



INSPIRATION AND IDEAS



HOW TO ACT FOR ANIMALS

UK CENTRE FOR ANIMAL LAW

WWW.ALAW.ORG.UK STUDENTGROUP@ALAW.ORG.UK



BECOME AN A-LAW STUDENT MEMBER

A-LAW works with students across the country. We are pleased to support students who want to become more active in learning about animal law and policy.

Students are encouraged to raise awareness about the study of animal law and animal legal issues at their campus, whilst also representing the UK Centre for Animal Law. Students are encouraged to host events and other initiatives at their university.

We have a number of Student Members at universities across the UK. If you are interested in finding out if there are A-LAW Student Members at your university, or if you would be interested in becoming one yourself, please get in touch with our Student Team to find out more at studentgroup@alaw.org.uk.

If you know others at your university who are interested in animal law, you could consider setting up a student society for animals. We are also happy to support existing groups focused on animal welfare, protection and/or ethics. We can provide a comprehensive guide on setting up your own society.

Being part of the [Student Group](#), can enhance your knowledge about animal law and it can also be valuable for your career development. Setting up your own University society will not only look impressive on your CV, but it will also help you become a part of a wider circle of people with a common interest.

START A STUDENT SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL LAW



HOW TO ACT FOR ANIMALS

A few ideas to consider if you are looking for **inspiration about the sort of activities you can engage in**, either as part of a society or as Student Member:

- Fundraise for A-LAW. For example, you could organise a vegan cake or food sale;
- Arrange discussion groups on case law, legislation, and academic papers relating to animal protection;
- Organise a debate or **moot** on an animal law topic;
- Organise a book club or book sharing system. There are many legal and non-legal books available which address animal welfare. A-LAW can provide a reading list;
- Invite speakers to talk about their work at your university. In our experience, many individuals involved in animal protection are eager to talk to students. We also have officers from A-LAW who are available to give talks;
- Work with your university to introduce animal law as part of your curriculum;
- Organise volunteering opportunities, such as at your local animal shelter or sanctuary;
- Organise a film screening. We maintain a list of animal protection documentaries that you might want to consider showing;
- Help organise animal law conferences or other events at your law school;
- Work with A-LAW on animal law projects, which may involve making Freedom of Information requests, helping with research, getting involved with campaign issues or writing articles or news items to highlight issues of concern.
- Set up a board member role on your university law society, such as Animal Protection, or Animal Rights/Welfare Director/ Officer. This will help establish animal law on your campus.

The above list is not exhaustive and you are more than welcome to come up with your own action plan. We would love to hear your ideas, so email us at studentgroup@alaw.org.uk.

"I really enjoy the fact that your learning is supported by small-sized tutorial groups, which allow intense discussions and ensure you understand all areas of the law."
Emma

Submissions must be in a word document and be between 700-1,000 words using OSCOLA referencing.
Please email our Editor-in-Chief Abby Balle (aballe@le.ac.uk) with your submission.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



HOLD A VEGAN BAKE SALE

The Leicester A-LAW Student Members hosted an A-LAW Bake Sale to raise funds for A-LAW.

Members of their Committee volunteered their time to help bake, create signs and also to help out on the day, showing both their passion and dedication to raise awareness for animal law.

The event was a huge success! Lush even provided product samples to give away during the event to help promote awareness about ethical consumerism. Beliz Inan, society Chairperson (above) said, "It was great to see so many people interested in animal law during the event; we had lecturers and students asking questions about how we can combat issues in relation to animal protection. We also handed out some leaflets which informed the general public about the work A-LAW does.

"If you are considering fundraising, just go for it! With some preparation and organisation, your event could too help promote animal law and raise awareness. We are the voice for animals so never be silent. If you feel passionate about this area of law, don't feel afraid to share your enthusiasm with the world, because you can make change happen."

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DEBATES AND MOOTS

Moots can be an excellent way to hone your debating and advocacy skills and demonstrate your commitment to future employers (and tenancy committees).

Sam Groom who hosted the [UK's first Animal Law Moot](#) in 2018/19 said, "Thanks to the support of all at A-LAW, the Cecilia Moot 2019 was a success at City, University of London. We were thrilled to have 56 registrations, meaning that we could structure a three-stage knockout competition comprising ten moots in total.

"The first round took place at the start of February. Soraya Pascoe, Frances Allen and Catherine Jaquiss of Goldsmith Chambers acted as judges. Eight pairs proceeded to the second round, with a problem written by David Thomas of Advocates for Animals and heard by Cathryn McGahey QC of Temple Garden Chambers, assisted by Soraya Pascoe.

The final of the competition was held in May at Temple Garden Chambers, and was judged by Cathryn McGahey QC, Raffael Fasel of the University of Cambridge, and the Rt Hon Lord Justice Singh.

"The problem, written by Raffael Fasel, concerned an African grey parrot kept as a pet, on whose behalf an animal rights organisation sought a habeas corpus order. Whilst judges deliberated, Paula Sparks (A-LAW Chair) and David Thomas presented on animal law in practice.

"The success of this year's competition in engaging so many students in animal law for the first time and in bringing practitioners together to hear arguments on current issues was inspiring and entirely due to the talent and energy of all who took part."

[The Cecilia Moot](#) is now organised internally by A-LAW. Students can find out more on our website: alaw.org.uk or email studentgroup@alaw.org.uk to get involved in the next competition. Students can also watch our short [Cecilia Moot video](#) on our YouTube - [Animal Law TV](#).

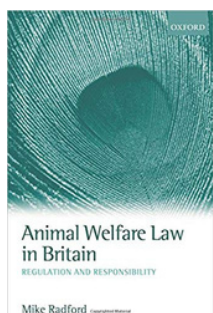


START A BOOK CLUB

Learn about animal law topics, ethics and philosophy by **discussing one of the important textbooks in this area**. We can also share with students a comprehensive reading list of texts.

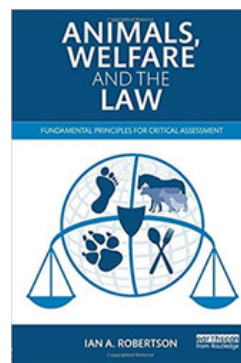
Here are a few suggestions to get you started. If you don't have access to a particular book that you are interested in reading, ask your librarian if your university library can source a copy.

***Animal Welfare Law in Britain* by Mike Radford**



The most detailed and authoritative treatment of the state of animal welfare law in Britain to date. This book provides a full analysis of the substantive law, considers its objectives, application and effectiveness, as well as the background to the current debate and the arguments for and against further reform.

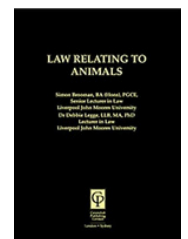
***Animals, Welfare and the Law* by Ian A. Robertson**



In this objective, practical and authoritative introductory text the author reveals how the fundamental principles of the human-animal relationship drive the development of animal law.

***Law Relating to Animals* by Debbie Legge and Simon Brooman**

This book looks at animal law in a wide context and considers policy issues, moral and ethical debates, political ideas and economic influences.



***Animal Liberation* by Peter Singer**



Peter Singer addresses this simple question with trenchant, dispassionate reasoning. Accompanied by the disturbing evidence of factory farms and laboratories, his answers triggered the birth of the animal rights movement.



HOST A STAND AT A FAIR

Former Student Member, Beliz Inan, and A-LAW Officer, Tiffany Mitchell, represented A-LAW at Leicester's "Next Steps" **Legal Career fair**. A-LAW Student Coordinators, Sam Groom and Natalie Harney, also represented A-LAW at the 2019 **Careers with Animals event** in Leeds.

Hosting a stall and representing A-LAW at **Freshers' Fairs** or **Career Fairs** is an excellent way to make Animal Law more mainstream and to gain interest in the Animal Law field. You can consult your Student Union to enquire about obtaining a stand at your university's fairs.

Likewise, you can consult your law school administrator to gain information about upcoming fairs, including contact information for the organisers. Please reach out to A-LAW if you require support with this. It may also be possible to have an A-LAW team member.





HOST A GUEST SPEAKER

Former A-LAW SOAS Student Member, Mina da Rui, **hosted a talk** at her university featuring A-LAW Chairwoman, Paula Sparks, and former A-LAW Trustee, Edie Bowles (above).

Mina said: "A-LAW's Paula Sparks and Edie Bowles came to SOAS to share with students their first-hand insights into **animal law as a field of work** in the UK.

"Edie identified key elements to working as an animal lawyer: passion, resourcefulness, proactivity and the willingness to work hard, as animal law spans diverse legal areas and requires knowledge of a broad range of areas. Edie's description of the various approaches that can help further the rights of animals in UK law gave students a strong sense of the importance of intellectual curiosity and creativity as they shape their career.

"Working in this field is not yet a linear path, as some other areas of law are, so aspiring advocates for animals must be prepared for it not to be seamless and have a 'plan B' for quieter times or gaps between opportunities to work in the field. Networking and independent engagement with the field are crucial.

"Paula explained that the study of animal law in the UK is not as advanced as other areas and few animal law courses are currently available. In this context, as Paula explained to attendees, A-LAW's vision is that of a world where animals are suitably protected by law. There are two key issues: the poor implementation of existing law and lacunae in the legal framework. These remarks revealed the value of considering our legal context with regards to animals with a critical perspective."

If you would like a member of the A-LAW team to give a talk at your uni, email studentgroup@alaw.org.uk. We can also help you secure other speakers. You can view past virtual Student Member hosted talks on our [YouTube - Animal Law TV](#).



VISIT OR VOLUNTEER AT A SANCTUARY

Organising a group [visit to an animal sanctuary](#), or [volunteering at an animal shelter](#), can be a great way to connect with like-minded people and find out more about the problems faced by animals discarded by society.

Former LSE A-LAW Student Member, Robin Lou, organised a [visit to F.R.I.E.N.D Farm Animal Sanctuary](#) last year and said,

"We believe that experiences like this provide a great opportunity to learn about anti-speciesism and non-violence, both as a philosophy and a way of life. Furthermore, interaction with other non-human animals allows us to see them as individuals with distinct personalities, and to understand them in a way that cannot be achieved in a classroom setting. Such understanding is crucial to our ability to think critically about existing laws and social arrangements, and how they can be improved to better protect animals."

Animal Law modules exist at several universities throughout the UK, albeit they are still relatively rare. If you are fortunate enough to attend a uni that offers one, sign up! If your uni does not offer a module, why not encourage the implementation of one at your university?

Our Farmed Animal Working Group Co-Chair, Danielle Duffield, has written a blog about [petitioning for a course](#) at your uni. If you are studying a non-law degree, possibly in science or one of the social sciences and want to find out about short courses where you can learn about animal law and policy, [visit our website courses page](#).

STUDY ANIMAL LAW



HOLD A FILM SCREENING

There are a number of **great films and documentaries** out there that **address and help raise awareness about animal protection issues**. These include:

- Blackfish
- Blinders
- Blood Lions
- Born to Be Free
- The Cove
- Dealing Dogs Dog-Fighting Undercover
- Dominion
- A Fall From Freedom
- The Ghosts in Our Machine
- Gods in Shackles
- Kangaroo - A Love Hate Relationship
- Earthlings
- Food, Inc.
- The Ivory Game
- Klatki
- Land of Hope and Glory
- Lion Ark
- Lolita: Slave to Entertainment
- Live and Let Live
- Our Planet
- The Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness

- Racing Extinction
- Rotten (a series)
- Shadow Trade
- Sharkwater
- Speciesism
- The Last Pig
- The Secret World of Badger Baiters Unchained
- Unlocking the Cage
- Vegucated
- The Animal People
- Night on Earth
- Cowspiracy
- Dancing with the Birds
- Jane
- The Last Animals
- The Tigers of Scotland
- Mission Blue

If you're interested in showing one of these documentaries at one of your events, get in touch with us at studentgroup@alaw.org.uk. We keep an updated list of documentaries and films, so do reach out if you'd like a copy of the list.





PROJECT & POLICY WORK

There are sometimes opportunities to get involved with **projects or advisory work for your university, charities or other animal groups.**

We encourage students to be proactive and creative in their efforts to secure animal related policy and project work. Rather than waiting on an organisation to get in touch re potential opportunities, why not speak with your faculty about opportunities to work collaboratively with other students, or on your own, on projects within your university. This might mean securing a mentor to review your work, or work closely with you, or working with a policy clinic if there is one at your university; this is not an exhaustive list of possibilities. We can help identify possible projects to focus on. A-LAW may be able to connect students with lecturers interested in animal law on their campus, where possible.

The Policy Clinic at Northumbria University is a great example of how students can get involved with policy work in a structured environment. The law department at Northumbria University runs a Policy Clinic, which enables students to engage in a policy project under the supervision of the law team.

A-LAW asked the Policy Clinic to explore the legal and policy obstacles faced by the elderly population when attempting to access care homes with a companion animal. We wanted to identify some of the reasons why elderly people with companion animals might be unable to access residential care homes or sheltered accommodation with their companion animals, and whether this is due to legal and/or regulatory factors or a perception of the same or other reasons and to identify ways in which such obstacles could be overcome.

"Over the last academic year, we undertook research on behalf of the UK Centre for Animal Law. The research project's aim was to identify the reasons why care home managers are reluctant to allow pets to live in accommodation with their elderly owners or, where they do allow pets, how they manage this.

"Studies have shown that owning a companion animal has many benefits for the owner, and there have been multiple studies about the effect of no pet clauses on the elderly population. There is little research, however, with the people making the decisions as to whether to allow companion animals to live in supported accommodation or care homes.





UNIVERSITY POLICY CLINICS

"Students in the Policy Clinic applied for research ethics, designed interviews, emailed participants, conducted the interviews, transcribed, analysed and presented the data. At the end of the academic year, those supervising in the Policy Clinic conducted group interviews with students to explore their experience of working on empirical research projects and what they believe they have gained from it. The students who came into the Policy Clinic had never studied animal law previously but have been left with a good grounded knowledge in various area of animal welfare law and policy."

- **Rachel Dunn,**
Senior Lecturer,
Northumbria



Robert Gordon University's Law School in Aberdeen established the Grampian Community Law Centre in early 2022. The Centre is managed and operated by A-Law Scottish Steering Group and Wildlife Working Group Member and practising Scottish Solicitor, Hannah Darnell, but is a student-led enterprise. Part of the Centre's offering includes a dedicated Climate Clinic which operates in association with the Environmental Law Foundation. The Clinic offers support and guidance to members of the public across the North East of Scotland on low incomes in relation to matters of planning law, development, environment and animal law. Following its recent launch, the Clinic has worked on several animal law-related cases including a large research project in conjunction with the charity OneKind concentrating upon Deer Management policy in Scotland, and an alleged veterinary negligence case where the students received guidance from the law firm Advocates for Animals to take the matter forward. If you are a student at Robert Gordon University and would like to get involved with the Clinic, please email GCLC@rgu.ac.uk.

- **Hannah L Darnell, Law Clinic Manager & Solicitor, Robert Gordon University**



ATTEND ANIMAL RELATED EVENTS

Attending conferences and events focusing on animal law, ethics, welfare and/or policy is a fantastic way to learn more about this field, but also to network with like-minded people. There are lots of animal related events, both in-person and virtually, offered during the year. It's worth checking with various organisations whom are hosting an event to see if they offer student rates for their events.

A-LAW hosts a range of events, both in-person and virtual, where we offer free or reduced price tickets, including our flagship Animal Law, Ethics and Policy Conference, which we have co-hosted with Liverpool John Moores University, and our unprecedented [Martins Act Bicentenary Conference](#). You can watch many of our past virtual events on our YouTube channel - [Animal Law TV](#).

Feedback we've received about our Conferences includes:

"We've had some really fascinating papers. I'm particularly interested in those looking at the international and global perspectives. I think a conference like this is absolutely essential" - **Peter Stevenson, Lawyer, CIWF**

"This conference is extremely important. the legal profession and researchers in law are invaluable to animal protection and to improve animal welfare on a global basis." - **Dr. Steven McCulloch, Lecturer, University of Winchester**

"I have found it really stimulating. It has been great to have people from not only academia, but from NGO's. People who are just interested in the issue have come and that's great because thats what you need: that group of different types of people talking together and exchanging ideas." - **Debbie Legge, Lecturer, The Open University**

"This conference isn't about us; it's about animals. We hope that by building a connection between people who research and work in the area we can make positive change for animals!" **Simon Brooman, Lecturer, Liverpool John Moores University**

Find out more about the Conference by watching this [short video](#). Also check out our [Martins Act conference](#) website.



GET WRITING FOR ANIMALS

We offer opportunities for students to hone their research and writing skills in the field of animal law and policy.

Students can take part in our [Essay Writing Competition](#), which is open to international students. We select the topic and you get writing with a chance to win a book voucher and the opportunity to have your article published in 'The UK Journal of Animal Law'. Past winners have gone on to start very successful careers in law! The [competition](#) is annual, and you can visit the website for more details.

Students can write for our blog, which has been merged with our [news site](#). Our blog features posts from lawyers, academics, law students and others interested in animal law. Please note that the views expressed in these posts are not necessarily those of A-LAW. If you would like to submit a piece to our blog, please contact our Blog Editor, Randi, at blogeditor@alaw.org.uk.

A-LAW's [working groups](#), [Companion Animals](#), [Wild Animals](#), [Research Animals](#), and [Farmed Animals](#), provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn, network with like-minded individuals, and provide research and other support to our co-chairs in various capacities. Students can pick one, or all, of these groups to join, enabling them to assist with various projects each group is working on. Students will need to be [A-LAW student members](#) to gain access to these groups.

If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, email:

FarmedAnimals@alaw.org.uk
WildAnimals@alaw.org.uk
ResearchAnimals@alaw.org.uk
CompanionAnimals@alaw.org.uk

JOIN OUR WORKING GROUPS

ADVICE FROM THE FIELD

We asked solicitors, barristers, and academics what sort of advice they would give students who are interested in animal law. Read below:

"Working in animal law can take you into many fascinating areas including nature conservation, animal welfare issues and wildlife crime. Being at the cutting edge of using the law to protect and further the protection of animals - be they domesticated or wild - and working with a wide range of partners is hugely rewarding. My advice would be to get as much voluntary experience as you can while studying as that will help you to decide which avenue you would like to explore - and don't give up as perseverance pays!' - **Carol Day, Partner at Leigh Day Solicitors**

"Working in the field of animal law is both challenging and incredibly rewarding. As a practising animal lawyer there is scope to work on many pressing animal welfare issues, such as the welfare impacts of intensive salming farming - or unlawful international wildlife trade, and also to work across many different areas of law.



"I would advise any student looking to get into this area to seek experience across many disciplines during any legal work experience, to volunteer where you can, to attend the conferences held by A-Law and others, and to keep an eye on the latest developments.

"This will also give you a feel for what really motivates you. Legal research, and writing experience (such as short blogs or longer articles) is particularly invaluable, and it is never too early to get involved. - **Alice Collinson, Solicitor**

"Getting involved in the field of animal law is incredibly rewarding. Animal law is one of the most neglected fields of public interest law, and given the prevalence of animal suffering around the world, using your legal skills to advocate for the voiceless can be incredibly impactful.

"My advice for any students wishing to work in animal law in the future is to consider opportunities to engage in the field while you are still at university. While I was at university, I set up an animal law group at my university, and we assisted animal protection organisations with legal research, organised 'Animal Law Weeks' and seminars aimed at advancing animal law education, made submissions as part of government consultations on animal law reform, and lobbied for an animal law course to be established at our law faculty.



ADVICE FROM THE FIELD CONTINUED

"Working on these kinds of projects will not only enable you to have a meaningful impact on the growth of the field of animal law before graduating, but will also allow you to learn more about the most important animal law problems and to engage with creative solutions. This will put you in the best possible position to continue to work to advance the interests of animals through the law once you enter legal practice." - **Danielle Duffield, Solicitor**

"Many law students with an interest in animal law will have an interest in going into legal practice, advocacy or NGO work to advance animal interests. However, an alternative – or supplementary – path to consider is academia. Consider doing a masters and/or a PhD that will enable you to produce original, high quality research on animal law. This could be both invaluable to the animal law movement but also may open the door to a future career as a full time academic where you can research and teach animal law as a discipline and contribute to building its prestige and significance within the academy." - **Dr Joe Wills, Lecturer at the University of Leicester Law School**

You will find more interviews with practitioners on our website and in past editions of Animal Justice UK on our [publications page](#).

"I would advise students who wish to develop a legal practice in animal welfare prosecutions to focus closely on the various well-publicised higher court authorities in this area, in order to attain a basic understanding of the types of issues that usually arise in such cases, and then target those solicitors' firms that prosecute or defend such cases regularly.

"The RSPCA tends to prosecute the majority of offences alleged under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. It maintains a panel of regional solicitors, most of whom are criminal defence specialists, to prosecute cases on its behalf throughout England and Wales.

"Public Authorities tend to prosecute more of the commercial/regulatory animal welfare-related cases, and have specialist in-house lawyers who undertake such work.

"Defence solicitors who specialise in defending animal welfare prosecutions are generally easy to identify via the internet, as this is how the majority of their clients locate them. Students interested in working in the field of animal welfare law should ensure they have a basic core understanding of the types of issues that are generally litigated in this area, and then seek work experience opportunities and develop links with the lawyers identified above first and foremost." - **Iain O'Donnell, Barrister**

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Visit: www.alaw.org.uk
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