



**Animal
Litigation
Network**

Animal Litigation Network

Strategy 2026–2030 -- Making animal law work

Strategic context

Across Europe, animal welfare legislation has expanded significantly over recent decades. Yet for millions of animals, particularly farmed animals, legal protections remain weak in practice due to inadequate enforcement, limited accountability and structural failures within regulatory systems.

Animals are subject to the law, but they cannot invoke it themselves. They cannot challenge systemic injustice, demand enforcement or hold authorities accountable. The Animal Litigation Network (ALN) exists to close that gap.

The Animal Litigation Network was established to strengthen the enforcement and practical application of animal law across Europe. We focus on transforming existing legal protections into meaningful outcomes for animals through strategic litigation, legal cooperation, enforcement capacity-building and cross-border collaboration.

Mission

The Animal Litigation Network makes animal law enforceable. We strengthen partners, pursue strategic litigation and build a network of legal and enforcement capacity to challenge animal rights violations and transform the systems that undermine animal welfare.

Vision

We work towards a society in which animals' interests are taken seriously in law, structurally protected and effectively upheld.

Strategic goal

The overarching goal of the Animal Litigation Network is to strengthen enforcement and accountability within animal protection systems across Europe, leading to measurable and lasting improvements in animal welfare.



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Strategic pillars

a. Strategic litigation

We will identify, coordinate and support legal actions capable of generating systemic impact. Strategic litigation will be used to:

- Improve enforcement practices;
- Clarify legal obligations;
- Establish judicial precedents;
- Increase governmental accountability;
- Challenge systemic failures in animal protection systems.

Priority areas include:

- Intensive farming systems;
- Animal transport;
- Slaughter practices;
- Inspection and enforcement failures;
- Illegal trade and import practices.

We will prioritise cases with the potential to create structural change beyond individual incidents.

b. Strengthening the animal protection movement

Many animal protection organisations possess the expertise, legitimacy and motivation to act, but lack sufficient legal tools, litigation capacity or coordinated support.

The ALN will strengthen partners through:

- Legal guidance and strategic support;
- Training programmes and workshops;
- Litigation toolkits and enforcement resources;



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- Cross-border collaboration structures;
- Shared learning and peer exchange.

Our role is not to replace existing organisations, but to strengthen their ability to use the law effectively.

c. Building enforcement capacity

The Animal Litigation Network will contribute to the professionalisation and strengthening of animal law enforcement across Europe.

We will:

- Connect litigators, NGOs, regulators, academics and policymakers;
- Facilitate exchange of case law and best practices;
- Develop practical enforcement models and legal methodologies;
- Promote stronger cooperation between civil society and enforcement authorities.

By building a shared enforcement practice, effective approaches can be adapted and scaled across jurisdictions.

d. European collaboration and knowledge sharing

Animal welfare challenges frequently transcend national borders. Effective enforcement therefore requires international cooperation.

The ALN will function as a European and even international platform for:

- Sharing legal expertise and enforcement strategies;
- Coordinating cross-border litigation efforts;
- Comparative legal research;
- Developing common standards and approaches.

The ALN will support the emergence of a stronger European animal law enforcement community.



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Measuring impact

Success will be evaluated based on the achievement of meaningful structural and long-term outcomes. These include improvements in enforcement practices, the development of influential court decisions and legal precedents, and the advancement of policy and regulatory reform. Success will also be reflected in increased institutional accountability and the expansion of legal capacity within the animal protection movement. Ultimately, the initiative aims to drive measurable improvements in animal welfare and strengthen the systems and institutions responsible for protecting animals.

Position within the animal protection landscape

The Animal Litigation Network occupies a distinct role within the broader animal protection movement. While many organisations focus on rescue, care, campaigning or public awareness, ALN focuses specifically on enforcement, legal accountability and systemic reform.

We work to ensure that existing animal welfare laws are not merely symbolic, but effectively implemented and enforced. By combining strategic litigation, legal expertise and cross-border cooperation, the Animal Litigation Network seeks to create durable structural change and real protection for animals in practice.