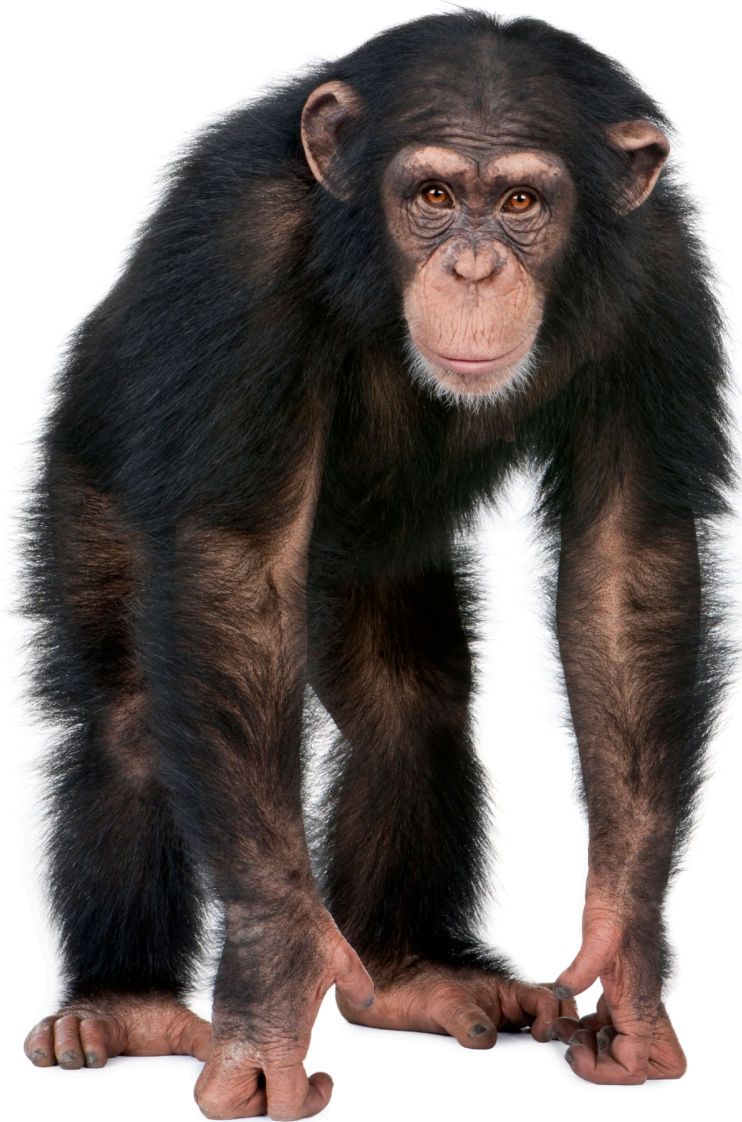


# ANIMAL JUSTICE UK

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A publication of the Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare (ALAW)



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## **IVORY TRADE**

Solicitor Magdalena Gray explores China's announcement to ban the ivory trade and the UK's ivory trade policy (p.3).

## **CAREERS ADVICE**

Antony Cooke from Chambers and Partners offers some words of wisdom for breaking into the animal law field (p.10).

## **RELIGIOUS SLAUGHTER**

Student Michael Gold discusses the topic of religious slaughter (p.5).

Welcome to the third edition of Animal Justice; the Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare's e-zine for law, politics, social science and veterinary students interested in animal welfare law and policy.

### Andrew Tyler

*Dedication by Edwina Bowles*

The Student Team is incredibly sad to hear the news of Andrew Tyler's passing and would like to dedicate this issue to him. Andrew Tyler was the director of Animal Aid and contributed to our last edition of Animal Justice.

We did not have the pleasure of knowing him personally, but animal protection lawyer and friend of Andrew's, David Thomas, described him as having a "gentle, principled but courageous philosophy for life," adding "he will be a massive loss to Animal Aid, to the movement as a whole and to humanity".

Andrew was praised for his highly effective campaigning, even when tackling some unpopular issues. Under Andrew's guidance, Animal Aid took on subjects such as animal experiments, pheasant shooting and the Grand National and other races. David Thomas noted, "Andrew never feared criticism or even ridicule. He was confident that justice would win through. And he applied his philosophy of kindness and non-oppression to human suffering too".

One final thought, the story that really moved me about Andrew was the fact the he suffered from lifelong anxiety and was compelled to conquer it to publicly advocate animal rights. I am sure there are many people who struggle with anxiety reading this and I too struggle with it. I hope we can all be inspired by Andrew's courage and reminded that the fears that hold us back can be

overcome and we too can further progress the debate that Andrew has moved so far forward.

Thank you Andrew, may you rest in peace.

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The Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare (ALAW) is a charity which aims to bring together lawyers interested in animal protection law to share experience and to harness that expertise for the benefit of the animal protection community, including by securing more comprehensive and effective laws and better enforcement of existing animal protection laws.

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## ANIMAL OF THE ISSUE: SAND LIZARD (*Lacerta Agilis*)



### Christie Hall

*Christie graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MSc in Animal welfare Science, Ethics and Law. She is currently in Switzerland volunteering for an animal law firm with her main interest being the illegal pet trade.*



Source: <http://bbc.co.uk/nature/24022952>

The Sand lizard, as the name suggests, inhabits sand dunes and sandy heaths in Southern England and Northwest England respectively. Described as a sexually dimorphic legged lizard, they are the UK's only egg-laying and largest lizard species with adult lizards reaching 20cm in length. Although native to the UK, they are also widely distributed across most of Europe.

Whilst all reptiles are protected under UK law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (prohibiting intentional killing or injuring of a common reptile), the sand lizard is afforded further legal protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. This extends such protection by also making it illegal to capture or disturb a rare reptile or damaging any place considered as

shelter or protection. In addition, it is illegal to transport Sand Lizards for sale, and advertising to sell or to buy.

Advancing on this, the Natural Environment Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places principle importance on all reptile species, thus obligating public bodies and local authorities a legal duty to consider their conservation.

At international level, the Sand Lizard is protected by national legislation in most of its range countries within Europe. It is also listed on Appendix II of the Bern Convention, and on Annex IV of the European Union Habitat and Species Directive. Nonetheless, the Sand Lizard is listed as 'Least Concern' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Although it is presumed to have a large population, it is noted that the current population trend is decreasing overall.

Described as one of UK's rarest reptiles, they have suffered dramatic population declines due to habitat destruction from human activity. Housing and leisure developments, and intensive agriculture have all contributed to the disturbance of their habitats. Sand Lizards also face threats from plants destabilising dune habitats and predation by cats and magpies.

The UK Amphibian and Reptile conservation trust coordinates and runs successful recovery programmes to conserve the Sand Lizard through methods of captive breeding and subsequent reintroduction into the wild. To date the programme in partnership with other organisations has managed to successfully rear and release around 9000 Lizards to both dune and heathland sites.

Current and future initiatives to increase populations are focused on protecting existing sites whilst creating and managing new habitats, whilst continuing recovery programmes. The Sand Lizard is a priority species in the UK biodiversity action plan.

## BANNING THE DOMESTIC IVORY TRADE: CHINA CHARGES AHEAD WHILST THE UK STALLS



### Magdalena Gray, Solicitor

*Magdalena is a London-based planning and environment solicitor who spends much of her spare time working on animal welfare and conservation projects. As well as volunteering for ALAW, she also initiated a 'Legal Corner' for the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, in which she seeks to regularly connect topical issues affecting elephants to the legal frameworks in which they exist.*

Domestic trade, even in historic ivory, is criticised for providing an opportunity to launder dirty ivory in clean markets, fuel demand, and put a price on an elephant's life. It is estimated that 20,000 elephants were killed for their tusks in 2016 and that now only 415,000 remain.

As the biggest consumer of ivory in the world, China has long defended its penchant for 'white gold'. However, its recent announcement to ban domestic trade by the end 2017 has been heralded as monumental.

According to research, the impact is already being felt. The price of raw legal ivory has dropped by almost two thirds since China announced its plans, and as of 31 March, 67 of its 105 licensed ivory carving factories and retailers have closed.

Whilst this is both symbolically and practically impressive, it is estimated that the legal trade accounts for just 10 per cent of ivory sales in

China. Therefore, so as not to provide criminal syndicates with a monopoly over the market, simultaneously confronting the much larger *illegal* trade is critical.

Providing legitimate methods of circumventing the ban can also be hazardous. China's notification states that "*cultural relics made of ivory that are of legal origin...[may] be auctioned...to demonstrate their cultural value.*" This offers a loophole reminiscent of the UK's antiques exemption.

In September 2016, the Government announced plans for a domestic trade ban in modern (post 1947) ivory, leaving trade in older ivory items lawful in the UK. It also pledged to engage in public consultation in early 2017 (which is yet to take place). Drawing a distinction based on date is problematic due to the unreliability of carbon dating – a method which determines the age of tusks, rather than when the elephant died.

A qualified ban is far from the Conservative election manifestos of 2010 and 2015 which promised to 'press for a total ban on the ivory trade'. Such departure led to a Parliamentary debate after a petition received over 100,000 signatures.

Whilst petition debates cannot directly change laws, they can contribute to the process, and the attitude of many MPs in attendance was encouraging. MP John Mann said, "*...if we are incapable of fulfilling our role to protect for continuing generations the species that freely roam this planet...we have no role as politicians.*"

DEFRA Minister, Thérèse Coffey, accepted that public consultation would allow for a discussion of whether pre-1947 worked ivory should also be banned, but failed to set a date.

The UK asserts its 'strong record as a global leader in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade', yet it has supported several decisions with disastrous consequences for elephants.

In 1989, when the international ivory ban was agreed, the UK attempted to achieve special immunity for the British colony of Hong Kong.



Then in 2008, contrary to advice from over 100 NGOs and 27 African elephant range countries, the UK voted to allow China and Japan to buy stockpiled ivory from four African countries. Further still, as part of the EU voting bloc at the 2016 CITES conference in South Africa, the UK assisted in obstructing a worldwide ivory ban. Therefore, whilst the Government's reluctance to impose a total ban is confounding, it's perhaps not surprising.

The antiques industry should also be acknowledged. The British Antiques Association – whose president is Conservative MP Victoria Borwick opposes an outright ban and claims it would not stop poaching. Yet this is at odds with public opinion which recently revealed that 85% back an outright ban.

A total ban on domestic sales of ivory could interfere with free movement and property rights unless the Government could demonstrate that it is justified and proportionate. This may be possible by invoking the Precautionary Principle under the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which states that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to protect environmental degradation.

Ultimately, the devastation of elephant populations prescribes the urgency with which nations must act individually to close their domestic markets, and collectively to annihilate the international ivory trade.

It is crucial therefore, that public pressure on our Government does not wane in the wake of impressive ban related rhetoric, but instead expands, intensifies and proves robust enough to demand immediate action.

Please consider writing to your MP to request a date for the public consultation, and demand a total and unequivocal domestic ivory trade ban. You can find your local MP here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

## POLICY-UK DANGEROUS DOGS CONFERENCE: REVIEW



### Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, ALAW Student Coordinator Grace Wright attended Policy-UK's conference *Dealing with Dangerous Dogs and Associated Antisocial Behaviour*. The event focused on the failures of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and how to tackle irresponsible dog ownership moving forward.

The day featured lectures from a diverse panel of experts, including David Bowles, Head of Public Affairs at the RSPCA, Eduardo Goncalves, Chief Executive of the League Against Cruel Sports and PC Heath Keogh, Wildlife Officer in the Metropolitan Police. Speakers and attendees came from a range of different fields which reflected the multi-disciplinary approach necessary if the UK is to review the current legislation and to move towards a more effective way of managing the ongoing problem of dangerous dogs.

The conference explored social influences on dog ownership, breed specific legislation, policing dangerous dogs, the welfare of dogs seized under the DDA, the links between irresponsible dog ownership and other criminal activity and prosecution and sentencing for dangerous dog offences. The day was an invaluable learning opportunity for all involved with the lectures acting as a springboard for some thought-provoking discussion on dangerous dogs.

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Find out more about Policy-UK here:

<http://www.policy-uk.com/>

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## OPINION: RELIGIOUS SLAUGHTER



### Michael Gold

*Michael is a first year law student at Queen Mary University and is piloting one of ALAW's first university subgroups.*

*"It is discouraging that many of the precepts whose sacred character is thus uncritically acknowledged should be such as to inflict much wholly unnecessary misery" – Bertrand Russell.*

A 2015 House of Commons research briefing notes that the UK Government is committed to protecting religious slaughter, citing a statement made by David Cameron that he would *"never"* ban the practice. The absolutist character of his statement confirms –though there was no doubt—that Government policy regarding religious slaughter is rooted in a political ideology that places more importance in religious rights than animal welfare.

In the UK, animals to be slaughtered for food are required by European and domestic law to be stunned –rendered unconscious— before death. However, Jewish and Islamic slaughter rites are accommodated through an optional derogation from this requirement which the UK upholds.

Jewish authorities absolutely prohibit pre-stunning, whilst some Islamic authorities prohibit it and others permit non-lethal stunning, which entails that the animal can technically recover consciousness. Some of the welfare implications of both non-lethal and non-stunned slaughter are

set out in the August 2015 edition of ALAW's Journal of Animal Welfare Law. These include animals recovering consciousness due to various types of error in carrying out non-lethal stunning, *"These risks [being] witnessed continually"*; and *"rejection"* of non-stunned animals where the religious procedure has been performed imperfectly, with replacement animals thereafter being subjected to non-stun slaughter.

Both Jewish and Islamic slaughter require death by blood loss.

Regarding scale, a 2014 Compassion in World Farming estimate is that up to 32 million chickens, 70,000 cattle and 1.4 million sheep and goats are slaughtered without pre-stunning annually in the UK. This figure is likely to increase in line with growing demands for halal meat.

Animal welfare at slaughter (for animals to be killed religiously) is delegated by the UK Government's policy of upholding the derogation to the inclinations of religious communities whose prescripts for slaughter are anti-scientific and cruel.

That they are anti-scientific is self-evident. Put crudely, to adopt a scientific method is to posit and test ideas to see if they are reliable in that they make accurate predictions. I may claim that animals do not suffer if killed in a given way. This claim is only scientifically valid insofar as it is or is not borne out on a rational basis. Religion in contrast deals in revelation and faith. There is nothing to *"test"* as, e.g. regards the Jewish and Islamic prohibition on pig meat. It is simply a rule because it is a rule. Indeed, most Jewish authorities acknowledge something like this, categorising *kashrut* (dietary) laws as *chukkim*, or laws which are not rationally explainable. It cannot be right for the internal logic of law to be superseded by irrational edicts, ones moreover which affect the most fundamental interest of animals – to avoid pain.

The practice is founded in faith. In addition to the foregoing, it suffices to adduce that Islamic slaughter, *dhabihah*, requires the recitation of the

name of Allah during the slaughter of each animal.

I corroborate the charge of cruelty with two points. First, religious and secular arguments about the humaneness or lack thereof, of religious slaughter can be overlooked with reference to the more informed consensus of independent, scientific bodies. The Farm Animal Welfare Council (an independent body of experts who advise the Government) has unequivocally denounced non-stun slaughter as *“unacceptable,”* recommending the derogation be repealed. This position is shared by the vast majority of expert groups, including the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe, the British Veterinary Association and the RSPCA.

How starkly animal welfare and religious rites are opposed is highlighted by the Government itself at various times acknowledging the relative inhumaneness of religious slaughter. To cite one such instance, in a Commons debate in February 2015, the proposition advanced by religious groups that throat-slitting is akin to stunning was rejected by Cabinet M.P. George Eustice with reference to various scientific studies. (This indeed juxtaposed with the Government’s reiteration of its policy, which it explained as being based on respect for religious customs – despite its preference for stunning which it noted: *“is better for the welfare of the animal.”*)

Second, religious groups which claim that throat-slitting is painless cannot really believe their own argument: surely, if they did they would advocate for human or non-human euthanasia to be carried out by throat-slitting. Of course, they would not do so.

#### **A response to Professor Francione**

An argument related to these issues which warrants consideration is that made by former attorney and current animal rights advocate Professor Gary Francione. He correctly asserts that all forms of animal exploitation are cruel and that single-issue campaigns are –not necessarily, but easily– used as excuses for xenophobia, racism or other forms of scapegoating. Given that

the production of meat abuses tens of billions of animals in heinous ways, to focus on (to use his examples from a June 13, 2014 blog post) wearers of fur, dolphins used as entertainment, rural hunting or Jewish religious customs is –for example, regarding the latter– *“an excuse to segregate the Jews as ‘bad people.’”* He puts the same point in this way: *“If these poor birds were not used in the [religious] ritual, they would have been sent to the slaughterhouse and would have had the exact same fate.”*

I agree with Professor Francione that to focus on Jewish and Islamic slaughter rites *can* be based on ulterior motives, and that to be mindful of that potential is important.

But in substance I disagree that non-stun slaughter should not be specifically advocated against. First (as mentioned), there is an objective reason to call non-stun slaughter “worse” than conventional slaughter: that it involves more suffering than slaughter carried out following stunning, this conclusion being based on the weight of scientific consensus. That is not to advocate in favour of conventional slaughter, whether as humane or in any other sense, and as a vegan I would never do so. Rather, it is to attempt to root out a unique form of exploitation alongside efforts to attack animal exploitation in its other general forms.

Second, religious slaughter is supported by a different logic to other forms of animal exploitation and consequently entails different problems. It is based on “respect for religious customs,” meaning the relevant religious communities are given the right to rely on their own, internally “immutable” authorities. The problem with this is that animals subjected to religious slaughter do not have the same potential as other animals to be protected. That much is clear in the status-quo which sees an admittedly very limited protection, stunning, denied to animals selected for religious slaughter.

Conversely, secular ethics are fundamentally able to be challenged by argument and evidence. The cognitive capacity of animals is increasingly being

recognised, for instance in the media and various institutions (e.g. academia: the 2012 Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness). This will and already does influence public opinion, policy and law (to take policy, reference can be made to the aforementioned Government preference for stunning which is based on scientific evidence).

Even if we are disputing a distinction without a difference, the conceptual “bar” of protection of religious customs is one that will need to be attacked in isolation in any case. Again, the status-quo illustrates this: secular rules with an exemption for religious groups. If meat production was one day ruled illegal with religious groups exempted, that would reflect the principles of the current legal paradigm. On these bases, it is legitimate to address the unique considerations underpinning religious slaughter.

Paula Sparks will be looking at the law that applies at the time of killing in our next edition.

## ARE LOBSTERS ANIMALS?



### Maisie Tomlinson

*Maisie at Crustacean Compassion explains why their welfare should be legally protected.*

Crustacean Compassion is an animal welfare organisation dedicated solely to the protection of decapod crustaceans such as crabs, lobsters, crayfish and their kind. We believe it’s unfair, unscientific and legally inconsistent that they are excluded from animal welfare legislation, and our [campaign](#) starts squarely with a [petition](#) to include them in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (England and Wales)<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.crustaceancompassion.org.uk/do-crustaceans-feel-pain>

But what is an ‘animal’ anyway? Under animal welfare law, the definition tells us only whom we have duties to; and under the UK’s animal welfare legislation, we have duties to those animals capable of being harmed by our actions. In other words, both vertebrates AND invertebrates for whom “*there is evidence that they are capable of feeling pain and [suffering](#)*”.

So it’s puzzling, therefore, that in spite of compelling scientific evidence that decapod crustaceans ‘*experience pain*’<sup>1</sup> (and even, in some cases, ‘*emotional anxiety*’<sup>2</sup>), they still remain outside most legal definitions of ‘animal’ in UK welfare law. An [EU panel](#) claimed as far back as 2005 that many of the ways in which decapods are currently treated in the food industry are inhumane. Boiling alive, for instance, can take a lobster up to [three minutes](#) to die. Not long ago, a UK supermarket was found to be [shrink-wrapping](#) live crabs in plastic packaging. Yet in the UK both practices remain entirely legal.

Not so in other countries. Decapod crustaceans have been protected under animal welfare laws in several Australian states for decades; also in New Zealand, Norway, and Switzerland. International [guidelines](#) for humane treatment recommend the use of an electrical stunner at slaughter (Waitrose, Tesco, Whole Foods and some UK restaurants already voluntarily do this). Chefs must undergo special training in mechanical slaughter with a knife (their biologies require

[Elwood, R., and Magee, B., \(2013\) "Shock avoidance by discrimination learning in the shore crab \(Carcinus maenas\) is consistent with a key criterion for pain", Journal of Experimental Biology, vol 216: 353-358](#)

[Appel, M & Elwood, R \(2009\), 'Motivational trade-offs and potential pain experience in hermit crabs' Applied Animal Behaviour Science, vol 119, no. 1-2, pp. 120-124](#)

[Magee, B., & Elwood, R. W. \(2016\). Trade-offs between predator avoidance and electric shock avoidance in hermit crabs demonstrate a non-reflexive response to noxious stimuli consistent with prediction of pain. Behavioural Processes, 130, 31-35.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Fossat, P., Bacqué-Cazenave, J., De Deurwaerdère, P., Delbecq, J.-P. and Cattaert, D. \(2014\). Anxiety-like behavior in crayfish is controlled by serotonin. Science 344, 1293-1297](#)



special skills). Enough food and a suitable environment. It's not hard.

So why don't they receive such basic protections here? One might well ask. Our Freedom of Information request revealed that despite widespread media coverage when evidence of their sentience was released, no assessment has been conducted by DEFRA into the ability of decapod crustaceans to feel pain since the introduction of the Animal Welfare Bill (England and Wales) in 2005.

At Crustacean Compassion, we believe that the time has come to protect these sensitive and captivating creatures under animal welfare law. Please help us by [signing](#) our petition to include them in the definition of 'animal'; and don't forget to share! If you have any questions or would like to get involved please get in touch at [campaigns@crustaceancompassion.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@crustaceancompassion.org.uk).

## ALAW CAREERS AFTERNOON REVIEW



### Natalie Harney

*Natalie is one of ALAW's Social Media and Communications Officers. She has a long-standing interest in Animal Law, particularly animal welfare law enforcement.*

On Friday 13th January 2017 I attended ALAW's very first Animal Law Careers Event.

The event was opened by ALAW's Student Officer, Edwina Bowles, and Student Co-Ordinator, Sally Shera-Jones, who made the exciting

announcement that the student team would be launching student ALAW (SALAW) branches across the UK, with one trial group already confirmed in London at Queen Mary's University.

ALAW's Chair, Paula Sparks, then went on to discuss ALAW in more depth, touching on the organisation's role and philosophies, whilst also discussing the existing animal welfare regulatory regime in the UK. Paula's highlighted that ALAW sees education and student and academic groups as key to the development of Animal Law as a discipline in the UK. Paula also highlighted the importance of recognising the tension between human and animal interests, which are at the heart of the current regulatory framework, and of contributing to that debate.

Next, Iain O'Donnell, a barrister at 1 Crown Office Row, gave a fascinating insight into his work prosecuting animal cruelty cases at the Bar, usually under the instruction of the RSPCA. Iain touched on some of the difficulties associated with this kind of work, including that judges often have limited experience of animal cruelty cases. This can, he said, sometimes lead to bad decisions being made. According to Iain, one of the most rewarding aspects of this type of work is the level of cross examination involved. However, Iain did stress that only a handful of barristers get to do this kind of work on a regular basis.

David Thomas, who provides legal counsel for Cruelty Free International (CFI), then went on to discuss Animal Law in the context of Public Law. Giving examples from his work with CFI, David discussed a range of public law options that can be used to advance animal protection. These include the use of FOI requests, judicial review and 'soft' law techniques, such as using planning laws. David gave a number of valuable tips on how to use the law to advance animal protection in general, including using the law as an integral part of campaigning, using creative solutions to find ways around obstacles, balancing passion with objectivity, and applying consistent pressure.

Next, Animal Aid's Farming & Slaughter Campaigns Manager, Luke Steele, discussed some

of the ways in which students can advance animal protection. Luke recommended that students take their universities to task over their animal protection records, and touched on some of the ways in which he and others had used the law to make positive changes. This included successfully challenging Harvey Nicholls at the High Court over their attempts to stop campaigners showing fur production videos to its customers. Luke's talk demonstrated that you don't need to be a lawyer to use the law to affect positive change for animals.

Antony Cooke from the Chambers Student Guide followed, and provided some useful tips to aspiring animal protection lawyers. Antony's advice included gaining relevant voluntary and work experience, looking to the area of human rights law for inspiration, building commercial awareness, and gaining overseas experience. Antony also highlighted the importance of developing empathy for the opposition's point of view, particularly as animal protection can be very emotive.

Fiona Cooke, who holds a PhD in companion animal welfare law enforcement, and Mike Radford, who is a Professor of Law at the University of Aberdeen, concluded the event. Mike suggested that there may not be a role as an 'animal protection lawyer' in the UK any time soon, but that there is a role for lawyers in advancing animal protection causes. For instance, Mike argued that lawyers can help bridge the gap between animal welfare science and law, and can help debunk the law for scientists. Mike also suggested that there are opportunities in academic research and policy making, as these are fields where animal law has largely been ignored.

In all, the Event was both extremely useful and inspiring. It provided a unique opportunity for students with an interest in animal law to receive advice from, and hear about the experiences of, some of the most significant figures working in the field of animal law in the UK today. One of the take away messages from the event was that it is extremely rare and difficult to forge a career in

animal law in the UK. However, there are opportunities out there to use the law to create meaningful change for animals if you are willing to look for them and be creative.

## SALAW UPDATE

We're pleased to announce the networks' first group, QMSALAW, became a Queen Mary affiliated society in November 2016. The first group meeting took place in the same month where the founder and co-officers met to introduce each other and discuss plans for the group.

QMSALAW's first event took place on 6th February 2017. They screened *Unlocking the Cage*, a documentary which follows American animal rights attorney Steven Wise and the pioneering litigation he is spearheading. The group is excited for the forthcoming "welcome week" for the 2017-18 academic year, at which the majority of sign ups take place.

The SALAW network consists of student groups registered with student unions at universities across the country, established and maintained by its student members. The purpose of SALAW is to provide a student forum for advancing animal law and the welfare of animals - making the network the first of its kind in the United Kingdom.

We'd like the network to foster greater collaboration between law students interested in advancing animal protection using legal mechanisms, and to subsequently create a strong community of law graduates who can bring this experience forward into the legal profession.

Animal law is by its very nature interdisciplinary – and not all advocates will be enrolled in law. As a guiding principle, we're encouraging SALAW groups to maintain an interdisciplinary approach and to work collaboratively. With this in mind, we invite students from other disciplines to get involved with the SALAW network.

We understand starting a student group can appear to be daunting at first, particularly given the heavy workload for law students. As such, we've recently put together a **'how to start' document**, to help you through the process of setting up a student group on campus, and to give an idea of what's involved in maintaining a student group.

Naturally the process and ideas are not limited to this document – and we encourage creativity and innovation in each groups' approach!

If you have any questions, or would like to start your own group, **please email the student group email address [studentgroup@alaw.org.uk](mailto:studentgroup@alaw.org.uk)**

## A CAREER IN ANIMAL LAW: ADVICE



### Antony Cooke

*Antony Cooke is editor of the Chambers Student guide and the US-focused Chambers Associate guide. He graduated from Durham University in French and Russian. He has taught English at St. Petersburg State University, worked as a project manager for Michelin France and at PwC as an associate in investment management.*

**There is no defined career path into animal law. Antony Cooke, editor of the *Chambers Student Guide*, considers how you might proceed.**

That you're even reading these pages is impressive: it sets you miles ahead of the pack. I meet flocks of fledgling lawyers on campuses every year. The few who chat to me about a chosen practice area stand out: their focus and passion tells me they're going to go far; you can see them excelling in interview. But by 'chosen practice area' I don't have in mind the thousands of students who liked their commercial law module and think heading for a commercial firm would be a nifty career move. To a recruiter this just appears a bit sloppy. To look at your degree first and then try to slot yourself into the professional world is a graduate cliché that frequently ends in disappointment – that familiar feeling that the world owes you something, when in fact big employers are indifferent to your self-worth. Sorry to break it to you.

Decent law firms don't dish out training contracts unless the student has examined the real world first and then figured out how to get there – and how to bring something to it. You've already done that. You've gazed upon the world, found something that needs fixing, and chosen to use your education to fix it.

So you're ahead of the pack. Last year we did some research into students' motivations for going into law and the results surprised us: we expected the money-prestige factor to be strong. But instead 'the intellectual challenge' and 'making the world a better place' were the top two motivations. This is a great thing, but it also causes problems for you: anyone familiar with the legal market will know that the 'making-the-world-a-better-place' jobs are scarce. Human rights law is hugely oversubscribed. Animal law doesn't even have a defined career path, yet vast numbers of animal-loving law students would love to build a career in it.

*'To view the commercial side as the bad guys in animal rights law is simplistic, often unfair and definitely lacking the lawyerly objectivity you should aspire towards.'*

The good news is you don't even have the chance to get all sad with career disillusion. You have to assume there are no junior jobs in animal law, and if you do end up in it, it's by happenstance. In essence, this was the message put forward by a panel of animal welfare lawyers at the ALAW careers afternoon held at Doughty Street Chambers I attended in January. Each lawyer recounted how they had entered the profession by orbiting around it in a casual sort of manner, dipping their toes in, and throwing themselves at the few opportunities they were given. This is unhelpful advice for a student, but here are some tips I picked up from them and other lawyers working in the making-the-world-a-better-place sector.

Firstly, you should do the opposite to what I normally advise students: broaden your options. If you amass skills in areas peripheral to animal law, you'll be a better lawyer when you finally get your

first animal cases. Criminal law, clinical negligence, personal injury, human rights, charity law and agriculture law will each build skills that allow you to sidestep convincingly into animal welfare law. But remember the challenges associated with each of the above. For example, the legal aid crisis means junior criminal solicitors or barristers tend to earn peanuts (not just peanuts in lawyer speak), and most have to supplement their peanuts with more lucrative work like personal injury. We've already seen how human rights jobs aren't a doddle to get, and then if you take agriculture law as a career, you might limit yourself early on both by geography and career options.

Let's crunch some numbers for a second (or make some sweeping generalisations). Take the student demand for the 'making-the-world-a-better-place' jobs, then look at where trainees actually end up, you see the same old trope of student optimism being ground down by the corporate machine. But the world is not so clear-cut: to view the commercial side as the bad guys in animal rights law is simplistic, often unfair and definitely lacking the lawyerly objectivity you should aspire towards. Remember in other sectors claimed as the territory of the progressives, such as climate change, the big energy companies and corporate law firms are the ones doing the pioneering work. Corporate responsibility is a big deal.

Your dream might be to become an animal rights lawyer, but to learn your craft as a lawyer by advising corporate clients is a still a positive career step. The commercial sector attracts extremely driven and talented people, and by working with them you'll pick up a coveted set of skills. Not only is the commercial route probably the most straightforward way to qualify, there are ways within it to build a skill set suitable for stepping into animal law. This might mean taking on the clinical negligence cases or class actions representing the commercial defendant: to have experience planning a defence strategy with a commercial client will be a huge asset when you come to fight cases for animals on the other side. So my second point is to view the commercial

route as a career option rather than a digression. I make it sound easy – if the commercial route were a breeze I would have no *Student Guide* to write.

### *'The burden is on you to create your own opportunities'*

My next tip is to know yourself. Where your passions lie and where your strengths lie can't clash or you won't succeed. Before you choose your entry route into the profession, understand how you'd respond to the various working environments each area of legal practice offers. Know what motivates you and what doesn't. Are you a self-starter or more comfortable being guided? How do you respond to stress? Are you stridently independent, naturally collaborative or a group leader? What kind of attention span do you have? Have you fallen asleep reading this? What topics interest you or bore you? Are you bothered about prestige or recognition? What kind of role models do you want to be working with? The practising Doughty Street panellists spoke of an internal conflict animal lawyers have to manage: their love of animals drew them into the sector; how do they now deal with the animal suffering they encounter every day? To know whether you'd be able to stomach it, go and speak to some vets or animal charity workers.

The burden is on you to create your own opportunities. Whilst better funded areas of law have fine-tuned their procedures, the life of an animal lawyer is much less structured. Precedents and processes are scarce. It will be up to you to advise on investigations, prise information from reluctant companies and government bodies. It promises to be a true test of your character. Getting your voice heard as a lawyer representing, say, a giant bank or a majority shareholder is going to be less challenging than advocating on behalf of animals – a client that has no voice, no power, nothing to bargain with and whose legal position is so open to interpretation.

To be that lawyer takes someone quite different. You actually have to be a self-starter. Unfortunately everyone says they're a self-starter



on their CVs, so demonstrate it through the opportunities you've created for yourself. To use human rights firms as probably the closest example of what you should be doing: the trainees we interview almost always did work experience with a charity such as Liberty or a public or international body. The same is even more true of the barristers we speak to.

The right candidate won't be intimidated by this news: they'll see it as a challenge. So go to events and network with the right people, read all the blogs, assume that your competition will have had connections and opportunities handed to them. Use every opportunity to build your experience and sector vernacular. And most importantly, proceed with passion and confidence – the two most employable qualities.

***To learn more about your entry routes into the profession, take a look at the Chambers Student Guide.***

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Undergraduate Essay Prize

The Animals & Society Institute (ASI) and Wesleyan Animal Studies (WAS) are currently seeking entries for their Undergraduate Paper Prize. Entries are sought from undergraduate students in the humanities, social sciences or natural sciences who are currently pursuing research which is related to the field of human-animal studies.

Although ASI and WAS are based in the US, they would be delighted to receive entries from UK students. Papers should be between 4,000-7,000 words long. The winning entry will be published in the journal, Society & Animals.

Possible topics can include:

- human-animal interactions in various settings (animal cruelty, the therapeutic uses of animals);
- the applied uses of animals (research, education, medicine and agriculture);

- the use of animals in culture (e.g. dog-fighting, circus, animal companions, animal research);
- attitudes toward animals as affected by different socializing agencies and strategies;
- representations of animals in literature, art, or popular culture;
- the domestication of animals;
- the politics of animal welfare; or
- the constitution of the animal rights movement.

Entries should be submitted by **1st August 2017**.

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**For more information visit:**

<https://www.animalsandsociety.org/human-animal-studies/undergraduate-paper-prize/>.

**The latest edition of Society & Animals is available here:**

<https://www.animalsandsociety.org/new-issue-society-animals/>.

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### Animal Law, Ethics and Legal Education Conference – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

We are extremely excited to be collaborating with the Liverpool John Moores University to host a one day conference event on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The conference will feature leading academics and researchers in the field delivering a series of lectures and workshops.

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**More information about the event can be found here:**

<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/conferences/animal-law-ethics-and-legal-education>

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### **New university course**

The Centre for Human-Animal Studies (based at Edge Hill University) is in the process of designing a new degree, a BA Hons Sociology with Human-Animal Studies. As well as providing training in Sociology, this will allow students to explore and

understand the social, cultural and ethical dimensions of human-animal relations. This would be the very first degree of its kind in the UK.

To gauge interest in the degree the course's prospective creators have set up a [very short feedback form](#), and would love for as many people as possible to complete it.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH: LUKE STEELE



*Luke is the Farming & Slaughter Campaigns Manager for Animal Aid. He is also a final year Law Undergraduate with the Open University Law School.*

### **What is your work/life/study balance like?**

It can be a challenge at times to find the right balance between work, life and study. One outlook which helps is that I view education not as a labour, but as a valuable component of life. This helps me take pleasure in finding new knowledge, even when digesting the driest of texts. However, having soul food also helps sustain yourself for the long term. This is where my love of nature, art and ideas comes in.

### **What is your favourite part of the law course?**

Learning.

### **Did you always know you wanted to be a lawyer?**

When growing up I always wanted to be a photojournalist or a lawyer. Doing the bohemian teenage thing, I headed to art college upon leaving school, where I trained in photography. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as it was some images which I took of stink pits - piles of rotting wildlife carcasses used to entice foxes into snares - on a Yorkshire grouse moor, which first got me noticed by Animal Aid. It was a desire to achieve lasting change for animals in society which eventually inspired me to pursue law.

### **When did you decide you wanted to practice Animal Law?**

I was first introduced to the notion of animal rights when reading a book on the topic at junior school. It really shocked me when I learnt about what goes on behind the closed doors of the vivisection laboratory, slaughterhouse or out in the hunting field. It was some years later that I realised such systematic exploitation would remain irremediable for as long as the legal framework considers animals to be property, at which point I also embarked upon practicing animal law.

### **Could you tell us a little bit about your current role at Animal Aid?**

My current role at Animal Aid largely involves working with politicians, journalists and a dedicated team of supporters to inspire people to make lasting changes for farmed animals. The suffering of animals in the agriculture sector is by large the greatest out of any single industry, yet the plight of these species so often goes unnoticed.

A large proportion of the role is taken up with co-ordinating undercover investigations into factory farms and slaughterhouses. This allows us to tell the stories of the individuals whose lives are needlessly extinguished for food and also hold those who break animal protection laws to account. Our latest investigation, for example, uncovered widespread failings at the largest

independent slaughterhouse in the North West, which includes a (now former) worker hacking at the throats of animals with blunt knives and another physically throwing sheep through the air. This has resulted in a number of slaughtermen having their licences revoked and the government launching an urgent criminal investigation with a view to securing a prosecution.

**What animal welfare case(s) is/are you most proud of?**

The habeas corpus claims being brought on behalf of captive chimpanzees by the Nonhuman Rights Project are up there at the top. These cases seek to right the wrong behind every aspect of institutionalised animal cruelty: that the legal framework archaically views animals as personal property and not individuals with a fundamental right to life, liberty and self determination.

The case surrounding animal cruelty at Cheale Meats, a large pig slaughterhouse in Essex where workers were caught on camera punching pigs, hitting the animals with a cricket bat and stubbing cigarettes out on their bare skin, is another which I hold highly. Despite clear evidence of unlawful cruelty, everything was stacked up against justice being obtained on behalf of those pigs. The relevant authorities firmly resisted bringing charges. Only after the threat of a judicial review did they eventually proceed, which resulted in those responsible for the savagery being jailed.

(See Cheale Meats case:

<https://www.animalaid.org.uk/timeline-case-cheale-meats-employees/>)

**Do you enjoy the work?**

The animals are my clients and I take huge pride in securing justice on their behalf, be that in the courts of law, public opinion or Parliament. Every heart and mind won makes it worthwhile.

**How can a fellow aspiring lawyer steer their practice towards this area?**

There are always opportunities to help animals, no matter how small. My advice would be to find one, run with it and learn from that experience.

To give an example, one of the first things I did as a law student was to successfully challenge a local authority deed which allowed the trapping of wild animals on public moorland as part of management for grouse shooting. The invaluable legal knowledge secured at law school allowed me to obtain copies of the trapping licenses, analyse them, secure the evidence necessary to challenging them and identify the relevant mechanism to appeal their issue.

**Why do you feel animal law is so important?**

Animal law seeks to establish fundamental rights for animals not because of what they, but because of who they are. As well as strengthening the hand of animals in society, the discipline holds those to account who breach existing protections.

**What do you think the future holds for animal law?**

Thanks to the work of organisations including the Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare (ALAW), Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics (OCAE) and Effective Altruism Foundation, animal protection on the whole is starting to get a serious footing in the academic realm. Awareness of animal issues is also growing on the whole. This progress is also ready translating into pressure for stronger animal rights laws. As a discipline animal law is burgeoning and in years to come it will undoubtedly form a part of the mainstream legal sector.

**LOOK ONLINE**

Faunalytics is a not for profit organisation dedicated to research to assist with animal advocacy:

<https://faunalytics.org/>

If you run an animal law blog or website and would like it mentioned in the next e-zine, email [studentgroup@alaw.org.uk](mailto:studentgroup@alaw.org.uk), c/o Grace Wright.

## REBLAW REVIEW



### Paula Sparks

*Paula Sparks is the Chair of ALAW.*

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016, I had the privilege of taking part in a panel discussion at the Reblaw UK Conference addressing nonhuman rights. At ALAW, we are concerned that the philosophies underlying animal protection law should be subject to proper scrutiny and welcome debate about concepts such as nonhuman rights.

While Natalie Cargill from Sentience Politics UK, Darren Calley (University of Essex), and solicitors, David Thomas and Christopher Price, explored – and debated - these concepts in greater depth, I started by addressing the question of whether the law already adequately protects animal interests.

There are many people who argue that animal interests are properly and adequately protected in a society that highly regulates the use of animals in areas such as farming, research, sport and entertainment. It is argued that while animal exploitation for human benefit is – and should be – permissible, animal interests are protected within the context of this use, so that animal suffering is minimised as far as possible.

The use of animals for food, clothing, research and entertainment does raise some uncomfortable issues about the balancing of human and animal interests and there is a view that it is intrinsically wrong to eat or exploit animals for human benefit, since the activity in itself cuts across the most basic rights of an animal, including the right to life and self-determination.

Accepting that - rightly or wrongly - society approves the widespread use of animals for human benefit, it is right that we should ask ourselves whether, within that context, animal interests are adequately protected in the balancing exercise or are always subsumed to human wants and needs, whatever the welfare cost.

Historically, the state did not intervene to prevent suffering to animals; domestic animals were treated as property and it was the interests of the owners that were protected (for example, from poaching or trespass, if the animal killed or harmed and property interests interfered with). Where injury was inflicted upon an animal by the owner, to intervene would be to trespass upon those property rights.

During the eighteenth century there was growing concern about animal suffering and John Lawrence, in 1796, called for the '*rights of beasts to be acknowledged by the state and a law framed to protect them from cruelty.*' It was not until 1822 that the first Act was passed concerned with punishing animal cruelty: '*An Act to prevent the cruel and improper Treatment of Cattle*' (known as 'Martin's Act').

There is now a raft of legislation that not only punishes cruelty, but regulates the nature and extent of animal use. These laws include:

- Animal Welfare Act 2006 which imposes positive welfare duties upon owners and keepers of animals or those who bring animals under their control;



- Hunting Act 2004, which controls the hunting of wild mammals with dogs and prohibits hare coursing in England and Wales;
- Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which provides regulation of animal experimentation;
- Zoo Licensing Act 1981, which requires the inspection and licensing of all zoos in Great Britain. The Act aims to ensure that, where animals are kept in enclosures, they are provided with a suitable environment to provide an opportunity to express most normal behaviour.
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, which set minimum standards for all farm animals.
- The Welfare of Animal (Transport) (England) Order 2006; Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations: provisions relating to transport of farmed animals.

Ostensibly, it might appear that animal interests are properly considered and protected by the law, even if there is some room for debate about where exactly the balance should lie between the human and animal interest.

Are these legal protections however, merely a mirage? In order to answer this we have to look to the reality of how animals are treated, what is and is not permitted and whether the laws are adequately enforced.

Farming is an obvious example. If we accept that society permits a certain degree of 'necessary' suffering intrinsic to the rearing and killing of animals for food, the question we need to ask is

whether - within that context - animal interests are adequately protected.

Certainly there are EU derived regulations which regulate animal husbandry, transportation and slaughter. These regulations contain important protections, which have many welfare benefits for animals. The problem however, is that the law regulates animal use *within the context* of industrial farming systems, even in the face of obvious and significant welfare detriments.

Current farming methods have led author of 'Sapiens', Yuval Noah Harari, to call industrial farming '*one of the worst crimes in history.*'<sup>3</sup> He writes: '*The root of the problem is that domesticated animals have inherited from their wild ancestors many physical, emotional and social needs that are redundant in farms. Farmers routinely ignore these needs without paying any economic price. They lock animals in tiny cages, mutilate their horns and tails, separate mothers from offspring, and selectively breed monstrosities.*'

The practices that Harari refers to are lawful. The '*selectively bred monstrosities*' he refers to may include selectively bred broiler chickens, which are bred to reach their slaughter weight in half the time it would take otherwise, as a result of which the broiler chickens are kept chronically hungry to avoid them suffering other welfare problems from being grossly overweight, a practice which the group, Compassion in World Farming, unsuccessfully attempted to have declared unlawful.<sup>4</sup>

The difficulty is that the law has not simply been powerless to protect animal interests from the consequences of industrial farming; it has

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/sep/25/industrial-farming-one-worst-crimes-history-ethical-question>

<sup>4</sup> *R (Compassion in World Farming Limited) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* [2004] EWCA Civ 1009

condoned those practices by protecting animal interests only within the context of the husbandry systems that have developed, including intensive farming methods, notwithstanding the severe welfare detriment caused to billions of sentient animals.

Similar concerns arise about the extent of the compromise to animal interests at the time of killing. This is another area where there is EU derived legislation.<sup>5</sup> The 2009 EU Regulation applies to all animals killed for the production of meat or other products in a slaughterhouse or on farm and aims to ensure that animals (including poultry and fish, but excluding reptiles and amphibians) are spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering at the time of killing. The detailed provisions set out in the 2009 EU Regulation are based on scientific advice from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and should therefore offer robust protection to animals.

There are however policy exceptions that compromise animal welfare. The most controversial of these is the exception to the regulation that animals should be stunned prior to slaughter, which is permitted in order to respect certain religious rites. Whilst this may be the most well known example, there are others, including the power for states to exclude from scope of the protection, the killing of animals during certain events derived from cultural traditions.

There are also economic interests that are allowed to trump the legal protections afforded to animals at the time of killing. For example, the use of carbon dioxide to kill pigs and the use of electric water bath stunners for poultry, both of which were the subject of recommendations by the EFSA, but were not incorporated into the 2009 EU Regulation, on the basis that the

recommendations were not '*economically viable*' across the EU at that time.

The examples taken above are from farming, which globally involves the use of billions of sentient animals each year. There are other such examples which can be found in all sectors of animal use, where the most important animal interests in avoiding pain, death and suffering give way to sometimes trivial or solely economic human interests.

It is unsurprising therefore that people ask whether a different legal philosophy should underpin animal protection law; one that will require animal interests to be given greater consideration in the balancing exercise that necessarily takes place if we accept animal use in our society.

### Essay Competition Winners

I am delighted to announce the winners of ALAW's 2016/17-essay competition.

The subject discussed was the very topical matter of puppy farming. The title that had to be addressed was as follows: "boycotting dogs bred in puppy farms will increase these dogs' suffering further and therefore cannot be justified."

All the essays we received were to a very high standard, which made the decision very difficult. However, after much deliberation we felt the stand out essays came from the following:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize Chris Sangster**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Marcia Hagon**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Robyn-Florence James**

<sup>5</sup> See *EC Council Regulation 1009/2009* on the protection of animals at the time of killing ('the 2009 EU Regulation') and *The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015*

## **IN THE NEWS**

### **Animal rights pioneer Tom Regan passes at 78**

*'It is not an act of kindness to treat animals respectfully. It is an act of justice.'*

In February the animal advocacy community mourned the loss of a leading figure, Dr. Tom Regan. Regan's contribution to animal law includes *The Case for Animal Rights* (1983), which presented a cohesive moral argument for animal rights – a philosophical departure from the utilitarian and welfare streams that preceded him.

### **USDA removes public database of animal abuse records**

In February animal advocacy groups in the USA initiated legal action against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), after the public database of animal abuse records was removed from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website.

While a small fraction has now re-appeared online, animal advocacy groups have argued that the amount restored is not enough to prevent them from continuing legal action. For 17 years, the page had been maintained by APHIS, the agency responsible for monitoring, enforcing and recording violations of the Animal Welfare Act. APHIS has cited privacy concerns as the reason for the data's disappearance.

This data is vital for journalists and animal welfare organisations – particularly in response to abuse allegations and subsequent investigations. The database has also played a significant role in exposing the mistreatment of animals by institutions, where APHIS citations offered a source of documentary evidence.

The USDA has assured that the information is accessible through official Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, however Born Free CEO Adam Roberts has since noted the months-long process, and the detrimental effect

any delay could have on agencies responding to animal welfare complaints.

Further, when National Geographic made an FOIA request to the USDA, the department responded with 1,771 pages of entirely redacted records. The FOIA indicated that the redaction was necessary as the record related to ongoing litigation, however it has been argued that withholding 1,771 pages is excessive.

### **Increased concern for Australian animal advocacy groups**

Australian advocacy groups Voiceless and the Animal Justice Party have expressed concern about roundtables hosted by the New South Wales (NSW) government, regarding farm trespass. The parties in attendance included Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, the NSW primary industries minister, the NSW police, the RSPCA and industry groups including NSW Farmers.

Documents obtained under access to information laws by Greens NSW MP Dr. Mehreen Faruqi revealed the roundtable discussions to have taken place in August 2015, and centred on strategies to address activists trespassing on farmland to undertake surveillance, as well as the animal charities supporting undercover investigations. Advocacy groups are particularly sensitive to further restrictions on undercover investigations, whistleblowing and journalist activities, given the recent push for 'ag-gag' legislation across the country. 'Ag-gag' is a term used to describe legislation that prevents undercover filming and photography on farms.

The government and attendees expressed concern about the legitimacy of organisations using such tactics, and are in favour of a crackdown on these activities. Deterrence strategies included increasing the statute of limitation for some offences, altering how evidence can be gathered to make it easier to prosecute animal activists, and stripping tax benefits from animal charities that engage in or support these activities.

The discussions also included a suggestion to install surveillance cameras for the collection of evidence. While this is a measure long called-for by animal activists, this surveillance would be installed with the purpose of deterring activists.

The animal advocacy community has responded by highlighting the value of undercover footage, specifically with regards to the greyhound industry, abuse in abattoirs, and systemic breaches in the live animal export industry.

## **Belgium region bans religious slaughter**

Belgium's Walloon region has voted in favour of banning the slaughter of unstunned animals. The ban would stop the production of halal and kosher meats which do not permit an animal to be stunned prior to slaughter. The ban is due to take effect from September 2019.

Similar legislation banning religious slaughter has also been proposed in the Flanders region of Belgium.

## **Public anger as farm worker filmed abusing cows avoids jail**

Farm worker Owen Nichol, 18, was filmed undercover hitting, stamping on and throwing newborn calves at a farm in Somerset.

Nichol pleaded guilty to two charges of causing an animal unnecessary suffering contrary to the Animal Welfare Act 2006. He received a suspended sentence of 12 weeks and 150 hours of unpaid work. He was also disqualified from owning or keeping animals for 2 years.

## **Death of zookeeper prompts concerns over zoo licencing regime**

Tiger keeper Rosa King, 33, was killed by a tiger at Hamerton Zoo Park in Cambridgeshire on 29<sup>th</sup>

May 2017. This is not the first time a keeper has been killed by a tiger in the UK – in 2013, Sarah McClay, 24, died after a Sumatran tiger attacked her whilst she was carrying out cleaning and feeding duties at South Lakes Safari Park, Cumbria.

Ms King's tragic death last month has sparked discussion about the zoo licencing regimes in place in the UK and how improvements could be made.

Hamerton Zoo Park remains closed whilst an investigation is carried out. Police have confirmed that the zoo will determine the fate of the tiger.

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*We were delighted as always to receive your submissions for the e-zine. We welcome constructive and critical submissions on any aspect of animal law from students including book reviews, event reviews, news items, case comments and critiques of legislation. If there are any animal law issues you would like us to cover, let us know. Send any submissions or feedback about the e-zine to ALAW Student Coordinator Grace at [studentgroup@alaw.org.uk](mailto:studentgroup@alaw.org.uk).*

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All views expressed are those of each respective author and are not necessarily the views of ALAW.

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