

ANIMAL JUSTICE UK

VOLUME 6 | DECEMBER 2018

ROMANIA'S STRAYS

Tiffany Mitchell explores Romania's lucrative stray dog business

ENFORCEMENT

Liz Tyson explains why enforcement in zoos needs to be taken seriously

FUR FARMING

Connor Jackson calls on the UK Government to enact a ban on importing fur

AJUK INVESTIGATES

Harriet Blayney investigates the impact of plastic pollution on marine life

INTERVIEW: SEAN BRUNTON QC



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WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of Animal Justice UK, A-law's eMagazine for students with an interest in animal law and policy.

It gives us great pleasure to introduce to you Tiffany Mitchell, who joined the A-law Student Team earlier this year after graduating with a law degree from the University of Leicester. Tiffany is a regular contributor to Animal Justice UK and ran her own animal law society whilst at University. In light of these impressive credentials, she is the perfect person to take on responsibility for co-ordinating A-law's University Groups and Student Ambassador scheme after former Student Co-ordinator, Sally Jones, stepped down from the role upon returning to her native Australia to pursue a Masters. We would like to thank Sally for her tremendous work and wish Tiffany the very best of luck in her new role with us.

In this bumper edition of Animal Justice UK, we bring you contributions from a wide range of authors touching on topics as diverse as plastic pollution, enforcement in zoos and the Romanian stray dog trade. We're also delighted to bring you another fantastic interview, this time with Sean Brunton QC, an accomplished barrister with a wealth of experience in animal law. We are sure his insights will inspire and motivate many of you.

On page 13, we launch our Annual Student Essay Competition for 2019, which touches on the highly topical theme of personhood. We hope that many of you will be inspired by this topic and will want to submit entries.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Edie, Natalie, Tiffany & Alice
A-law Student Team

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ANIMAL OF THE ISSUE: TORTOISES

BY LILY COULSTOCK-COCKERAM

Most people know two things about tortoises - they're slow-moving and can live for a very long time. What most people don't know is that tortoises are also very affectionate animals who have the ability to recognise their caregivers and enjoy having their necks and shells stroked. There is also an important difference between tortoises and turtles. Tortoises are technically 'turtles', as they are categorised under the umbrella of the 'testudinidae' group. However, they are the type of turtle that lives on land and cannot live in or near water, as they would drown! Another unique feature of this species is that they tend to hibernate when the weather becomes colder, either in their natural wild

habitats or in captivity. If in captivity, tortoises can hibernate in secure containers, such as boxes, that are kept in a temperature controlled area. Alternatively, they bury themselves through the winter, as they do in the wild.

However, the life of many tortoises is not this rosy. 61% of 356 turtle species have become extinct or are threatened due to destruction of their habitats, over-exploitation by the pet trade and for food. Between 2000 and 2015, over 300,000 specimens of tortoises and turtles were seized, many of which were connected to criminal networks supplying them for traditional Chinese medicinal



purposes. 'Exotic' pets are popular both in developed and developing countries, which also fuels the trade. It is relatively easy to buy a tortoise illegally in countries with lax customs control where CITES-listed species are frequently available for sale at local markets, often with stallholders openly disclosing that they were smuggled illegally.

Attempts have been made to protect tortoises from the illegal trade by listing their species in the annexes of CITES (the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**). In order to sell some of the most common breeds of tortoise, including Hermann's, Spur-thighed and Marginated tortoises, a certificate is required so as to control sales volume.

"Between 2000 and 2015, over 300,000 specimens of tortoises and turtles were seized, many of which were connected to criminal networks supplying them for traditional Chinese medicinal purposes."

Indeed, many are listed in Appendix I, meaning they are classified as highly endangered. Further, wild species cannot be traded internationally for commercial purposes. Licences and export permits are used for captive species listed under Appendix I, and some limited trade is permitted for species under Appendices II (pertaining to species that may become threatened unless trade is strictly regulated). However, despite these robust listing systems, CITES suffers from international law's classic problem. Without prioritisation by party states, who sometimes use their involvement in CITES as an opportunity to lobby for the downlisting of commercially

lucrative species, customs control and political will remains weak. CITES also lacks teeth, with laughably low fines for infringing parties. Trade embargoes and collective retorsion (a ban on all trade in specimens from a particular species) are more effective, but have not been used to protect tortoises so far.

It is clear that this legal framework is not enough to adequately protect tortoises. They survived the mass extinction that killed the dinosaurs, but can they survive human greed? With the climate crisis and over-exploitation of the earth already facing us, only time will tell.

Lily is a secondary school English Language Teacher in Hong Kong. She studied Law at the University of Nottingham and studied both Animal Law and Wildlife Law as part of her course. She is passionate about achieving better lives for all animals.

REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S bTB STRATEGY RELEASED

Last month, a highly anticipated review of the Government's Bovine TB strategy was released. Also known as the Godfray Review, it concludes that badgers do pose a threat to cows. However, it also concludes controversy around badger culling has deflected attention away from the livestock industry itself, which should be doing more to control the disease. In particular, the review recommends that the livestock industry should address poor biosecurity and limit trading of high-risk cattle.

The Review was released after the Government announced plans to extend badger culling to eleven new areas in England. You can read the Review [here](#).



ENGLISH ZOOS: THE NEED TO TAKE ENFORCEMENT SERIOUSLY

BY ELIZABETH TYSON

In England and Wales, the **Zoo Licensing Act 1981** (ZLA 1981) has been in place for almost forty years. According to the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), the zoo trade body in the British Isles, the ZLA 1981 is "recognised as being one of the most robust licensing systems across Europe." It may be the case that the legislation itself appears to be robust, and provides a range of enforcement tools to local authorities in order to bring non-compliant zoos into line. However, research I have conducted demonstrates that an almost complete absence of enforcement action - caused in large part by a lack of understanding of the law at local authority level - severely

compromises the Act's efficacy.

How Zoo Licensing Works in England

All zoos in England must be licensed by local authorities subject to the mandatory provisions of s.1A of the ZLA 1981, which implement the core demands of **Directive 1999/22/EC** (The EC Zoo Directive) including, in s.1(a)(c) provisions relevant to animal welfare. Failure to comply with licence conditions without reasonable excuse is an offence under s.19 (2) of the Act and failure to comply with conditions within an agreed timescale can lead to zoo closure using enforcement tools available under section



16A of the same. In order to fulfil their obligation under the ZLA 1981, local authorities must attach conditions to the licence of every zoo which demand compliance with s. 1A.

If properly applied, the ZLA 1981 provides remedies which see non-compliant zoo operators fined under s.19 for failure to meet standards and a process, via s.16A and associated sections of the Act, which provides a long-term solution for the animals held by the zoo should the establishment persistently fail to meet standards and the zoo be mandatorily closed (as outlined in s. 16E of the Act). My research sought to understand the extent to which the enforcement tools available under the ZLA 1981 are applied when non-compliance is recognised by zoo inspectors.

What I Did

Data in the form of available formal zoo inspection reports for zoos in England was collected from local authorities relating to the period between 1st January 2008 to 10th July 2014. In total, 307 formal inspection reports relating to 185 zoos located across 113 different local authorities were analysed. Data was recorded in relation to each instance whereby an inspector had explicitly noted that a provision of the legislation had not been met.

I carried out a simple analysis which considered the number of times non-compliance that should give rise to action under s.16A and/or constitute an offence under s.19 was met with the correct enforcement action. This gave rise to the main quantitative results. Of the 307 reports analysed, 17,804 individual answers to questions were considered relevant for this part of the research.

What I Found Out

Between 2008 and 2014, 783 instances of non-compliance that should give rise to enforcement action being carried out under s.16A were noted by inspectors. Zero directions were issued by local authorities under s.16 during the same period. In addition, according to the information provided, zero prosecutions under s.19 were carried out by responding local authorities against zoos included in this study during the period 1st January 2008 – 10th July 2014. This is despite the fact that the 783 instances of non-compliance warranting action under s.16A noted in the zoos to which the responses relate might also indicate associated offences under s.19 of the Act.

Of the 185 zoos analysed, 135 zoos should have been faced with action under s.16A of the Act at some stage during the six-year period; some more than once. This represents 73% of all zoos. Of the 185 analysed, 49 zoos were noted to have committed offences under s.19 of the Act; again, some more than once. This represents 26% of all zoos.

"Of the 185 zoos analysed, 135 zoos should have been faced with action under s.16A of the Act at some stage during the six-year period; some more than once. This represents 73% of all zoos."

Conclusion

It is clear from these results that there is an almost complete lack of formal enforcement action being carried out against zoos under the ZLA 1981, despite widespread and explicitly recognised non-compliance with statutory standards. Subsequent discussion with local authority representatives pointed

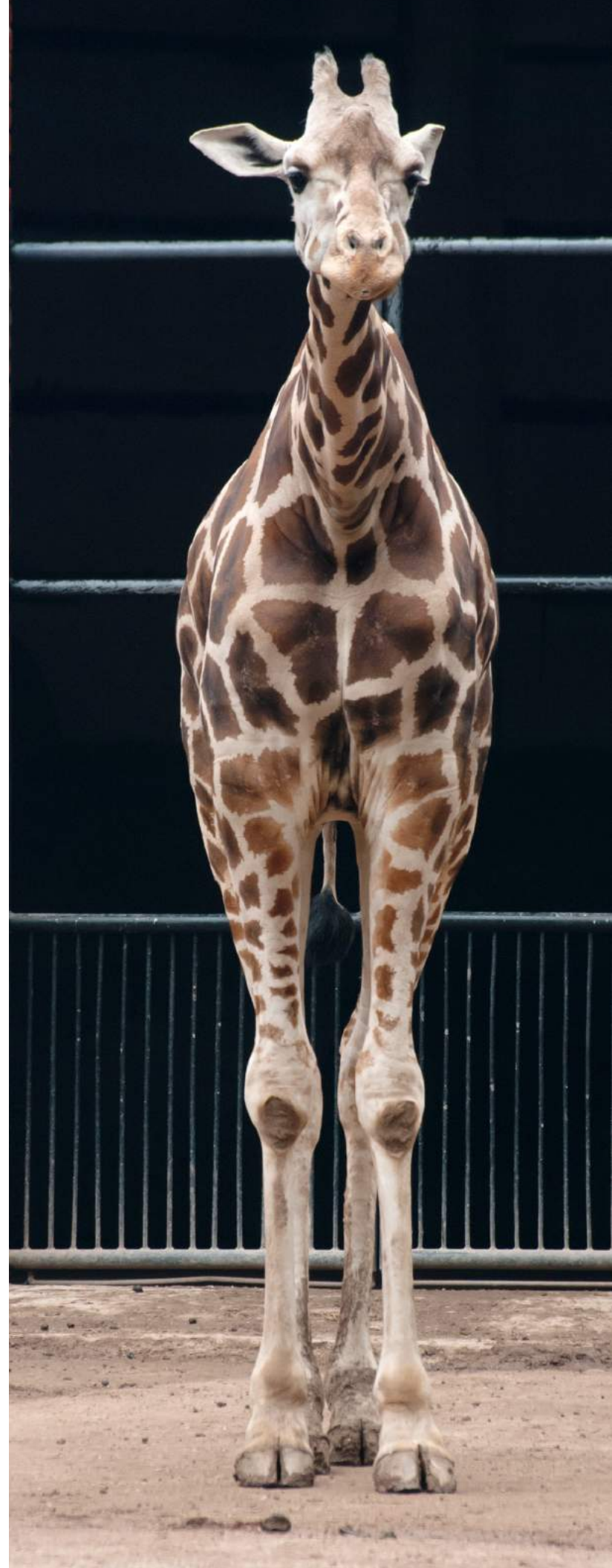
towards a lack of training as one of the key concerns and one of the main reasons that the ZLA 1981 is not being correctly enforced. Testimonies from local authority representatives included the following comments:

“We need more training... the old DEFRA seminar every two years was good for this. There is very little opportunity for training and with cuts to Councils, there is less and less staff to carry out this function.”

“I think there should be more training for Local Authority Officers. DEFRA should run more courses across the country for Local Authorities, because some Officers are given the task of licensing zoos when their training was in another discipline like food hygiene, housing or nuisance and not in animal welfare.”

Training used to be delivered by DEFRA but was cut some years ago, presumably to accommodate budget cuts. As zoo licensing is cost recoverable, it is recommended that training is reinstated and covered via an increase in licensing costs. My research explored various other concerns in relation to delivery and enforcement of the ZLA 1981 but concluded that significant improvements in delivery could be made by reinstating investment in the training of local authorities as a starting point.

Elizabeth has worked in the animal protection NGO sector, both in the UK and abroad, for 15 years. She is currently Director of the Born Free Primate Sanctuary in Texas. She is a law graduate and completed her PhD in Animal Welfare Law at the University of Essex in 2018. Her doctoral thesis considered the efficacy of legal protection for animals in zoos and circuses in England.





REVIEW: ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CONFERENCE 2018

BY ALICE COLLINSON

On 11 and 12 October 2018, London hosted the fourth International Wildlife Trade Conference in Battersea Park. The event was attended by over 1000 delegates, including representatives from 80 nations and 400 NGOs.

Discussion centred around three key themes, and included presentations from the public sector, as well as Government and law enforcement bodies. The themes were:

1. Tackling International Wildlife Trade (IWT) as a serious organised crime: strengthening end-to-end law enforcement and addressing associated corruption;
2. Building coalitions: engaging the private sector, NGOs and academia; harnessing technology and innovation; and
3. Closing markets for illegally traded wildlife.

The two days were packed with parallel discussion panels, a networking evening, and many other opportunities for international delegates to discuss ways to collaborate on this issue. A number of organisations, along with DEFRA, held side stalls at the event which promoted additional discussion.

Much of the conference focus was on the African elephant poaching crisis and the forming of the Ivory Alliance 2024, a coalition working to ban the illegal trade in ivory in 30 additional countries. Along with international political ambassadors, we heard from Alexandra Bounxouei and Bella Lack (pictured), young advocates who delivered emotive speeches emphasising the impact of

IWT on future generations, and the need to recognise the impacts on individual animals.

Numerous heads of states and vice presidents from all over provided an insight into successes since the last IWT meetings, such as increased penalties; along with the continuing challenges faced. A number of UK MPs and other figures presented to the delegates, including the Duke of Cambridge, William Hague, Michael Gove, Jeremy Hunt and Zac Goldsmith. Welcome news unfolded during the event concerning countries that are following China and the UK's lead by putting legislation in place to ban the sale of elephant ivory. Discussion also specifically covered the positive outcomes and challenges of China's 2017 ban by those close to the issue.



Side discussions included a tech panel of Google and Ebay representatives, describing the steps being taken to reduce the online trade in endangered species and their products. Members of the recently formed Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online - coordinated by WWF, Traffic and IFAW - are aiming to reduce this practice by 80% by 2020; the coalition currently has over 20 company members. Other private sector engagement included reports from the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce, United for Wildlife Financial Services Taskforce and the Buenos Aires Declaration on Travel & Tourism and Illegal Wildlife Trade, all of which provided various corporate commitments to work against IWT.

Further side panel discussions concerned religious and faith efforts to curb IWT and reducing demand for IWT by changing consumer behaviours, with perspectives from researchers both in and outside of the conservation field.

Although, not a discussion focus, conservation threats to Asian elephants were also represented by Save the Asian Elephants and other organisations in attendance, as well as

countless other species including rhino, cheetahs, pangolins, grey parrots and endangered plant species. Whilst animal welfare and compassionate conservation were points touched upon in discussions around the live trade in endangered species for the pet trade from Latin America and the Caribbean (the first time live trade has been discussed at a global IWT conference), this was not a central point of discussion.

During the event stakeholders were filmed making pledges to take actions to end IWT, including funding various projects. The 2018 Declaration, where various commitments were made to target IWT following the conference, and which was signed by 50 countries, can be found [here](#).

Alice is a lawyer and A-Law's Academic & Student Coordinator. She has experience in the animal welfare and conservation sector in the UK, US and Kenya, with a particular interest in legislation and policy surrounding human/wildlife conflict. She attended the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference as a volunteer representative of Save the Asian Elephants.





AJUK INVESTIGATES

PLASTIC POLLUTION

BY HARRIET BLAYNEY

It is currently estimated that around 12 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean each year. [1] Data portal LITTERBASE studied thousands of scientific papers to understand how marine life interacts with ocean litter. The papers showed that 1,286 marine species interact with ocean litter, 70% of which is plastic. [2] But what impact does this interaction have on marine life?

A recent example that shows the impact that plastic pollution is having on marine life comes from Norway. A six-meter-long Cuvier's beaked whale continually beached itself in January 2017. After several attempts at guiding the emaciated whale back out to sea, it was clear to veterinarians that the mammal was extremely ill and should be euthanised. The post-mortem illustrated the gruesome state our oceans are in; the whale's stomach was full of around thirty large plastic bags, smaller bags, chocolate bar wrappers and other human litter, which will have undoubtedly contributed to the whale's death.

It is not just mammals that plastic is affecting. Around 90% of seabirds have consumed plastic particles that they have mistaken for food, some even starve to death because they feel full after consuming plastic. [3] According to BBC Earth, 161g of plastic was found in the stomach of one albatross chick. [4] This kind of discovery is unfortunately common; within some colonies, up to 96% of seabird chicks have been found to have plastic in their stomachs. Plastic therefore poses a significant threat to sea bird populations, and particularly species that are already in decline. Albatross, for example, only lay one egg per year and are currently one of the world's most threatened family of birds.

Sea turtles are also at a significant risk of ingesting plastic. A study published in the journal, Scientific Reports, suggested that younger turtles face the highest risk. The study also found that a turtle who consumes one piece of plastic has a 1 in 5 chance of death due to the debris causing blockages and internal injuries. [5] Therefore, it is highly important that plastic pollution in the ocean is dramatically reduced in order for these struggling species to survive.

92% of plastics in the ocean are microplastics; smaller than a grain of rice. It is easy to assume that the smaller the plastic, the less of a problem it causes. However, due to their minute size, microplastics are currently entering the food chain at the lowest level. Scientists at Plymouth Marine Laboratory have videoed zooplankton ingesting these tiny pieces of plastic. Fish and shellfish then feed on the zooplankton which may result in toxins from the plastics becoming concentrated within animal tissues. This then enters the human food chain via seafood consumption. This may be causing concerns for human health as well as the marine animals ingesting it. It is currently unknown whether eating seafood contaminated with plastic is harmful to humans. However, a study into the effect upon bottlenose dolphins living off the coast of Sarasota may hint at the potential consequences. [6] The study revealed high mortality rates amongst first-born calves, thought to be caused by microplastic contamination of the mother's milk. [7]

These examples illustrate our oceans as drowning in plastic, but can the tide be turned before it is too late? At the United Nations Environment Assembly 2017, entitled 'Towards a Pollution-Free Planet', the UK Government agreed to prioritise - 'where feasible' - a clean-up of the marine environment. To do this, the Government produced the report, 'A Green Future: Our 25 year plan to improve the environment' (Green Future), which sets out policies to 'protect and enhance the environment'. The plan includes actions the Government is taking to restore the ocean's health, such as the 5p plastic bag charge and a ban on the manufacture and sale of rinse-off personal care products containing microbeads. Green Future includes a four-point plan which aims to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042, taking

action at each stage of the product lifecycle, namely production, consumption, end of use and waste management.

At the production stage, the Government hopes to 'encourage producers to take more responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products' by encouraging the use of bio-degradable or recyclable packaging. [8] Additionally, the Government plans to build on the microbeads ban by exploring whether other problematic materials can also be banned. The ban on microbeads is undoubtedly a positive development. However, microbeads only make up 2% of plastic in the ocean. [9] Whilst the ban is progressive, it is important that the Government upscales their regulation of other harmful products.

At the consumption stage, Green Future aims to reduce the amount of plastic in circulation by reducing the demand for

single-use plastic. One way the government has already moved towards this is through the the 5p carrier bag charge which is enshrined in law via the **The Single Use Carrier Bags Charges (England) Order 2015**. Green Future claims this new legislation has successfully reduced the use of plastic carrier bags by 83%, but the UK is still using 2.1 billion each year. Although that figure means the UK is now using 9 billion fewer plastic bags per year [10], our ocean is still suffocated by them. Plastic bags have even been found in a deep sea vent in the pacific ocean, showing just how far they can travel from their original location. [11] The Government now plans to extend the 'highly successful' 5p carrier bag charge to small retailers in an effort to decrease these numbers further.

Green Future plans to support businesses and water companies in the implementation of new 'refill points' in order to reduce the



the consumption of single-use plastic bottles. The Government also plans to work with retailers to 'explore introducing plastic-free supermarket aisles'. This has proved popular in other countries and is likely to be successful in reducing single-use plastic consumption, if introduced.

Green Future poses many strategies to reduce consumption of single-use plastic which would help the fight against plastic pollution, but many of the ideas revolve around 'exploring' options. The desperate state of our oceans calls for immediate intervention and many believe implementation within 25 years is not ambitious enough. Policies such as 'removing all single use plastics from the central government estate offices' are highly unlikely to have the nationwide impact that is so clearly required.

"Of the 480 billion plastic bottles sold in 2016, less than 50% were recycled and only 7% turned in to new bottles."

Green Future also addresses the end of use and waste management stages of the product lifecycle. Here, the government aims to make it easier for the public to recycle as well as improve the rate of recycling. The problem remains that urgent action is vital for the future of our marine environment, yet ideas such as reforming the waste management system may take many years to complete. Of the 480 billion plastic bottles sold in 2016, less than 50% were recycled and only 7% turned in to new bottles. **[12]** This begs the question of whether it would be more worthwhile for the government to spend less time and resources on reforming the recycling system and more on actually reducing the use and need for plastic in the first place.



The infamous Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the world's largest plastic accumulation zone. The patch is made up of 79,000 tonnes of plastic, most of which is abandoned fishing gear. [13] Commercial fishing equipment is one of the largest contributors to marine plastic, as well as the most lethal. Green Future names fishing as a vital industry in the UK and one that relies on a healthy marine environment. The Government plans to find the 'most appropriate way of drawing down the riches of the sea', which clearly is not a move towards reducing commercial fishing. Therefore, as well as addressing single-use plastics, perhaps the Government should be imposing more legislation to regulate commercial fishing to reduce the threat.

Green Future states 'tiny changes in our daily decisions can make an immediate difference'. Whilst this is true, the health of our oceans, and therefore our entire planet, is under threat and requires immediate and extensive action from the government to bring our oceans back from the brink of destruction. We must now learn to tread more lightly on our planet through education, protection and legislation to stop the plastic tide.

Harriet is from Yorkshire and is currently a final year LLB Law student at the University of Hertfordshire. She has a strong interest in environmental law, animal conservation and marine life.

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ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION



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3RD PRIZE

£30 book vouchers.

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Friday 22nd February 2019.

2019 STUDENT PRIZE

It's that time of year again when we call on all you hard working and passionate students to get involved with our annual essay competition.

The title this year is the highly topical:

Explain the potential significance of granting legal personhood to animals in the UK.

The competition is open to all students at any stage in their studies. Essays should be no more than 1,500 words long. For full details visit www.alaw.org.uk/essaycomp. Email your entries to studentgroup@alaw.org.uk.



REVIEW: THE FIFTH OXFORD CENTRE FOR ANIMAL ETHICS SUMMER SCHOOL

BY KATHERINE HANNIGAN

During the summer I attended my first Animal Ethics Summer School in Oxford. This year's theme focused on how the law can create positive change for animals. The event included discussions about the motivations and strategies for achieving legal reform, as well as issues involving the administration, enforcement and effectiveness of existing legislation from around the world. Ethicists, legal scholars, barristers and solicitors, anti-cruelty inspectors and politicians were all welcomed to give religious, anthropological, scientific, psychological, and sociological perspectives on the matter.

My four-days started with a full vegan buffet

and a warm and humorous welcome by Professor Andrew Linzey and his daughter, Clair. Soon after, we were invited to watch *Unlocking the Cage* by Steve Wise, lawyer and President of the Nonhuman Rights Project. I remember watching his documentary a few years ago and I felt just as impressed and inspired as the first time.

After the screening, the floor opened to a question and answer session where fellow Academics really showed their passion and shared their own contributions on animal law and ethics. At that moment it became apparent that the real purpose of the conference was for everyone to connect and



and showcase how they are creating positive change for animals.

One of my favourite talks was by Carla Campanaro, Head of Legal Office at LAV in Italy. Her story was heartbreaking, yet inspiring, as Carla perfectly described how lawmakers and public activists worked together to save more than 3000 dogs who were being mistreated at a research facility called Green Hill in Brescia, Italy.

Similarly inspiring was Professor Teresa Giménez-Candela and Nuria Menéndez de Llano's on how their media campaign has gained public momentum and is changing the legal paradigm for animals in Spain from 'things' to sentient beings.

Mark Glover from UK-based campaign group, Respect for Animals, was also a guest lecturer. His lecture focused on how UK Civil Law has been used against him and how it is currently silencing animal advocates. Despite these obstacles, he has still changed public attitudes and helped bring about an end to

fur farming in Britain.

It is my opinion that his lecture set the tone for the Gala Dinner where Kimberley Moore, an Attorney from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, the event sponsor, was the Key Note Speaker. Her speech focused on how and why 'Laws Matter'. My favourite quote from Kimberley's speech was "there is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come." This quote perfectly reflected the theme of the Summer School as, regardless of everyone's differences, we all agreed that the time to change animal law and animal ethics for the better has arrived.

Whilst I cannot write about all of my favourite lectures, I want to say a huge thank you to Andrew Linzey, Clair Linzey, A-law and all the lecturers and attendees of the Summer School. As a first-timer, it felt as though I had finally met the community I had been looking for. I would like to encourage anyone interested in animal rights and animal ethics to attend next year's sixth Summer School on Humane Education; you will not regret it!





INCORPORATING ANIMAL LAW INTO MY CAREER

BY ROB ESPIN

Being the first of my family to go to university, I don't come from a family of vets or lawyers, and my interest in animal welfare was most likely started by my family's relationship with companion animals during my youth. Such an interest in companion animals then developed to include animals of all kinds, including agricultural and especially wild animals as I grew up in a rural area.

Studying Animal Law

I maintained this interest throughout my law studies at the University of Nottingham, where I was fortunate enough to study the International Wildlife Law module which was

imaginatively and expertly delivered by Michael Bowman, who offers considerable insight into the field. The module was a comprehensive tour-de-force of the field of wildlife law, which provided an excellent grounding and understanding of the legal issues surrounding contemporary topics including the **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling**, trade in endangered species and the legal protection surrounding migratory species of fauna. The module also evaluated the political and economic aspects, which can frequently be understated.

The module briefly considered the subject of



"Wildlife, Welfare and Moral Status" which discussed how issues of animal welfare are reflected in the international conservation of habitats and animals. This introduction to how pervasive and important animal welfare could be inspired me to try and pursue some form of animal law work in addition to my private practice work.

Pro Bono, Wildlife Conservation and Animal Welfare

Whilst not directly connected to my daily private practice work as a commercial lawyer, I manage to maintain a role with the Lifescape Project, a cross disciplinary project between, amongst others, academics, lawyers and conservationists aiming to promote the conservation of biodiversity in the UK. Whilst our primary focus is conservation, one of our major projects focuses of the reintroduction of animals that are native to Great Britain but have subsequently been made extinct. Part of the work surrounding this necessarily includes considerations of the legal requirements concerning the welfare of the animals being reintroduced.

I've also had the privilege of being involved in international animal welfare law projects, including working alongside a spectrum of excellent legal professionals who advise Animal Law.IT, an Italian organisation that aims to educate the public on issues of animal welfare whilst also producing papers and advice to concerned organisations and persons.

My Tips for Students Wishing to Work in this Area

If you can then absolutely do study any animal welfare related modules at university, but don't think that this is the only method through which to learn more about the

subject. There are various websites, publications and journals (including A-law's!) which, if regularly reviewed, will give you a great awareness of current issues in the field. Moreover, animal law is made up of more than just legislation and case law concerning animal welfare; understanding public and criminal law is also crucial to attaining a real grasp of the practice.

Rob is an associate in Clifford Chance's Restructuring and Insolvency department. When he is not focusing on private practice work, Rob provides pro bono legal advice to a conservation organisation called the Lifescape Project which is working towards (amongst other things) the reintroduction to the United Kingdom of animal species historically native to the country that have become extinct over time. Rob graduated in law from the University of Nottingham in 2015, a course which included the study of International Wildlife Law. Rob spends a considerable amount of time working and living in Italy, where he assisted the Italian animal welfare charity Animal Law.IT. He looks forward to assisting A-law moving forward.



A-LAW STUDENT GROUP UPDATE

A-law's Student Group is continually growing. We are so proud to have such interest and dedication from passionate and keen students across the UK. Currently we have nineteen Student Ambassadors at sixteen universities as well as **two** University Groups. We will be sharing their events on our social media channels so do check frequently for updates. If you would like your student event shared, please send it to studentgroup@alaw.org.uk. Equally, if you are interested in getting involved and would like more information about A-law's Student Group, becoming an Ambassador or setting up your own University Group, please email us the above address.

MEET OUR NEWEST STUDENT AMBASSADORS

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM: LAUREN PEACH



Lauren is a second year Law student at the University of Birmingham. Living in rural Suffolk means that Lauren has always been close to and loved animals. However, her passion for animal rights really developed after making the decision to go vegan this year. Lauren's aim as an A-Law Student Ambassador is to bring animal law to her campus. By holding A-Law events, she hopes to inspire interest and conversation about animal rights, and encourage people to think about how we can change current animal law legislation in the UK, and worldwide, to better facilitate the protection of animal's interests. Moreover,

Lauren is hoping to set up an A-Law society at the University of Birmingham. Please get in touch if you are a student at UoB and would be interested in this!



CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON: SAM GROOM

Sam is studying for the Graduate Diploma in Law at City, University of London. He became interested in the norms and ethics of human-nonhuman relations at school and wrote a dissertation on this topic whilst studying at the University of Cambridge. He would like to defend and improve the rights of animals and bring animal issues into the legal and political mainstream through practice at the bar and in any other way he can.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER: BELIZ INAN



Beliz is a second-year law student at the University of Leicester and is the Director of Animal Rights Law at the Leicester University Law Society. She has a strong passion for animal law and works hard to promote better animal welfare. After co-hosting a global animal law conference earlier this year, she has begun to develop a network of lawyers around the world that share the same passion for animal protection. With a history of charitable work, Beliz is committed to creating change and helping others. Through her role as a Student Ambassador, she hopes to widen engagement with animal welfare law in the UK and raise awareness about the environmental and social benefits of better animal welfare.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE: ABIGAIL MEEK



Abbie is in her third year of her Dual Qualifying LLB in Scots and English law at the University of Strathclyde. She has always had a passion for animals and is interested in using the law to give animals a voice. Abbie has been involved in charity work for a number of years. She hopes to promote animal welfare and believes that, by working with A-law, she can raise awareness throughout her Law School and the University's wider student body.



LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS: ROBIN LUO

Robin is an LLM student at LSE. He grew up in Hangzhou, China, where he spent his early years living and playing with other animals. However, animals did not become an issue that Robin contemplated until his undergraduate philosophy studies directed him to the works of Tom Regan, who wrote about the irreconcilable nature of the moral rights of non-human animals and the system of oppression that allows humans to be oblivious to their suffering for entertainment and nourishment. It made Robin realise that all forms of oppression are fuelled by the idea that some lives matter more than others.

After graduation, Robin helped translate the award-winning documentaries 'Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home' and 'The Witness', helping to expose a wider audience to the ruthless exploitation of animals in the food and fur industries. Robin is an activist at Open Cages, an international animal

protection organisation that is, among its other campaigns, pushing the UK government to ban fur imports.

Robin's goal as the LSE A-law Ambassador is to raise awareness of, and encourage discussion about, our relationship with other animals amongst LSE students. Specifically, he hopes to facilitate scrutiny of existing animal laws and their enforcement, and explore non-traditional solutions that can address the interconnected issues of animal rights/welfare, food security, human health, and climate change.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

This semester, Iyan Offor, student Ambassador for A-law and PhD student at the University of Strathclyde, organised an **event** which was co-hosted by A-law and the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law & Governance. The event brought together animal law and environmental law experts, and contributed to ongoing efforts to increase dialogue between these two interconnected areas of law.

Michael Bowman, associate professor at the University of Nottingham, spoke at the event. His principal teaching and research interests lie in the field of public international law, particularly international environmental law, the law of treaties and the practice of treaty-making. He is Rapporteur of the International Environmental Law Committee of the British Branch of the International Law Association and has undertaken extensive committee and consultancy work in the fields of animal welfare and environmental protection and has recently published substantial articles on the topics of wetland conservation, the protection of birds and the animal welfare dimension of CITES.

RUNNING MY FIRST HALF MARATHON TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A-LAW BY MARIA ELENA-CACACE



While completing the LPC at Swansea University this year, I did some research into A-law after hearing about a sad local criminal case. The court case related to a youth who had broken in to a rescue home for cats in order to use them as live bait for his dogs. Two-weeks prior, the defendant had also decapitated a sheep.

I remember being extremely disheartened that he was sentenced only for burglary and criminal damage, with no mention of any animal welfare offences. This is because he was tried in the Crown Court and offences under the **Animal Welfare Act 2006** are triable only summarily. It seemed wrong to me that the sentencing powers for animal cruelty are so weak. Since hearing about this case, however, it has been encouraging to hear about Government proposals to increase the maximum sentence for animal welfare offences to five years.

As research has emphasised, acts of animal cruelty are often linked to acts of violence towards humans. It is therefore important that cruelty towards animals is not tolerated, for the sake of both animals and humans. When I came across A-law in my research, I was impressed with the support they offer in furthering better protection for and treatment of animals through the law.

I decided I wanted to join A-law, and I find it to be a well-respected, non-partisan organisation that focuses on facilitating informed debate about animals and the law. A-law takes a pragmatic approach to animal law and, given its openness to members of diverse

viewpoints, it is far removed from some emotionally-charged ideologically-based groups.

As an A-law Student Ambassador and member, I wanted to raise awareness about the organisation and contribute in some way to A-law's work. As a result, I decided to run my first half-marathon. I entered the JCP Solicitors Swansea Half-Marathon on 24 June 2018 with my fellow classmate and animal lover, William Rees. I was quite lucky to have Will as a training partner because he has an MSc in Sports Science, so his knowledge definitely helped during our training!

Initially, we were concerned that we may have been overly ambitious in entering the half marathon, because the race was a couple of days after our final LPC exams. However, we stuck to our training plan and completed it in a very reasonable 2:05 hours. In total, we raised £710 for A-law and I would like to thank A-law for our great t-shirts and for all the support we received in our fundraising efforts! A big thank you, too, for all of the generous contributions we received from A-law members and others.





AN INTERVIEW WITH SEAN BRUNTON QC

BY EDIE BOWLES

Sean Brunton is a recognised expert on animal welfare. He has prosecuted and defended in numerous cases for and against Local Authorities, the RSPCA and DEFRA. He has appeared in cases involving huntsmen, fisheries and farmers.

Did you always know you wanted to be a lawyer?

I only found out that barristers even existed when I was doing some work experience at a solicitor's firm in London when I was aged about 20. They sent me off to Court to 'sit behind counsel' and I just thought, 'Why

would anybody want to be sitting back here? I just want to be up in that front row, arguing my corner, explaining my case, helping my client to tell their story.'

Why did you choose to be a barrister rather than solicitor?

For the reasons set to above! The primary attraction of the Bar to me has always been in the challenge of presenting and explaining a case to a tribunal, no matter how complex or superficially unattractive. Whilst there are many more roles for solicitors which now involve an element of advocacy, that was not the case back in the early 1990's.

When did you decide you wanted to practice in Animal Law?

Having grown-up on a farm, I have always been interested in the countryside, animal husbandry and welfare. One of the very first cases I did concerned an RSPCA prosecution against a pair of rabbit breeders. It was a bitterly hard-fought case and made me realise, for the first time, how partisan such cases can so frequently become. But I am not sure that they always have to be, in fact. Anyway, as is so often the case at the Bar, it was not so much me choosing Animal Law as it choosing me.

How did you get into Animal Law?

After that first case, I started to act in a number of animal welfare prosecutions.



Sean Brunton QC

Eventually, I started to be instructed by the RSPCA, DEFRA and other local authorities and regulatory bodies to do with farming, fishing, field-sports and the food processing industry.

However, which cases actually turn-up is largely unpredictable. Most recently I have been instructed in a Prosecution against a large scale and illegal importation business trading in rare and endangered animal parts. Dealing with International Treaties and European Convention legislation on the classification of endangered animals and its international enforcement. It was quite fascinating, yet tragic.

How much of your practice is Animal Law?

I suppose about 30-40% of my work is now either regulatory or to do with farming, animal husbandry and welfare. However, having only taken Silk in February, things could change!

What is the rest of your practice?

I have had 25 years appearing in the Crown Court for both the Prosecution and Defence. In recent years, this has mostly consisted of Serious Organised Crime (such as Drug Conspiracies), serious sexual offences (such as rape and historic child abuse) and Homicide. That still makes up the bulk of my Court work.

How is your day at work spent?

Like many Barristers, I like to do my work early in the morning. During the normal working week, the Court day can be so unpredictable, so the hours between about 6 and 8 a.m. can be an invaluable time to get yourself 'up to speed' for the day. As are the hours of about 9-11 at night. Then there are the weekends of course...!

There is no typical day at work. It might be a day spent on my feet all day addressing a jury in a complicated trial. It may be a day spent cross-examining an expert witness. It may be a day spent hanging around outside court, waiting to get on like everybody else. Or it may be a day at home, just reading through pages and trying to get a handle on the case under consideration. Sometimes, there is no substitute to just sitting down and reading.

What animal welfare cases are you most proud of?

Animal welfare cases are always hard-fought. Farmers and others involved in the livestock business do not like being accused of neglect or cruelty or bad animal husbandry, no matter how apparently overwhelming the evidence. They will often bury their heads in the sand or defend these cases vigorously. Often, they employ teams of experts, solicitors and even barristers who make a business out of defending 'these types of cases' and do so in a pretty unscrupulous fashion. I have been against certain members of the Bar who have made cases which should have been over in a week, last two weeks or more. Who have made professional witnesses cry in the witness box, due to the bullying nature of their questioning. And who have reduced Judges virtually to the point of a nervous breakdown. But, as yet, these tactics have never actually worked and invariably end up in the 'keeper' of the animals being convicted. All that is really achieved is that the trial process is rendered very hostile and the Court costs are massively inflated. It is a shame the Defendant is not forewarned of these likely consequences before the case starts.

Do you enjoy the work?

I am not sure if 'enjoy' is the right word. They

are challenging. They are worth-while. They are interesting. But they are also quite stressful, confrontational and jolly hard work.

How can a new lawyer steer their practice towards this area?

There are various professional bodies that have an interest in work related to farming, field-sports, animals and wildlife, such as this one! There is no substitute to turning up to meetings and actually speaking to people involved in that area. But, as we all know, speaking to your clerks and trying to persuade them to steer any work of that nature into your pigeon hole and not into anybody else's is the old-fashioned way of doing it.

What tips would you give to students who want to practice in this area?

Solicitors and clients who want to instruct counsel in these types of cases expect them to know what they are talking about. They expect them to understand the animals, the veterinary terms, the business, the countryside etc. Read case-law. Research the DEFRA guidance. Understand how the RSPCA works. Getting involved in fieldsports or the countryside or whatever it is that interests you, in a responsible way, is the way to build genuine knowledge, experience and perspective. But ultimately, the areas of law in which you practice is likely to be a mixture of chance, luck and choice.



You can read more interviews with animal lawyers and animal law experts on our website.

ANIMAL RIGHTS AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS: A PERSPECTIVE FROM NORTH AMERICA



On 20 July 2018, A-Law hosted an evening with Steven M. Wise and Camille Labchuck (pictured) at Goldsmith Chambers, followed by Q & A and informal discussion over drinks.

Camille Labchuck, lawyer and executive director of Animal Justice, opened up the evening by providing a riveting insight into current issues in Canada, wider hot topics and future challenges. Areas of discussion included specific litigation approaches and developments surrounding poor conditions for farmed animals and wild animals in captivity.

Camille was followed by Steven M. Wise, founder and president of the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP), a non profit seeking to secure personhood for nonhuman animals. Steven delivered a fascinating presentation about NhRP's litigation developments in the USA, achievements to date, increasing research projects across the globe, and the road ahead.

Both presentations instigated a lively discussion. The evening was attended by students, lawyers and professionals from NGOs, and provided an invaluable opportunity to discuss international animal protection law.



FUR FARMING: HOW THE UK IMPORTS CRUELTY

BY CONNOR JACKSON

Back in 2003, the **Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act 2000** came into force making the farming of animals for fur illegal in England and Wales. This happened after years of public opposition to fur production. When presenting the Bill before Parliament, Elliot Moreley MP said, "fur farming is not consistent with a proper value and respect for animal life." The rationale for banning fur farming was clear; it was a matter of public morality.

Despite the fur farming ban, however, almost two decades on the UK is still importing and selling fur. The British Fur Trade Association claims fur trading is worth approximately £500

million a year in the UK. This will come as a surprise to many who see fur as a relic from a bygone era. Dozens of countries have enacted fur farming bans or restrictions, yet the industry is moving their farms into poorer and more Eastern countries like Poland and Lithuania. Whilst China is the world's largest fur farming country, the EU is the largest collective farmer of fur, with Poland and Denmark being the third and second largest producers. In recent decades, these countries have seen a rise in what is often called factory fur farms.

On a fur farm a fox, mink or racoon dog will be born into a barren metal cage and will stay



there their entire lives. As a result, they will often suffer from stereotypy, or cage madness, and will sometimes even resort to cannibalism. According to mammal expert, Professor Stephen Harris, these undomesticated animals are so unsuited to confinement that they develop these symptoms from severe under stimulation. In the wild, mink have been known to travel around 4 m a night when hunting and are even semi-aquatic with webbed feet. A wild red fox can reach speeds of nearly 50kmph. The cost of improving conditions on fur farms to try to address some of these issues would make the industry unsustainable; this is why Swiss fur farming no longer exists.

"In response to campaigners, the Government has stated that "national bans are less effective than working at an international level on animal welfare standards."

Campaigners are calling for the sale of fur to be banned once the UK leaves the EU and is no longer bound by free trade rules. Notably, Labour have announced that they would implement a ban on fur imports. Similar bans have been successful in cities like Los Angeles and countries like India. Israel is also currently considering an import ban.

In response to campaigners, the Government has stated that "national bans are less effective than working at an international level on animal welfare standards." The Government seems to be acknowledging that there are welfare problems on international fur farms. However, it is difficult to ignore the fact that, as a country, we have deemed fur farming to be incompatible with our own values. Also, as Daniel Zeichner MP has suggested, this response is a false dichotomy, as "a national ban would not stop our

Government from continuing to work on international animal welfare."

It is likely that the Government's reluctance to act may be due to timing, what with Brexit just around the corner. It is encouraging to see the industry increasingly turning its back on fur, with fashion giants like Gucci, Versace and Burberry now going fur free. If this trend continues, even without Government action, we could see the end of fur farming in our lifetimes. However, it is undeniable that the UK is helping to keep this industry alive whilst it continues to import fur.

Connor Jackson is the President of Open Cages, an international animal protection organisation campaigning towards systemic change for farmed animals. Connor spends his time on political lobbying, public mobilisation and undercover investigations. He is also the director of award winning documentary 'Klatki: The Hidden Farms of Europe', a film about the rise of European fur farming.

GOVERNMENT 'MISSES OPPORTUNITY' TO ADDRESS FUR SALES

EFRA Committee Chair, Neil Parish, has described the Government's response to an inquiry into the fur trade in the UK as a 'missed opportunity'. Earlier this year, the EFRA Committee carried out an inquiry into the UK's fur trade, concluding that the Government should introduce a new mandatory labelling regime post-Brexit, as well as consider holding a public consultation on banning fur sales. In its response, however, the Government commits only to consider steps such as a ban on sales and/or imports in 'the future'.



THE ROMANIAN STRAY DOG BUSINESS

BY TIFFANY MITCHELL

How is it that Romania continues to have one of the world's worst stray dog populations, despite there being several national and international organizations providing viable solutions and resources to help curb the issue? This article will include a brief history of the rise in the stray dog population of Romania, an explanation of why mass extermination is not viable, consideration of the lucrative business that has emerged around the strays, before ending with a discussion about the current legal framework.

History

The initial rise of the 'vagabond dogs', or street

dogs, dates back to Romania's communist government and its removal. Nicolae Ceausescu brought devastating destruction to the city of Bucharest in the 1980s when attempts were made to modernise the city. This led to the abandonment of pets due to the relocation of residents into smaller, non-pet-friendly flats.

The Bloody Revolution of 1989 only further amplified the issue when residents were forced to fight for their basic survival, leading to the abandonment of more pets. Today, abandonment continues to be a devastating reality; this is exacerbated by the lack of a functioning stray management program.



TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Versus Euthanasia

Mass culling, as is currently practiced, would temporarily control the stray population, but is not sufficient to provide a long-term solution. The reality is that a female dog can give birth to between 8 to 12 puppies twice a year and her reproductive age starts at six-months old. Thus, there would only be a decline in the population between mating periods. As well, during the mating periods, females produce pheromones that trigger an atypical behaviour in males, which causes unsterilized males to become aggressive. This accounts for many of the dog attacks and bites within the city and a mass cull would not address this issue. Additionally, the complete removal of a pack of dogs from a particular territory would create a vacancy for new aggressive, non-sterilized dogs to occupy.

TNR programs, by contrast, would require the return of sterilised dogs into their previous territory, hence reducing the chances of a new pack moving in. The Animal World Health Organisation recommend ear tagging, neutering and releasing as the dominant form of population management. From 2001 to 2007, Romania spent 12 million leu, which exceeds the cost of a TNR program, to cull 144,399 stray dogs. Despite these efforts, the streets remain rampant with dogs. Several cities in Romania have implemented TNR programs and the results are promising. Oradea, for instance, has successfully reduced their population from 4,500 to 300 dogs over a period of six years.

Lucrative Business

With viable solutions, such as TNR programs, available, it is questionable why the authorities have decided to continue to pursue culling. One reason may be that the

current 'management' policy provides a higher income for those involved in the business. Evidence shows that some shelters are failing to use funds allocated for the management programme in a manner that complies with the law.

In Botosani, the Ador Association took the local council to court after it refused to implement a visitation schedule for locals. Visitation schedules are required by law to make it easier for the public to adopt animals, but equally as important, to allow independent bodies to monitor the management of the strays. However, these visits would expose to the public the deplorable conditions of the shelters and likely encourage questions around what the budget is actually spent on. Journalist, Radu Tutuianu, alleged that a significant sum was paid by one Council to construct a shelter for the city's 3,500 strays. However, the shelter was nothing more than five wire fences and two roofs. This begs the question, how have the funds been allocated? During investigations into several shelters in Romania, FOUR PAWS discovered that animals are exposed to the elements, some are skeletal, dead or dying, frozen to the ground in cooler temperatures and some have resorted to cannibalism. I visited Romania in February 2017 and can attest to deplorable conditions in the shelters I saw.

Additionally, some shelters house dogs that have two ear tags, such as Valcea. This suggests that the animal has been caught, released and re-caught so that catchers can receive a second payment. Some mayors have imposed targets on dog catchers; this results in the more docile animals being captured as the aggressive dogs are not as easily caught. Brasov dog catchers have been caught hunting dogs in outside counties to earn higher profits. Sterilisation has proven to

be less costly than euthanasia. However, this would result in fewer public funds being paid to those involved in the stray management system. Evidence may suggest that there is no desire to actually curb the issue, but to continue the business that it has created for those involved.

Legal Framework

Law No. 258/2013, which amended No. 155/2001, approving the program management of stray dogs, permits euthanasia of strays. This law was hastily enacted after a fatal dog attack, which was originally blamed on the strays, but was later discovered to have been privately owned pets that escaped. The legislation includes stipulations about best practice. However, as shown by FOUR PAWS' investigations, these stipulations are often ignored. Article 1 stipulates that a database and stray management register should be created. Article 3 states that public shelters should receive veterinary care. Article 4 states the public should be informed about existing shelters, visiting programs and they should be able to adopt strays. Article 6 forbids the killing by anyone other

than a vet and by any means other than euthanasia. Finally, article 14 outlines the punitive measures to be taken if there is non-compliance. All of which, in many cities, are not abided by nor enforced.

Law 205/2004 on the protection of animals, stipulates only basic anti-cruelty provisions. Such as article 5, which prohibits bad treatment of animals and includes provisions for access to food, water, shelter and medical attention. This piece of legislation also outlines what is required from pet owners, which prohibits the abandonment of pets. It also prohibits euthanasia, except on veterinary advice. Thus, there are several conflicting and unenforced laws within this provision.

The EU has adopted a **written declaration 26/2011 on dog population management in the European Union**. Among its measurements, the declaration states that veterinary care, including rabies vaccinations and sterilisation, should be administered as necessary to help limit the number of unwanted dogs and promote responsible pet ownership. In addition, the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals states that euthanasia is not a substitute for sterilisation. In 2014, the European commission sent a letter to Romania reiterating that euthanasia should be used a last resort.

Despite these legal protections, breaches continue. Romania needs to adopt a concerted sterilisation and adoption campaign. Without dedicated national programs, there will be no change.

Tiffany Mitchell graduated with a Law degree from Leicester University in 2018 and holds a B.A in Law and Society from Memorial University of Newfoundland.





IN THE NEWS

ANTICIPATED AGRICULTURE BILL PUBLISHED

In September, the Government published its long-awaited **Agriculture Bill** setting out proposals for the operation of agricultural payments post-Brexit. Central to the Bill is the concept of 'public goods' whereby farmers are rewarded for achieving higher standards, including better animal welfare standards.

Throughout the Autumn, MPs and the EFRA Committee have been scrutinising the Bill. In a recent **Report**, the EFRA Committee called on the government to accept an amendment to the Bill that would ensure imports meet current British standards of production and welfare.

BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION UNDER SCRUTINY

In September, the EFRA Committee released its conclusions from its inquiry into breed specific legislation. The Committee stated that there is insufficient evidence to support a policy banning specific breeds and that the current approach has led to many dogs that pose no threat to public safety being put to sleep simply because they belong to a banned breed.

In its **Report**, Committee recommends that the Government review dog control law and policy with a view to developing an alternative approach that protects both dogs and public safety and, if necessary, revising the **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991**.

The Committee also recommends the introduction of mandatory training and education for owners who commit minor dog offences.

The Government's response is currently awaited.



ANIMAL LAW LLM SCHOLARSHIP ON OFFER FROM CENTRE FOR ANIMAL LAW

The Centre for Animal Law, based at Lewis & Clarke Law School in Portland, Oregon, is once again offering a full scholarship to an exceptional international lawyer to study their world-renowned Animal Law LLM.

The scholarship covers all tuition fees, housing, health care and a partial meal plan. Preference is given to African applications. However, applications are welcome from all non-US lawyers. More information can be found [here](#).

EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS REVIEW WELFARE IN THE EU

In November, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) released its **Report** reviewing farmed animal welfare in the EU. In particular, the audit focused on the implementation of the EU's latest animal welfare **Strategy**. The Commission had made progress in achieving compliance in Member States, the report concludes, particularly in relation to banning the use of unenriched cages to house laying hens. However, areas of weakness include the routine use of tail docking in pigs, low levels of compliance with long distance transport rules and fitness to travel rules, and poor stunning practices during slaughter.

Amongst its recommendations, the ECA suggests that the Commission should develop indicators to measure Member States' levels of compliance with animal welfare requirements in the high risk areas it identifies.

WALES HOLDS PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BANNING WILD ANIMALS IN TRAVELLING CIRCUSES

In September, Wales became the latest country to announce proposals to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. The release of the **Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Wales) Bill** coincided with the launch of a public consultation, which concluded on 26th November 2018.

Although there are no travelling circuses using wild animals based in Wales, an earlier consultation proposing a licensing regime highlighted there is strong public support for a complete ban.

The proposals are motivated by moral and ethical concerns. Speaking at the launch of the consultation, Cabinet Secretary, Lesley Griffiths, said, "A ban will send a clear message that the people of Wales believe this practice to be an outdated notion and ethically unacceptable."

GET INVOLVED AND WRITE FOR OUR FIRST AJUK SPECIAL

The Student Team is always hugely grateful to the students, academics and practitioners who contribute to each edition of AJUK! We've been so overwhelmed by how many of you want to get involved that we've decided to release a special edition once a year dedicated to a particular theme so that more of you can get involved! The first Special will focus on the use of animals in tourism. If you would like to contribute to this, or a future edition of AJUK, email Natalie at studentgroup@alaw.org.uk.

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