

Problem

Prosecutors and law enforcement often lack the resources or specific expertise needed to investigate and prosecute crimes against animals.

Solution

The Animal Legal Defense Fund provides free legal assistance to prosecutors, law enforcement, and veterinarians handling animal cruelty cases. We also work with state legislators to strengthen criminal animal protection laws.



Take Action

Report animal cruelty to law enforcement.

Animal cruelty is a crime: always call 9-1-1 if you witness animal cruelty. They can direct you to a local agency, if appropriate.

Contact us. If you have already reported the incident to law enforcement, you can inform us of your case at action1@aldf.org.

Sign up. Sign up for email alerts to stay up to date on cases and campaigns at aldf.org/signup.

Donate. Our important work is made possible by generous supporters like you. You can make a tax-deductible donation at aldf.org/donate.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is not a law enforcement agency. Reporting a crime to the appropriate law enforcement agency is the first important step toward justice for animals.



**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND** EST. 1979

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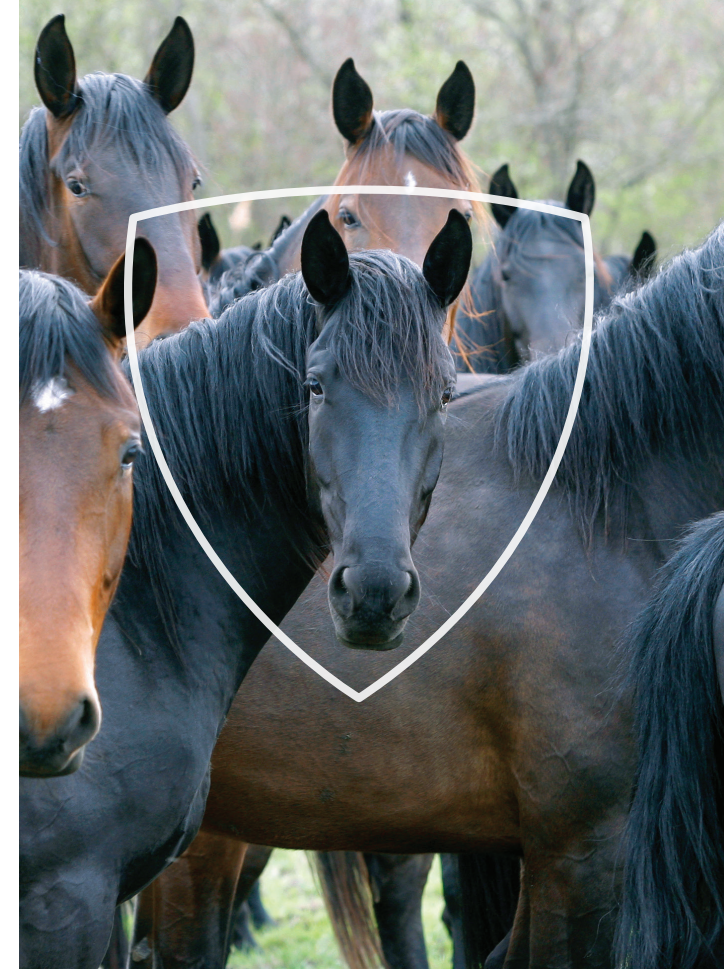
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ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Criminal Justice

ASSISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT
HANDLING ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES



ALL OUR CLIENTS ARE INNOCENT

The Animal Legal Defense Fund works closely with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the National Sheriffs' Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and other organizations to provide training and resources to prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement officials.



THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND OFFERS FREE LEGAL SERVICES, INCLUDING:

Legal research: Performing legal research, formulating case strategies, and submitting amicus curiae briefs; providing sample pleadings, research memos, and briefs on issues relevant to cruelty prosecutions.

Professional trainings: Leading accredited training programs for police and animal control officers, prosecutors, judges, and veterinarians specific to animal cruelty cases.

Grant funding: Offering grant money to help cover the costs of caring for seized animals, necessary forensic work, and obtaining expert witnesses .

Expert witnesses: Securing and funding expert witnesses including veterinarians, animal behaviorists, and experts on organized animal fighting and animal hoarding.

Legislative assistance: Producing model animal protection laws and an annual compendium of each state's animal protection laws.

Animal cruelty affects humans, too.

Numerous studies show a link between animal cruelty and other violent behavior, including child abuse, elder abuse, and domestic violence.



Acts of cruelty against animals are now counted alongside felony crimes like arson, burglary, assault, and homicide in the FBI's expansive criminal database.

