A Letter from ALDF's President:

1991'S VICTORIES FOR ANIMALS

ANNUAL 91 REPORT

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF ALDF:

Looking back on 10 years of legal work with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, I am proud of the many ways in which we have stopped animal exploitation through legal action, and am invigorated by the goals we have set for the coming years.

In 1991, we scored big gains for animals. ALDF attorney Valerie Stanley won a landmark victory for millions of rats, mice and birds in laboratories. Thanks to Valerie and ALDF, these animals must now be given humane treatment, veterinary care and pain relief — badly needed basics to which they did not have access before the rules were changed through this lawsuit.

ALDF also successfully forced the University of Vermont to open its animal care and use committee meetings. As we work to give animal advocates access to these meetings at universities nationwide, we will provide opportunities to focus public attention on experiments that subject animals to severe pain, as well as alternatives to the use of animals in research.

We went to court on behalf of Kama, a dolphin transferred from the New England Aquarium to a U.S. Navy base for training in military work. When we win this case, the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act will be stronger than ever and the legally required formal permit procedure will finally replace the "Letters of Agreement" presently used to move captive marine mammals.

ALDF serves the animals in another important way. When we sue, we bring animal rights issues that would have remained unheard to the attention of the media and the public. As more people learn about these problems and take an interest in the animals' plight, it becomes possible to create lasting change in the systems that support exploitation.

Our achievements in 1991 prove that our strategies are working. Rather than just reacting to crises, we are taking a proactive stance — while planning accomplishments for the next 20 years. In particular, ALDF will continue to question the "property" status of animals and work to firmly establish the concept of legal rights for animals. We are making rapid gains in fighting the animal research industry and in abolishing outright the veal and fur industries. And as ALDF continues to expand, we'll have the resources to bring an increasing number of vital cases to court.

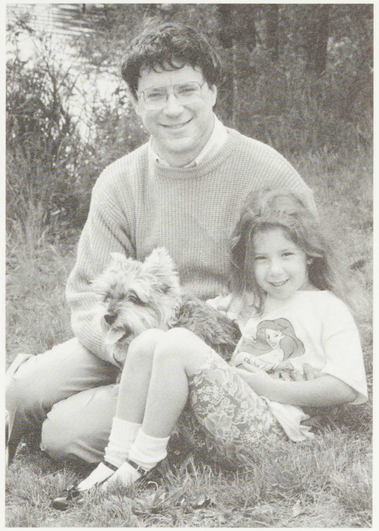
Since we began 10 years ago, ALDF has grown to 50,000 members and 450 attorney and law student members nationwide. We now have grants available for attorneys who are interested in taking on particularly large and time-consuming cases, and more and more of our attorney members are expressing interest in handling cases for free. Of course, we owe everything to our members, who support us through their generous financial contributions and tireless work for animals in their own communities.

As we observe our 10th anniversary, I say "thank you" to our devoted members, our dedicated attorney and law student members, and to our board and staff. You are ALDF and I look forward to having you with us through the next 10 years to celebrate many more courtroom victories — and an end to the animal exploitation we fight today.

For the animals,

Steven M. Wise

Steven M. Wise
President



Steven Wise with his daughter, Roma, and dog Samuel. Photo by Mark Morelli.