

## **UK Animal Law Conference 2026: Workshop strategy**

### **Workshop title:**

Naturewatch Foundation: How Kindness and Legal Obligations to Animals in the Family Environment Shapes Development.

### **Presenters:**

- Natalie Harney: Companion Animals
- Laura Lendrum: Animal Experiments
- Mark Randell: Protect Animals Protect People
- Jim Clark: Wildlife Crime

### **Workshop synopsis:**

This workshop examines how early exposure to animal welfare, both in a positive and negative manner within the home, may shape 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 animals influences individuals, families, and wider society.

### **Workshop format (one hour):**

#### **Brief introduction: Jim**

#### **Short presentations – 20 mins:**

- Talk 1: Companion Animals - Natalie
- Talk 2: Compassionate Shopping and Animal Experiments - Laura
- Talk 3: Protect Animals Protect People - Mark
- Talk 4: Wildlife Crime/Catapults - Jim

**Group sessions - 20 mins:** 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:

#### *Question set #1 – Companion Animals*

- In the immediate term, what practical steps could help foster a more compassionate approach to the breeding, sale, and acquisition of companion animals?
- What kind of relationship between humans and domesticated animals traditionally kept as companions would you like to see emerge in the future?

### Question set #2 – Animal Experiments

- How, where and when can Humane Education programmes be used to encourage awareness, empathy and compassion for animals used in science?
- 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?

### Question set #3 – Protect Animals, Protect People

- Children and animal harm: When children harm animals, how should professionals and services respond in a proportionate way?
- 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?

### Question set #4 – Wildlife Crime and Catapults

- Do you think introducing age restrictions on the sale of catapults would effectively reduce harm to wildlife, or are stronger enforcement measures more important?
- 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?

**Discussion - 20 mins:** the groups and panel reconvene to discuss group feedback on breakout questions.

ANIMAL WELFARE