



# **ANIMAL JUSTICE**

**ANIMAL JUSTICE STUDENT PROGRAM GUIDE  
2025-2026**

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## What is Animal Justice?

Animal Justice is Canada's only national animal law advocacy organization, leading the legal fight for animals in Canada. Our lawyers work to pass strong new animal protection legislation, push to hold industries accountable for animal abuse, and fight for animals in court.

Animal Justice is committed to supporting and growing the field of animal law.

### **Growing the Field of Animal Law in Canada**

**The Animal Justice Student Program helps foster the next generation of animal lawyers.** We give students opportunities to get active while still in law school, and ensure they learn skills that will help them become the leaders of tomorrow in the growing field of animal law.

Animal law has exploded in Canada in recent years. A decade ago, only a handful of animal law classes were offered in Canadian law schools. Today, at least 13 law schools now count animal law among their regular course offerings, and more students than ever before are active in the field and seeking to raise the profile of animal law on campuses across Canada.

The growth of animal law is also evident in the legal work being done nationwide. Animal law issues are top of mind for many Canadians, and regularly make headlines. More court cases than ever before are being fought over animals, and there is a renewed interest in improving animal protection legislation. Canada's federal Parliament passed three new animal protection bills in 2019, outlawing whale and dolphin captivity, the trade in shark fin, and closing loopholes related to bestiality and animal fighting provisions. In 2023, Parliament passed new laws aimed at ending toxicity testing on animals, and banning cosmetic testing on animals. The first-ever [Canadian law journal edition](#) devoted to animal law was released in 2019. The annual Animal Law and Advocacy Conference enters its seventh year in 2025. Meanwhile, law firms, individual practitioners, and lawyers in advocacy organizations are increasingly incorporating animal law into their practices.

Animal Justice is committed to fostering the next generation of animal lawyers. We understand the importance of introducing students to animal law, supporting their efforts, and ensuring they gain knowledge and skills in this growing field. **Your club has the power to educate students, faculty members, and the broader community about inadequate legal protections for animals, inspire others, and get active in making social and legal change for animals!**

## Benefits of Affiliation with the Animal Justice Student Program

Animal Justice launched the student program in 2018. For the first time, we offered student animal law clubs an opportunity to affiliate with Animal Justice, and access club and event funding, Canadian animal law resources, guest speaker opportunities, and volunteer research opportunities.

The Animal Justice student program aims to foster the development of animal law at Canadian law schools, provide Canadian-focused volunteer opportunities for students, and connect students with career opportunities in the growing animal law community. The Animal Justice student program also provides a forum for chapter collaboration by connecting students from law schools across the country.

A typical academic year quickly begins with the annual Animal Law and Advocacy Conference in late September or early October, which generally features a day-long Student Conference. Throughout the school year, the Student Program offers funding opportunities for student-led projects and events, and we keep students updated with law resources, guest speakers, and volunteer opportunities. Animal Justice also hosts nation-wide student meetings throughout the year to facilitate club collaboration and student support. Toward the end of the academic year, Animal Justice holds a student essay contest, with the winner announced at the next Student Conference.

Animal Justice appreciates club autonomy, and club activities are self-directed. We encourage clubs to review the project and event ideas offered in this guide as they plan their activities for the school year, and be creative in the development of topics of interest, educational events, fundraisers, and other initiatives. We also encourage clubs to collaborate with one another, and reach out to the Animal Justice student coordinator to discuss ideas or for other support at [studentprogram@animaljustice.ca](mailto:studentprogram@animaljustice.ca)

**To affiliate your club with the Animal Justice student program for 2025-2026, please fill out [this form](#). (Note that you should complete the form even if your club has been registered in past years, so we have up-to-date contact information.)**

**When contact information for affiliated clubs has been confirmed, Animal Justice will share this information with other clubs to enable collaboration. Club members are also invited to join [a Facebook group](#) designed to help clubs stay in touch.**

## What Animal Justice Can Offer to Student Law Clubs

### i. Support

- Animal Justice student program lawyer Kip Phillips is available as a resource to help ensure you have a successful school year. Kip previously served as president of the UBC Animal Justice club, and has been a long-time volunteer with the organization. She is an environmental & municipal lawyer with experience in animal, environmental, and municipal law, and she is passionate about helping students find animal law opportunities. Kirsten Dayton-Dika is the articling student at Animal Justice for 2025/2026. Kirsten graduated this year from the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie, and was the previous president of the Schulich Animal Justice club as well.
- Contact Kip & Kirsten at [studentprogram@animaljustice.ca](mailto:studentprogram@animaljustice.ca) for advice, resources, and support.

### ii. Tabling Materials

- Animal Justice student program members are eligible to receive free materials to use at the chapter's meetings and events throughout the school year, including society/club fairs, which typically take place early at the beginning of the year. These materials may include Animal Justice literature on animal law issues, petitions, pens, and stickers.
- If you do wish to request tabling materials, **please contact us at [studentprogram@animaljustice.ca](mailto:studentprogram@animaljustice.ca) with details.**

### iii. Club Grants

Animal Justice student clubs can apply for funding to support club initiatives, such as community events, advocacy activities, and guest speakers. Clubs are eligible for up to \$500 in funding per academic year. Additional funding may be available in special circumstances.

Clubs are also encouraged to look into funding opportunities offered by their law school or student union organization.

#### **Grant Requirements:**

- 1) An applicant club must be affiliated with Animal Justice.
- 2) Grants will be awarded for initiatives that support Animal Justice's mission and further the field of animal law.
- 3) Any food or supplies funded via an Animal Justice grant must be free from animal products and animal testing, i.e., vegan (no meat, fish, dairy, eggs, wool, leather, or any other animal products). Events must also avoid causing other harm to animals, such as visiting a zoo or aquarium (unless done to gather evidence or critique such a facility).
- 4) Applicants must submit a budget estimate in support of the grant.

Fill out a 2025-2026 [grant application form](#) to seek funding for your activities. If you have any questions about the grant process, please email [studentprogram@animaljustice.ca](mailto:studentprogram@animaljustice.ca).

#### iv. Volunteer and Summer Employment Opportunities

Animal Justice will provide volunteer opportunities throughout the academic year to ensure that students are able to gain valuable experience working on animal law issues.

Animal Justice also supervises summer students who are able to secure funding for a summer position from their law school or another source.

For more information about volunteer or summer opportunities, please contact [studentprogram@animaljustice.ca](mailto:studentprogram@animaljustice.ca).

#### v. Annual Essay Competition

Animal Justice student program members will be invited to participate in an essay competition. Students are invited to submit papers or essays that they have prepared, whether on their own initiative or as part of law school coursework. The competition will be judged by a panel of animal lawyers. **A cash prize will be awarded to the winner of the competition.** Details of the essay competition will be announced during the school year.

#### vi. Hot Topics in Animal Law

Animal Justice will provide assistance, including resources, to help student clubs focus on current issues in the field of law.

The following issues are ones that Animal Justice has identified as key issues in the field of animal law today. Clubs are welcome to consider the following list of issues when identifying topics for educational events, fundraisers, speakers, conferences, panels, and for research and policy writing purposes.

For more ideas, you can also check out the program from past years of the Animal Law and Advocacy Conference.

##### Key Issues

- *Canadian ag gag laws*
- *Preventing the next pandemic: the role of animal law*
- *Fixing Canada's broken animal transport laws*
- *Outlawing the live export of horses from Canada*
- *Banning cosmetic testing on animals in Canada and around the world*
- *Bill S-5: New federal legislation aimed at phasing out toxicity tests on animals*
- *Canada's criminal animal cruelty laws: Why are they the weakest in the western world?*
- *Direct action: The prosecution and defence of animal advocates who challenge the lawlessness of factory farms*
- *Is soy milk still milk? The fight over food labeling laws in Canada*
- *Law enforcement: Is it time to move past animal law enforcement by private charities, and toward a public model?*

- *Challenging animal cruelty via false advertising laws*
- *Challenging and repealing breed-specific legislation*
- *Animal advocacy gets political: Lobbying, elections, and legislation*
- *Banning whale and dolphin captivity in Canada – how the fight was won*
- *World Animal Protection’s Animal Index & Canada’s failing grade*
- *Restrictions on companion animals: Tenancy and condo / strata challenges*
- *Defending the civil rights of animal advocates*
- *Tackling puppy mills and breeders: Regulating dog breeding*
- *Do animals need personhood?*
- *Animal suffering in the sporting context: Ending rodeos*
- *Pet custodial disputes in divorce and separation: The next wave in family law?*
- *What is animal sentience?*
- *Zoos and aquariums: Regulation and current issues*
- *Animals used for entertainment: No longer socially acceptable?*
- *Protecting the human rights of people who choose to be vegetarian or vegan*
- *Intersection of animal law and environmental law: how nature personhood could help animals*
- *Business law opportunities to help animals: Incorporating animal welfare into ESG*
- *Legal issues facing vegan brands*
- *Legal issues facing animal sanctuaries and rescues*

## vii. Speakers Directory

The following are some potential club speakers. All speakers listed below have involvement in animal law and protection issues.

### Animal Justice

- Camille Labchuk, Executive Director – [camille@animaljustica.ca](mailto:camille@animaljustica.ca)
- Kaitlyn Mitchell, Director of Legal Advocacy – [kmitchell@animaljustice.ca](mailto:kmitchell@animaljustice.ca)
- Alexandra Pester, Staff Lawyer – [stinney@animaljustice.ca](mailto:stinney@animaljustice.ca)
- Pierre Sadik, Government & Legislative Affairs Counsel - [psadik@animaljustice.ca](mailto:psadik@animaljustice.ca)
- Kip Phillips, Student Program Lawyer - [kphillip@animaljustice.ca](mailto:kphillip@animaljustice.ca)
- PJ Nyman, Corporate Campaigns Manager - [pjnyman@animaljustice.ca](mailto:pjnyman@animaljustice.ca)
- Nives Ilic, Mobilization Manager - [nilic@animaljustice.ca](mailto:nilic@animaljustice.ca)

### Politicians

- Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, MP for Beaches East York, Liberal, lawyer – [nathaniel.erskine-smith@parl.gc.ca](mailto:nathaniel.erskine-smith@parl.gc.ca)
- Michelle Rempel, MP for Calgary Nose Hill, Conservative – [michelle.rempel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:michelle.rempel@parl.gc.ca)
- Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich—Gulf Islands, former leader of the Green Party of Canada – [elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca](mailto:elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca)
- Julie Dabrusin, MP for Toronto—Danforth, Liberal, lawyer - [julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca)
- Fin Donnelly – Former MP for Port Moody—Coquitlam, sponsor of anti-shark finning legislation, now MLA for Coquitlam—Burke Mountain, Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Oceans in BC – [fin.donnelly.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:fin.donnelly.MLA@leg.bc.ca)
- Retired Senator Wilfred Moore, lawyer and sponsor of Bill S-203 (contact info available upon request)
- Mike Schreiner, MPP for Guelph, leader of the Green Party of Ontario – [mschreiner@ola.org](mailto:mschreiner@ola.org)

- Senator Marty Klyne, sponsor of the *Jane Goodall Act*, Bill S-241 - [marty.klyne@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:marty.klyne@sen.parl.gc.ca)
- Senator Pierre Dalphond, a champion of animals in the Senate - [pierre.dalphond@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:pierre.dalphond@sen.parl.gc.ca)
- Pete Fry, Vancouver city councillor - [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](mailto:CLRfry@vancouver.ca)

### Lawyer and law professors

- Angela Fernandez, Professor of Law, professor of animal law, University of Toronto Faculty of Law – [angela.fernandez@utoronto.ca](mailto:angela.fernandez@utoronto.ca)
- Maneesha Deckha, Professor of Law, University of Victoria – [mdeckha@uvic.ca](mailto:mdeckha@uvic.ca)
- Jodi Lazare, Associate Professor of Law, Schulich School of Law – [jodi.lazare@dal.ca](mailto:jodi.lazare@dal.ca)
- Jennifer Friedman, Canada’s Animal Lawyer - [animal-lawyer@outlook.com](mailto:animal-lawyer@outlook.com)
- Kira Berkeley, co-director and counsel, AEL Advocacy - [kira@aeladvocacy.ca](mailto:kira@aeladvocacy.ca)
- Krystal Roussel, co-director and counsel, AEL Advocacy - [krystal@aeladvocacy.ca](mailto:krystal@aeladvocacy.ca)
- Kirsten Marsh, lawyer - [kirsten.marsh@shaw.ca](mailto:kirsten.marsh@shaw.ca)
- Katie Sykes, Associate Professor of Law, Thompson Rivers University, Animal Justice Advisor – [csykes@tru.ca](mailto:csykes@tru.ca)
- Victoria Shroff, Shroff Animal Law – [shroffandassociates@gmail.com](mailto:shroffandassociates@gmail.com)
- Sophie Gaillard, Director of Animal Advocacy, Montreal SPCA – [sgaillard@spcamontreal.com](mailto:sgaillard@spcamontreal.com)
- Krista Boryskavich, Lawyer, Winnipeg Humane Society - [kristab@winnipeghumanesociety.ca](mailto:kristab@winnipeghumanesociety.ca)
- Marcie Moriarty, Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, BC SPCA – [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)
- Melanie Coulter, Executive Director of the Windsor Humane Society, and former Adjunct Professor of animal law at the University of Windsor – [melanie@windsorhumane.org](mailto:melanie@windsorhumane.org)
- Arden Beddoes, Beddoes Litigation – [arden@beddoeslitigation.com](mailto:arden@beddoeslitigation.com)
- Gary Grill, Grill Barristers – [garygrill@grillbarristers.com](mailto:garygrill@grillbarristers.com)
- Leo Salloum, Grill Barristers - [leo@grillbarristers.com](mailto:leo@grillbarristers.com)
- Jessica Eisen – Assistant Professor of Law, University of Alberta – [jeisen@ualberta.ca](mailto:jeisen@ualberta.ca)
- Lesli Bisgould, Canada’s first animal rights lawyer, founder of the animal law class at the University of Toronto – [bisgould@idirect.com](mailto:bisgould@idirect.com)
- Daniel Dylan, Assistant Professor of Law at Lakehead University - [dwdylan@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:dwdylan@lakeheadu.ca)

### Other Suggestions for Speakers

- Review the speakers from past years of the Animal Law and Advocacy Conference.
- Contact local humane societies or animal rescue organizations—they often have lawyers who assist with legal matters, or staff that are knowledgeable about animal issues.
- Contact a local or national animal rights organization – many groups now have at least one staff attorney and others have entire litigation departments. Even if they don’t have lawyers on staff, they likely engage in legally-adjacent work, and have qualified staff who are knowledgeable about animal law topics. Research staff at Canadian animal protection organizations, such as Humane Society International/Canada, Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods, Mercy For Animals Canada, Humane Canada, World Animal Protection, Zoocheck, Animal Alliance, The Fur-Bearers, Vancouver Humane Society, Montreal SPCA, or the Winnipeg Humane Society.
- Invite a criminal defence lawyer who defends animal advocates to speak about their work.
- Ask the instructor who teaches animal law at your school (or another school) to give a presentation.
- Ask an animal-friendly elected official in your area to speak about pro-animal legislation they have sponsored or supported.
- Invite an animal law author or other expert in the field to speak at your school.

## Suggested Club Activities

### i. Research

#### **Form a Research Policy Sub-Committee**

Example: In a previous year, a team of five Thompson Rivers Animal Law Advocacy (TALA) members formed a research policy sub-committee. The aim of the group was to develop a research project that focused on the legal and policy implications of animal law in British Columbia. The group worked on a civic engagement project aimed at moving animal law forward in British Columbia by researching restrictions on pet ownership – tenancy and strata challenges within the province.

#### **Host a Research Day**

Host a full day event where law students can undertake legal research on a specific legal issue or campaign in partnership with Animal Justice. The research produced during the event will contribute directly to Animal Justice’s work on that particular issue. Have students sign up for a shift, and consider having faculty available to help guide students in their research and answer questions.

Optional: Provide lunch and host a guest speaker on the legal issue. Animal Justice is happy to suggest research day ideas that would be helpful to our work.

#### **Political Advocacy**

Encourage legislators to support animal protection legislation, and fight against legislation that is harmful to animals’ interests. Select a local animal welfare issue (possibly from the list of ‘hot topics’ identified by Animal Justice) and an overview of the laws or any exciting legislative developments. Oppose legislation that would further harm animals’ interests. Draft model legislation that addresses animal issues and consider meeting with local politicians to advocate for improved animal protection laws.

#### **Animal Justice Academy**

Join the Animal Justice Academy, a free, six-week, self-paced online training course offered by Animal Justice to help people become skilled, empowered, and passionate animal advocates. Club members could commit to taking modules together.

### ii. Law School Events

#### **Hold an Animal Law Week**

Dedicate a week to raising public awareness about animal suffering, including how to report cruelty, and how to work within your community to take legal action to protect animals from suffering. You could choose a theme, such as farming, experiments, fashion, entertainment, or companion animals.

#### **Suggested Events & Projects**

- Informational table during class breaks (Animal Justice can provide free tabling materials)
- Host a guest speaker and/or speakers’ series/conference
- Consider a virtual meeting with other speakers and/or clubs nationally
- Hold an educational event, possibly combined with a fundraiser
- Host a film screening
- Email or call your local MP about pending local, provincial, or federal legislation
- Bake animal-themed treats to distribute with tabling materials

### **Farmed Animal Justice Week**

Dedicate a week to raising public awareness about the lack of meaningful laws that protect farmed animals from cruel treatment.

### **Suggested Events & Projects**

- o Informational table during class breaks - Animal Justice can provide free tabling materials
- o Host a film screening on a farmed animal topic - see list of suggested documentaries for options
- o Visit or volunteer at a farmed animal sanctuary
- o Host a guest speaker and/or speaker series
- o Email or call your local MP about pending local, provincial, or federal legislation protecting farmed animals

### **iii. Fundraising**

Fundraising campaigns can be a very rewarding club activity. Not only do they expose the broader community to the legal issues concerning animals in Canada, but they also allow clubs to give back to their community, and raise funds to support their work.

Clubs should identify their target issue and goal for fundraising. Do you want to get the word out about factory farming? Help homeless pets or local farm sanctuaries? Advocate for animal-friendly legislation? Subsequently, chapters should devise a plan as to how funds raised will be used. Will all money raised go to a designated charity? Or will the club retain a certain percentage be used to further club directives i.e., hosting future events, ordering apparel, attending a conference?

Animal Justice hosts a three-week fundraising campaign every fall called #Voiceless4AnimalJustice, where supporters pledge to go silent for 24 hours to raise funds from their community and network in support of animals. Clubs have taken part in the past, and have found it to be a very effective way to raise awareness on campus of inadequate legal protections for animals.

Consider approaching local businesses in the community to donate space / venues to host prospective fundraisers and items for silent auction prizes and raffle giveaways. Great places to start are local vegan food establishments, pet shops, doggy daycares and spas, and cruelty-free cosmetics companies. Also consider joining up with other vegan clubs at your school to undertake fundraising events and broaden possible connections.

***See a sample letter to send to local businesses at the back of this package.***

### **Ideas for Fundraising Events:**

- **Dinner + silent auctions**
  - o Example: Sip & Support (the \_\_ e.g., a local animal rescue, the club itself, or Animal Justice)  
“Help Animals in need this summer with a fun fundraiser in support of \_\_. Join us and meet some adoptable dogs.”
- **Vegan barbeque**
  - o By treating students on the law school campus to vegan food, beer, and raffle prizes, your chapter can raise funds while helping nurture compassion for farmed animals. (Options: vegan burgers, hot dogs, pizza, salads, artisan vegan cheeses, beer, coffee, soda)

- Consider approaching local or national businesses for food donations
- Consider coupling the event with a raffle, and secure donated prizes
- **Bake sales**
  - Ask club members to bring baked items, and set up a table in a high-traffic area of your law school.
- **Fitness fundraisers / karma class**
  - Hold a by-donation fitness class
  - Join a local campus 5K race and collect pledges in support of animals
- **Collect donations for local sanctuaries, rescues and shelters**
  - Encourage students to donate food, blankets, toys, and money
- **Car washes**
- **Bottle drives**

#### iv. Education & Community Outreach/Volunteerism

##### Education

- **Tabling**
  - Set up an informational table on campus and/or in the community to raise awareness about animal protection issues. Find out if your university has literature stands on campus that you can stock with educational / tabling materials provided by Animal Justice.
- **Apply for [VegFund](#) grants for: vegan food distribution, Pay-Per-View footage, film screenings**
- **Organize lunch hour speakers** (option: lunch provided)
- **Organize film screenings** (option: food/snacks provided)
  - Be sure to confirm the licensing requirements for any film selected for screening. Some are available for free via streaming services such as Netflix while others may require a screening fee.
  - **Where to hold:**
    - On campus: classrooms, auditoriums/theatres
    - Off campus: community centers, private residences
  - **List of suggested films**
    - Get inspiration from the [International Vegan Film Festival](#) offerings
    - Humans and (Other) Animals
    - You Are What You Eat: A Twin Experiment
    - Seaspiracy
    - The Smell of Money
    - Milked
    - 73 Cows
    - Gunda
    - Eating Animals
    - Meat the Future
    - The Animal People
    - The Ghosts in Our Machine
    - Earthlings
    - Dominion
    - The Game Changers
    - Peaceable Kingdom
    - Cowspiracy
    - What The Health
    - Eating Our Way to Extinction

- o Carnage (BBC)
- o Death on a Factory Farm
- o Blackfish
- o The Cove
- o Speciesism: The Movie
- o The End of Meat
- o The Elephant in the Living Room
- o Forks Over Knives
- o Sled Dogs
- o Unlocking the Cage
- o Sharkwater
- o The Paw Project
- o Okja
- o An Apology to Elephants
- o Maximum Tolerated Dose
- o At the Edge of the World
- o Behind the Mask
- o Vegucated
- o Kangaroo
- o Lucent

- **Organize and host an annual Speaker Series**

- o Host a series of lectures devoted to various issues related to animal law. You may decide to run fundraisers and awareness campaigns. Consider partnering with other Animal Justice student groups via videoconferencing.

- **Organize and host a cross-disciplinary panel discussion**

Animal law intersects with many other areas of the law, which means that there are countless opportunities for collaboration with other student groups, organizations, and legal professionals when seeking to organize a speaker panel or other event. For example:

- o **Environmental law:** Industrial farming, water / air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, species extinction
- o **Constitutional law:** Civil liberties and animal advocacy
- o **Women’s law:** Link between domestic violence and animal cruelty
- o **Food law:** The intersection between farmed animal law and the food system
- o **Criminal law:** Animal cruelty prosecution, defending activism and activist rights from prosecution
- o **International law:** Wildlife poaching and trafficking, international animal transport
- o **Landlord & tenant law:** Housing disputes involving “no pets” policies, discrimination against people with companion animals
- o **Consumer protection law:** False advertising, food safety
- o **Fashion law:** Animal-free fashion, cruelty-free cosmetics

- **Host an animal law panel discussion**

Suggested Topics:

- o The spread of ag gag laws across Canada. Examine the history of US ag gag laws. Consider ag gag laws passed in Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, and PEI, and proposed at the federal level. Consider the successful constitutional challenge to Ontario’s ag gag law by Animal Justice.
- o The current state of animal welfare law in Canada and abroad. Involve speakers from animal, constitutional and criminal law as well as members of parliament.

- o Property law, the ownership of property and how this affects pet ownership. Involve speakers from animal law, real estate law, and local residential tribunals.
- o Animal testing and how to develop non-animal scientific techniques. Involve speakers from animal law, the scientific community, industry and public health advocates.
- o Factory farming practices and the resulting environmental effects (air and water pollution). Involve speakers from animal, environmental law, and an Indigenous perspective.
- o Misleading commercial labeling practices. Involve speakers from animal law, food law, commercial law, and class action law.
- o Urban development, population growth and the effect on wild animals. Involve speakers from animal law, developers, and city planners.

### **Community Outreach / Volunteerism**

- Volunteer at a local shelter, rescue, or sanctuary.
- Volunteer with a local advocacy organization, e.g., Anonymous for the Voiceless, We the Free, Vegan Outreach.
- Attend an Animal Save Movement vigil.
- Partner with shelters to hold animal adoption events at your university.
- Political advocacy: Call or meet with local politicians about pending local, provincial, or federal legislation.
- Work together with other organizations on key animal rights issues in your local community.

***See appendix for templates to use for promotional materials for fundraisers and events.***

## Animal Justice Student Program Requirements

Please ensure to review the [Animal Justice Student Club Contract Agreement](#) for the full list of requirements.

To be affiliated with Animal Justice, a law student organization must:

- 1) Be a recognized student group, club, or organization within their law school.
- 2) Fill out a 2025-2026 [affiliation application form](#), providing a list of club executive members.

It is preferred, but not required for 2025-2026 that the club use the words “Animal Justice” in the official club name.

Chapters must ensure food served at events is vegan, i.e., contains no meat, fish, dairy, eggs, or other animal products. Chapters must commit not to taking part in activities that contribute to animal suffering, i.e., trips to a zoo or aquarium (unless done to critique the facility or collect evidence).

An affiliated club may advertise its affiliation with Animal Justice, and may be listed on our website to assist other students in learning about the club.

Student clubs may use a version of the Animal Justice logo if desired, which is available upon request. Animal Justice has in-house design capacity and can create a logo specific to your club. Please do not create your own logo.

Ensure at least one club member is designated as the point person for contact with Animal Justice.

Please contact Animal Justice with any questions at [studentprogram@animaljustice.ca](mailto:studentprogram@animaljustice.ca).

## How to Start an Animal Justice Student Chapter at Your School

What if there is no animal law club active and operating at your school? This guide is designed to help you and your classmates start an animal law club at your law school.

### 1. Fill out a [club application form](#).

### 2. Check on administration requirements

Determine the process for starting a new student club at your law school. Some schools require organizations to adopt by-laws or constitutions. Even if not required, by-laws and constitutions can help provide a foundation to solidify your membership and carry your organization through various changes.

- A) What approvals and applications are required?
- B) Does your school require faculty sponsorship?

### 3. Find a faculty advisor for the club (if required)

### 4. Start spreading the word

Share club details with your fellow students. Make use of on-campus newsletters, bulletin boards, and social media to reach out to other students. Set up a booth at your school's club fair. Contact Animal Justice to request literature.

### 5. Plan your first meeting

Designate a time and place to hold your first meeting. Publicize the meeting via email lists, school event listings, posters, social media, asking professors to spread the word, and notices on classroom chalkboards.

### 6. Hold your first meeting

Create an agenda to help keep your first meeting on track.

- i. Explain the mission behind the club and what you hope to accomplish. Tell the group about current animal issues and why action is needed. Brainstorm a list of issues so you can see what people consider most important.
- ii. Collect contact information for meeting attendees.
- iii. Settle on a club name.
- iv. Decide how your club will be organized in terms of leadership. Do you want a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary? What other roles need to be filled?
- v. Decide how often you will meet. Keep in mind that members will be busy with other activities during the school year. If your group schedules meetings too frequently, there may only be a small turnout at each one. If you don't schedule enough meetings, members may lose enthusiasm. Try to strike the right balance.

## **7. Discuss your goals**

Once your club is established and a core membership is in place, it is a good idea to discuss your plans and goals as a group. Keep in mind that goals should be reasonable and attainable given the number of members you have and your available time.

For newly formed Animal Justice chapters, we suggest that the first activity be to establish an animal law class at your school, if there is not already one offered.

## **8. Develop a club website and social media accounts**

Consider creating social media accounts for your club, which can be key for organizing and inviting people to events. Social media accounts make it easier for you to keep students in the loop about animal law issues, as well as club events and campaigns.

## **9. Continue to recruit new club members**

Focus on 1Ls entering so the club will continue. When choosing your club officers, it is a good idea to include a 1L and 2L representative to ensure continuity of your chapter as upper year students graduate and move on.

## **10. Collect email addresses to ensure you can spread the word**

Maintain a spreadsheet or database (e.g., MailChimp) of email addresses for club members and interested students or community members. Send regular emails advising them of issues, events, and opportunities.

***See sample constitution and by-laws below.***

## Sample Constitution and By-Laws

**Important Note:** These sample by-laws are meant to be used as an example or template. Feel free to modify them to suit your chapter's or law school's requirements (or write your own).

***Any requirements that need to be included are colored red below.***

### Article One: Name

*Animal Justice suggests, but does not require, that clubs incorporate "Animal Justice" into their name.*

E.g., The name of this organization shall be: University of Ottawa Animal Justice Association (hereinafter referred to as uOttawa AJA).

### Article Two: Mission Statement

           *to enhance legal protections for animals in Canada through education and advocacy, and to raise awareness about the field of animal law.*

This paragraph meets the required element. The following paragraph is an example of some other elements that chapters have added to their mission statement.

*The [CLUB NAME] is dedicated to enhancing legal protections for animals in Canada through education and advocacy, and to raise awareness about the field of animal law.*

*The activities of the [CLUB NAME] shall include, but not be limited to: hosting guest speakers, debates, and open-forum discussions on current issues in animal law; carrying out research projects for lawyers and organizations promoting animal protection; networking with students at other law schools; conducting educational events such as information tables and video screenings on animal issues; and advocating on behalf of plant-based students within the [LAW SCHOOL NAME].*

### Article Three: Criteria for Membership

*E.g., Membership in the [CLUB NAME] shall be open to all students currently enrolled in [LAW SCHOOL NAME].*

### Article Four: Executive Members and Officers

In this section, you can designate titles and roles for officers, if any, of your Animal Justice chapter. You may also wish to add a list of each officer's duties within the group. The only requirement for Animal Justice student program membership is that there always be a designated contact person responsible for communicating with Animal Justice.

Example:

*The executive positions within the [CLUB NAME] include:*

***President:*** *Responsible for overseeing the operations of the [CLUB NAME], managing emails, planning events, and delegating organizational tasks.*

**Vice-President:** Responsible for overseeing the operations of the [CLUB NAME], and communicating with Animal Justice as needed to obtain information and resources.

**Treasurer:** Responsibilities include communicating with the [LAW SCHOOL STUDENT SOCIETY OR OTHER CLUB OVERSIGHT BODY] and possibly Animal Justice in order to obtain event-related funding as needed and budget reporting at the end of the year. The treasurer will also be responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [LAW SCHOOL STUDENT SOCIETY OR OTHER CLUB OVERSIGHT BODY] requirements and policies with regard to club budgets.

**Communications Officer:** Responsibilities include managing social media, creating content, and promoting club events on social media, including but not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The Social Media Coordinator will also be responsible for developing and sending out a monthly newsletter updating members on any relevant news/events.

Qualifications for persons who are eligible to serve in executive positions in the [CLUB NAME] are as follows:

- registration as a student at the [SCHOOL NAME] Faculty of Law;
- membership in the [CLUB NAME];
- attendance at a minimum of two meetings of the [CLUB NAME];
- agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of the [CLUB NAME], and;
- to comply with the mission and goals of Animal Justice.

In the event that one of these members, for whatever reason, expected or unexpected, is unable to continue in their capacity in office, the vacated office shall be filled within two weeks.

**Officers:** All other executive members. Officers are responsible for promoting activities and events organized by the [CLUB NAME] within their classes and law-related networks, as well as performing any tasks or duties delegated to them by the president or vice-president.

#### **Article Five: Elections**

Executive members shall be elected each school year by a majority vote of the membership of the [CLUB NAME], shall serve a term of one year, and may be re-elected the following year.

Students interested in serving as executive members shall so inform the [CLUB NAME] no later than one week prior to the election. Each member of the uOttawa AJA shall have one vote.

#### **Article Six: Impeachment**

If necessary, a special meeting may be called to impeach an executive member. There must be at least two current members who wish to impeach the executive member in question and the vote must result in a majority of at least 51%.

#### **Article Seven: Meetings**

Meetings of the [CLUB NAME] shall be held at least once each semester. Decisions at meetings shall be made by a majority of the members, with every present party agreeing to, dissenting to, or abstaining from every action there decided. A necessary minimum for all decisions shall be more than 50% of all members present at the meeting and must include at least one executive member.

Special meetings of the [CLUB NAME] may be called by any number of members, who shall inform the president

*and vice-president, or the entire membership, at least one week prior to the date of the proposed meeting.*

#### **Article Eight: Affiliation with Animal Justice**

This is a required element of the bylaws. Animal Justice's intention is to ensure that affiliated student chapters are acting in the interests of protecting animals, that organizational activities are consistent with Animal Justice's mission, and that Animal Justice is not directly or indirectly involved in any litigation initiated by a student chapter, or implicated in any policy positions taken, that have not been specifically endorsed/approved by Animal Justice. We encourage questions and feedback from students about this.

*Activities of the [CLUB NAME] shall at all times be consistent with the mission of Animal Justice. All public policy positions taken by the [CLUB NAME] shall be consistent with the mission of Animal Justice.*

*The [CLUB NAME] will ensure food served at events is vegan, i.e., contains no meat, fish, dairy, eggs., or other animal products, and is in line with Animal Justice's mission to protect the lives of animals.*

*The [CLUB NAME] will not purport to speak for Animal Justice or commit it to any position on any matter of public policy or law on behalf of Animal Justice without Animal Justice's prior written consent. No litigation will be initiated, endorsed, or supported in the name of the [CLUB NAME] without prior approval of Animal Justice.*

#### **Article Nine: Amendments**

*Any two current members shall be entitled to propose amendments. Proposed amendments shall be consistent with these by-laws, and shall be communicated to all current [CLUB NAME] members, who shall schedule a meeting for the purpose of approving these amendments. Amendments can also be approved via email or online poll. If the date of submission of these amendments is near the date of a regular or special meeting, then no additional meeting need be scheduled. A two-thirds majority of all chapter members must vote on any amendments to this constitution.*

## How to Start an Animal Law Course at Your School

- 1) Identify and discuss animal law with faculty, adjunct faculty members, and members of the local legal community that may have an interest in teaching an animal law course. Feel free to reach out to the Student Coordinator to get assistance from Animal Justice staff in identifying a relevant faculty member
- 2) Schedule a meeting with the Dean or other representative of the administration. Establish the requirements for adding a new course to the curriculum.
- 3) Collaborate with other students interested in animal law.
- 4) Sponsor student events to generate an interest in animal law.
- 5) Collect signatures in support of adding an animal law class.

***See sample petition below.***

### **University of Ottawa Animal Justice Association**

University of Ottawa Faculty of Law | uoaja@gmail.com

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Common Law Section  
University of Ottawa Faculty of Law

To Whom It May Concern:

### **Petition Re: Support for Adding an Animal Law Course to The Curriculum**

We, the undersigned, encourage your support for the addition of an animal law course to the law school curriculum. Animal law is the combination of statutory and case law that relates to or has an impact on nonhuman animals. It encompasses companion animals, wildlife, farmed animals, and animals used in entertainment and research.

As you may know, animal law is being taught at some of the most reputable and respected law schools throughout the country. Along with this petition, please find a list of law schools that are currently offering animal law to their students. Additionally, a growing number of student animal law organizations have appeared across the country and around the world. At last count, more than 200 animal law clubs have been established in the US and Canada.

The increased interest in animal law is to be expected considering animals permeate every sector of our society from food to family. Further, animal law increasingly permeates and affects most traditional areas of the law – including tort, criminal, constitutional, family, environmental, and trust law. Growing recognition of the human-animal bond, and concern for the welfare of animals raised for food and used in other industries, has informed the ongoing conversation about legal issues involving animals and ignited interest in the field.

The rapidly emerging field of animal law can no longer be ignored, as it is becoming an accepted and practiced field within society and our legal system. We are hopeful you will consider providing students with a thought-provoking forum to discuss this developing and dynamic area of the law. As animal law continues to grow and intersect with traditional areas of the law, the law school and law students – including animal activists, animal lovers, the curious, the indifferent and the dissenters – would greatly benefit from such a

course offering. For these reasons, your consideration of the addition of animal law to the law school's curriculum is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

# Sample Promotional Materials

## i. General Materials

UBC ANIMAL JUSTICE CHAPTER

FRIDAY NOV 6  
1-2PM (PST)

### ANIMALS ARE NOT FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

DISCUSSION PANEL

Our panelists will address a number of topics, including the wildlife trade, the spread of Covid-19 in big cats in zoos and captivity, and the *Tiger King* litigation



**Zeynep Graves**  
Litigation Manager,  
PETA Foundation



**Rob Laidlaw**  
Executive Director,  
Zoocheck Inc

**Zoom Login info**  
Meeting ID: 681 1581 0570  
Passcode: 707675



UBC ANIMAL JUSTICE X WOMEN'S CAUCUS WEBINAR



### IDENTIFYING THE LINKS BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND ANIMAL ABUSE

JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION WITH

**VICTORIA SHROFF** - ANIMAL RIGHTS LAWYER  
AND  
**CHRISTIAN LIM** - SENIOR CROWN PROSECUTOR

MARCH 30, 2021 // 12:30-1:30PM

ZOOM DETAILS  
MEETING ID: 663 2141 9201  
PASSCODE: 629 178

## WINE, WHISKEY & WHISKERS

COME SUPPORT TALA - TRU ANIMAL LAW ADVOCACY

JOIN US FOR DINNER, DRINKS, SILENT AUCTION & ANIMAL LOVE - IT'S A PURRRFECT REASON TO UNWIND

Tickets  
**\$25**

Tickets include dinner & entry for grand prize gift basket draw

**NOVEMBER 17 @ COMMODORE**  
6PM - 11PM

FUNDS RAISED WILL SUPPORT:  
ANGEL'S ANIMAL RESCUE; A LOCAL RESCUE IN MERRITT BC; AN AREA THAT HAS NO LOCAL SPCA & TALA'S ATTENDANCE AT 2017 ANNUAL ANIMAL LEAGUE DEFENSE FUND ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND, OREGON.





WHO IS A LEGAL PERSON?  
**UNLOCKING THE CAGE**

FROM THE FILMMAKERS WHO BROUGHT YOU DONT LOOK BACK AND THE WAR ROOM

**MOVIE SCREENING WEDNESDAY**  
FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2018  
5:00-7:00PM  
UCU 207

FREE VEGAN SNACKS PROVIDED

## Gone to the Dogs!

Community classes for charity



Sunday August 28 • 3:00PM • NEUmovement Kelowna

NeuMovement has gone to the Dogs! Come get your downward dog on in support of Thompson Rivers University Animal Law Advocacy (TALA) and local rescue organization Sit Pretty Pit! Neu will be running a series of community classes by donation, with 100% of funds raised in support of both organizations.

- 3 pm: Barre w Kelly Newby
- 3 pm: Mat Pilates w Kristene Bene
- 4 pm - Yoga w Tara Greer
- 5 pm - Drinks at Company to follow!

Pre-Register on MindBody

Any questions can be directed to Kelly Newby at 250.718.7233



pilates • yoga • barre • physio • massage

250.712.0678 • kelowna@neumovement.com • neumovement.com



## CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES ON ANIMAL LAW

### PANEL DISCUSSION



**Camille Labchuk**  
Executive Director of  
Animal Justice



**Barbara Cartwright**  
CEO of the Canadian  
Federation of Humane  
Societies



**Marc Quinn**  
Founding Partner of  
Quinn Thiele Mineault  
Grodzki LLP

FREE  
VEGAN  
CATERING  
PROVIDED  
BY



**THURSDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2017**  
**5:30-7:00PM**  
**FTX 136**

## ii. Sample Letter to Local Businesses/Sponsors

900 McGill Road  
Kamloops, BC, Canada  
V2C 0C8

(INSERT - Prospective Sponsor Info/Address)

(INSERT - Date)

Re Sponsorship Opportunity \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_;

The Thompson Rivers (TRU) Animal Law Advocacy (TALA) student club was created in the Fall of 2015. The club was conceived following the founding of Canada's newest law school in over 33 years at Thompson Rivers University. TALA mission is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law.

The club seeks to develop strong local relationships in the community. Whether it is working closely with the local Kamloops SPCA branch to facilitate local education and fundraiser efforts, or connecting with local legal professionals interested in this emerging field of law, TALA looks to further connect students and club members with the local populace.

TALA had a very successful first year of inception, running several club fundraisers and hosting a speaker's lecture at the university in March 2016. Although TALA has been running for only a year now, the club has already developed a dedicated student base, with 17 student members and designated club roles. We are very proud of our achievements and the hard work of those connected with the club. There are, however, many expenses connected with running the club and we rely solely on our own fundraising events and the support of local businesses. We require support for our event on \_\_\_\_\_ in support of \_\_\_\_\_. Would you be willing to \_\_\_\_\_.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact [CONTACT NAME] at 250.718.7233.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

### iii. Sample Letter to Local MLA/MPP/MP

Dear MLA: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/learn-about-us/members>

CC: Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture : [AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

I am writing to express my serious concern with the Government of British Columbia's proposed private member's bill known as Bill M-227 – the *Trespass Amendment Act, 2019* introduced on October 28th, 2019 by Chilliwack-Kent MLA Laurie Throness. The bill has passed to second reading and if enacted, likely infringes on important constitutional rights, would create unfair and harsh penalties for animal welfare organizations, and would take away an important method of exposing unconscionable animal abuse in farms.

Ontario and Alberta have recently enacted dangerous, and likely unconstitutional, American-style agricultural gag (“ag gag”) laws, aimed at preventing investigative journalists and employee whistleblowers from exposing animal abuse at farms and slaughterhouses by making it an offence to enter these facilities under “false pretenses”. These laws are dangerous for animals, workers, and public health. They can also erode public confidence in the agricultural industry, causing unintended harm to farmers.

I urge you not to follow the lead of Ontario and Alberta. There is no place in British Columbia for ag gag laws. Instead, please enact legally binding standards of care for the treatment of farmed animals in this province and ensure meaningful, proactive enforcement of those standards.

I am very interested in hearing your position on this very important issue. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

### iii. Sample petition for animal law course

#### Petition to Academic Counsel

<b>Petition summary and background</b>	This petition registers the broad support of students enrolled at the University of British Columbia's Allard School of Law for the assigned cause as defined below.
<b>Action petitioned for</b>	We, the undersigned, would be interested in registering for a course on Animals and the Law for the upcoming 2019/2020 academic year. We, the undersigned, support the offering of an Animal Law course at the law school and feel that it is an important, enriching course offering that should be available for second and third year law students.

Printed Name	Signature Contact Information	Comment	Date

### iv. Sample research-a-thon questions

Want to organize a research-a-thon? Here are some past questions that student clubs have looked into, to give you a sense of what the work would be like.

#### Live Horse Export to Japan Research

##### Contract issues

If the mandate to stop live horse exports to Japan is legislated, we want to know what contract-related issues would arise between Japanese purchasers and suppliers of live horses.

1a.) If live horse exports are banned to Japan, can the contracts between suppliers of horses and the recipients in Japan be broken? Would a typical force majeure clause recognize a political situation like this where a certain practice becomes illegal?

1b.) How long are these contracts between the parties, and will there be any penalties or costs if the contracts are broken before they expire?

2. What are the trade implications of banning live horse exports to Japan?

### **Part I: Questions re. Horse Carriages in Vancouver**

**1. Existing horse carriage bans** - Where else have horse carriages been banned and how was the ban achieved? How was the Montreal ban achieved specifically?

**2. Horse Carriage case law** - Are there any established horse carriage cases re: accidents, animal law cases, threat to public safety, injuries to people? One of our partners is working on achieving a ban of the holiday horse carriage rides in Vancouver through the Business Association. Are there any cases/research that could help with the impacts of horse carriage rides and potential liability on businesses?

**3. Poor horse carriage conditions** - Are there any published cases/published materials of poor conditions of horses in urban horse carriages? ie. heat exposure, cold exposure, respiratory issues, lack of access to green space, -cold exposure, hard surfaces on hoofs, poor conditions including water infrequency or horses falling over and unable to get up. What should we look for when looking for poor conditions of horses involved in horse carriages?

**4. The Vancouver Park Board and the Cetacean ban** - How was the ban of cetaceans achieved at the Vancouver Aquarium? The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation that was involved in the ban of the Aquarium is also in charge of the horses at Stanley Park. What was the procedure to ban cetaceans and how can this help us achieve a ban of horse carriages through the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation?

### **Part II: Questions re. Ag-gag legislation**

**5. Dishonest speech** - To what extent does s2(b) of the Charter protect dishonest speech? In particular, does the Charter protect one's right to not disclose that one works with an animal advocacy group when applying for a job on a farm? Courts in the US have dealt with this issue when ag gag laws have been challenged as contrary to the First Amendment. There's a fair bit of jurisprudence in the US on this point, with the leading case being Alvarez. Here's an article discussing US case law:

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3165654](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3165654)

**6. Unionizing farm workers** - Section 4(6) of Bill 156 and section 3(2) of Bill 27 make it an offence to enter a farm or slaughterhouse if consent to enter is obtained under "false pretenses". Similar to US ag-gag laws, these provisions appear aimed at preventing individuals from obtaining employment at farms and slaughterhouses without disclosing that they are journalists or are affiliated with animal advocacy groups and intend to document and expose unlawful activities. However, these provisions may also have an impact on unionizing activities on farms in that a common approach to unionizing such workplaces is for an individual to obtain employment at a farm or slaughterhouse with the (undisclosed) intention of then unionizing its workforce. Please explain the following: (a) What is the usual practice for unionizing farm and/or slaughterhouse workers in Ontario and Alberta? (b) Based on the wording of Bills 156 and Bill

27, as well as experience with similarly-worded laws in the United States, could these laws adversely impact unionizing efforts on farms and slaughterhouses?

**7. Constitutional challenges in Alberta** - What are the specific procedural requirements for bringing a constitutional challenge against provincial legislation in Alberta? For instance, what is the appropriate court? Who would be named as respondent(s)? What are the major procedural steps involved under the Alberta Rules of Court?