

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021 AND STRATEGIC PLAN

WHY A-LAW MATTERS

UK CENTRE FOR ANIMAL LAW - *MAKING THE LAW WORK FOR ANIMALS*





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## **ABOUT THE UK CENTRE FOR ANIMAL LAW**

The UK Centre for Animal Law (A-LAW) was first registered as a charity in 2004. It was originally founded as the Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare. The name was changed in 2017 in order to reflect our broader supporter base, which includes people from a wide range of disciplines who are interested in using the law to improve the legal protection of animals.

## **VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT**

Our vision is a world where animal interests are fully protected by law.

Our mission is to promote knowledge and education about the law relating to animal protection, achieve a better legal framework for animals, and see existing laws being applied properly.

# OUR VALUES

## Integrity and Trustworthiness

we strive to provide an independent, informed professional voice on animal protection law.

## Transparency

we strive to be open and transparent about our work and how we meet our charitable objectives.

## Accountability

we have clear aims and objectives with measurable goals by which our success can be judged.

## Diversity

we celebrate diversity and equality of opportunity. We recognize the need to work collaboratively and beyond borders.

## Inclusivity

we welcome anyone who supports our mission to see a world where animal interests are adequately protected by law.

## Teamwork

every person in the organisation has a voice and an opportunity to contribute, raise new ideas and get involved. We support one another and value each person's contribution.

## Collaboration

we collaborate with animal advocacy groups, legal and other civil society groups and share knowledge and expertise wherever possible.



# STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a forum for lawyers to use their skills to help animals through volunteer work. Objective: to match skilled legal volunteers to pro bono and project opportunities within the animal advocacy community; to improve access to justice for animals by assisting animal advocacy groups where legal work would not otherwise be funded.

2. To be an accurate, reliable, objective and trustworthy source of information about animal law for the public, policy makers, the media and others. Objective: to provide high quality input into government and other public consultations about areas of law and policy that impact upon animal interests; to provide a hub of expertise for the media and animal advocacy groups; to publish resources about animal law.

3. To promote the discipline of animal law within the legal profession. Objective: to encourage and support lawyers develop expertise in laws relating to animals; to encourage universities to offer animal law modules within the legal syllabus for the next generation of lawyers and develop a body of expertise in animal laws.

4. To encourage people to consider the philosophies underlying animal protection laws, including fundamental rights, legal rights. Objective: to provide fora to debate, discuss and critically consider the philosophy behind animal protection law; to raise awareness of how legal philosophy has shaped laws that impact upon animal interests, including animal welfare, species conservation and the regulation of human activities such as experimentation and farming.

5. To engage, support and empower students to think critically about animals in a socio-legal context and to provide a forum for academics supportive of animal welfare. Objective: to facilitate networking between academics to share ideas including on the development of relevant curricula, and to raise the profile of animal law and welfare in higher education.

6. To engage in legal advocacy for animals. To advocate for reform of the criminal and civil justice systems to ensure that animal interests are properly accounted for.

7. To raise awareness of structural legal injustices towards animals in society and weaknesses in animal welfare legislation. Objective: to provide fora for lawyers, scientists and the public to engage in debate about important animal law topics such as industrial farming practices, animals in research, species extinction and the protection of companion animals; to highlight weak animal protection laws through a range of publications and commentary.

8. To help animal advocacy groups identify opportunities to use the law for the advancement of animal welfare. Objective: to identify opportunities to improve legal protection through litigation or legislation; to raise standards of animal welfare through law reform and support better enforcement mechanisms.

9. To provide high quality legal education about animal law and policy by publishing informative information through webinars, podcast, new and our legal journal. Objective: to provide a hub for animal law news as a valuable resource for animal advocacy groups and the public about current debates and news.

# OUR STRUCTURE



Our senior team is drawn from members of the legal profession, past and present. Between them they offer a wealth of expertise in relevant areas of law including parliamentary procedure, trade, EU law, crime and public law. A-LAW's trustee and Senior Policy Team oversee the work of our legal volunteers.

## Trustee and Senior Policy Team

We have a standing team of lawyers who run our working groups. Led by practitioners and legal academics we have working groups in the following area: Wildlife Law, Animals in Science, Farmed Animals and Companion Animals. Our regular team is supplemented by lawyers who help on an ad hoc basis. We are able to draw upon the expertise of junior and senior professionals in the fields of law, policy and science to inform our project work.

## Volunteer support



Early law career professionals are invited to contribute to research and support our project work. As well as providing an opportunity for lawyers to use their skills to help animals, they also benefit from mentoring opportunities that come from working with more senior professionals. This is particularly important in a field where students are not taught animal related law.

## Young Animal Lawyers Network

## Student and university outreach

There are few opportunities in legal education for law students to learn about the laws protecting animals and to critically evaluate and debate the philosophy and ethical framework underpinning the law. We provide a forum to learn and provide opportunities for students to engage through law clinics and research opportunities.

# AN INTEGRATIVE APPROACH

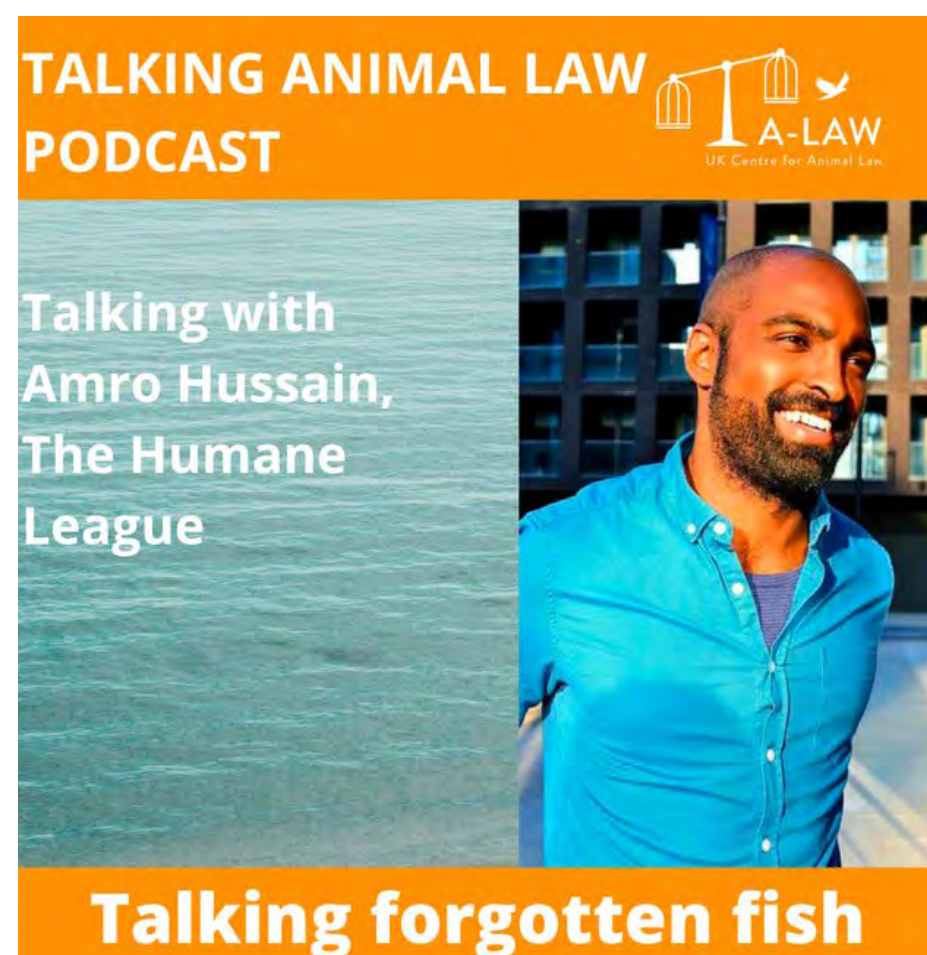
## Fish welfare - an example of our integrated approach

The welfare of farmed fish has historically been an area where change has been slow. This is changing as animal advocacy groups press for legislative change and enforcement of existing welfare standards. Our work in this area is an example of how we take an integrated approach to issues, supporting campaign groups, raising awareness and engaging the next generation. We do this on a tiny budget.

## Legal support for campaign groups

In 2020/2021 we provided the Humane League with an overview of the law and landscape for legal reform. Our Farmed Animal Law Working Group has specialist knowledge of farmed animal welfare law and was able to provide a briefing note, which complimented and dovetailed with services later provided by law firm, Advocates for Animals.

Our legal volunteer team also carried out legal research for the Humane League, identifying national legislation across the world that provides protection at the time of killing farmed fish. We found that very few legal protections exist for fish to protect their welfare at the time of killing, which is hugely problematic.



## Awareness raising

We interviewed Amro Hussein of the Humane League for an episode of our Talking Animal Law podcast, highlighting problems with implementation of legislation in the UK protecting fish at the time of killing and raising awareness.

## Student engagement

Amro Hussein also kindly participated in a webinar about fish and crustacean welfare organised by two of our Student Ambassadors at the University of Edinburgh, raising awareness on campus and more widely through our Animal Law TV YouTube channel.



# WHAT STAKEHOLDERS SAY

“

"ALAW's team members are extremely knowledgeable and thorough in their research. They compiled a helpful overview of fish legislation around the world which supported the creation of our campaign. We're very grateful for their collaborative approach."

Cordelia Britton, Head of Programmes at  
The Humane League

”

“

"I've worked with ALAW for several years now and have found their advice and support to be indispensable in supporting our work for animals and mission to be an evidence-based organisation. They plug a huge knowledge gap in the animal welfare sector by providing legal expertise that are otherwise very hard for us as charities to secure, are generous with their time and advice, and are constantly helping us improve our policy asks and work, ultimately increasing our impact for animals together."

As an example, ALAW inputted extensively into World Animal Protection's Animal Protection Index UK country report, ensuring our paper was legally accurate and robust, and helping us with areas where we had significant knowledge gaps.'

Sonul Badiani-Hamment, Four Paws UK

”

“

'A-LAW has been critical to the Better Deal for Animals Coalition's efforts and ability to understand and tackle the enormous legal fall out of Brexit for animal welfare policy. Their ability to translate complex legal issues into content that our charities could use was invaluable, as was the co-ordinating role they played in collating information and perspectives, and co-drafting positions that would represent the concerns and aspirations of our broad coalition of organisations. A-LAW have such an impressive grasp of the big picture for animal law in the UK, and their lectures are always enlightening, helping to enable charities to reach practical and achievable goals in their legislative campaigns."

Claire Bass, Humane Society International UK

”

“

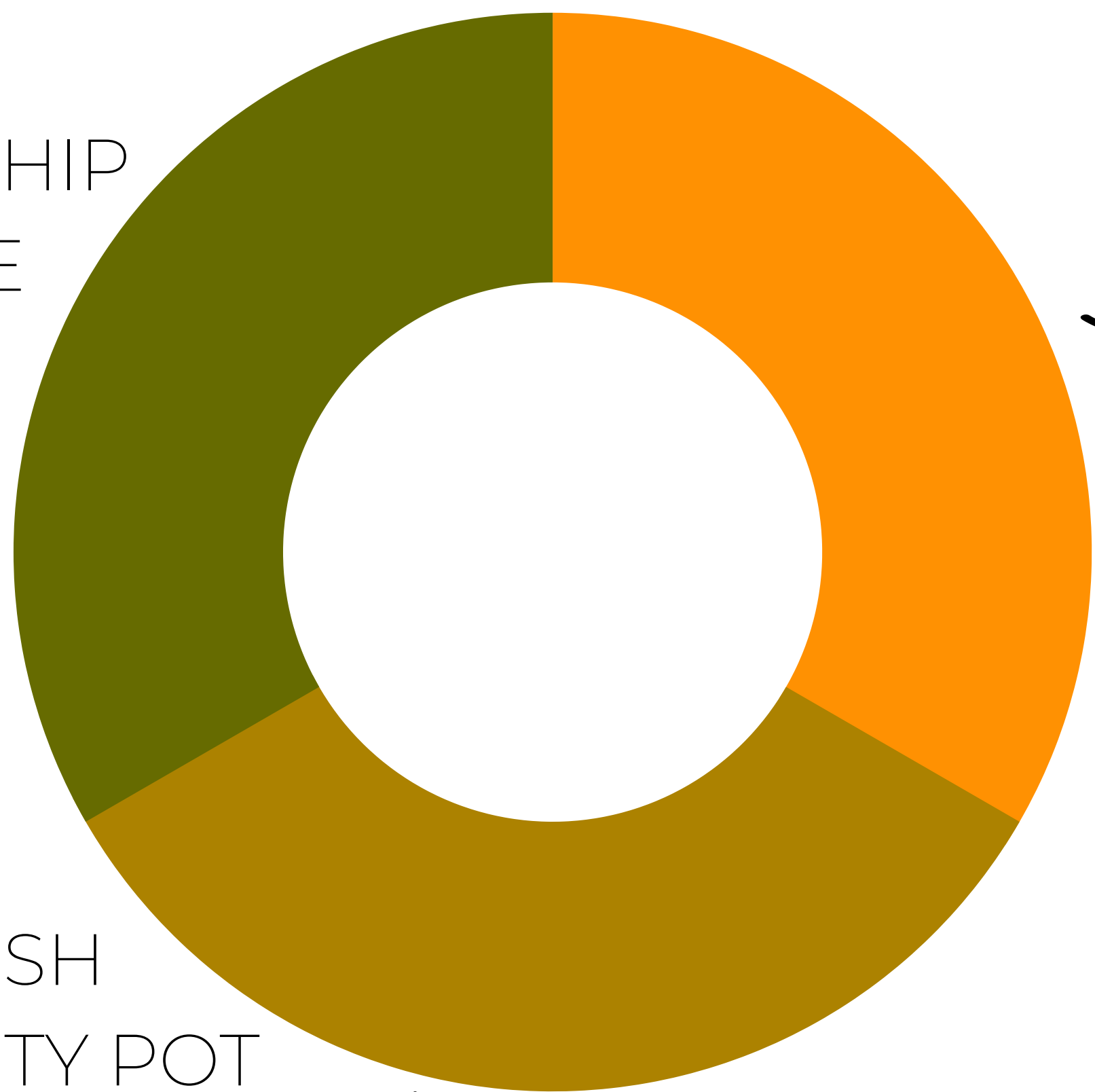
'A-LAW is a great source of information and debate. The Journal also provides a sense of community with other lawyers specialising in animal welfare law. We find the articles extremely helpful in our work in the animal welfare sector."

Joanna Lodge, Cats  
Protection

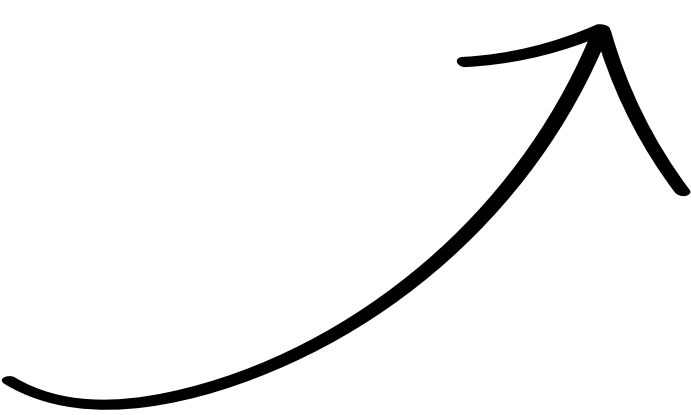
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# FUNDING IN 2021

MEMBERSHIP  
INCOME

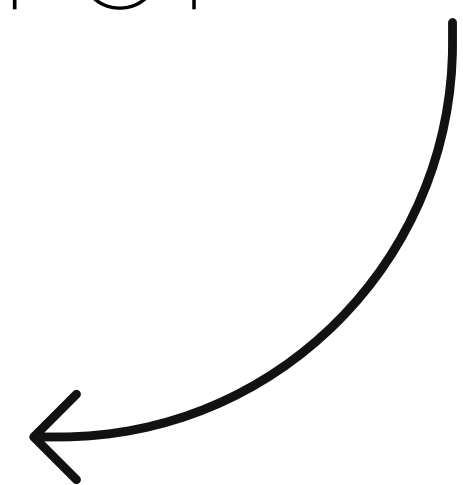


Animal Charity Evaluators funding for student  
and university outreach work

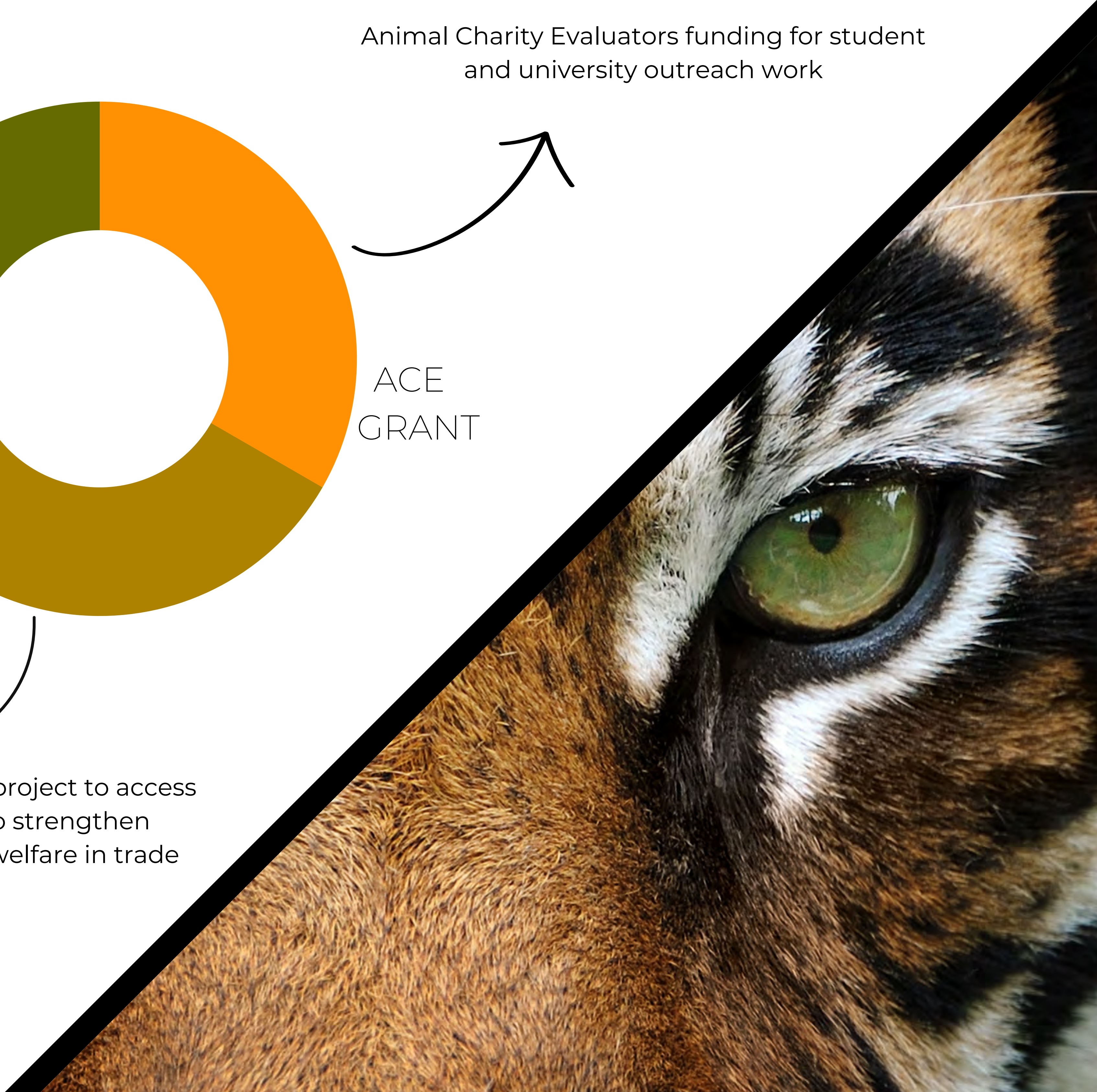


ACE  
GRANT

LUSH  
CHARITY POT



A one off grant for a specific project to access  
trade expertise in order to strengthen  
submissions about animal welfare in trade



# A RECAP ON HOW WE SUPPORT ANIMAL ADVOCACY GROUPS

## SUPPORTING A COALITION OF OVER 50 ANIMAL ADVOCACY GROUPS

A-LAW supports the Better Deal for Animals (BDFA) Coalition of over 50 animal protection NGOs and campaigners.

In 2018 we worked with Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL) to coordinate the Brexit manifesto for the BDFA groups, identifying opportunities for law reform arising from Brexit with the potential to strengthen animal protection in the UK.

In addition to coordinating the report, we organised two legal conferences for the BDFA groups on technical legal challenges arising from Brexit, including the framing of sentience legislation.

We are currently working on a report for the BDFA coalition, charting the progress since the manifesto, looking at the legal and policy landscape to identify the wins and losses of Brexit.

As part of the programme of change following Brexit, we also contributed towards securing specialist expertise on trade law and policy. In December 2020 we helped fund trade strategies training for animal welfare organisations involved in negotiating for better animal welfare standards in trade deals. We were pleased to receive funding from Lush that has enabled us to continue funding expert input into trade policy, an area that is highly technical.



## INVERTEBRATES

Crustaceans and cephalopods are species who have legal protections that are poorly implemented and enforced. We have provided substantial support to a leading campaign group working to improve crustacean welfare.

## FISH WELFARE

The welfare of farmed fish has historically been a highly neglected area, although this is changing as organisations turn their attention to fish welfare, particularly those who are farmed and at the time of killing.

We provided a briefing note to a leading campaign group about the legal landscape in the UK for fish, identifying areas for reform. Our volunteer team has also been carrying out research identifying legal protections that exist around the world for farmed fish at the time of killing.

*"ALAW's team members are extremely knowledgeable and thorough in their research. They compiled a helpful overview of fish legislation around the world which supported the creation of our campaign. We're very grateful for their collaborative approach."*

Cordelia Britton, Head of Programs  
The Humane League UK



# HOW WE SUPPORTED ANIMAL ADVOCACY GROUPS IN 2021



## SHARK FIN IMPORTS

The shark fin trade results in terrible suffering and places strain upon the shark population. Shark Guardian is one of the leading campaign groups advocating for stricter controls on the shark fin trade. We supported them by helping them navigate the legal framework for their submissions to a Call for Evidence on the Scale of Shark Fin Trade in the UK and Possible Impacts of Stricter Controls.



## NO PETS IN HOUSING

A-LAW's Companion Animal Team has worked with other lawyers including the FOAL Group (Focus on Animal Law) to support campaigners concerned about the impact of blanket 'no pet' covenants in residential leases in England. A number of our team has supported this and we were able to secure pro bono housing law expertise to assist the campaigners, who did not have funds to access legal advice.



## TROPHY HUNTING

Humane Society International UK has been a leading voice in campaigning for a trophy hunting ban. In the early days of the campaign, we provided strategic advice about potential trophy hunting import/export legislation, where this legislation could sit and options to ensure a tight ban.

# LEGAL EDUCATION

## EVENTS

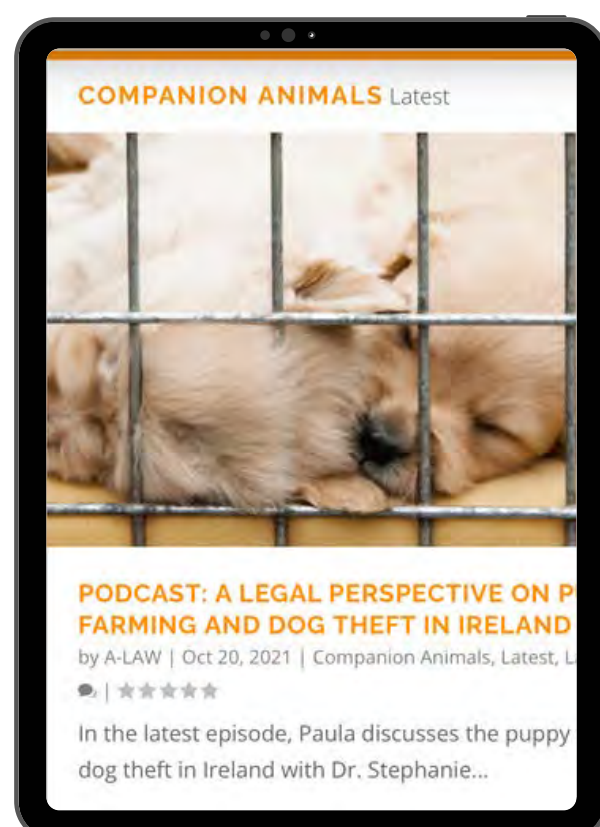
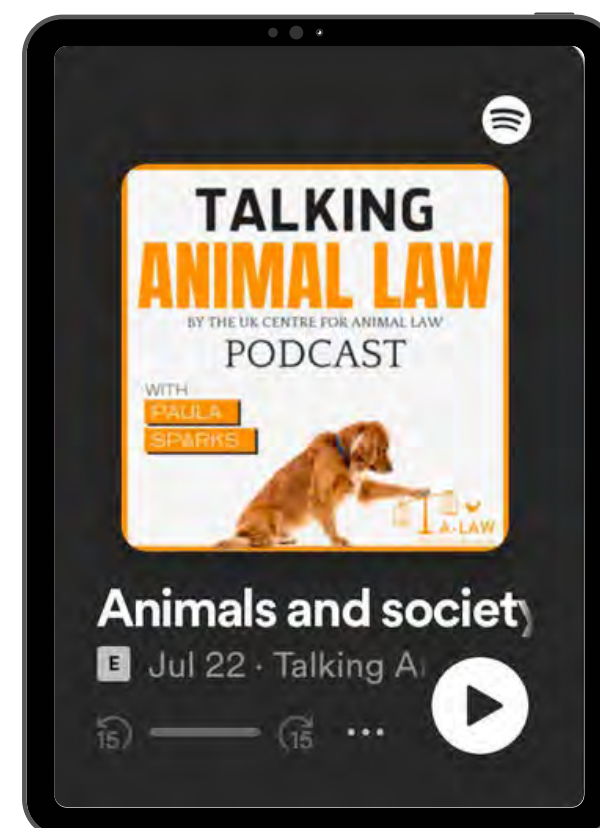
Seminars and training are a vital part of our legal education objectives. The group hosted its national Animal Law Ethics & Policy Conference in September, with 147 attendees, as well as other webinars throughout the year, including Enforcing Against Animal Cruelty (208 registered) and Dog Welfare (219 registered), in addition to supporting our student led events.

## PODCAST: TALKING ANIMAL LAW

The group has continued to develop resources to help the public learn about animal law and ethics, including through the newly launched podcast, Talking Animal Law. The podcast launched in July 2021 and has broadcast 12 episodes to date with around 2,000 total downloads.

## ANIMAL LAW NEWS

In 2021 A-LAW launched a new website in with an increased range of educational law resources and information about where to study animal law in the UK and abroad. The website is a multi-site which includes a dedicated animal law news site. Additionally, A-LAW posts news across social media platforms including Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.



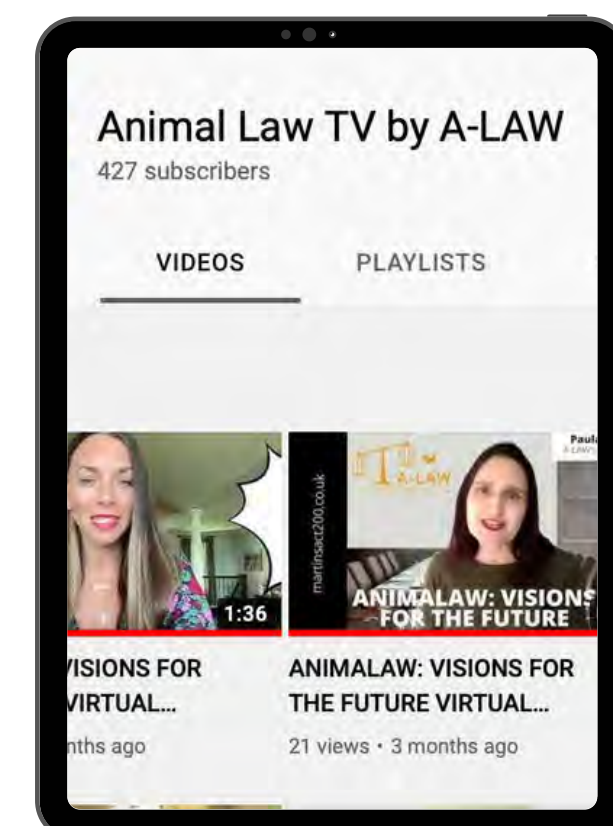
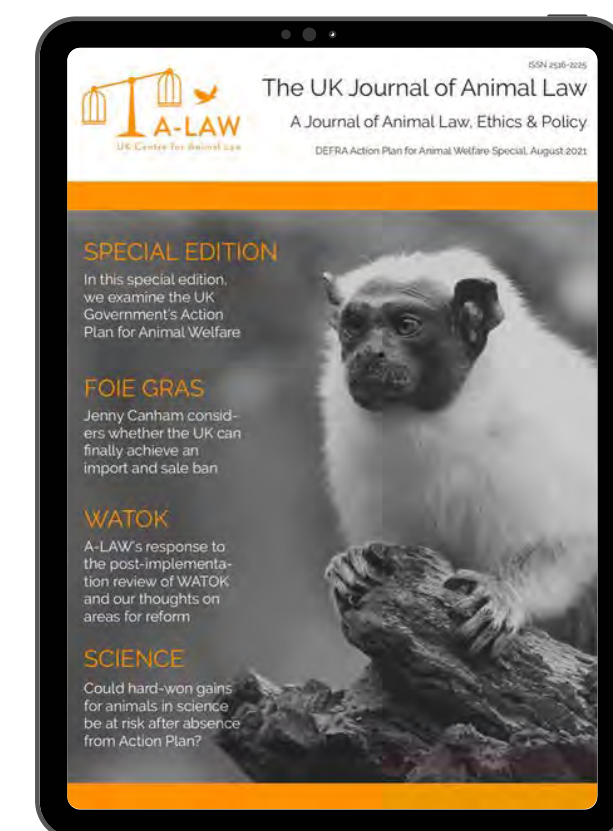
## JOURNAL OF ANIMAL LAW

A-LAW publishes a bi-annual Journal of Animal Law. There are no other UK legal journals with exclusively animal law content. It is a unique publication in the legal market. It features articles, case reports and news about animal law and policy with in-depth analysis from leading animal academics, scientists and legal practitioners on a wide range of topical issues. *The UK Journal of Animal Law, Special Edition, Analysis of the UK governments Animal Welfare Action Plan* saw leading commentators giving their views in September 2021. This was published as an open access special edition and has been read 837 times and the publications on our website have had over 5,200 views to date.

## YOUTUBE: ANIMAL LAW TV

A-LAW's Animal Law TV YouTube Channel has proven to be a popular forum for sharing content about animal law and the channel has to date 427 subscribers.

In 2021 we helped APDAWG with their events programme, providing support to host their events online during the pandemic. These online events reached over a thousand people over the year and included topics such as Romanian Strays, Pandemic Puppy Buying, the STRAY movie premier and unsung heroes in the world of dog welfare.



# STUDENT OUTREACH

## ANIMAL LAW MOOT

An A-LAW Student Group member founded the first animal law mooting competition [a legal animal rights debating competition] - the Cecilia Moot.

Two competitions have been hosted, with esteemed judges from the legal profession and judiciary, including Lord Justice Singh (UK), Steven Wise (USA), Thom Page (USA) and Cathryn McGahey KC (UK) and many more.



## ANIMAL LAW ESSAY COMPETITION

A-LAW runs a national animal law essay competition each year. The competition allows students to engage in critical thinking around animal law and ethics.

## STUDENT GROUP

By 2021 A-LAW had established a growing presence across UK universities. There were 27 Student Ambassadors across 17 universities, and 6 Student Chapters.

Our Student Ambassadors and Student Chapters hosted a range of events about areas of law including the welfare of fish and 'broiler' chickens. We facilitated hosting these on line as we worked throughout the pandemic to provide high quality legal education.

We worked collaboratively with international student organisations such as National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) University of Law in India. See our events page to learn more.



**ANIMAL CHARITY  
EVALUATORS**

With thanks to funding from Animal Charity Evaluators Movement Grant, we were able to grow our student network and support law students across the UK to engage with animals and the law. This is vitally important, as animal law is only taught in a handful of universities.

# STUDENT OUTREACH

## WHAT STUDENTS SAY.....



“We current students are the upcoming professionals, lawyers, policy-makers. We have the opportunity to make a change, and to start now. The role also has introduced me to so many inspirational people in the field of animal law. It not only provides the opportunity to increase your involvement with A-LAW but also to learn, make connections, and develop a community that will continue beyond graduation.”

MARY LEGGE,  
STUDENT  
AMBAASSADOR



“I think it is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference and raise awareness for animal welfare issues. You also have the chance to get creative and organise any events that you think might be beneficial! I would really encourage others to do this, getting involved with A-LAW isn't just an opportunity to help animals, it's also a chance to meet people with the same passion and interests as you! Animal law is an area of the legal field which is still in the early stages of development. If we want to achieve longevity and create an impact with animal law then students, who are the future of law, need to be engaged!”

DARA EISEN,  
STUDENT  
AMBAASSADOR



“Animal Law isn't something they're going to teach you anything about on the GDL, LPC or BPTC, so A-LAW's student group is vital to students looking to get that knowledge and experience. I volunteered as a student ambassador so that I could start learning more about the law pertaining to animals, build my CV, and meet other interested students. I had a great time organising my University's internal rounds of the Cecilia Animal Law Moot, I've made lots of connections, written for Animal Justice UK and attended a wide variety of talks and webinars. It has all paid off: since finishing my coursework I have been working on Animal Law cases as a paralegal with Advocates for Animals.”

SAM MARCH,  
STUDENT  
AMBASSADOR

# KEY ACTIVITIES AND BENCHMARKS 2021

## STRATEGIC SUPPORT FOR LAW REFORM

In 2021, we continued to play a coordinating role within the #BetterDealForAnimals coalition. We helped secure trade expertise for groups actively involved in promoting animal welfare in trade deals post Brexit and we work with the steering committee to ensure access to legal expertise, when needed.

We also helped other animal advocacy groups access affordable or no cost legal help, and continued to help animal advocacy groups identify areas of law reform to improve animal protection in discrete areas.

We work collaboratively with other legal groups, academics and lawyers, including Focus On Animal Law (FOAL) Group for the advancement of animal welfare.



Focus on Animal Law Group - a leading animal law campaign group

## PARLIAMENT



In 2021, we provided significant input into public policy, delivered through our Animal Law Working Groups and Senior Policy team.

## WEBSITE

In 2021, we re-modelled our website and launched an Animal Law News site, integrated into A-LAW's existing site. The website features a wealth of animal law related content.

## YOUNG ANIMAL LAWYERS NETWORK

In 2021, A-LAW launched a Young Animal Lawyers Network (YALN) for early career professionals to provide networking opportunities and a forum for knowledge and information sharing, as well as upskilling in animal law.

The group's annual careers webinar was hosted in 2021 by the YALN on Animal Law Careers: Academic Pathways and attracted an audience of over 100. The webinar, which has been uploaded to A-LAW'S 'Animal Law TV' YouTube channel, has had 391 views to date.

## ANIMAL LAW WORKING GROUPS

A-LAW has Animal Law Working Groups for **wildlife, farmed, and companion animals** and **animals in science**, and in 2021 formed an **Animal Rights Law Group**.

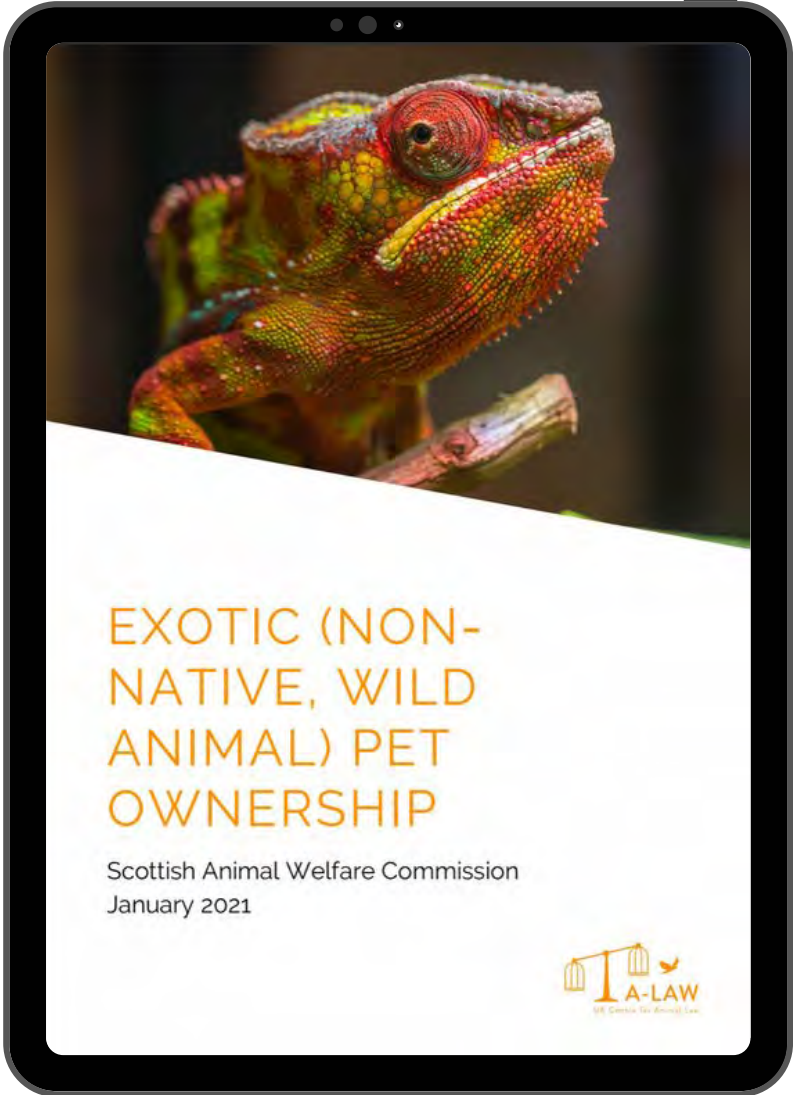
These working groups are supported by volunteers drawn from the academic and legal professions who contribute to briefing papers, consultation responses and other policy work.

# CONSULTATIONS, BRIEFING PAPERS, POLICY PAPERS, AND PUBLICATIONS

2021

JANUARY 2021

Exotic (non-native, wild animal) Pet Ownership  
Scottish Animal Welfare Commission  
Wildlife Working Group

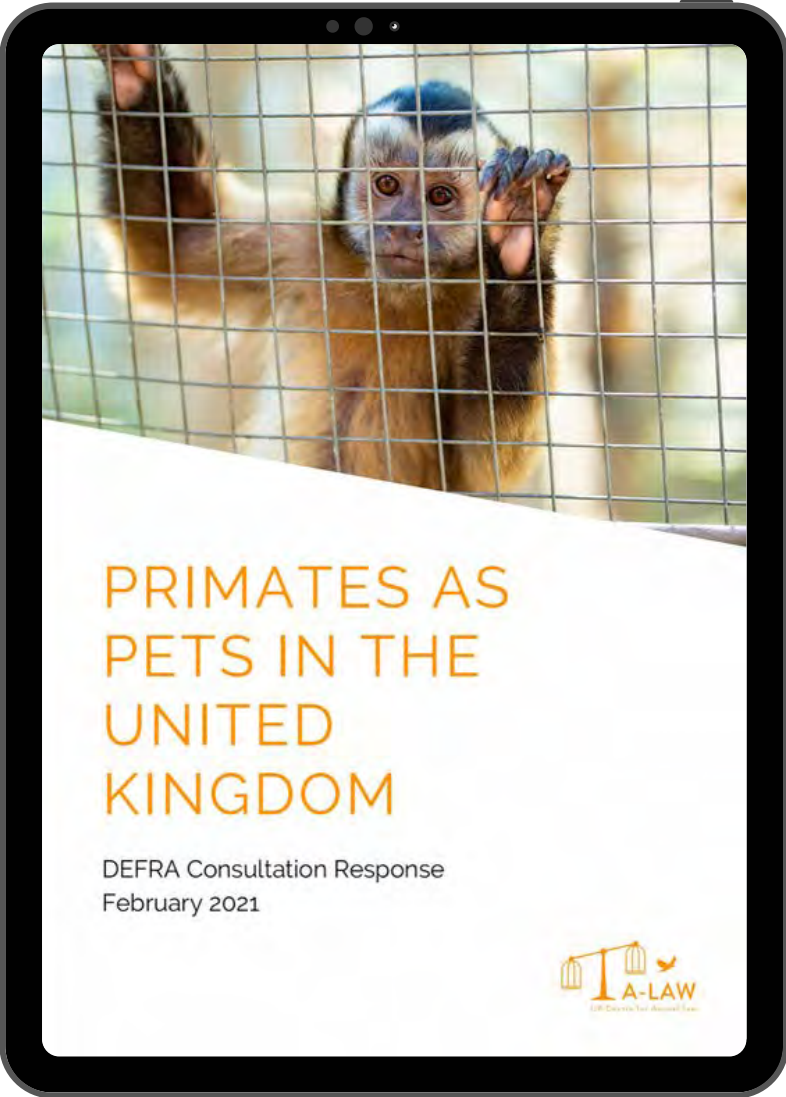


MARCH 2021

Regulation on Genetic Technologies  
DEFRA Consultation Response  
Farmed Animal Law Working Group

FEBRUARY 2021

Primates as Pets in the UK  
DEFRA Consultation Response  
Companion and Wild Animal Working Groups



FEBRUARY 2021

Overview of the Legal Regime Relating to  
Primates as Pets in the UK  
A-LAW Briefing Note  
Companion and Wild Animal Working Groups



FEBRUARY 2021

Improvements to Animal Welfare in Transport  
DEFRA Consultation Response  
Farmed Animal Law Working Group



CONTINUED CONSULTATIONS, BRIEFING PAPERS, POLICY PAPERS, AND PUBLICATIONS

UK Journal of Animal Law  
Animal Law, Ethics and Policy  
Volume 5, Issue 1

APRIL 2021



Bees and Neonicotinoids  
Rob Espin and Steph Bailey  
Wild Animal Working Group

MAY 2021

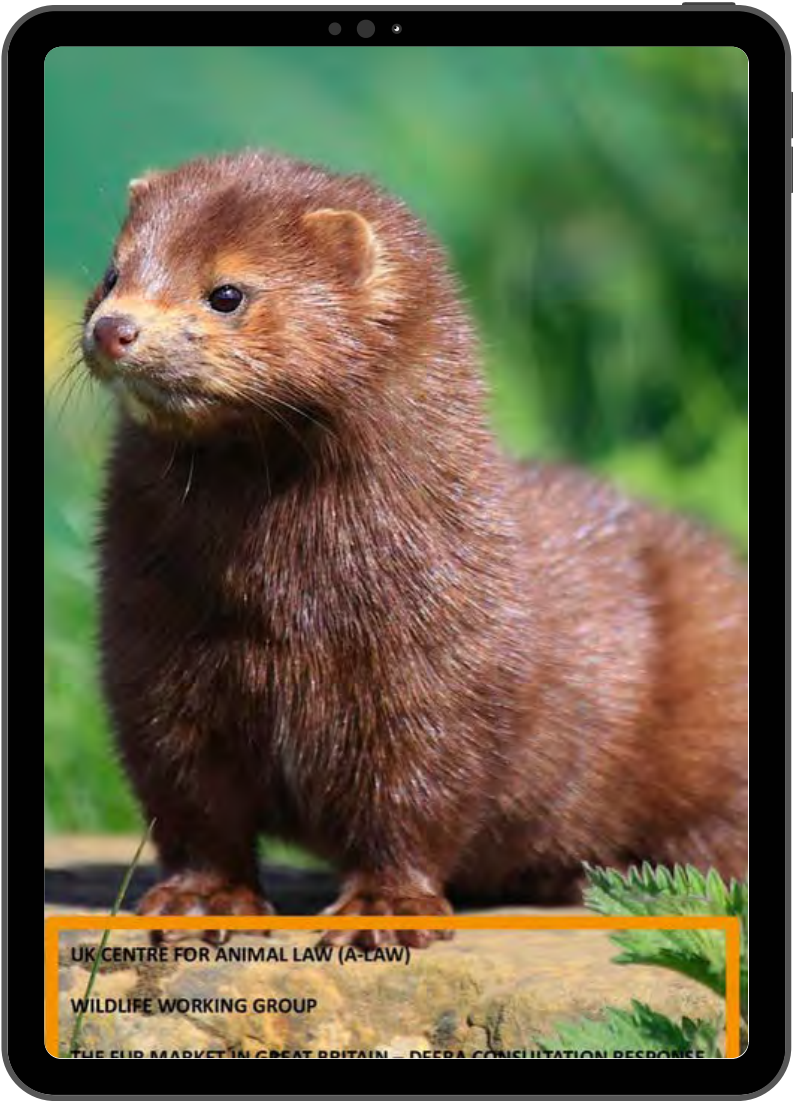
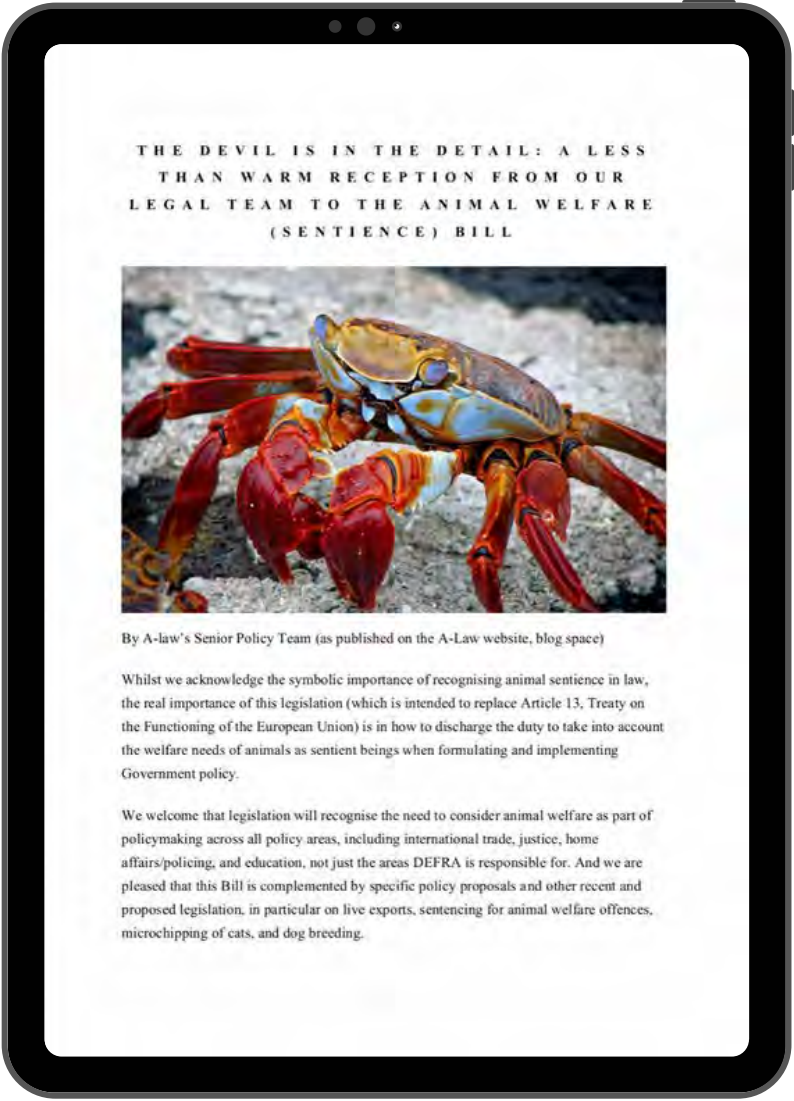


APRIL 2021

Stiffer Punishment for  
Animal Cruelty  
Press Release  
A-LAW Senior Policy + Coalition

MAY 2021

Animal Welfare [Sentience] Bill Analysis  
A-LAW Senior Policy Team

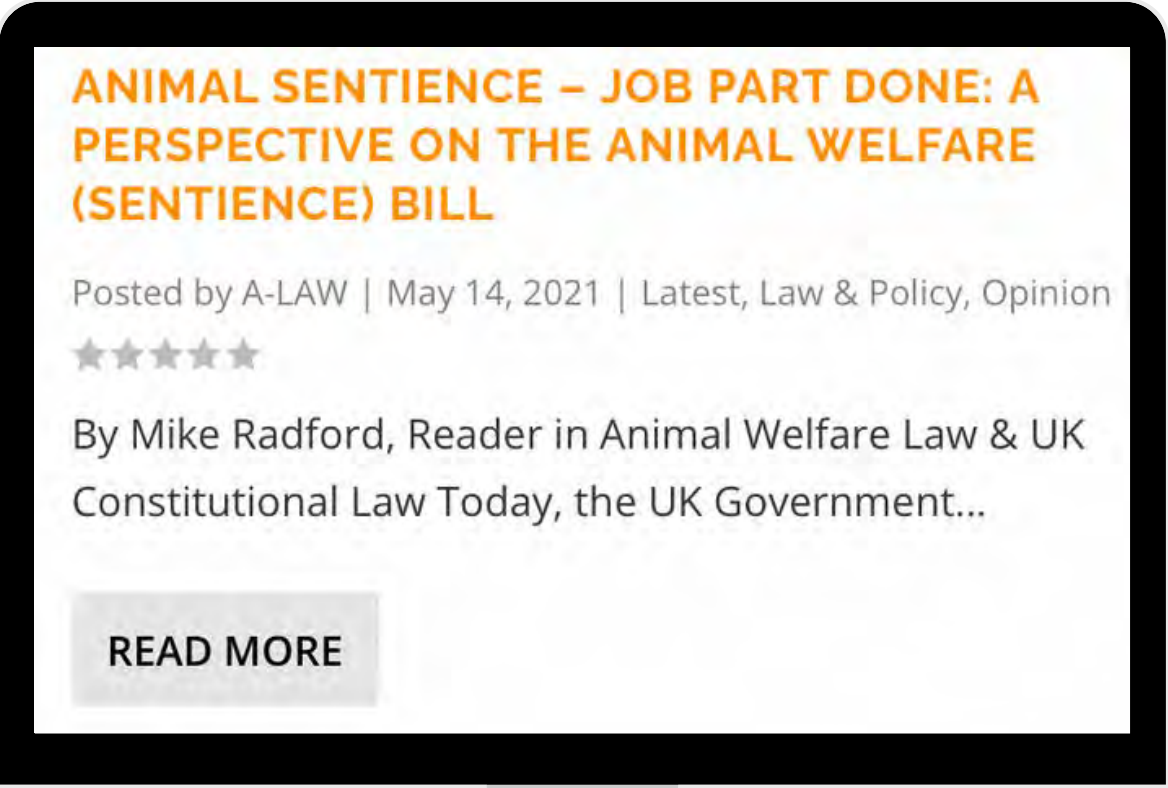


JUNE 2021

The Fur Market in Great Britain  
DEFRA Consultation Response  
Rob Espin  
Wild Animal Working Group

MAY 2021

Legal Analysis of the Animal Welfare [Sentience] Bill  
Mike Radford, A-LAW Trustee



UK CENTRE FOR ANIMAL LAW  
STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT

Glue Traps and the Case for Reform  
Rob Espin and Francesca Nicholls  
Wild Animal Working Group

JULY 2021



JULY 2021

Briefing Paper in Response to  
DEFRA's Action Plan for Animal  
Welfare and the Animal Welfare  
[Kept Animals] Bil

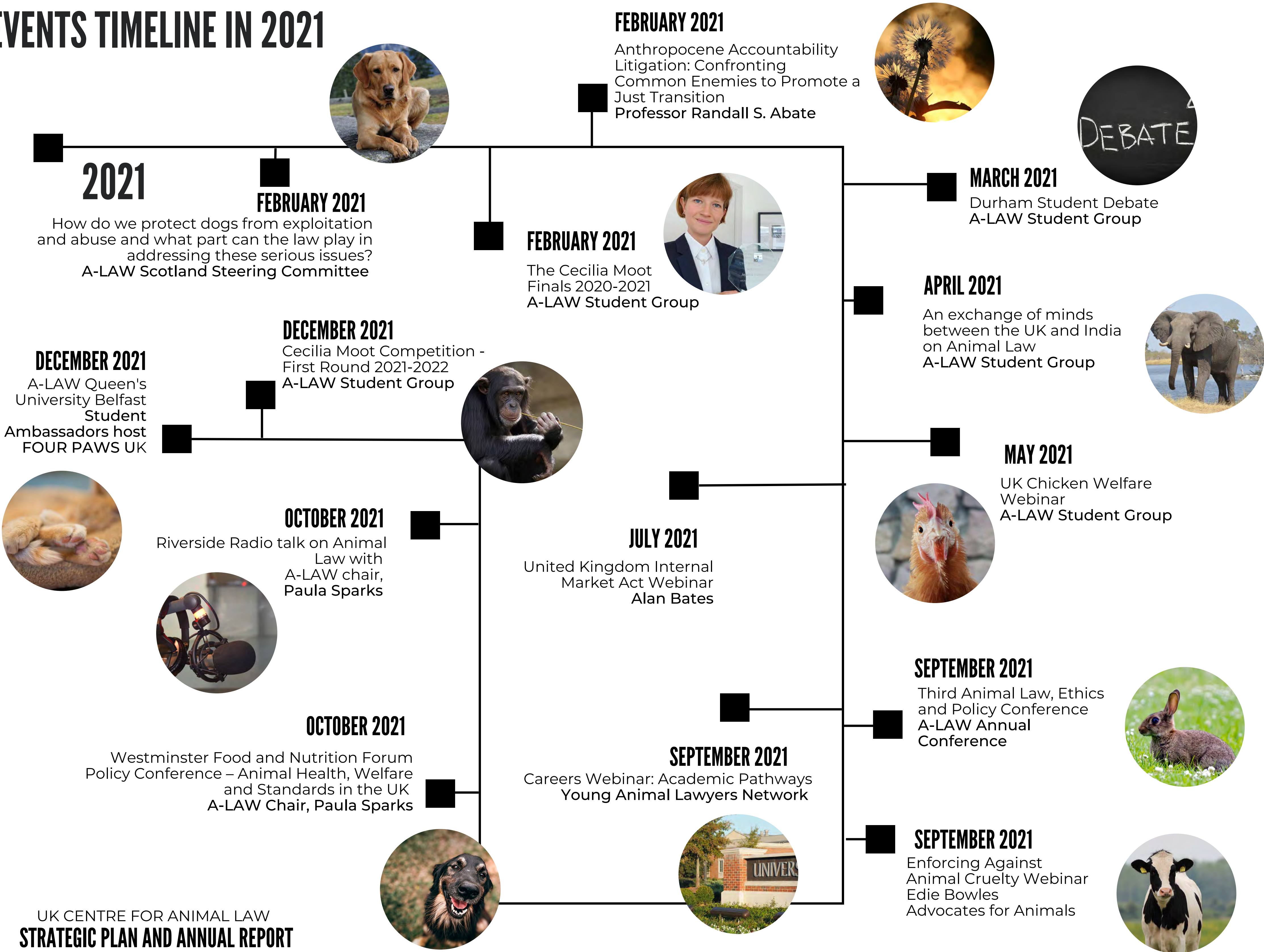
AUGUST 2021

UK Journal of Animal Law  
Animal Law, Ethics and Policy  
DEFRA Action Plan for Animal  
Welfare Special Edition



2022

# EVENTS TIMELINE IN 2021





## PRIORITIES FOR 2022

We are working with other Eurogroup for Animals legal members to identify areas where the law can be better implemented and enforced. We will work collaboratively with other nations where animal law is less developed.

We will continue to provide high quality legal education through our training programme, publications and podcast.

## GOOD LAWS FOR ANIMALS PROJECT

we are launching a major new project identifying areas where the law is not working for animals, either because of the way it has been drafted or because the mechanisms for implementation are inadequate or they are not well enforced in practice.

We will also be looking at opportunities for reform of the civil and criminal justice systems to ensure that animal interests are properly considered.

# PLEASE HELP US MAKE THE LAW WORK FOR ANIMALS IN THESE IMPORTANT PROJECT AREAS

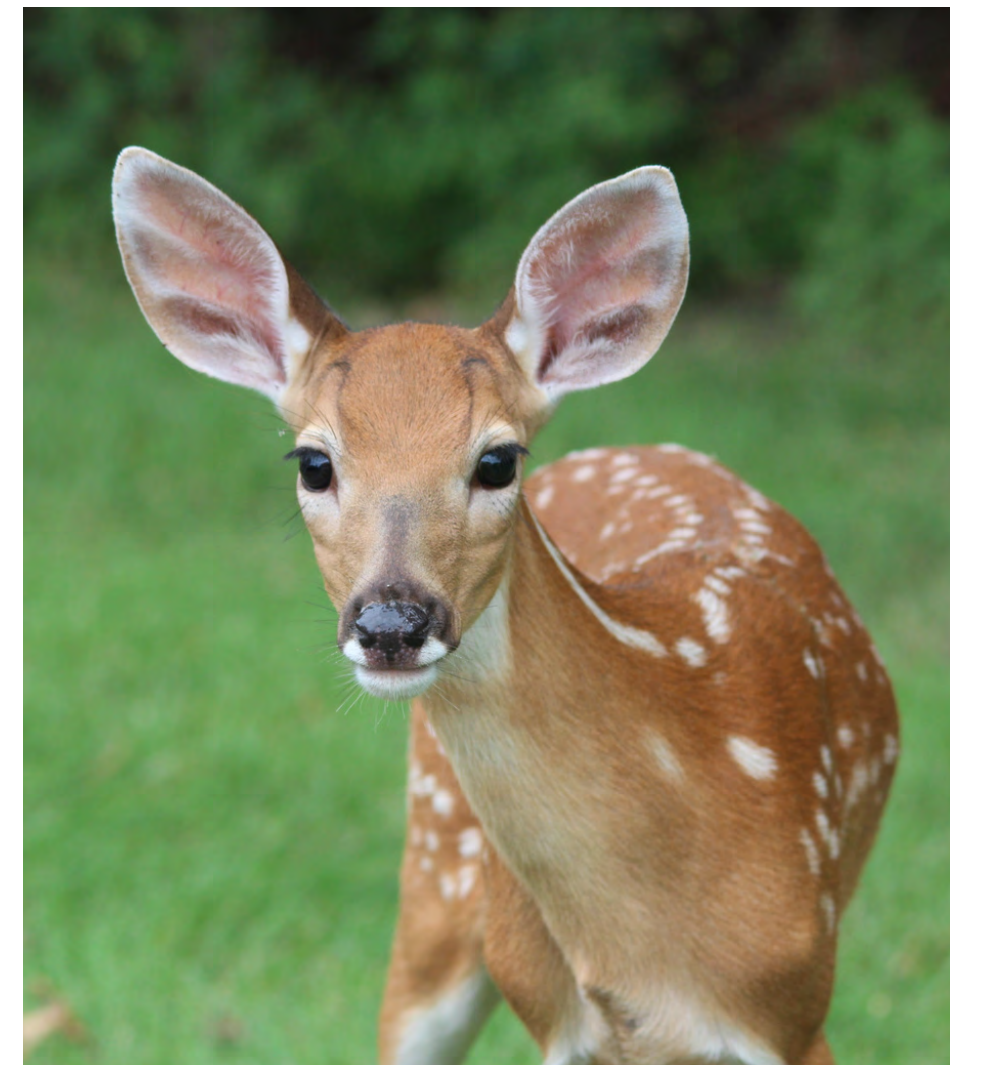


## Pigs and tail docking

Our Farmed Animal Law Group is working on a project on tail docking, looking in detail at implementation of laws that require pigs to be provided with enrichment material which can prevent pigs becoming bored when in close confinement in intensive farming systems, thus reducing or obviating the need for tail docking.

## Deer culling and pigeon welfare

We are working with law students at the Law Clinic at Robert Gordon University on two important projects: (1) deer culling policy in Scotland and (2) the use of netting and other traps which are used to discourage pigeons, but raise a number of concerns for wild and domesticated birds who become ensnared in them.



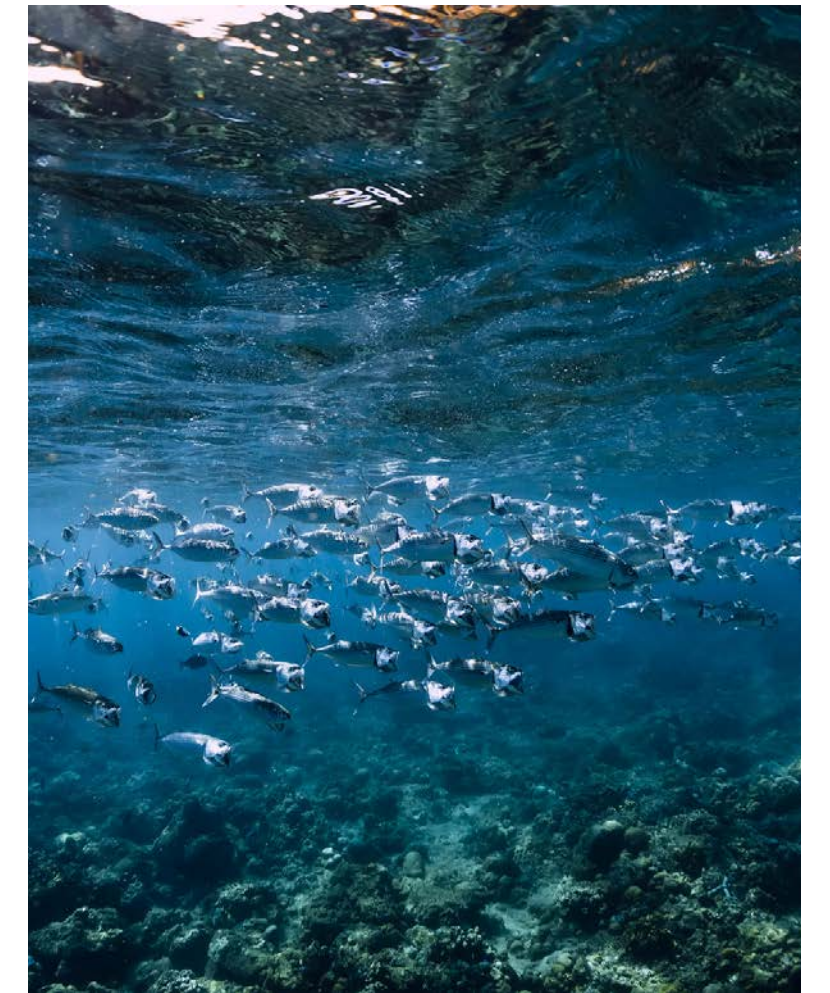
## Enforcement and legal controls

We recognise that poor enforcement of animal welfare laws is a real and important issue. One of our trustees is leading a team considering the enforcement landscape for offences against animals with a view to making meaningful recommendations to inform policy makers and local authorities.

# PLEASE HELP US MAKE THE LAW WORK FOR ANIMALS IN THESE IMPORTANT PROJECT AREAS

## Wild fish welfare

Our Farmed Animal Law Working Group is leading a project identifying opportunities for national and international law reform to protect the welfare of wild caught fish.



## Violence towards animals and the rights of the child.

We are contributing research to inform stakeholders seeking to protect the rights of the child from witnessing state sponsored violence towards animals.

## Civil and criminal justice system reforms

We are starting a project identifying areas where civil and criminal justice systems need reform to properly protect the interests of animals, who are currently defined as property in law. This includes examining important areas such as gaps in the protection of animals from sexual abuse.



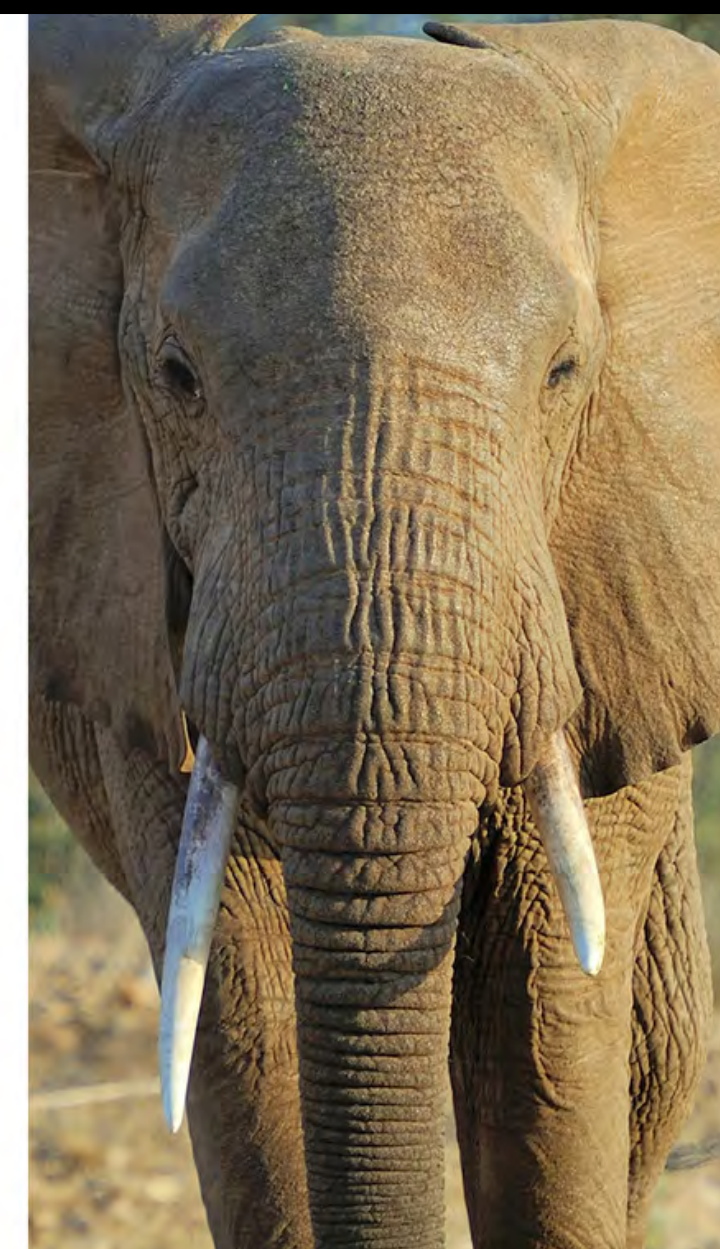
# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

## Public interest litigation in Europe

We were commissioned by Eurogroup for Animals (EfA) to draft a report for members about opportunities for public interest litigation.

We are currently working with the other NGOs of the Animal Law Member Group of EfA to support and encourage animal welfare organisations develop legal strategies for implementation and enforcement of existing laws.

We are proud to report that our chairperson is the current chair of the Animal Law Member Group of Eurogroup for Animals.





Please help us make the law work for animals



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www.alaw.org.uk