

Testimonials

“The Animal Legal Defense Fund connects forensic veterinarians like myself with prosecutors and law enforcement around the country, which has enabled me to assist with complex and challenging cases and get justice for the animal victims.”

Melinda D. Merck, DVM

Veterinary Forensics Consulting, LLC

“The Animal Legal Defense Fund offers much-needed resources to prosecutors in the trenches, and my office is grateful for their assistance in some of our high-impact cases.”

K. Michelle Welch

*Senior Assistant Attorney General
State of Virginia*



Take Action

The Animal Legal Defense Fund provides free legal assistance, trainings, and grants to law enforcement professionals handling animal cruelty cases nationwide.

Please contact us directly for custom support toward any animal cruelty matter your office may encounter.

Animal Legal Defense Fund Criminal Justice

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**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND** EST. 1979

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ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Criminal Justice

ASSISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT
HANDLING ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES



ALL OUR CLIENTS ARE INNOCENT

CUSTOM TRAININGS

Animal Legal Defense Fund attorneys lead free training sessions for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other stakeholders nationwide.

We can customize the content of trainings to meet the needs of your organization. Subject matter areas include:

- Strategic application of current state animal protection laws
- Seizure and pre-conviction civil forfeiture procedures
- Large-scale neglect, including animal hoarding and puppy mill cases
- Veterinary forensics and expert witnesses
- “The Link” between animal cruelty and other human-victim crimes
- Animal fighting (federal and state level)
- Sentencing considerations



Direct Legal Assistance

Our legal support services encompass every stage of an animal cruelty case. Our attorneys provide legal research assistance on substantive and procedural matters, including:

**DRAFT SEARCH WARRANTS,
PRE-CONVICTION FORFEITURE MOTIONS,
AND OTHER PLEADINGS**

**QUALITY VETERINARY
FORENSICS CONSULTING**

**SAMPLE VOIR DIRE AND
JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

**CASE-SPECIFIC SENTENCING
RECOMMENDATIONS**

AMICUS BRIEFS FOR CASES ON APPEAL

NO-COST LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES

We also assist with legislative efforts, offering issue expertise, drafting, and strategy advice toward enacting or strengthening animal cruelty legislation at the local, state, or federal level.

Case Support Grants

We provide grants for individual animal cruelty prosecutions to be applied toward:

- Forensics
- Expert witnesses
- Costs of care (food, shelter, veterinary care) for seized animals

Visit **aldf.org** for additional resources including the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s annual U.S. Animal Protection Laws State Rankings & Compendium and additional resources.

