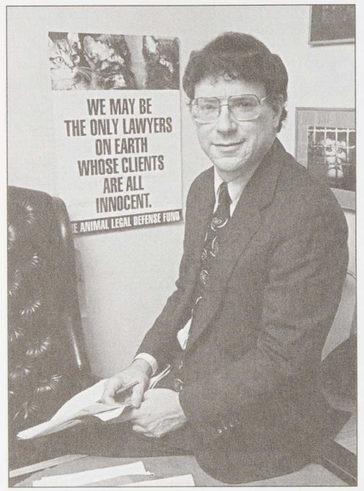
ANNUAL REPORT 1993

Working for Justice for Animals



Steven Wise. Photo by Mark Morelli.

A LETTER FROM ALDF'S PRESIDENT

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF ALDF:

1993 has been eventful. It marked Valerie Stanley's first full year as ALDF's Washington, D.C. staff attorney. She immediately exceeded our expectations by scoring a major victory in ALDF's lawsuit to compel the USDA to revise its regulations to require exercise for dogs and to furnish primates with a physical environment to promote their psychological well being in biomedical research laboratories. The research industry has been served notice again that it must obey the Animal Welfare Act, or reckon with ALDF.

We launched a new nationwide campaign to prosecute cruelty cases aggressively, and to offer our legal assistance to prosecutors across the country to enforce state anti-cruelty laws. We have received an incredible response so far from both DA's and attorneys volunteering to help.

ALDF has provided *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) briefs in several lawsuits, including the use of animals in ritual slaughter, to require that Swim-With-The-Dolphin programs be evaluated before further permits are issued, and to discourage the possession of exotic animals.

Our new Farm Animal Committee is working to identify the areas in which ALDF can attack farm animal abuse through litigation, while our Model Legislation Committee drafted and published model bills covering anti–cruelty, state leghold traps and endangered species.

Since it began in 1989, the Dissection Hotline has been a very successful program and has helped thousands of students to refuse to do animal dissection. We're proud that we gave the Hotline its start and sponsored it for five years. Starting in March 1994, the National Anti–Vivisection Society (NAVS) has taken over the Hotline so that ALDF can return to litigation as our primary focus. Pat Graham has done an outstanding job as Hotline coordinator, and we wish both Pat and NAVS great success.

We are very excited by the growing trend of legal professionals entering the field of animal rights law. Over 750 attorneys and law students are members of ALDF, with new applications arriving daily. A recent *Wall Street Journal* article observed a significant increase in students and lawyers joining the ranks, noting "the growing nationwide respectability of such work in academia and even at some law firms." Several law schools that offer classes in animal rights law were named, including Pace University School of Law, Detroit College of Law, Rutgers University, and my own course at the Vermont Law School.

ALDF has become more visible, both in the courtroom and through the expansion of our attorney network. This network consists of attorneys who provide either low cost or *pro bono* legal assistance to people who ask for our help. ALDF staff has been hard at work processing thousands of such phone calls asking for attorney assistance.

ALDF held its biennial conference in Washington, D.C. in October. The conference attracted new attorneys and law students, and was highlighted by a moving lecture and slide show by world renowned primatologist Jane Goodall.

ALDF's long term goal is to obtain legal rights for animals and to protect their interests whenever we can, primarily through litigation. As we have begun to succeed, our opposition has become better organized. But your dedication, resources and experience will allow us to meet the challenges ahead. You have helped us build a solid organization and we are grateful. We will continue our mission of vigorously fighting for the animals in the years to come. My heartfelt thanks for your caring and continued support.

For the Animals,

Steven M. Wise

Steven Wise
President

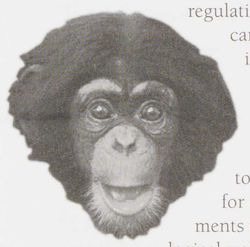
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Expanding the Fight Against Abuse & Exploitation

ALDF achieved several important advances through our legal efforts for animals in 1993. Our attorneys were active on the front lines with new and continuing cases, and the Board of Directors worked to develop creative strategies for future litigation. Here is a brief summary of some of the year's major events and accomplishments.

ALDF WINS LANDMARK LEGAL VICTORY FOR DOGS & PRIMATES

After a series of courtroom battles, a District Court Judge ruled that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) regulations addressing the care of animals used in research and testing violates the Animal Welfare Act. This victory compels the USDA to provide exercise for dogs and environments to promote psychological well being in primates.



The USDA appealed the victory and the National Association for Biomedical Research intervened for the sole purpose of appealing. (Photo by Michael Turco)

ALDF HOLDS SUCCESSFUL ANIMALS & THE LAW CONFERENCE

ALDF's Ninth Animals & the Law Conference brought together attorneys and law students to discuss some of the most crucial legal issues facing the animal rights movement. It was held in Washington, D.C. on October 2. Topics included integrating animal rights into one's law practice, pet overpopulation legislation, major animal rights cases of 1993, biting back at animal cruelty, and advising activists about federal grand juries.

The highlight of the Conference was a moving slide show and speech by esteemed primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall. Dr. Goodall's presentation explored her 30 year study of chimpanzees in the wild, as well as the dangers faced by chimpanzees today.

ALDF DEFENDS VICTORY FOR RATS, MICE & BIRDS

In 1992 we scored a great victory in the U.S. District Court when rats, mice and birds were granted the same basic protections that apply to every other animal used in research and testing. These animals comprise 85% of all animals used for research, and they are entitled to receive humane treatment, pain relief, and veterinary care. The lawsuit charged the USDA with refusing to extend protections to these sorely neglected animals. In 1993, the USDA appealed the decision.

As this newsletter went to press, we received the Court of Appeals order vacating the lower court's decision and holding that ALDF lacks standing under the Act. ALDF has requested a rehearing. (Photo by Nancy O'Brien)

'ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CRUELTY' CAMPAIGN

Our campaign to assist in the prosecution of cruelty cases has been generating a lot of attention. ALDF offers *pro bono* legal assistance to prosecutors, including research and advice on state anti-cruelty law and cases, submission of *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) briefs in support of the state's position, and location of expert witnesses for the prosecution. In response to action alerts, ALDF's members contacted their local prosecutors and urged vigorous prosecution of cruelty cases.

AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS FILED TO SUPPORT ANIMALS

ALDF filed *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) briefs in several lawsuits, including a U.S. Supreme Court case on ritual slaughter, and a federal lawsuit on the Swim-With-The-Dolphin programs. Additionally, ALDF sought to discourage the possession and sale of exotic animals such as lions, wolves, wolf hybrids, raccoons, and primates, by arguing that local ordinances regulating the ownership of these animals are not preempted by the federal Animal Welfare Act. The submission of *amicus* briefs can be an essential factor in the favorable determination of a case.

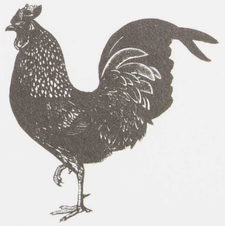
ALDF'S ATTORNEY NETWORK:

Our national attorney network offered legal advice and guidance to people on such topics as tenants facing evictions due to possession of companion animals in rental housing or condominiums, allegations of veterinary malpractice, injuries to companion animals, problems with neighbors who harm companion animals, enforcement of state anti-cruelty laws, assistance to animal welfare organizations wishing to incorporate, and estate planning to provide for animal care.

ALDF FORMS NEW COMMITTEES:

➤ *Model Litigation Committee*

ALDF's Model Legislation Committee worked with animal rights groups, environmental and humane organizations, as well as activists to provide model bills that could be introduced in their states. In 1993, the Committee drafted and disseminated model laws on state leghold traps, endangered species and anti-cruelty.

➤ *Farm Animal Committee*

The Farm Animal Committee researched and reported on various areas where we may be able to attack farm animal abuse through litigation. Our focus will be on: downers, auctions, poultry and horse slaughter.