

# UK Animal Law Conference 2026

## Programme Annex



The conference programme includes parallel panels and workshops, allowing attendees to choose which session they would prefer to attend. To assist you in making those choices, this programme annex includes abstracts for each panel and workshop. You can also find our speaker bios at the [conference website](#).

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## Panels

<b>Panel 1a: Litigation, the courtroom, and animal reform</b>	
Rebecca Ledger: Using the Five Domain Model in animal cruelty cases	<p>Since 2014, the Five Domains Model has influenced how animal cruelty investigations are undertaken and prosecuted. The benefits are far reaching, (i) facilitating the collection for diverse and important evidence to be collected at the scene, (ii) allowing these observations to be systematically consolidated into expert opinions regarding the nature, intensity, duration, and severity of suffering, (iii) allowing for the prosecution of cruelty cases that previously would have escaped prosecution because of a lack of physical evidence, and (iv) clear communication of suffering to the trier of fact. This presentation will describe notable cases in which this framework has been successfully applied across a range of species.</p>
David Lewis-Hall: Judicial Narratives in Animal Law Project: Lessons from the past and opportunities for future strategic litigation	<p>In a common law system, creative litigation is an important limb of any social justice movement. In conjunction with Animal Think Tank, my ongoing legal research project examines judicial narratives in animal related English caselaw over time. The project looks to identify key narratives, as well as inconsistencies in inter and intra-species treatment by the courts, to thereby aid in framing future strategic litigation efforts.</p> <p>This presentation will explore highlights from the project so far, and briefly consider potential areas of opportunity for strategic litigation emerging in light of these.</p>
Michael Riordan: The Future of Animal Law in Practice: Litigation, Planning & Accountability in Animal Land Uses	<p>This presentation will discuss emerging trends in UK animal law with a focus on disputes concerning industrial livestock farming and animal rescues. Current issues of practice include: - whether the current planning framework inadequately categorises sanctuaries/rescues by treating them primarily through an agricultural lens - the potential case for a distinct planning use class or more tailored guidance for such activities - the role of local authority environmental health departments in regulating nuisance arising from intensive animal farming, and whether further guidance is required - planning judicial reviews of animal farming proposals and how these have increasingly involved scrutiny of animal welfare/environmental concerns.</p>

<b>Panel 1b: Human and non-human animal protection through legal reform</b>
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<p>Daniel Allen: Pet Theft Reform: Future Challenges and Opportunities</p>	<p>The Pet Theft Reform campaign has driven key changes, including the Pet Abduction Act 2024 in England and Northern Ireland. Yet devolved inconsistencies persist across the UK, with uneven protections in Scotland and Wales. This paper explores future challenges (such as enforcement barriers, evidential burdens, and low prosecution rates) and opportunities such as UK-wide harmonisation, expanded species protections, improved microchipping enforcement, and stronger ties to animal welfare strategies. The paper argues that coordinated, cross-jurisdictional approaches are essential to improve enforcement, prioritise animal welfare, and recognise the emotional harm experienced by victims of companion animal abduction.</p>
<p>Stephen Forster: Criminal Liability for Dogs attacking Sheep: Do the Reforms go far enough?</p>	<p>The presentation will highlight the reforms recently enacted in the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025 and whether these are robust enough to prevent and detect attacks on sheep. These reforms are twofold, firstly, widening the scope of the existing offence and secondly, strengthening police powers to seize dogs in order to take samples and impressions. Whilst these reforms are welcomed, the question remains, do they go far enough?</p>
<p>Christina Warner: Ruby’s Law: Protecting Pets in Domestic Abuse Cases</p>	<p>Ruby’s Law seeks to address the gap in legal protections for pets in domestic abuse situations. This presentation will explore how pets, often used as tools of coercion and control, are not adequately protected under current family and animal welfare laws. By amending the Family Law Act and Domestic Abuse Act, Ruby’s Law advocates for pets to be explicitly included in non-molestation and occupation orders, ensuring their safety alongside human victims. Through legal reform, Ruby’s Law aims to enhance the protection of pets, empower survivors, and strengthen the legal consequences for offenders.</p>

**Panel 1c: More-than-human approaches**

<p>Emily Jones: Rights and Legal Personhood for Orcas: Theories of the More than Human and the Limits of</p>	<p>There is an increasing focus on whether the environment/nonhuman animals should have rights and/or legal personality. Many entities have specifically called for the recognition of the legal personality of whales. This paper draws on theories of the more than human to examine the potentials and pitfalls of recognising the legal personhood</p>
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<p>Anthropocentrism and Anthropomorphism</p>	<p>or rights of one species of whale: orcas. While, on the face of it, the legal recognition of nonhuman entities sits well within a more than human framing, this is questioned, noting the limitations posed by the inherent and structural anthropocentrism and anthropomorphism of global and domestic legal systems.</p>
<p>Felicity Tepper: Developing a Restorative Jurisprudence for Multispecies Flourishing: A Strategic Pathway for Animal Law</p>	<p>Australasian animal law is siloed and punitive, objectifying animal kin through rigid categories ('pet', 'pest', 'livestock'). This paper argues that such fragmentation reflects an anthropocentric failure of imagination. It proposes environmental restorative justice (ERJ), informed by multispecies justice, as a process-based redesign for human-wildlife coexistence. Through structured, participatory practices that foreground animal lifeworlds (Umwelten) and diverse knowledge traditions, ERJ reframes interspecies friction as an ongoing relational reality inviting co-designed repair and democratic participation. The result is a scalable model for practising justice with, not merely for, animal kin in an emerging Symbiocene, integrating animal law within wider Earth-centred jurisprudence.</p>
<p>Daijah Paris Valentine: The Sentience Paradox in Animal Law: From Anthropocentrism to Sentientist Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Animals are formally recognised as sentient beings in UK law, yet legal frameworks continue to permit their systemic harm. This contradiction is conceptualised as the Sentience Paradox: a structural gap between sentience recognition and its implementation. This gap is attributed to anthropocentric legal ordering, which neutralises the legal implications of sentience through justificatory frameworks. Drawing on a critical, intersectional, and posthumanist approach, this paper develops a sentientist jurisprudence that repositions sentience as a fundamental value that constrains harm, rather than a factor to be outweighed by anthropocentric priorities. This offers a conceptual and normative pathway toward making sentience legally operative.</p>

**Panel 2a: Institutional and community action**

<p>David Bilchitz: How should Animal Protection Institutions be designed?</p>	<p>Which institutional structures are required to protect the interests of animals? That question can helpfully be engaged through considering flaws in existing institutions. This presentation focuses on legislation in South Africa which establishes a National SPCA. Whilst seemingly promising, I argue that this legislation enshrines a set of</p>
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	conceptual incoherences leading to serious conflicts between the National Society and the local Societies it is supposed to represent, distracting them from their main mission – to protect animals from cruelty. This analysis results in reflections on what can be learnt globally for the construction of institutions for the protection of the interests of animals.
Maya Pardo: Planning for Change: How Community-Led Legal Action is Reshaping Animal Protection in the UK	Maya Pardo is the Legal Strategy Coordinator at Communities Against Factory Farming (CAFF), a campaign challenging every factory farm planning application in the UK. She co-authored Action4Justice’s global legal guide to freshwater pollution (2026), and graduated from King’s College London in 2023 with a Postgraduate Diploma in Law and Professional Practice.
Mark Westcombe: A Strategy to Institutionalise Animal Rights and Sentient Governance – How might we realistically advance and embed animal rights over the long term?	This presentation outlines a skeleton strategic framework for institutionalising animal rights over the mid-to-long term. We focus on four intertwined pathways: reshaping public and legal narratives; expanding animals’ political representation; strengthening enforcement of existing laws; and building a cluster of incremental rights. Together, these aim to transform human–animal relations and move towards “sentient governance.” The session invites feedback and practical ideas on milestones, campaigns, and tactics to refine this framework and support wider movement capacity.

**Panel 2b: Veterinary science, markets, policy**

Andrew Knight: Conscientious Objection to Harmful Animal Use within Veterinary and Other Biomedical Education	Classes in which animals are seriously harmed or killed are common within life and health sciences courses. Some students conscientiously object to participation. The presenter was such a student, who used human rights law to establish the case for student conscientious objection to harmful animal use within his Australian veterinary degree. This was dramatically successful, paving the way for humane teaching methods to be introduced across Australian veterinary & other courses, and for conscientious objection policies to be introduced. The legal foundations utilised are reviewed, and recommendations provided for universities and students dealing with this issue.
Steven McCulloch: Farmed Animal Welfare	This presentation presents emerging research examining the role of veterinary institutions as powerful but under-scrutinised actors in the governance of farmed animal

<p>Law and Professional Power: Why Veterinary Policy Matter</p>	<p>welfare, food systems, and environmental sustainability. While veterinarians are widely perceived as neutral experts, the collective policy positions of professional bodies - particularly National Veterinary Associations - play a key role in legitimising government approaches to intensive livestock production and high levels of meat consumption.</p> <p>Drawing on documentary analysis and a case study of the British pig veterinary profession, the presentation explores how veterinary institutions engage with welfare standards, housing systems, antimicrobial use, and sustainability debates. Despite growing scientific consensus that livestock production contributes substantially to climate change, biodiversity loss, and public health risks, no national veterinary institution has adopted policy positions aligned with independent scientific frameworks such as the EAT-Lancet dietary targets or national climate recommendations. Instead, professional policy statements often remain compatible with continuation of the status quo of intensive animal agriculture.</p> <p>The presentation situates these findings within theories of regulatory and professional capture, and considers how structural proximity between veterinary institutions, agricultural industries, and government departments may constrain independent professional leadership on animal protection and environmental harm. International comparisons - including policy positions of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe - suggest that these patterns are not unique to the UK, raising broader questions about professional governance in global food systems.</p> <p>From an animal law perspective, the analysis highlights an important but neglected dimension of legal and regulatory effectiveness: the role of professional legitimacy in shaping political feasibility and policy ambition. Where veterinary institutions publicly endorse existing production systems, this may limit both legal reform and enforcement by reinforcing narratives of acceptable harm. Conversely, stronger professional advocacy could help enable more ambitious regulatory futures for animals.</p>
<p>David Reader and Scott Summers: Overdue a check-up: New enforcement pathways</p>	<p>The market for veterinary services has undergone rapid consolidation in the UK, driven largely by private equity-backed corporate groups. Rising prices, limited insurance coverage, and regional practice closures have highlighted market failures with implications for animal welfare and</p>

<p>for animal welfare in veterinary markets</p>	<p>public health. This research explores how competition enforcement and professional regulation can evolve to ensure accessible veterinary care. It advocates a more agile approach to assessing the effects of consolidation as part of competition assessments, alongside reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and stronger corporate governance standards. These measures can nurture resilience and promote investment through an animal welfare lens.</p>
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**Panel 2c: Animal law across the globe: lessons from Africa, India and Malaysia**

<p>Apoorva: Collaborating with local governments to improve animal law enforcement: A case study from India</p>	<p>In India, government is a powerful agent of change. Using a pre-pilot study by Animal Law &amp; Policy Network (ALPN) as a case study, this presentation explores whether collaborative engagement with government can improve animal welfare. In 2025, ALPN partnered with the district administration of Sri Muktsar Sahib (Punjab) for conducting a needs assessment across multiple sectors involving animals. Findings and an action plan were submitted to district authorities, leading to improved enforcement of laws. This research argues that partnering with government could be an effective animal advocacy strategy in certain contexts, and proposes a scalable model for future interventions.</p>
<p>Motunrayo Esan: Decentering the Global North: Reimagining the Future of Animal Law through Africa’s Animal Welfare Strategy</p>	<p>This presentation argues that the future of animal law requires decentering Global North frameworks and taking seriously under-theorized regional approaches, particularly Africa’s Animal Welfare Strategy (AWSA). Using Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL), it reads the AWSA as a normative intervention offering a relational, communal, and development-sensitive vision of animal protection. Although shaped partly by anthropocentric and productivity-based concerns, the AWSA challenges the assumption that rights-based or abolitionist models are the only path forward. By situating African animal governance within debates on coloniality, inequality, and multispecies flourishing, the presentation advances dialogic pluralism as a more inclusive global future for animals.</p>
<p>Satish Uttamchandani: A Malaysian View of Animal Protection</p>	<p>Malaysia has a rich history of pre-colonial law and tradition known as “Adat,” encompassing the social, physical and ceremonial dimensions of indigenous peoples’ cultural</p>

	<p>relationship with their environment. There have also been some recent interpretations of Islamic law that transition from traditional views of animal dominion towards a stewardship or conservation approach. Adat and Islamic law are both recognised sources of law in the Malaysian Constitution. This presentation will explore aspects of Adat together with novel interpretations of Islamic law towards establishing a culturally situated theory of animal dignity and legal personhood in Malaysia.</p>
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**Panel 3a: Activism, civil society, and the animal strategies**

<p>Kate Allberry: The Animal Welfare Strategy: Limitations, Opportunities and Collective Advocacy for Free-living Wild Animals</p>	<p>The UK Government's Animal Welfare Strategy aims to deliver the most ambitious reforms to animal welfare in a generation. However, while the strategy signals promising intentions, concrete action is needed for meaningful change. Despite being in the midst of a war on nature, and facing a growing gap between people's intentions and actions, we may find potential as well as shortcomings within the strategy. This talk will explore its limitations and opportunities, and discuss how we can collectively advocate to secure legal reform and stronger protection for free-living wild animals.</p>
<p>Emma Slawinski: Putting Animal Back into the Animal Welfare Act</p>	<p>The Animal Welfare Act reaches its 20th Anniversary in 2026. Over the past two decades, the Act has undoubtedly improved the lives of many animals. However, three significant weaknesses have become apparent:  a. The overly permissive interpretation of what constitutes "unnecessary suffering";  b. The inconsistent and inadequate application of animals' welfare needs;  c. The exclusion of certain animals from protection.  As we mark the Act's 20th anniversary, there is a clear opportunity and responsibility to reset its interpretation, ensure consistency, and confirm the principle that all animals deserve adequate protection. Animals cannot wait another 20 years for the protections they are legally entitled to receive.</p>
<p>Christine Dorchak: How to Be an Activist That Creates Real Change</p>	<p>Change is not self-executing. This simple concept is something that many in the social justice movement, this author included, may fail to understand and truly accept. Well-meaning and dedicated advocates tend to focus on protest. We write letters, wave our signs and send out press</p>

	<p>releases—but little changes. That’s because we are working from the outside. In order to bring change, one must be inside, seated at the table, where decisions are made. This presentation will tell the story how a small, grassroots team working from a one room basement office just outside Boston is using three key principles to subdue and wipe out the multi-billion dollar American dog racing industry. Three key strategies emerged during GREY2K’s twenty-five year fight: Advocates must persist through failure and realize that mistakes are our best teachers. 2. In order to achieve significant progress, we must not only change hearts and minds, but we must change the law. And finally, successful activism is a marathon, not a sprint. The presentation will conclude with updates on the global fight to end dog racing, with information about our new joint report with the League Against Cruel Sports, Reaching the Finish Line, Time to End Dog Racing in the UK.</p>
<p>Sam Hazle: Towards Multispecies Law and Society Through Civil Society Organisations</p>	<p>Despite the law’s potential to catalyse progressive social transformation, it remains deeply embedded in anthropocentric and speciesist paradigms that legitimize and perpetuate the systemic oppression of nonhuman animals by humans and their activities. Contemporary legal frameworks overwhelmingly prioritize human interests, relegating nonhuman animals to the status of property or resources. The traditional approach of animal law scholarship has been legal reform, where efforts have focused on enhancing animal welfare or securing limited rights within existing legal frameworks. However, the transformative potential of civil society organisations (CSOs) who engage with animal law or policy remains largely unexplored, with exceptions being scholarship exploring the approach of the Nonhuman Rights Project. This presentation will outline the key analytical findings from this thesis’ investigation into animal law and policy CSO in the UK, specifically, the extent to which these organisations embody posthumanism and intersectionality within their legal and advocacy approaches. First, it will briefly outline the design of this critical, multispecies framework, detailing three key aspects of posthumanism and four of intersectionality which provide the toolkit for the examination. Second, it will detail the key analytical insights in relation to the alignment of civil society organisations with this framework of posthumanism and intersectionality. Third, it will provide a brief evaluation of pathways forward</p>

	<p>that can guide alignment with posthumanism and intersectionality, setting out principles, guidance, and recommendations for CSOs to help them progress toward animal liberation.</p>
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<p><b>Panel 3b: When Dogs Meet the Law: Risk, Regulation, and Reality</b></p>	
<p>Helen Howell: The assessment of dog bite risk in legal proceedings: Moving towards evidence-based practice by experts</p>	<p>More than 31,000 dangerous dog offences were recorded in England and Wales in 2024. Dog bite risk assessments in judicial proceedings are often overly dog-focused, lack validity, and raise ethical concerns. Research suggests a more holistic, evidence-based approach is needed. In forensic psychology, best practice for assessing violent offending risk involves evidence-based models. Similarly, we propose using evidence-based structured professional judgement guidelines, to assess the risk of human-directed dog aggression in legal proceedings, improving validity, consistency, and ethical standards in these evaluations.</p>
<p>Angus Nurse: Regulating Dangerous Dogs: A Criminological Perspective on Policing the Dangerous Dogs Problem</p>	<p>The enforcement and policy response to dog attacks often involves destruction of dogs deemed dangerous. Yet UK dangerous dogs’ legislation requires first establishing the extent to which a dog represents a danger to the public before authorising destruction.</p> <p>This paper’s content analysis of appeal court scrutiny of enforcement action identifies how preventative measures often are and should be deployed by courts while the enforcement approach often reactively treats all dogs that bite as inherently dangerous. The paper’s analysis identifies the potential for courts interpretation of dangerous dogs’ legislation to deploy a preventative holistic approach aimed at both dog and owner.</p>
<p>Daniel Shaw: The Question of Type: Promoting Fair and Defensible Breed Type Assessment Under the DDA</p>	<p>Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 requires professionals to determine whether individual dogs conform to prohibited breed types, including the recent addition of the XL Bully. Interpretation of breed standards in legal contexts remains variable, contributing to uncertainty and inconsistent outcomes for dogs, owners, and practitioners. This presentation promotes fairness and proportionality within the existing framework by improving consistency in breed standard application. Using the XL Bully as an example, it examines challenges of subjective identification and proposes a structured, transparent</p>

	approach to conformation assessment to support more defensible and equitable decision making.
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**Panel 3c: Animal law education**

Marine Lercier: From Access to Impact: Online Animal Rights Law Education that Leads to Change (ICARE)	Animal rights law is growing, but two gaps remain: many animal advocates lack access to training, and what is learnt does not always lead to change for animals. In 15 minutes, I propose an ‘access to impact’ approach to online animal rights law education: interactive online learning and post-education evaluation of what learners apply. I illustrate this approach through ICARE’s online courses, open-access resources, and impact evaluation methods.
Venla Mathlein: The Future of Animal Law: The AniLex Programme as a Model for Legal Education	The presentation introduces the AniLex Programme at Åbo Akademi University as a model for embedding animal law within legal education. AniLex adopts a non-anthropocentric framework, centring animals’ interests and questioning conventional legal assumptions. The fully online, international programme comprises 10 courses (50 ECTS) delivered through open university access to students, researchers, practitioners, and public authorities. Foundational courses address the basics of animal law, legal theory, and multidisciplinary perspectives, while advanced courses cover areas including international, constitutional, EU, administrative, and criminal law. The curriculum combines de lege lata analysis with de lege ferenda critique.
Maureen O’Sullivan: Teaching Animal Law in Ireland – An Interdisciplinary Approach	How do you teach animal law to students from rural backgrounds without alienating them? This presentation will describe the contents of my course whose numbers have grown from 68 to 149 within a year. I will outline my search for content without a textbook and how numbers grew from 68 to 149 within a year. We examine our relationships with various animals, study their status in our rich mythology and critically assess their place in a global context. I examine by reflective log and use poetry and music as props in class.

**Panel 4a: Animal welfare offences and unnecessary suffering**

<p>Claire Lathwell: Investigating the prosecution and sentencing of animal welfare crimes</p>	<p>Following a successful public campaign, the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021 increased the maximum prison sentence for the most extreme animal cruelty offences in England and Wales to 5 years. This sounds like good news for animals, but is it? In recent years, anti-carceral animal law scholars in North America have critiqued criminal prosecutions and harsher sentencing. In the context of this debate, this research investigates ‘how’ animal welfare law is implemented in the criminal courts. This presentation summarises the investigation so far and calls for feedback and contributions to the research from animal lawyers and prosecutors.</p>
<p>Charlotte Morrish: Animal welfare offences and the burden of proof – Is the bar too high for effective enforcement?</p>	<p>The UK is considered a world-leader in animal welfare, yet ambitious legislation is consistently undermined by a significant ‘enforcement gap’ (Morton et al., 2020). Effective enforcement, from inspection to conviction, is essential to improving welfare by deterring offenders, raising public awareness and removing animals from harm (Whitfort et al., 2024; DEFRA, 2025). This presentation examines whether the burden of proof contributes to that enforcement gap. An analysis of the full spectrum of animal offences reveals: how the burden of proof is allocated; whether the approach differs to other criminal offences; its effect on enforcement; and, ultimately, any scope for reform.</p>
<p>Emma Slawinski: Putting Animal Back into the Animal Welfare Act</p>	<p>The Animal Welfare Act reaches its 20th Anniversary in 2026. Over the past two decades, the Act has undoubtedly improved the lives of many animals. However, three significant weaknesses have become apparent: a. The overly permissive interpretation of what constitutes “unnecessary suffering”; b. The inconsistent and inadequate application of animals’ welfare needs; c. The exclusion of certain animals from protection. As we mark the Act’s 20th anniversary, there is a clear opportunity and responsibility to reset its interpretation, ensure consistency, and confirm the principle that all animals deserve adequate protection. Animals cannot wait another 20 years for the protections they are legally entitled to receive.</p>

**Panel 4b: AI, digital platforms and animal law**

<p>Rachel Gaffey and Demi Mullen &amp; Gretta Dattan: Animal Law without Lawyers: The Future of Animal Law in Ireland?</p>	<p>This presentation examines the emergence of animal law in Ireland as an independent legal discipline, contextualised within an era defined by social media and artificial intelligence. Drawing on case studies from Animal Law Ireland and Dog Law Ireland, it analyses how digital platforms facilitate public engagement with legal information and participation in legislative processes. The presentation evaluates both the pedagogical potential and regulatory risks of online dissemination, including misinformation and the demand for legal accuracy. It ultimately contends that while digital participation amplifies public discourse, legal expertise remains essential to ensuring the coherent and credible development of animal law.</p>
<p>Lene Northwood: Modelling Fish Welfare Law using Artificial Intelligence</p>	<p>There is a gargantuan application for fish welfare legislation. Humans are heavily regulated, whereas animal welfare is not, particularly fish welfare. Developments in the understanding of fish sentience, ethical obligations to minimise suffering, a steep increase in the global importance of fish as a food source, and corresponding concerns about antimicrobial resistance have changed this view. However, human-only development of regulation is complicated and time-consuming. However, it is an ideal match for AI-supported legislative drafting, which lauds its capacity to process data, benchmark, identify gaps and simplify complex information in a consistent feedback loop.</p>
<p>Lev (Leo) Bromberg: Who Speaks for Non-Human Animals in Artificial Intelligence? Addressing the Animal-shaped Gap in Emerging AI Law and Governance</p>	<p>Law and ethics scholarship has largely overlooked how the rapid expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) affects non-human animals. AI is increasingly shaping animal lives in farming, wildlife conservation, research and entertainment, and offers both welfare opportunities and risks of intensified exploitation, opacity, bias and misuse. We propose a multi-species justice framework for AI governance that (1) recognises animals' legitimate interests, (2) embeds animal centred risk assessment, (3) requires responsibility and care for animals, and (4) establishes institutions to represent animal interests. We propose to use our framework to assess the UK Animal Sentience Committee, the statutory committee responsible for considering how central government policy decisions take account of animal welfare, and propose alternative regulatory pathways to ensure animals are included in AI governance.</p>

<b>Panel 4c: Insects and crustaceans</b>	
<p>Brontie Maria Ansell: Rethinking Law for the insects: Bees as Rights-Bearing Entities</p>	<p>Animal law has historically focused on individual, sentient vertebrates, leaving insects largely excluded from welfare protections despite their ecological importance and behavioural complexity. This paper argues that overcoming this vertebrate bias is essential for the field’s future. It examines recent municipal ordinances in the Peruvian Amazon that recognise native stingless bees as holders of legal rights, including rights to exist and maintain healthy habitats. Analysing these developments through animal law and rights of nature scholarship, the paper explores issues of legal standing, guardianship, and enforcement. It concludes that recognising insect rights offers a necessary evolution of animal law, enabling more ecologically grounded legal frameworks.</p>
<p>Ivanira Pancheri: Insect Farming: An emerging animal welfare crisis in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Brazil</p>	<p>Despite the desired abolitionism, the evolution of industrial entomophagy, driven by climate change to 4.8 trillion deaths annually by 2033, requires immediate regulation. The gap between evidence of invertebrate sentience and weak legal frameworks persists: the unjustified exclusion in the UK's 2022 Act, which includes cephalopods and decapods, warrants Judicial Review; the Dutch innovation classifying insects as “production animals” under the 2013 Act lacks oversight; and Brazil’s transition from traditional entomophagy to insect farming for animal feed requires preventive legislation. Per the New York Declaration’s precautionary principle, we must institutionalize welfare standards, intercepting massive, neglected suffering before industrial barriers entrench.</p>
<p>Laura Poulson: A decade of decapod protection: Advancing decapod crustacean welfare in law and practice</p>	<p>Over ten years, Crustacean Compassion has advanced legal and practical protections for decapod crustaceans, helping shift them from legislative neglect to recognised sentient beings under the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022, and contributing to ending inhumane practices such as boiling alive. Through science-led advocacy, policy engagement, and cross-sector collaboration, the organisation has promoted higher-welfare standards across the food sector, supported by initiatives like The Snapshot and Kinder Kitchens. Their evidence-based work shows how targeted campaigning strengthens enforcement, inspires legal innovation, and broadens understanding of sentience. This shows how communication, collaboration, and creative advocacy can shape future animal law reform.</p>

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**Panel 5a: Entertainment, travel, and hunting**

<p>Oliver James Francis-Jones: An explosive debate for firework regulations</p>	<p>Oliver’s presentation will focus on reforming firework regulations to safeguard animal welfare and the environment. In the first instance, he will focus attention on how animal welfare can be protected by reducing the regulatory decibel limit for fireworks. Secondly, the implementation of ‘firework zones’ will be introduced and examined as to whether this will safeguard animals from fireworks. And, finally, in a critical discussion of the impact of fireworks on the environment and habitats of animals, Oliver will propose new regulations to manage and record the harm of firework</p>
<p>Dulki Seethawaka: Travel Influencers &amp; Social Media Platforms vs. Future of Wildlife Tourism</p>	<p>In today’s era of hashtags and clicks, travel influencers play a vital role in shaping wildlife tourism. Some of these encounters are clearly against the legislative frameworks protecting wildlife. However, weak enforcement, political and economic incentives linked to tourism, and the failure to effectively monitor and regulate social media platforms remain persistent challenges. This paper examines the necessity of regulating social media content and information shared by travel influencers to ensure that wildlife tourism does not endanger ecosystems and wild fauna. The research problem addresses the absence of clear legal and regulatory mechanisms to hold social media travel influencers accountable for content that promotes illegal and unethical activities associated with wildlife tourism.</p>
<p>Ellis Witcher and Gretta Dattan: Fantastic Mister Fox and the Great Hunt: a Tale of Legislative Failure</p>	<p>This presentation analyses the legislative defeat of the Animal Health and Welfare (Ban on Fox Hunting) Bill 2025, the first proposal to prohibit fox hunting in the Republic of Ireland. Despite substantial public support, the Bill failed decisively in Dáil Éireann. Drawing on debates, party statements, media coverage, and comparative developments in Great Britain, the presentation situates this outcome within Ireland’s political economy, rural dynamics, and party structures. It argues that while political factors primarily explain the Bill’s failure, the legislative text itself provides valuable insights for framing and drafting future animal welfare reform initiatives.</p>

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<b>Panel 5b: More-than-human rights</b>	
<p>Kristina Drogu and Marine Lercier: Animal Politics at the Ballot Box: Direct Democracy for Animal Rights</p>	<p>Citizen initiatives, ballot measures and referenda can bypass stalled parliaments and open a route to legal change for animals, yet they are unevenly available and rarely studied in animal law. This 15-minute talk shares early findings from a global comparative dataset (2014-2024) built by ICARE on pro-animal direct democracy campaigns at local, regional, national (and at times supranational) levels. We look beyond ‘wins’ and ‘losses’ to agenda setting, policy learning, and what this reveals about representing animals’ interests in majoritarian systems. We end with practical lessons on when direct democracy complements litigation and legislative advocacy.</p>
<p>Marie Kolb: Ecological Personhood and the Future of Animal Law: Can Rights of Nature Advance Animal Rights in Germany?</p>	<p>While nature is increasingly recognised as a rights-bearing subject, its implications for animal law remain underexplored. This presentation examines how conceptualising ecological personhood, as articulated in a 2024 judgment of the Landgericht Erfurt, may open new avenues for the legal recognition of animal interests. Through doctrinal and comparative analysis - including the 2022 Estrellita decision - this presentation argues that rights-of-nature frameworks can indirectly support animals as rights-holders. This approach may be more feasible than direct claims to animal personhood, given stronger political support for environmental protection, offering a pragmatic pathway to strengthen legal recognition of animal interests in Germany and beyond.</p>
<p>Patricia Welty: Rights of Nature: a pathway to One Welfare</p>	<p>Rights of Nature is a movement that recognizes animals and ecosystems as rights-bearing entities and draws inspiration from Indigenous worldviews. One Welfare emphasizes the interconnected health of humans, animals, and ecosystems and rejects fragmented approaches to harm. A key challenge today is the difficulty of establishing legal standing. RoN addresses this gap by establishing legal guardianship for nature and animals. This presentation will examine relevant legal cases, including Estrelita (Ecuador), Southern Resident Orcas (Washington), Sea Turtles (Panama), Salmon (Washington), Whales (New Zealand). RoN and One Welfare advance a legal framework that recognizes the interdependent wellbeing of humans, animals, and ecosystems.</p>

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<b>Panel 5c: Improving farm animal welfare</b>	
Phoebe Hartnett: Exploring the 3Rs Framework for Farmed Animal Mutilations	This presentation examines how the 3Rs framework (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement), originally designed for the scientific sector, can be successfully applied to farm animal welfare standards. By comparing scientific ‘regulated procedures’ with agricultural ‘permitted procedures’, we explore how a 3Rs-guided approach can bridge current legislative gaps regarding painful mutilations. Drawing on practical experience of incorporating these principles into existing welfare standards, this exploratory talk discusses the potential for scaling this oversight into law. While acknowledging sectoral constraints, it demonstrates how scientific templates can provide a targeted, proven pathway toward consistent legal protection for all animals.
Helena Howe: Animal welfare in the Farming and Countryside Programme	The emerging law and policy of sustainable farming post-Brexit (DEFRA, 2021; 2025) does not effectively promote the objective of high farmed animal welfare, despite its claims. The paper draws attention to a lack of ambition regarding welfare and a lack of integration between ‘animal’ and ‘environmental’ interests. In short, the ‘welfare’ objectives for which financial support is available are focused on health and increasingly directed at improving productivity and biosecurity, rather than ensuring positive psychological states for farmed animals. They also appear to be motivated by an increasingly instrumentalist perception of the value of animal welfare. Moreover, welfare and ecological sustainability continue to be presented as largely separate agendas, thus missing opportunities for synergies and fostering tensions between conservation actions and those needed to promote welfare.
Hira Jaleel: A Comparative Analysis of Litigation Strategies in Brazil, India, Mexico and Zimbabwe	Industrial animal agriculture, refined in the US and Europe, is rapidly expanding into populous low- and middle-income countries (PLMICs), drawn by rising demand and permissive regulation. Drawing on a comparative report analyzing litigation strategies in Brazil, India, Mexico, and Zimbabwe, this presentation examines whether litigation is an effective tool against industrial animal agriculture in PLMICs. The talk discusses cross-jurisdictional themes and takeaways from the research and evaluates the global and comparative future of animal law.

<b>Panel 6a: Climate change and sustainable development</b>	
Daina Bray: The Climate Crisis & the Future of Animal Law	Human-caused changes to the climate pose grave risks to all types of non-human animals. Wildlife face multiple hazards, captive animals are vulnerable, and companion animals are at risk. Interacting and ongoing phenomena of extinction, biodiversity collapse, and loss of wildlife abundance stand to permanently alter the future of life on Earth. At the same time, human exploitation of animals - particularly in animal agriculture - drives and worsens climate change. In this context, animal lawyers should be cognizant of the coming climate crisis for animals in setting strategies. Fortunately, many positive interventions for animals are also positive for the climate.
Eugénie Duval and Victoria Young: Where Are the Animals in Climate Change Law? Animal Welfare and National Adaptation Plans	Climate change is widely recognized as one of the greatest threats to human societies, yet its impacts on non-human animals are largely overlooked in climate governance. This paper argues that animal law cannot be conceived without addressing climate change, and that climate law remains incomplete without explicitly considering animal welfare. Using National Adaptation Plans, which set medium and long-term adaptation priorities and strategies, as an example, it shows that animals are frequently neglected or considered only indirectly, rather than recognized as sentient beings deserving protection. The paper explores strategies for integrating animal welfare into climate adaptation law and policy.
Rebekah Humphreys: International Animal Welfare: Integrating Animal Ethics, International Law and Sustainable Development Goals	This paper discusses the topic of global animal welfare and its relationship to animal ethics and Sustainable Development Goals, emphasising such welfare as a key missing link, not just in respect of meeting such goals but also in terms of giving nonhuman animals what they are due in and of themselves. The paper's overall aim is to show the significance of international animal law for urgent global systemic change in relation to humans' treatment of other animals.

<b>Panel 6b: Market-based strategies for animal welfare reform</b>	
Danielle Duffield: Judging a Book by its	Animal protection lawyers have traditionally engaged with welfare labelling reactively, primarily through litigation

<p>Cover: Method-of-production Labelling as a Lever for Stronger Animal Protection Laws</p>	<p>challenging misleading “welfare washing” claims. While such cases address individual instances of deception, they leave a deeper structural problem untouched: the absence of mandatory welfare information on animal product labels. Without clear method-of-production labelling, harmful practices are shielded from market scrutiny, and incentives for reform are weakened - ultimately slowing legislative progress. Drawing on recent consumer research, UK policy proposals, and historical precedent, this talk argues that mandatory method-of-production labelling could drive welfare standards upwards and help create the political conditions necessary for stronger legal protections for farmed animals.</p>
<p>Aude-Solveig Epstein and Alice Di Concetto: Beyond Animal Welfare Statutes: How Law, Markets, and Power Shape the Lives of Animals</p>	<p>This talk examines why animals remain vulnerable despite legal promises of protection and welfare, arguing that the primary battleground for animal justice currently lies in economic law, rather than in isolated welfare statutes. Trade, corporate, consumer, financial, and competition laws shape how animals are used, exploited, and valued. While these economic rules enable suffering, they also offer avenues for reform. The talk invites animal law experts to rethink animal law from the inside out, exploring how the legal structure of companies and market could be redesigned to recognize animals as more than commodities.</p>
<p>Kat Sargeant: From the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to systems governance: mapping farmed animal law in the UK</p>	<p>Farmed animal law is commonly associated with animal welfare legislation. This framing obscures the broader legal architecture sustaining intensive animal agriculture. Whilst welfare law regulates the treatment of animals within production systems, the structure and expansion of those systems are shaped through a complex and sprawling web of governance frameworks. This presentation considers how these fragmented legal regimes collectively facilitate intensive livestock production whilst limiting systemic accountability, making the case for legal and policy strategies that consider animal protection within a global system of production.</p>

**Panel 6c: Harmful and extreme conformation breeding**

<p>Alice Potter and Angus Nurse: Shaping the future - strengthening</p>	<p>Companion animals suffer due to intentional breeding for extreme, unnatural conformation (EUC) e.g. flattened faces, shortened limbs, excessive skin. In 2025, the RSPCA</p>
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<p>legal protections for animals bred with harmful physical traits</p>	<p>commissioned a review of pertinent legislation in the UK and five European nations. Analysis revealed a clear case for legislative reform, indicating current legal scope is inadequate to protect animals from harmful breeding. Emergent recommendations emphasised exploring preventative and reactive measures that encompass all breeders and species; focusing on the harmful act; and addressing possession and sale. This presentation will discuss the key findings and how they will inform the RSPCA’s work to address EUC.</p>
<p>Sarah Weir: Exploring Knowledge and Perceptions of Dog Law in the UK: Findings from a Nationally Representative Survey</p>	<p>Dogs’ societal roles have been shifting. Dogs are increasingly regarded as family while simultaneously framed as dangerous nuisances in public, all while classified as property. Law must adapt to changing societal perceptions of dogs to maintain legitimacy and compliance. Using a nationally representative UK survey, this study examined public knowledge and attitudes towards current and hypothetical laws governing dogs. Knowledge was generally poor for current laws, with 30% of hypothetical laws incorrectly believed true. Legal knowledge and opinions were strongly associated. Findings suggest dogs occupy a conditionally protected yet dependent status, viewed as property but deserving protection when human interests are not compromised.</p>
<p>Vanessa Barnes: Introducing the Innate Health Assessment tool for Dogs – A practical tool to combat extreme conformation breeding practices</p>	<p>This presentation provides an introduction to the Innate Health Assessment tool for dogs, explaining how it can support enforcement of existing laws in England and protect dogs from extreme conformation breeding practices. The presentation provides a discussion of next steps for the IHA including how it can help to raise awareness of this serious welfare issue with the public, the role that advertisers and the media can play and other possible enhancements to the current dog breeding landscape which could help to protect dogs from irresponsible breeding practices.</p>

**Panel 6d: Rethinking animal law through empathy, transitional justice, and sociology**

<p>Guilherme de Azevedo: Non-human animals, social systems and inclusion: towards a Systemic Sociology of</p>	<p>The research examines the socio-legal conditions shaping the emergence of Animal Law in Latin America, drawing on Niklas Luhmann’s theory of social systems to understand how the legal system, within its self-referential process, navigates the tensions between constitutional and civil law</p>
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<p>Animal Law in Latin America</p>	<p>when attributing legal meaning to non-human animals. By observing organisational decision-making and the strategies of animal advocacy movements, the discussion seeks to reveal how demands for the inclusion of non-human animals expose cultural tensions and challenge established legal boundaries. More than simply extending rights, this approach invites a profound reflection on how legal systems manage complexity and negotiate inclusion and exclusion within society. Systems theory offers new analytical tools for understanding the evolving relationship between law, social movements, and the recognition of sentient beings, challenging traditional assumptions that rely on monocausal ethical theories to justify and construct rights for non-human animals.</p>
<p>Grace Law Woodhouse: The Empathy Pipeline: Reclaiming the Future of Animal Law through Inclusive Education and Practice</p>	<p>One of the most significant structural challenges facing the future of animal law is the ‘empathy gap’ that manifests between initial advocacy-driven interest and professional legal qualification. Although a high volume of prospective professionals enter legal education with a desire to protect the vulnerable, the current landscape of animal law is frequently framed as a niche elective, or a specialised luxury pursuit, and such framing often diverts talent toward traditional, commercially-driven career paths. This presentation will explore how the future of animal law can be secured through a strategic and collaborative restructuring of both legal education and professional practice.</p>
<p>Love Alfred: Reimagining Just Transition: A Multispecies Turn through Faith-Based Governance</p>	<p>A just transition (JT) is commonly framed in terms of equitable outcomes for human communities in the shift from fossil fuels to green energy. Yet, the place of non-human life within this discourse remains underdeveloped. This article examines how faith-based organisations (FBOs) can address the anthropocentric limitations of JT. It argues that prevailing approaches prioritise human-centred notions of recognition, distributive, and procedural justice, while overlooking impacts on ecosystems, species, and multispecies relations. Drawing on the Multi-Level Perspective (MLP) framework, the article shows how current transitions generate ecological pressures that reshape habitats and species vulnerabilities. It positions FBOs as bridging actors that foreground cross-species harm and ecological interdependence, linking fields such as JT, rights</p>

	of nature, and animal law, and advancing a multispecies conception of JT beyond anthropocentric assumptions.
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<b>Panel 7a: Enforcement and justice</b>	
Florian Breitsameter: Legislative Discretion vs. Constitutional Mandate: A Transatlantic Perspective on Animal Welfare	This presentation investigates whether constitutionalising animal rights tangibly improves welfare outcomes by comparing German and US legal frameworks. Findings reveal that Germany’s constitutional provision establishes an inviolable legislative baseline and elevates animal interests in judicial balancing. Conversely, the US relies on fragmented statutory laws, yielding inconsistent protection vulnerable to legislative discretion. The research concludes that while amending the US Constitution is practically improbable, constitutional supremacy offers critical theoretical advantages for animal protection. A model amendment is proposed, applying legal rights to animals where their nature permits.
Noyonika Gogoi and Shreya Padukone: Restorative Animal Justice - Beyond Punishment in Indian Animal Law	This presentation explores how the restorative justice lens can make criminal law responses to animal harm more effective by reframing accountability and victim recognition, and centering care and rehabilitation. It looks into how restorative models could bridge critical gaps by acknowledging animals as sentient individuals rather than as property, as well as the structural drivers of cruelty. Drawing on participatory and care-based approaches developed within environmental conservation law, it suggests a reimagination of punitive and carceral logic for animal-related offences under statutes including the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Act, 2023, and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
Sarah Levy: The Only Flag Worth Flying: Reimagining Authority and Legitimacy in International Marine Protection	If laws without enforcement are merely good advice, how can the oceans be meaningfully protected by international legal institutions? This presentation draws on my recent monograph, <i>The Only Flag Worth Flying: Direct Action and the Enforcement of International Marine Conservation Law</i> (Routledge, 2026), which examines the evolution of international marine conservation law in the face of persistent enforcement failures, jurisdictional gaps, and political inertia. Focusing on the book’s third movement, <i>Horizons</i> , it explores how non-state actors increasingly and effectively fill enforcement gaps in marine protection.

	<p>Against the backdrop of developments such as the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ), the presentation suggests that authority and legitimacy may increasingly derive from action and outcomes rather than formal authority.</p>
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<b>Panel 7b: International law</b>	
<p>Charlotte Edgar: The Future of International Animal Law: Strategies for Treaty Success</p>	<p>Despite growing recognition of animal sentience in jurisdictions such as the UK, EU, New Zealand, and Spain, no binding international treaty protects animals at a fundamental level. This presentation examines previous international animal law instruments (including UDAW and UNCAHP) and explores what a successful future instrument might look like, drawing comparative lessons from the Montreal Protocol, the Pandemic Agreement, and the failed Global Plastics Treaty.</p> <p>It will consider whether such an instrument should focus narrowly on sentience and baseline welfare standards, or adopt a more ambitious framework drawing on Rights of Nature and Earth Law (better incorporating Global South and indigenous perspectives) and conclude with practical advocacy strategies.</p>
<p>Yolanda Eisenstein: Animal Law in a Global Age</p>	<p>The future of animal law is global and multidisciplinary, requiring lawyers to transcend borders and collaborate with diverse groups. This presentation explores two approaches to building an international future for animal law. First, it examines the various ways NGOs can engage with the United Nations, the only international collective body shaping global policy on biodiversity, climate, health, and food systems. Second, the session will highlight the benefits of engaging with international legal institutions to form alliances with lawyers across all practice areas. Attendees will explore networking strategies and consider ways to address the ethical and practical challenges of working across disciplines and cultures.</p>
<p>Zannis Mavrogordato: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a Global Advocacy Tool for Animals</p>	<p>The UNCRC is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. It provides, via General Comment 26, that "Children must be protected from all forms of...violence [including] exposure to violence...inflicted on animals", and that "Children have the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment...towards the realisation of [which]...States should immediately...transform industrial</p>

	<p>agriculture and fisheries...[and] conserve, protect and restore biodiversity”.</p> <p>These provisions connect, for the first time, children's rights, environmental law, and animal issues providing an opportunity for animal advocates to reframe animal issues as child issues and to collaborate with child and environmental orgs to achieve their goals.</p> <p>The presentation will provide a better understanding of the above international legal framework and discuss recent examples of the invocation of the UNCRC in support of animal campaigns worldwide.</p>
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<p><b>Panel 7c: Animal welfare across regimes</b></p>	
<p>Manda Pillay-Maloney: When Rabbits Lose Protection: From the Meat Trade to Military Training</p>	<p>This talk argues that rabbits lose protection when humans change the label attached to them: companion, food animal, research subject, military tool, fur animal or pest. Using examples from campaign work, policy submissions and international advocacy, it shows how the same animal can disappear between legal categories. It then outlines a practical abolitionist approach that combines grassroots mobilisation, evidence, legal framing and respectful cross-cultural engagement. The aim is not only to expose rabbit exploitation in the meat trade and military training, but to show how species-specific advocacy can build momentum for animal law reform and movement strategy in the UK.</p>
<p>Tesse Kimber: Lessons from the XL Bully Ban: The Future of Breed Specific Legislation</p>	<p>This presentation is based on research undertaken for my master’s thesis, which explored the impacts of the UK government’s 2023 inclusion of the XL Bully type under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. The study, using qualitative interviews with owners, veterinary professionals and animal welfare practitioners identified complex welfare, ethical and legal consequences of breed-specific legislation. This presentation will outline these key findings and discuss their implications for UK animal law, before considering future directions for breed specific policy that prioritise evidence based, welfare centred approaches balancing public safety and ethical responsibility.</p>

<p>Jessie McConnell-Hellier: From paper to practice: Implications of the Government's 'Replacing Animals in Science' strategy on current and future legislation</p>	<p>UK animal research is regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, protecting animals used in regulated procedures and requiring the Replacement of animals under the 3Rs. However, evidence shows that Replacement is not robustly implemented, limiting opportunities to adopt alternatives.</p> <p>In 2025, the Government published 'Replacing Animals in Science: A strategy to support the development, validation and uptake of alternative methods', representing steps to phase out animal use. Commitments include reforming legislation and strengthening Replacement.</p> <p>This presentation considers these commitments against existing legal protections, and explores how legislation can be modernised to better support the transition to non-animal methods.</p>
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<p><b>Panel 7d: Wild animals</b></p>	
<p>Jenny Elliott-Bennett: Justifying, creating and legalising a framework for the protection of sharks in Bahraini waters</p>	<p>Populations of sharks in the open ocean declined by 71% between 1970 and 2020, and more than one-third of sharks and their relatives are threatened with extinction as of 2025. This presentation describes the process undertaken, by which latest research generated by change-maker activism has forced a policy change and shaped new law that will protect the sharks in Bahraini waters from 2026.</p>
<p>Yann Prisner-Levyne: Is the distinction between animal law and international wildlife law still relevant? A commentary on the case law of the Supreme Court of India</p>	<p>The Supreme Court of India in a recent decision prohibited the use of mobile phones in tiger reserves to protect the welfare and conservation of wild fauna. The decision is a testament of the ecocentric values unambiguously endorsed by the Supreme Court of India in its overall jurisprudence. This decision challenges the rigid theoretical divide between animal law and international wildlife law suggesting that they are two faces of a same coin opening new evolutionary pathways for these areas of the law.</p>
<p>Michael Smith: Vietnam's implementation of international cooperation to fight the rhino horn trade:</p>	<p>Rhino numbers are their lowest since 2002. Poachers' methods are brutal. CITES has called for Vietnam to employ the most advanced and sophisticated law enforcement practices to fight the rhino horn trade. Training is important for Vietnamese LEAs to combat IWT. This paper draws on my studies of criminality framing of the rhino horn trade in Vietnamese online newspapers to explore Vietnam's</p>

<p>Deterrence through developing enforcement practices, training and media frames</p>	<p>implementation of international cooperation. The frames do not indicate whether rhino horn handovers for DNA forensics secure prosecutions, however, strongly indicate the success of financial investigations. It recommends Vietnamese LEAs and journalists receive ongoing consultation and feedback.</p>
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## Workshops

<p><b>Workshops</b></p>	
<p><b>Workshop 1:</b> Jim Clark, Mark Randell, Natalie Harney and Laura Lendrum: Naturewatch Foundation: How Kindness and Legal Obligations to Animals in the Family Environment Shapes Development</p>	<p>This workshop examines how early exposure to animal welfare within the home shapes long-term behavioural and social outcomes. It explores how attitudes and behaviours toward animals can evolve over time, manifesting either as empathy and kindness or, conversely, as pathways into the judicial system. Emphasising the critical importance of early intervention, the session highlights how positive engagement with animal welfare can save both human and animal lives. The workshop also analyses gaps in current legislation and considers how everyday ethical treatment of animal's influences individuals, families, and wider society.</p> <p><b>Workshop format (one hour):</b></p> <p><b>Brief introduction: Jim</b></p> <p><b>Short presentations – 20 mins:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk 1: Companion Animals - Natalie</li> <li>• Talk 2: Compassionate Shopping and Animal Experiments - Laura</li> <li>• Talk 3: Protect Animals Protect People - Mark</li> <li>• Talk 4: Wildlife Crime/Catapults - Jim</li> </ul> <p><b>Group sessions - 20 mins:</b> Workshop delegates spend 20 mins in small groups discussing thoughts and compiling ideas on one of the following sets of breakout questions related to the above presentations:</p> <p><i>Question set #1 – Companion Animals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the immediate term, what practical steps could help foster a more compassionate approach to the breeding, sale, and acquisition of companion animals?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of relationship between humans and domesticated animals traditionally kept as companions would you like to see emerge in the future?</li> </ul> <p><i>Question set #2 – Animal Experiments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How, where and when can Humane Education programmes be used to encourage awareness, empathy and compassion for animals used in science?</li> <li>• What are the barriers to changing public uptake of cruelty-free products and how could the Government’s involvement encourage and enable Compassionate Consumerism further?</li> </ul> <p><i>Question set #3 – Protect Animals, Protect People</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and animal harm: When children harm animals, how should professionals and services respond in a proportionate way?</li> <li>• Online animal abuse and wider crime: With the growth of online content showing animal abuse, often linked to wider criminal behaviour, what threats does this pose to safeguarding and prevention, and what opportunities are there for digital platforms, professionals, or communities to identify risks, and intervene earlier?</li> </ul> <p><i>Question set #4 – Wildlife Crime and Catapults</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you think introducing age restrictions on the sale of catapults would effectively reduce harm to wildlife, or are stronger enforcement measures more important?</li> <li>• How can communities, schools, and the police work together to prevent young people from misusing items like catapults and engaging in animal cruelty in a bid to reduce young people entering the criminal justice system?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion - 20 mins:</b> the groups and panel reconvene to discuss group feedback on breakout questions</p>
<p><b>Workshop 2:</b> Jamie Woodhouse: Why Worldviews Matter for Sentient Beings</p>	<p>Worldviews, whether religious or not, are the foundation of how we understand and navigate the world. They help us work out what’s true, what matters, and who matters. Our personal worldviews underpin our every belief and every decision. But worldviews also steer our institutions, our systems, our culture, our politics, our laws, even our AIs. In this workshop we’ll explore what worldviews are and why</p>

	<p>worldviews are so important for nonhuman and human sentient beings (sentientism.) We'll then explore the tenets and radical implications of an example worldview, Sentientism, using materials I use in UK school Religious Education workshops.</p> <p><b>Participant Activities (All Optional)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider our own, personal worldview, and how it links to how we think about nonhuman animal ethics (and sharing if people are comfortable)</li> <li>2. Explore how the Sentientism worldview differs from, or has common ground with, our own personal worldview (and other worldviews) (sharing if people are comfortable)</li> <li>3. Generate and share ideas about our vision for a more Sentientist world, in law / politics / economics / culture or elsewhere</li> <li>4. Discuss how worldviews should affect our education and advocacy work – and how to work effectively with people of diverse worldviews re: nonhuman animals.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Workshop 3:</b> Yolanda Eisenstein: AI in Practice: Using AI, Animal Research, and Technology in Legal Advocacy</p>	<p>Artificial intelligence is transforming animal law, conservation enforcement, and biodiversity protection by enabling new ways to access, analyze, and interpret complex data. This interactive workshop offers applied demonstrations of AI-driven technologies developed and deployed internationally by the speakers, including real-time intelligence monitoring systems, computer vision models for species identification, and acoustic monitoring tools used in challenging field environments. Through case studies and tech demonstrations, participants will see how these systems support conservation monitoring and environmental enforcement around the world. The session also examines regulatory frameworks and ethical considerations to promote responsible, accountable AI adoption in animal law and conservation practice.</p> <p><b>OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>Illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT) and environmental crime now operate as complex, transnational systems, enabled by digital infrastructures and embedded within broader organised criminal networks.</p>

	<p>Despite this evolution, legal and enforcement responses remain constrained by fragmented intelligence systems, limited access to real-time, actionable data, and predominantly reactive approaches to intervention.</p> <p>In response, there is a growing shift toward advanced, data-driven, and AI-enabled systems to support proactive, intelligence-led enforcement. Across sectors such as finance, healthcare, and security, AI is already embedded in decision-making, predictive analytics, and large-scale data processing. However, its application within conservation and environmental enforcement remains comparatively limited.</p> <p>This workshop draws on the speakers’ applied research, professional practice, and technology development (including ALERIS and ConservaID).</p> <p>Participants will explore how AI and advanced technologies can be used to bridge this gap, enabling more coordinated, timely, and strategic enforcement responses.</p> <p><b>DELIVERY</b></p> <p>Through structured facilitation, interactive tools, and applied discussion, the session provides a practical and strategic framework for integrating AI into animal law and environmental enforcement.</p> <p><b>WORKSHOP PLAN</b></p> <p><b>0–15 MINUTES: INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT &amp; INTERACTIVE SETUP</b></p> <p><b>STEP 1: WELCOME AND FRAMING</b>  The session begins with a brief introduction of the speakers, highlighting their applied research, professional experience, and development of AI-driven systems (including ALERIS and ConservaID). The structure of the workshop and intended learning outcomes are outlined to orient participants.</p> <p><b>STEP 2: CONTEXTUAL OVERVIEW</b>  A short, facilitated overview situates illegal wildlife trafficking and environmental crime as transnational, technologically facilitated challenges. Key constraints—</p>
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	<p>including fragmented intelligence systems, limited real-time data, and convergence with organized crime networks—are introduced. This establishes the need for intelligence-led, proactive enforcement supported by AI and advanced data systems.</p> <p><b>STEP 3: AUDIENCE MAPPING (INTERACTIVE)</b>  Participants engage in a live polling exercise (e.g., Mentimeter or show of hands) to map their professional backgrounds, familiarity with AI, and experience across legal, enforcement, and conservation domains. This enables facilitators to dynamically tailor the session.</p> <p><b>STEP 4: FRAMING EXERCISE</b>  Participants are introduced to how AI is currently deployed across sectors such as finance, healthcare, and security, where it is embedded in decision-making, predictive analytics, and large-scale data processing. This broader context situates AI as a mature and rapidly advancing technology.</p> <p>The discussion then narrows to conservation and environmental enforcement, highlighting current applications such as species identification, remote sensing, and trafficking detection. By comparing these domains, facilitators identify the gap between the advanced, integrated use of AI in other industries and its more limited, fragmented adoption within conservation and environmental law enforcement, emphasizing the opportunity for more coordinated, intelligence-led approaches.</p> <p><b>15–45 MINUTES: APPLIED SYSTEMS, INTERACTION &amp; DECISION-MAKING</b></p> <p><b>STEP 5: APPLIED SYSTEMS DEMONSTRATION</b>  Participants are guided through a live or simulated walkthrough of AI systems developed through the speakers’ research (ALERIS and ConservaID). The demonstration illustrates how these tools aggregate intelligence across clearnet and darknet environments, identify wildlife products using computer vision, and generate predictive insights to support enforcement and legal decision-making. These capabilities are contextualized through real-world use cases in customs, investigations, and field operations.</p>
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	<p><b>STEP 6: CRITICAL ENGAGEMENT (INTERACTIVE)</b>  Facilitators guide a structured discussion examining the strengths, limitations, and operational challenges of the systems presented. Key themes include data silos across agencies, ethical and legal risks in AI deployment, system accessibility across diverse user groups, legal admissibility, and long-term sustainability within evolving policy and funding environments.</p> <p><b>STEP 7: APPLIED REFLECTION EXERCISE</b>  Participants consider how access to AI-driven tools would alter their current professional practice. Guided discussion explores how these technologies shift enforcement and legal strategies from reactive to proactive models.</p> <p><b>45–60 MINUTES: LEGAL, ETHICAL &amp; STRATEGIC DISCUSSION</b></p> <p><b>STEP 8: STRUCTURED DISCUSSION</b>  A facilitated discussion examines the role of AI in intelligence-led enforcement. Participants consider whether AI should function as a central or supplementary component of legal and enforcement decision-making.</p> <p><b>STEP 9: LEGAL AND ETHICAL REFLECTION</b>  Facilitators introduce key legal and ethical considerations, including bias, accountability, transparency, and the admissibility of AI-generated intelligence. Attention is given to regulatory gaps and uneven implementation across jurisdictions.</p> <p><b>STEP 10: OPEN DISCUSSION</b>  Participants reflect on how the tools and approaches presented could be applied within their own contexts. Discussion is guided by questions on feasibility, barriers, and opportunities for integration.</p> <p><b>STEP 11: SUMMARY AND CLOSING</b>  The session concludes with a synthesis of key insights and practical takeaways.</p>
<p><b>Workshop 4:</b> Stacy Banwell: Multi-Species Survival: Rethinking</p>	<p>It is estimated that factory farming accounts for 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions (ASPCA, 2022). In addition, the invasion and destruction of land for animal</p>

<p>Climate Action Through Animal Rights</p>	<p>agriculture is implicated in climate-induced extreme weather events: the 2019/20 Australian bushfires killed billions of nonhuman animals. Despite growing recognition of ecocide as a potential international crime, that addresses severe and widespread or long-term environmental damage, prevailing definitions remain anthropocentric. Notably absent is explicit recognition of the destruction to the lives, communities, and habitats of nonhuman animals. Introducing the concept of animal ecocide, this workshop proposes a transformative, multispecies approach to climate justice.</p> <p>This workshop explores how industrial animal agriculture drives climate breakdown and how current climate and ecocide frameworks marginalize nonhuman animals. It invites participants to rethink climate action through animal rights and multispecies justice.</p> <p><b>Format:</b> Using short inputs, interactive polls/word clouds, brainstorming and whole-group discussions participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reflect on industrial animal agriculture as a driver of climate breakdown</li> <li>· Reflect on the relationship between climate change and nonhuman animals</li> <li>· Identify anthropocentrism and speciesism in climate policy</li> <li>· Explore Indigenous approaches to Nature and the Environment</li> <li>· Explore the concept of animal ecocide</li> <li>· Co-create ideas for multispecies climate justice</li> </ul> <p><b>Key concepts:</b></p> <p><i>Anthropocentrism:</i> Human-centered ways of thinking that treat humans as more important than other beings and as the primary reference point in law, policy, and ethics.</p> <p><i>Speciesism:</i> perceived human superiority over nonhuman animals or discrimination based on species membership.</p> <p><i>Ecocide:</i> Proposed international crime involving severe and widespread or long-term damage to the environment,</p>
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	<p>predominantly framed in ways that priorities human interests.</p> <p><i>Animal ecocide:</i> A suggested concept that explicitly recognizes the of harms and deaths of nonhuman animals when the crime of ecocide occurs.</p> <p><i>Indigenous world views:</i> a recognition of the inter-relationship between human and more-than-human species. A worldview that conceives of people as part of Nature, where emphasis is placed on values such as responsibility, reciprocity and respect for nature.</p> <p><i>Multispecies climate justice:</i> Approaches to climate justice that attend to the ways that both the human and the more-than-human world are impacted by the climate crisis – an inclusive from of ecological justice that treats all species as worthy of care and repair.</p> <p><b>Breakdown of the session: 0-5 minutes: Introductions and workshop overview</b></p> <p>Brief description of my background and the outline for the session.</p> <p><b>5-25 minutes: Context, background, and key concepts</b></p> <p>A short presentation that explores the often-overlooked relationship between climate change and the treatment of nonhuman animals. It begins by examining industrial animal agriculture, framing it as an ongoing species war against nonhuman animals, highlighting its significant yet frequently marginalized role in driving greenhouse gas emissions, land use change, and deforestation. Despite its environmental impact, this sector remains largely invisible within many climate action plans and policy frameworks. The presentation will explore the concept of ecocide, critiquing its predominantly anthropocentric focus, which tends to prioritize human harm while rendering the suffering and deaths of nonhuman animals invisible. In response, the presentation introduces alternative imaginaries, including Indigenous worldviews and the notion of animal ecocide, which challenge dominant perspectives and broaden ethical and legal considerations. Adopting a multispecies</p>
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	<p>lens, I will invite reflections on how climate breakdown affects both human and nonhuman life, and how law and policy might better account for these interconnected vulnerabilities, encouraging a deeper engagement with the ethical implications of environmental harm beyond the human.</p> <p><b>25-50 minutes: Interactive Mentimeter quiz and discussion</b></p> <p>This interactive segment will use a mix of tools - word clouds, polls, rating scales, open-ended questions, ranking activities and brainstorming - to gather participants' views on three interconnected themes: how ecocide is currently defined, what an expanded notion of "animal ecocide" might involve, and what multispecies climate justice could look like in practice.</p> <p><b>50-60 minutes: Summary, close and feedback</b></p> <p>At the end of the workshop participants will be invited to share feedback and ideas for future collaborations via a short online survey.</p>
<p><b>Workshop 5:</b> Mara-Daria Cojocaru and Michelle Strauss: Mixed, not scrambled. Listening, co-creating and legislating beyond the human</p>	<p>This practice-based workshop for lawyers, creative professionals, and policymakers shares insights from the public philosophy and poetry project Philosophy in the Wild: Finding Hope in Mixed Communities (April 25–26). The project investigated a dozen potentially hopeful relations between humans and wild living animals worldwide. We present tools for listening, co-creating, and legislating with animals as active members of mixed communities. Drawing on planning, cultural heritage, and conservation law, we examine current strengths and limits in animal law. Participants will explore how creative noticing practices can inform legal advocacy and policy design and discuss two case studies in detail.</p> <p><b>Part 1</b></p> <p><b>0-10 minutes: Introduction and warm-up</b></p> <p>While we hand out pages from a booklet of fieldnotes from the anthrozoological vasculum to each participant: Take a moment and sniff: What is the most salient smell you</p>

	<p>notice? Think of what counts for you as language. Write it on your page.</p> <p>Whilst the participants are doing this, Mara reports from the field: “Philosophy in the Wild: Finding Hope in Mixed Communities”, explaining the project idea and operation. Link this to the sensory exercise above- explain the vasculum.</p> <p><b>Part 2</b></p> <p><b>10-17 minutes: The legal angle - the contrast to the sensory world of the vasculum</b></p> <p>Michelle explains how law treats animals (property/sentience) but it does not consider animals as co-creators of our communities. (3.5 minutes)</p> <p>Bring in the planning law of biodiversity net gain example (where no consideration is given to non-humans as members of a mixed community). (3.5 minutes)</p> <p><b>17-35 minutes: Multispecies poetry - creative exercise</b></p> <p>Mara introduces the tools and creative practice of making poetry with and on behalf of other animals. (8 minutes)</p> <p>Participants create erasure poetry on legal documents (suggest planning legislation because of the discussion that precedes this). (10 minutes)</p> <p>Participants can either keep their poems or donate them to be added to the collection of works in the vasculum.</p> <p><b>Part 3</b></p> <p><b>35-55 minutes: A whiff of hope?</b></p> <p>Mara explains the reintroduction of bison in Romania, testing the philosophical idea of a “mixed communities” based on reparation. (5 minutes)</p> <p>Michelle talks through the implications of this from a legal perspective: rights of nature vs animal rights vs other rights - these absolutes are not providing helpful responses. We need alternatives. - 5 minutes</p> <p>We spend the remaining time “fishbowling” the very idea of ‘hope’ and the role of alternative imaginaries to inform law and policy making - 10 minutes</p>
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	<p><b>55-60: In closing</b></p> <p>Collection of pages of reflection and poems donated and ceremonial closing of the vasculum.</p>
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