

Call for Papers



for the

6th Annual UK Animal Law Conference

The UK's national animal law conference for academics, lawyers, NGOs, and students.

Conference theme:

The Future of Animal Law

Hosted by:

[UK Centre for Animal Law](#)

&

[Multispecies Collective](#)

When:

Wednesday 3 – Thursday 4 June 2026

Where:

Arts Building, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

Abstract Submission Deadline:

12 March 2026

Vision

The UK Animal Law Conference is the nation's definitive meeting place for academics, lawyers, NGOs, and students working toward full protection for animals in the UK's law and internationally. As such, the conference aims are:

- Educating one another about the national and international legal landscape for animals, the latest research, and recent updates on law, policy, and education.
- Network-building to create connections between academics, lawyers, NGOs, and students interested in animal law, and enhance the impact of work toward full protection for animals in law.
- Collaborating to generate new ideas and share good practice toward better legal futures for animals.

The scope of the conference encompasses animal law, ethics, policy, and education. The conference spans the full range of animal law topics including the intersection with environmental law, criminal justice, international trade law and more.

Speakers

Keynotes:

Animal Law: The Future is Now



Professor Kathy Hessler

Assistant Dean for Animal Law, Director of the Animal Legal Education Initiative at the George Washington University Law School, has been a clinical law professor for more than 30 years and has been teaching animal law since 2000. She is the first law professor in the world hired to teach animal law full-time. She helped develop the Center for Animal Law Studies, the Animal Law Clinic, and the Aquatic Animal Law Initiative at Lewis & Clark Law School. At GW Law she created programs focusing aquatic animals, legal education, law and science, and partnerships across the globe.

Preserving the History of Animal Law and Animal Rights



Kim Stallwood is an animal rights author, curator, and independent scholar with 50 years of personal commitment as a vegan and professional experience in leadership positions with some of the world's leading animal advocacy organisations. The British Library in London acquired the Kim Stallwood Archive in 2020. Tier im Recht, the Zurich-based animal law organisation, established the Kim Stallwood Collection in 2022. He is writing the biography of Topsy, the female Asian elephant electrocuted to death on Coney Island, New York, in 1903. He is a member of the Culture & Animals Foundation advisory board.

Towards a Foundation of Agency



Melanie Challenger

Melanie Challenger writes, researches and broadcasts on the history of ideas, the history and philosophy of science and the relationship between humans and the living world. She is the author of *How to Be Animal: What it Means to Be Human*, among other works, and host of the podcast *The Psychosphere*. Melanie is internationally active in bioethics, Vice President of the RSPCA, and co-director of *Animals in the Room*. She is also an award-winning poet and librettist for opera and oratorios, and a National Geographic Explorer.

Speakers:

Visit our [conference webpage](#) to read about our line-up of speakers. 55 speakers are already featured on the website with more coming soon!

Conference Details

Venue: The conference will be hosted in Edgbaston, Birmingham, at the University of Birmingham's Arts Building. Fully vegan catering will be provided. The venue is wheelchair accessible via ramps and lifts, with an accessible bathroom on site. You are welcome to share any accessibility needs when purchasing your ticket for the conference, and we will do our best to accommodate.

Format: The conference will consist of inspiring keynote speeches, varied presentation panels, and practical workshops for academics, lawyers, NGOs, enforcers, and students. A full programme will be circulated closer to the event, once all presenters have been confirmed. There will be a conference dinner on Wednesday 3rd June which attendees are welcome to join by purchasing a dinner ticket at registration.

Registration: The conference is now open for registration. Click [here](#) to register and to check our ticket prices (including a discount for presenters).

As with previous years, we are seeking sponsorship to offer a limited number of free tickets for those who need them. Further details will be announced in due course.

Call for papers

We would like to invite **academics, lawyers, NGOs, and students** to present **in person** at the conference on any topic within the conference's scope and which can speak to the conference theme.

Theme: The theme of the 6th UK Animal Law Conference encourages a collaborative envisioning of the future of animal law. The conference provides a space for education, collaboration, and network-building toward this end. You can expect discussion of strategic, creative, and collaborative pathways toward the future of animal law. This is facilitated by the co-hosts' work to bring together communities: A-LAW brings together legal practitioners, NGOs, enforcers, academics and students in pursuit of full protection of animals in law; the Multispecies Collective brings together researchers,

change-makers and future-oriented creatives in pursuit of flourishing for animals, nature and society. As such, we welcome papers on any topic within the conference's scope and which speaks to the conference theme. An indicative but non-exhaustive list of potential topics includes:

- How advocacy and activism for animals will work in the future (e.g. regional partnerships, cross-sector work, interdisciplinary collaboration)
- How animal law and its enforcement could develop (e.g. big-picture reforms v local changes, public v private enforcement or their combinations, what "effective" enforcement looks like, rehabilitation-focused approaches, "One Welfare" approaches)
- How animal law could relate to social, cultural, moral and religious views (e.g. veganism, cultural practices, ethical perspectives)
- New ideas and theories shaping the future of animal law (e.g. multispecies flourishing, intersectionality, third world approaches to international law and animal rights)
- How animal law will respond to a rapidly changing world (e.g. environmental and climate emergencies, new technologies including AI)
- The future of animal law in education and legal practice (e.g. teaching, training, careers and development of the field)

Presentation Formats: You may apply to present in the following formats:

- Presentation: an individual conference paper presentation (co-presenters welcome) of 15-20 minutes, grouped in panel format by conference organisers, and followed by audience questions.
- Panel: a group of 2-3 conference paper presentations by different presenters, of 15-20 minutes each, with a cohesive panel theme. Note abstracts for panels should include the panel theme.
- Workshop: a 1-2 hour interactive workshop. Note abstracts for workshops should include the workshop name and a summary of the activities involved. Also note these workshops should not require preparation before the conference.

Instructions: To apply to present at the conference, please send an email to conference by **28 January 2026** including:

- Presentation type: presentation, panel, or workshop
- 400 word abstract (including title and summary of paper)
- Presenter name(s), job title(s), and organisational/employer affiliation(s)

All abstracts will be reviewed and applicants will be provided with the outcome of our selection process by **26 March 2026**.

Details of publication opportunities will be shared during the conference.

Save the Date

Two events will be taking place around the conference, for which you may wish to save the date!

The Multispecies Collective PhD Workshop (2 June 2026)

On Tuesday 2 June 2026, the Multispecies Collective will host its second interdisciplinary PhD workshop on research toward flourishing for animals, nature and society at the University of Birmingham. We will welcome applications to present by PhD researchers investigating multispecies flourishing in the humanities (including but not limited to law, environmental humanities, philosophy, and the arts) and the social sciences (including but not limited to sociology, criminology, and political studies). The workshop will provide an interdisciplinary platform for PhD researchers to present their research on multispecies flourishing, engage in critical, in-depth discussion and networking with peers and senior academics.

The application process for the Multispecies Collective PhD Workshop will be separate to the UK Animal Law Conference application process and will commence in early 2026. Details will be shared [here](#) in due course.

International Aquaculture Law & Policy Symposium (5 June 2026)

We're excited to [announce](#) the Center for Animal Law Studies' (CALs) inaugural International Aquaculture Law & Policy Symposium, taking place on June 5, 2026 at the University of Birmingham, England. This one-day, in-person event is being held in collaboration with co-hosts Aquatic Life Institute (ALI) and the Multispecies Collective.

The Symposium is a global event, bringing together experts, scholars, and practitioners to discuss key issues and emerging trends in the rapidly evolving field of industrial animal aquaculture law and policy. Attendees can expect a series of panels addressing timely and critical topics, such as: the impact of industrial aquaculture on animals, the environment, and public health; the global state of animal aquaculture and relevant laws; emerging issues; advocacy strategies; and more. The day will end with a call to action to support a collaborative and strategic approach to challenging global industrial aquaculture.