

THE UK ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE 2026

THE FUTURE OF ANIMAL LAW

3-4 JUNE 2026

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



Hosted at



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Sponsored by



RICHARD BUXTON
solicitors



WELCOME

Thank you very much for joining us for the 6th annual UK Animal Law Conference, hosted at the University of Birmingham.

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. The conference aims are:

1. **Educating one another** about the national and international legal landscape for animals, the latest research, and recent updates on law, policy, and education.
2. **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.
3. **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 issues, also covering animal law's interaction with environmental law, international trade law, and more.

We hope you enjoy the next two days and leave with new ideas and lasting connections.

*UK Centre for Animal Law (A-LAW) &
The Multispecies Collective*

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Arts Building,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham
B15 2TT
what3words:
///boil.help.behind

JOIN THE CONFERENCE SLACK CHANNEL

Connect with fellow attendees and get conference announcements at 2026-uk-a-law-con.slack.com

PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE CONFERENCE

Photo and video will be taken at the conference. If you do not wish to appear in photo or video content, email conference@alaw.org.uk.

BREAKOUT SPACE

The Mason Lounge (ground floor) is available for conference attendees as a break-out space, whatever your needs (e.g. writing emails, taking online meetings, or taking a break from conference proceedings).





DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE

09:00-09:30

Registration (Tea, coffee and snacks available) – Ground floor reception desk

09:30-10:00

Welcome address by Sonul Badiani-Hammett (UK Centre for Animal Law) & Iyan Offor (Multispecies Collective) – Main Lecture Theatre

10:00-10:45

**Keynote: Melanie Challenger – Towards a Foundation of Agency
Chaired by Iyan Offor – Main Lecture Theatre**

10:45-11:00

Break (Tea, coffee and snacks available) – 1st floor landing

**Panel 1a: Litigation, the
Courtroom and Animal
Law Reform**

Main Lecture Theatre

Chair: Mo Esan

Rebecca Ledger: Using
the Five Domain Model in
animal cruelty cases

David Lewis-Hall: Judicial
Narratives in Animal Law:
Lessons from the Past and
Opportunities for Future
Strategic Litigation

Michael Riordan: The
Future of Animal Law in
Practice: Litigation,
Planning & Accountability
in Animal Land Uses

**Panel 1b: Human and
Non-human Animal
Protection through Legal
Reform**

Lecture Room 1

Chair: Konnie Willett

Daniel Allen: Pet Theft
Reform: Future Challenges
and Opportunities

Stephen Forster: Criminal
Liability for Dogs Attacking
Sheep: Do the Reforms go
far enough?

Christina Warner: Ruby's
Law: Protecting Pets in
Domestic Abuse Cases

**Panel 1c: More-than-
Human Approaches**

Lecture Room 6

Chair: Iyan Offor

Emily Jones: Rights and
Legal Personhood for
Orcas: Theories of the
More than Human and
the Limits of
Anthropocentrism and
Anthropomorphism

Felicity Tepper:
Developing a Restorative
Jurisprudence for
Multispecies Flourishing: A
Strategic Pathway for
Animal Law

Daijah Paris Valentine: The
Sentience Paradox in
Animal Law: From
Anthropocentrism to
Sentientist Jurisprudence

12:00-12:15

Break (Tea, coffee and snacks available) – 1st floor landing

12:15-13:15

**Panel 2a: Institutional and Community Action
Main Lecture Theatre**

Chair: Michelle Strauss

David Bilchitz: How should Animal Protection Institutions be designed?

Maya Pardo: Planning for Change: How Community-Led Legal Action is Reshaping Animal Protection in the UK

Mark Westcombe: A Strategy to Institutionalise Animal Rights and Sentient Governance – How might we Realistically Advance and Embed Animal Rights over the Long-term?

**Panel 2b: Veterinary Science, Markets, Policy
Lecture Room 1**

Chair: Bethan Smith

Andrew Knight: Conscientious Objection to Harmful Animal Use within Veterinary and Other Biomedical Education

Steven McCulloch: Farmed Animal Welfare Law and Professional Power: Why Veterinary Policy Matters

David Reader and Scott Summers: Overdue a Check-up: New Enforcement Pathways for Animal Welfare in Veterinary Markets

**Panel 2c: Animal Law Across the Globe: Lessons from Africa, India and Malaysia
Lecture Room 6**

Chair: Love Alfred

Poorva: Collaborating with Local Governments to Improve Animal Law Enforcement: A Case Study from India

Motunrayo Esan: Decentering the Global North: Reimagining the Future of Animal Law through Africa’s Animal Welfare Strategy

Satish Uttamchandani: A Malaysian View of Animal Protection

13:15-14:15

Lunch – 1st floor landing (seating in Main Lecture Theatre and Mason Lounge)

14:15-15:15

**Panel 3a: Activism, Civil Society, and the Animal Welfare Strategy
Main Lecture Theatre**

Chair: Michelle Strauss

Kate Allberry: The Animal Welfare Strategy: Limitations, Opportunities and Collective Advocacy for Free-living Wild Animals

Christine Dorchak: How to Be an Activist That Creates Real Change

Sam Hazle: Towards Multispecies Law and Society Through Civil Society Organisations

**Panel 3b: When Dogs Meet the Law: Risk, Regulation and Reality
Lecture Room 1**

Chair: Konnie Willett

Helen Howell: The assessment of dog bite risk in legal proceedings: Moving towards evidence-based practice by experts

Angus Nurse: Regulating Dangerous Dogs: A Criminological Perspective on Policing the Dangerous Dogs Problem

Daniel Shaw: The Question of Type: Promoting Fair & Defensible Breed Type Assessment Under the DDA

**Panel 3c: Animal Law Education
Lecture Room 6**

Chair: Iyan Ofor

Marine Lercier: From Access to Impact: Online Animal Rights Law Education that Leads to Change (ICARE)

Venla Mathlein: The Future of Animal Law: The AniLex Programme as a Model for Legal Education

Maureen O’Sullivan: Teaching Animal Law in Ireland – An Interdisciplinary Approach

15:15-15:30

Break (Tea, coffee and snacks available) - 1st floor landing

15:30-16:30

Panel 4a: Animal Welfare Offences and Unnecessary Suffering
Main Lecture Theatre
Chair: Bethan Smith

Claire Lathwell:
Investigating the Prosecution and Sentencing of Animal Welfare Crimes

Charlotte Morrish: Animal Welfare Offences and the Burden of Proof – Is the bar too high for Effective Enforcement?

Emma Slawinski: Putting Animal Back into the Animal Welfare Act

Panel 4b: AI, Digital Platforms & Animal Law
Lecture Room 1
Chair: Love Alfred

Rachel Gaffey, Demi Mullen & Gretta Dattan:
Animal Law without Lawyers: The Future of Animal Law in Ireland?

Lene Northwood:
Modelling Fish Welfare Law using Artificial Intelligence

Lev (Leo) Bromberg: Who Speaks for Non-Human Animals in Artificial Intelligence? Addressing the Animal-shaped Gap in Emerging AI Law and Governance

Panel 4c: Insects and Crustaceans
Lecture Room 6
Chair: Mo Esan

Brontie Maria Ansell:
Rethinking Law for the Insects: Bees as Rights-Bearing Entities

Ivanira Pancheri: Insect Farming: An Emerging Animal Welfare Crisis in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Brazil

Laura Poulson: A Decade of Decapod Protection: Advancing Decapod Crustacean Welfare in Law and Practice

16:30-16:45

Break (Tea and coffee available) - 1st floor landing

16:45-17:30

Keynote: Kim Stallwood – Preserving the History of Animal Law and Animal Rights
Chaired by Michelle Strauss – Main Lecture Theatre

17:30-18:00

Drinks Reception - 1st floor landing

19:00 onwards

Conference Dinner – BA-HA at The Rainbow, 160 High Street Deritend, Bordesley, Birmingham B12 0LD
Travel: Train from University Station to New Street Station followed by ~ 20 minute walk. Alternatively, taxi.

Gold Sponsor Spotlight: Richard Buxton Solicitors is a boutique firm of specialist solicitors working on environmental, planning and public law issues. Established over 30 years ago, they were the first dedicated environmental law firm in the country and have been ranked as a 'top tier' firm in the law sector's independent directory for environmental law since their inception. Based in Cambridge but established nationwide, they provide unparalleled advice and support to individuals, community groups, charities, and local authorities.

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NO WAY TO TREAT A DOG



Did you know?

- Nearly 100 dog tracks operate in the US, UK, Ireland & Australia
- Thousands of greyhounds suffer injuries and death
- Gentle hounds are drugged to fix races



Hansel & Greg



A Global Voice for Greyhounds

Learn more and donate to help save dogs at grey2k.org





DAY 2 - THURSDAY 4TH JUNE

09:00-09:30

Registration (Tea, coffee and snacks available) – Ground floor reception desk

09:30-10:00

**Welcome address by representatives from the UK Animal Law Conference 2026 sponsors: Christine Dorchak (GREY2K USA Worldwide), Marcia Hyde (42BR Barristers), Michael Riordan (Richard Buxton Solicitors), Alice Di Concetto (Coller Animal Law Forum) and Hira Jaleel (Center for Animal Law Studies)
Chaired by Iyan Offor – Main Lecture Theatre**

10:00-10:45

**Keynote: Kathy Hessler – Animal Law: The Future is Now
Chaired by Iyan Offor – Main Lecture Theatre**

10:45-11:00

Break (Tea, coffee and snacks available) – 1st floor landing

11:00-12:00

**Workshop 1: How Kindness and Legal Obligations to Animals in the Family Environment Shapes Development
Main Lecture Theatre**
Chair: Iyan Offor

Workshop leads:
Jim Clark, Mark Randell, Natalie Harney and Laura Lendrum from Naturewatch Foundation

**Workshop 2: Why Worldviews Matter for Sentient Beings
Lecture Room 1**
Chair: Love Alfred

Workshop lead:
Jamie Woodhouse from Sentientism

**Workshop 3: AI in Practice: Using AI, Animal Research, and Technology in Legal Advocacy
Lecture Room 6**
Chair: Michelle Strauss

Workshop lead:
Yolanda Eisenstein

**Workshop 4: Multi-Species Survival: Rethinking Climate Action Through Animal Rights
Lecture Room 7**
Chair: Bethan Smith

Workshop lead:
Stacy Banwell

12:00-12:15

Break (Tea, coffee and snacks available) – 1st floor landing

12:15-13:15

**Panel 5a: Entertainment, Travel and Hunting
Main Lecture Theatre**

Chair: Konnie Willett

Oliver James Francis-Jones: An Explosive Debate for Firework Regulations

Dulki Seethawaka: Travel Influencers & Social Media Platforms vs. Future of Wildlife Tourism

Ellis Witcher and Gretta Dattan: Fantastic Mister Fox and the Great Hunt: A Tale of Legislative Failure

**Panel 5b: More-than-Human Rights
Lecture Room 1**

Chair: Iyan Offor

Kristina Drogu and Marine Lercier: Animal Politics at the Ballot Box: Direct Democracy for Animal Rights

Marie Kolb: Ecological Personhood and the Future of Animal Law: Can Rights of Nature Advance Animal Rights in Germany?

Patricia Welty: Rights of Nature: A pathway to One Welfare

**Panel 5c: Improving Farmed Animal Welfare
Lecture Room 6**

Chair: Mo Esan

Phoebe Hartnett: Exploring the 3Rs Framework for Farmed Animal Mutilations

Helena Howe: Animal Welfare in the Farming and Countryside Programme

Hira Jaleel: A Comparative Analysis of Litigation Strategies in Brazil, India, Mexico and Zimbabwe

**Workshop 5: Mixed, not scrambled – Listening, Co-creating and Legislating Beyond the Human
Lecture Room 7**

Chair: Sam Hazle

Workshop leads: Mara-Daria Cojocar and Michelle Strauss

13:15-14:00

Lunch – 1st floor landing (seating in Main Lecture Theatre and Mason Lounge)

14:00-14:20

**Special Address by Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Biosecurity, Borders and Animals), Baroness Hayman of Ullock
Chaired by Sonul Badiani-Hammett – Main Lecture Theatre**

14:20-14:30

Group photo and short comfort break – 1st floor landing

14:30-15:30

**Panel 6a: Climate Change and Sustainable Development
Main Lecture Theatre**

Chair: Bethan Smith

Daina Bray: The Climate Crisis & the Future of Animal Law

**Panel 6b: Market-Based Strategies for Animal Welfare Reform
Lecture Room 1**

Chair: Sam Hazle

Danielle Duffield: Judging a Book by its Cover: Method-of-production Labelling as a Lever for Stronger Animal Protection

**Panel 6c: Harmful and Extreme Conformation Breeding
Lecture Room 6**

Chair: Mo Esan

Alice Potter and Angus Nurse: Shaping the Future – Strengthening Legal Protections for Animals Bred with Harmful ...

**Panel 6d: Rethinking Animal Law through Empathy, Transitional Justice, and Sociology
Lecture Room 7**

Chair: Michelle Strauss

Guilherme de Azevedo: Non-human Animals, ...

14:30-15:30
continued

Panel 6a cont'd.

Eugénie Duval & Victoria Young: Where Are the Animals in Climate Change Law? Animal Welfare and National Adaptation Plans

Rebekah Humphreys: International Animal Welfare: Integrating Animal Ethics, International Law and Sustainable Development Goals

Panel 6b cont'd.

Aude-Solveig Epstein and Alice Di Concetto: Beyond Animal Welfare Statutes: How Law, Markets, and Power Shape the Lives of Animals

Kat Sargeant: From the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to Systems Governance: Mapping Farmed Animal Law in the UK

Panel 6c cont'd.

Physical Traits

Sarah Weir: Exploring Knowledge and Perceptions of Dog Law in the UK: Findings from a Nationally Representative Survey

Vanessa Barnes: Introducing the Innate Health Assessment tool for Dogs – A Practical Tool to Combat Extreme Conformation Breeding Practices

Panel 6d cont'd.

Social Systems and Inclusion: Towards a Systemic Sociology of Animal Law in Latin America

Grace Law Woodhouse: The Empathy Pipeline: Reclaiming the Future of Animal Law through Inclusive Education and Practice

Love Alfred: Reimagining Just Transition: A Multispecies Turn through Faith-Based Governance

15:30-15:45

Break (Tea, coffee and snacks available) – 1st floor landing

15:45-16:45

**Panel 7a:
Enforcement and Justice
Main Lecture Theatre**

Chair: Konnie Willett

Florian Breitsameter: Legislative Discretion vs. Constitutional Mandate: A Transatlantic Perspective on Animal Welfare

Noyonika Gogoi and Shreya Padukone: ...

**Panel 7b:
International Law
Lecture Theatre 1**

Chair: Love Alfred

Charlotte Edgar: The Future of International Animal Law: Strategies for Treaty Success

Yolanda Eisenstein: Animal Law in a Global Age

Zannis Mavrogordato: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a Global...

**Panel 7c: Animal Welfare Across Regimes
Lecture Room 6**
Chair: Sam Hazle

Manda Pillay-Maloney: When Rabbits Lose Protection: From the Meat Trade to Military Training

Dr Tesse Kimber: Lessons from the XL Bully Ban: The Future of Breed Specific Legislation

Jessie McConnell-Hellier: ...

**Panel 7d: Wild Animals
Lecture Room 7**
Chair: Mo Esan

Jenny Elliott-Bennett: Justifying, Creating and Legalising a Framework for the Protection of Sharks in Bahraini Waters

Yann Prisner-Levy: Is the Distinction between Animal Law and International Wildlife Law Still Relevant? ...

15:45-16:45
continued

Panel 7a cont'd.

Restorative Animal
Justice – Beyond
Punishment in
Indian Animal Law

Sarah Levy: The
Only Flag Worth
Flying:
Reimagining
Authority and
Legitimacy in
International
Marine Protection

Panel 7b cont'd.

Advocacy Tool for
Animals

Panel 7c cont'd.

From Paper to
Practice:
Implications of the
Government's
'Replacing
Animals in
Science' Strategy
on Current and
Future Legislation

Panel 7d cont'd.

A Commentary on
the Case Law of
the Supreme Court
of India

Michael Smith:
Vietnam's
Implementation of
International
Cooperation to
Fight the Rhino
Horn Trade:
Deterrence
through
developing
Enforcement
Practices, Training
& Media Frames

16:45-17:00

Closing remarks – Main Lecture Theatre

Gold Sponsor Spotlight: 42BR Barristers has 120 barristers, ranging from high profile KCs to some of the profession's most promising juniors. 42BR counts animal welfare as one of its specialist areas, and has the full range of skills and experience to advise and represent clients on animal law matters, ranging from the Animal Welfare Act 2006, Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022, Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, wildlife law, animals in family law, environmental law and more.



Silver Sponsor Spotlight: A thought leader in the field, the Center for Animal Law Studies (CALs) offers the most extensive animal law curriculum in the world, offering more than 25 diverse animal law courses, with 18 distinct courses in rotation each year. CALs also offers the world's first advanced legal degree in Animal Law, the US's first Master of Studies in Animal Law for non-lawyers, and the world's first animal law doctoral program.



Animal Welfare at 42BR Barristers

42BR Barristers have 7 King's Counsel and 128 junior practitioners who practice at all levels of court in the Civil and Family Divisions.

All members of the Animal Welfare Group support the UK Centre for Animal Law. Our barristers have the full range of forensic skills to represent clients in all matters that touch on animal welfare including:

Animal Welfare Act 2006
Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986
Animals Act 1971

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Family Law

Professional Negligence (Veterinary and other)
Environmental law
Judicial Review

Cross-Jurisdictional issues (including import and export of animals)

www.42br.com

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Brooklyn Goes Home

The Rise and Fall of American Greyhound Racing
and the Dog that Inspired a Movement

by Christine A. Dorchak, Esq. and Carey M. Theil, GREY2K USA Worldwide



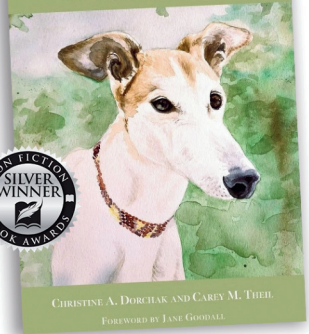
I cried as I read the last chapter and afterword of this book; Brooklyn's story is incredibly moving. From an horrific start in life, he had only a few years in the sun after he was rescued—I wish he'd had more. Brooklyn's story symbolizes the plight of millions of greyhounds worldwide that have been exploited for profit and murdered when they are no longer bringing in money.

—Nonfiction Book Awards



Brooklyn Goes Home

The Rise and Fall of American Greyhound Racing
and the Dog that Inspired a Movement



CHRISTINE A. DORCHAK AND CAREY M. THEIL
FOREWORD BY JANE GOODALL



Go to grey2k.org/BrooklynGoesHome
or visit your local bookstore

CALF | Coller Animal Law Forum

CALF is an interactive resource
analysing laws and policies that
impact farmed animals and food
systems globally.

CALF explores legal and policy levers that can support a more sustainable and animal-friendly food system – from animal welfare and agriculture to public health, procurement, and food policy.



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key topics

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Platinum Sponsor Spotlight: Founded in 2001, GREY2K USA Worldwide is the largest greyhound protection organisation in the world. As a non-profit, they work to strengthen greyhound protection laws and bring an end to dog racing at both national and international levels, while promoting the rescue and adoption of greyhounds globally. Since their formation, dozens of American dog tracks have closed for live racing, and dog racing is now illegal in 44 states. They also campaign globally.

Gold Sponsor Spotlight: CALF has been designed for policymakers, parliamentarians, researchers, and advocates working to bring about a more sustainable global food system. Their flagship tool is an interactive, international database that collates and analyses various laws and policies that impact farmed animals. Supporting the database, they have topical factsheets with key considerations when drafting laws and policies, and a review of practices that show leadership or should be improved.



About the conference hosts



The **UK Centre for Animal Law (A-LAW)** is a charity that brings together lawyers and other people interested in animal protection law to share experience and to harness expertise for the benefit of animals. The charity's vision is a world where animal interests are fully protected by law. Visit alaw.org.uk



The **Multispecies Collective** is a collaborative group of researchers working together with practitioners, change-makers and future-oriented creatives to create knowledge, theory and practice for positive change toward futures of flourishing for animals, nature and society. Visit multispeciescollective.com

With special thanks to our 2026 sponsors



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