bulletin 2019-20-INS clarifies that insurers may not refuse to insure any eligible person on the basis of pet ownership, unless that person has a related claims history (and then only in limited circumstances if the claim arose in the three years preceding renewal).

**Surcharges:** The bulletin also states that insurers may charge more based on ownership of a particular breed of dog or species of animal, but only when actuarially supported by data regarding the associated risk. However, the Fair Housing Act exempts assistance animals from these charges. Assistance animals include "(1) service animals, and (2) other animals that do work, perform tasks, provide assistance, and/or provide therapeutic emotional support for individuals with disabilities."<sup>3</sup>

**Limitations:** These protections apply to residential insurance and eligible persons, not to other kinds of insurance (such as commercial insurance), lease agreements, or rules set by associations or governments. However, landlords may be more comfortable renting to pet owners who have liability insurance.

**Impact:** Many mortgages and leases require that their signees carry insurance. Barring insurers from refusing to issue or continue coverage on the basis of pet ownership helps make housing accessible to pets and their families. As policies with breed restrictions become more common, it is especially important to protect pets facing the greatest threats of breed discrimination and homelessness, such as pit bulls and huskies. 🐾

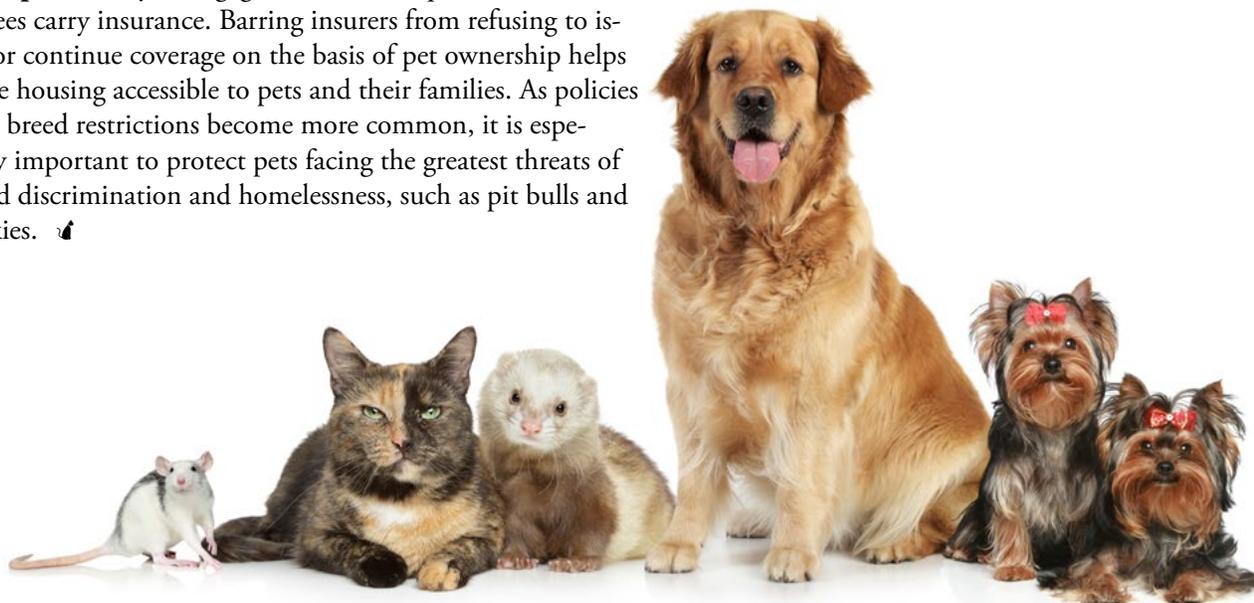
## About the Author

*Charlotte McCray is an insurance attorney at McCray Law Office. This memo is for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice or affiliated with DIFS or other governmental entities. Photo is Jackson and Charlotte.*



## Endnotes

- 1 MCL 500.2101 et. seq.
- 2 MCL 500.2103(2) defines an "eligible person" for home insurance as an "owner-occupant or tenant of a dwelling of any of the following types: a house, a condominium unit, a cooperative unit, a room, or an apartment" or "the owner-occupant of a multiple unit dwelling of not more than 4 residential units" who isn't otherwise excluded. MCL 500.2103(3) defines home insurance as including "Fire insurance for an insured's dwelling of a type described" above, and specifically references "renter's home insurance." Individuals are eligible by default, but may lose eligibility based on conduct such as insurance fraud or arson.
- 3 HUD FHEO Notice FHEO-2020-01 at 3, *Assessing a Person's Request to Have an Animal as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act*, January 28, 2020. See also DIFS Bulletin 2019-20-INS quoting HUD FHEO-2013-01 at 2, *Service Animals and Assistance Animals for People with Disabilities in Housing and HUD-Funded Programs*, Apr. 25, 2013.



# A Tale of Two Elephants – Updates on the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP) and Related Legal Efforts

By Maggie Sadoff

## Minnie the Elephant Remains Alone at Commerford Zoo after Connecticut Appellate Court Decision

In a previous newsletter, we reported on a NhRP case involving three elephants, Beulah Mae, Karen, and Minnie, at the Commerford Zoo, a traveling petting “zoo” based out of Goshen, CT. The Commerford Zoo has been cited more than 50 times for violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Sadly, Beulah, an Asian elephant, collapsed and died at a fair in Massachusetts on September 15, 2019 at the age of 52. Karen, a 38-year-old African elephant, died in captivity in March 2019. Minnie, age 48, remains in captivity alone at the zoo, forced to perform tricks and give rides to children. Minnie has reportedly attacked her handlers on occasion, likely due to the stress of her confinement and alleged mistreatment.<sup>1</sup>

NhRP filed a petition on behalf of the elephants for writ of habeas corpus in Connecticut Superior Court in November 2017. The petition was dismissed in December 2017 and NhRP appealed to the Connecticut Appellate Court. In an opinion published on August 20, 2019, the Connecticut Appellate Court affirmed the lower court’s decision declining to issue a writ of habeas corpus based on standing grounds. The appellate court upheld the habeas court’s ruling that NhRP lacked standing to petition on the elephants’ behalf and that NhRP did not satisfy the prerequisites for next friend standing, in relevant part, because the elephants were not legal persons and, therefore, lacked standing in the first place.<sup>2</sup> The petition for certification to appeal to the Connecticut Supreme Court was denied on October 2, 2019.

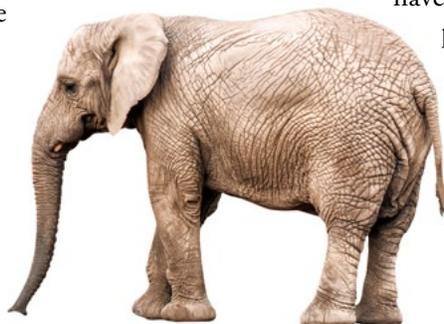
## Islamabad High Court Recognizes the Natural Rights of Pakistan’s Loneliest Elephant

On May 21, 2020, the Islamabad High Court in Pakistan (highest court in a province or capital territory) recognized the rights of nonhuman animals “without hesitation” and ordered the release of Kaavan, an Asian elephant held in solitary confinement at the Marghazar Zoo.<sup>3</sup> Kaavan, a 35 year

old elephant was reportedly kept chained alone in a small enclosure with inadequate food and medical care. Kaavan’s mate had died in 2012 and his plight as Pakistan’s loneliest elephant gained international attention. Referencing the pandemic lockdown, the Islamabad High Court pondered whether the present moment might be “an opportunity for humans to introspect and relate to the pain and distress suffered by other living beings, animal species, when they are subjugated and kept in captivity.....merely for momentary entertainment”. The Islamabad court’s ruling can be accessed from the Nonhuman Rights Project’s website.<sup>4</sup>

Courts in other countries (e.g. Argentina and India)

have also recognized nonhuman animals as legal persons with natural rights, using essentially the same arguments as NhRP has made here in the U.S. It was obvious to the Islamabad High Court that nonhuman animals are not merely “property” but rather living, sentient beings with natural rights. Somehow, U.S. courts are still grappling with the notion that nonhuman animals are sentient beings who have the right to live a life free of confinement, isolation, and cruelty. 🐘



## Endnotes

- 1 “Clients Beulah, Karen Minnie (elephants): Torn from their families and forced to perform for humans for decades.” <https://www.nonhumanrights.org/clients-beulah-karen-minnie/>
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- 4 <https://www.nonhumanrights.org/content/uploads/Islamabad-High-Court-decision-in-Kaavan-case.pdf>

# Jessica Chapman Earns Wanda Nash Award from the Animal Law Section

*This article is courtesy of reporter Sheila Pursglove and was originally published in the Legal News. Thanks is extended to both for permission to republish it.*

Michigan State University College of Law student Jessica Chapman was honored March 10 with the Wanda A. Nash Award from the State Bar of Michigan Animal Law Section, for exceptional scholarship in animal welfare.

Named for the Animal Law Section's founder, the award is presented to the graduating law student in Michigan who has exhibited the most influential work in the field of animal law, based on nominations from animal law professors. Chapman was nominated for the award by MSU Law Professors David Favre and Carney Anne Nasser. An MSU Law student has received the award since 2015. In 2016, the award was shared by an MSU and a Cooley Law School student.

"I'm honored and humbled, and through this award, I am part of a community of inspiring attorneys," Chapman says. "I'll do everything I can to continue the mission and uphold the reputation Ms. Nash established with her work on behalf of animals."

Chapman says she has many reasons to be passionate about animal law.

"Fighting for animals and their rights is the correct side of history," she says. "Animals and their interests are equal to humans and humans' interests, and to think otherwise perpetuates speciesism and unnecessary exploitation of beings

who have the right to exist without humans using them. Non-human animals do not exist for the benefit of human animals."

Chapman, whose companion animals are canine siblings Patch and Landa, is president of the school's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF).

"I'm trying to do everything I can to educate law students and the Lansing/East Lansing community to protect animals and their interests, to speak on behalf of animals, and to cultivate a thriving community of law students that will continue our efforts," she says.

Chapman was drawn to study law "to stand up and fight on behalf of individuals who do not have voices, or for individuals who have voices, but whose voices the oppressive majority refuses to listen to," she says.

At MSU Law, she has enjoyed the exposure to animal law and all the opportunities that have stemmed from her related experiences; working at the Animal Welfare Clinic, "and being able to work with MSU Law's incredible faculty and staff," she says.

Chapman has been clerking for the Animal Legal Defense Fund since fall 2019, first as a volunteer then as law clerk. Since January, she has been an intern for the PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) Foundation; spent last summer clerking at the Center for Biological Diversity in



MSU College of Law student Jessica Chapman was honored March 10 with the Wanda A. Nash Award from the State Bar of Michigan. She is pictured (l-r) with Animal Law Section members Tracy Sonneborn, Bee Friedlander, Ann Griffin, Allie Phillips, Donald Garlit, and Anna Scott. — Photo courtesy of SBM Animal Law Section

Portland, Oregon; spent her 1L summer working at the Immigration Law Clinic of St. Vincent Catholic Charities and working as an Access to Justice Tech Fellow with Michigan Legal Help, where she continued to work into the school year; and spent the fall 2019 semester interning for Judge Amy Ronayne Krause at the Michigan Court of Appeals.

“I feel honored by the opportunity of being able to work with so many different and equally incredible attorneys, individuals, and organizations,” she says. “Each organization and my work with these organizations has helped me develop in different ways that have contributed to me becoming a better future attorney.”

A graduate teaching assistant for Torts 1, a graduate research assistant for Professor Frank Ravitch, and for the Immigration Clinic, and a 1L peer mentor and tutor in the academic success program, Chapman also has served as a Notes Editor on the International Law Review.

“I enjoyed mentoring second year ILR members; learning from them and growing with them; being part of the ILR E-board; and belonging to a driven, compassionate team,” she says.

Chapman earned her undergraduate degree, with honors, from the University of California at Berkeley, with a double major in Slavic Languages and Literature; and Native American Studies.

“I did ballet for 20 years, and I had Russian family friends—I was drawn to Slavic cultures and languages. I love Slavic food, too,” she says.

In her second year of undergrad, UC Berkeley was looking at decreasing the Ethnic Studies department, which included the Native American Studies department.

“My professor knew I enrolled in almost all of her classes and she asked if I would be interested in majoring in Native American Studies to increase the department’s major numbers—I said yes, anything I could do to help!”

Her undergraduate studies included time at the International University of Moscow; and while at MSU Law, she studied in Kyoto, Japan.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to exist in cultures that are different from my own,” she says. “I’ve traveled to quite a few different countries, on multiple trips, but I really appreciated being able to stay in Russia and Japan for longer than a month because I was able to experience daily life.”

A native of Oceanside in southern California, Chapman currently makes her home in East Lansing, where her hobbies include Bikram yoga and reading a wide variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, science fiction, classic literature, animal rights and philosophy.

“Anything that people recommend or seems interesting, or helps me grow and become a more knowledgeable, thoughtful human,” she says of her reading interests. 📖

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## Collaboration with Environmental Law Section – Request for Articles

The Environmental and Animal Law Sections of the State Bar are seeking article submissions for an Animal Law & the Environment collaborative article that will be of interest to members of both sections.

Each article will be published in both Sections’ Newsletters/Journals and circulated widely. Consider writing a topical article, ideas include:

- Factory farms/CAFOs
- Wetland permitting
- Habitat destruction, new ESA changes, delisting of grey wolves
- Right to farm act, GAAMPs
- Clean meat – what is meat? Review trademark and copyright issues.

- Wolf hunting, DNR issues, etc.
- Urban deer culling
- Feral hogs or other escaping animals
- Invasive species
- Topic ideas are welcome



Please address questions (before writing) and submissions to Co-Editor Donald Garlit <[donaldgarlit@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldgarlit@yahoo.com)>. General parameters for the article are length of 500-1,500 words, some footnotes are OK, and article should be written as a narrative style. However, these are not hard and fast rules so the style will not be dictated. An op-ed is a possible approach. Have an idea or proposal? Let’s discuss it! 📖

# Michigan State University College of Law - Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) Report

The Michigan State University College of Law's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund is dedicated to the advancement of animal rights and welfare. Our goal is to educate students about ways that they can advocate for animals in their own communities. The projects and events we are planning for the upcoming year include educational opportunities that raise awareness on the suffering that animals endure and guidance on ways to support the animal welfare movement.

Advocating for animals does not require an "all or nothing" mindset. We believe that small steps are just as necessary to make an impact on the animal welfare movement. As Professor David Favre states in his book, *Respecting Animals*, contribution may be as simple as achieving a "balanced approach to our relationship with pets, food, and wildlife." SALDF plans to host events that demonstrate a part of the animal advocacy spectrum, and show that even small differences make a significant impact.

As part of this approach, we will discuss the welfare implications of wild animal captivity juxtaposed with the positive effects that certain AZA accredited zoos have on conservation and education, how that balance has been achieved, and what the future could look like through advocacy. SALDF plans to host an event where members and students can attend an AZA accredited zoo and meet with directors to learn about conservation missions and how current laws interact with these goals.

Another area of concern that SALDF would like to bring awareness to is the conditions of factory farms. We recognize that not everyone can or wants to adopt a fully vegan lifestyle. However, by demonstrating the impact of a single meat-free day per week, or less meat overall, we can provide a

guide to prompt conscientious consumption for those wanting to effect change.

Lastly, and most importantly for a student legal society, we will highlight that the laws that affect animals are not limited to the Animal Welfare Act and the Endangered Species Act. Animal law encompasses an ever-expanding array of legal fields. We plan to demonstrate this through collaboration with other student organizations. By promoting cooperation and education on how different organization's missions can support each other, we hope to bring in more students who may not have considered animal law. Diversity in legal skills improves both the law profession and the law student, and we plan on collaborating with other student organizations to highlight the ways that each legal field intersects to attract students who may not have considered animal advocacy as a profession.

Our goals for 2020 are not easy to achieve. However, by emulating the ingenuity and cooperation of the lawyers who developed animal law into the growing field it is today, we will be a group that concerns itself with animal welfare as well as the opportunities available for lawyers. Every law student can utilize their unique (and nonanimal) skill set to advance animal rights, and we hope to help them step out onto that path.

Morgan Pattan,  
President, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund  
Michigan State University - College of Law, Class of 2021

Matthew Kramer  
Vice President, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund  
Michigan State University - College of Law, Class of 2022

## Upcoming Event

**October 23-25, 2020** – 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Animal Law Conference – Impacts on Animals in a Changing Climate. It will be an all virtual conference and is sponsored by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Center for Animal Legal Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School. Registration opens in July and details are at: <http://animallawconference.org>

*Note that many planned conferences have been canceled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.*

## Nominations

We will be requesting nominations for the Section's Brandi and Sadie Awards as well as for Section Council membership. Watch for details coming soon via SBM Connect.



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## Treasurer's Report – 2018-2019 FY (12 Months ended September 30, 2019)

This is a brief summary of the Animal Law Section's financial status as of September 30, 2019 (all 12 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 (ended September 30, 2018).

Revenue for the year was \$4,665.

Expenses for the year were \$2,455.

Net income was \$2,210.

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 (\$500), and other miscellaneous expenses including teleconference calls, postage, and credit card fees from the SBM related to member payments of SBM annual dues (\$321).

Expenses related to the Annual Meeting were zero 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 Sections 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 funds balance at the end of the Fiscal Year was \$14,404; an increase of \$2,210 compared with the prior FY year-end balance of \$12,194.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Garlit , Treasurer  
June 2020

## Treasurer's Report – 2019-2020 FYTD (8 Months through May 31, 2020)

This is a brief summary of the Animal Law Section's financial status as of May 31, 2020 (8 months of the FY through May 31, 2020).

Membership totals about 215 members for the 2019-2020 FY. This is a membership increase of about 5% from the prior Fiscal Year (ended September 30, 2019).

Revenue for the year to date is \$4,845.

Expenses for the year to date are \$1,777.

Net income is \$3,068.

The major expenses for the year include one issue of the Newsletter (\$937), honorarium for the Wanda Nash Award (\$250), expenses for the Award ceremony (\$264), and other miscellaneous expenses including teleconference calls, postage, eBlast thru SBM, and credit card fees from the SBM related to member payments of SBM annual dues (\$326).

There should be no expenses related to the Annual Meeting 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 Sections will not be holding meetings at the SBM Annual Meeting beginning in 2019 and the 2020 SBM Annual Meeting itself may be virtual.

The funds balance at the end of the May 2020 was \$17,472; an increase of \$3,068 compared with the prior FY year-end balance of \$14,404.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Garlit, Treasurer  
June 2020