



**Animal
Litigation
Network**

Animal Litigation Network Policy Plan 2026 to 2030

(updated version October 2026)

Purpose and scope

This policy plan sets out how Stichting Animal Litigation Network will implement its Strategy 2026-2030, organise its work and use its resources. Animal Litigation Network is an independent Dutch foundation with ANBI status and a European network of participating animal protection organisations. Our purpose is to stimulate and enable strategic litigation and enforcement action that structurally improves animals' lives. We connect organisations and legal expertise, develop joint approaches and help effective strategies travel across jurisdictions. National proceedings remain with participating organisations.

Our long-term ambition is to contribute to a liveable planet and an animal-friendly, more plant-based food system that places less pressure on nature and the climate. Enforcing existing protections is an immediate route to reducing harm and challenging practices that sustain industrial animal exploitation.

Current position in October 2026

Animal Litigation Network has 39 participating organisations across 23 countries, a Board of six legal experts and an Advisory Committee. The first webinar took place in September and the next is scheduled for 25 November. The Pig Legislation Enforcement Team (PLET) is the first thematic project. The Animal Law Database is available and is being expanded. A confidential digital environment and further organisational capacity require further funding.

The present focus is farmed animals, with PLET as the operational priority. Animal Litigation Network may consider other species and legal questions where there is a strong strategic case, participant commitment and sufficient capacity.

Delivering PLET

The Pig Legislation Enforcement Team examines routine tail docking and the provision of suitable enrichment material. Its immediate task is to identify where protection fails and prepare usable routes towards enforcement, drawing on participating organisations' knowledge of their own jurisdictions. The proposed work sequence is to confirm interested participants and jurisdictional scope; map relevant obligations and enforcement barriers; identify evidence needed to assess suspected breaches; compare available procedures; agree a strategy with clear responsibilities for any national follow-up.

The intended minimum output for the 2027–2028 build-up phase is one joint enforcement strategy. It should identify the target practice, applicable obligations, evidence requirements, available legal routes, prospective national leads, key risks and resources required. It should explain which elements are transferable and which require local legal assessment.

Animal Litigation Network will facilitate the shared work and connect relevant expertise within available resources. Each participating organisation decides whether to file an enforcement request or bring proceedings, obtains appropriate legal advice and controls its own case.



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Legal resources and learning

Database development will include EU legislation, national legislation and case law. For the latter, expert legal assessment of the impact of the case is required. Part of the digital backbone will be a closed communication tool for the exclusive use of the participating organisations to enable secure and easy direct contact and shared resources.

Animal Litigation Network will hold quarterly webinars. Sessions should draw out practical lessons from cases and enforcement experience. Relevant learning will feed into project work or shared resources with permission. Bespoke training or broader research will be commissioned only when demand and funding are clear.

A physical network meeting (one day conference) is an ambition for 2027.

Participation and decision making

Participation is intended for credible organisations operating in Europe (initially) whose work is compatible with Animal Litigation Network's mission, and which are active - or have a serious interest - in legal enforcement or strategic litigation. Participation is currently free and flexible.

Participating organisations can propose cases, projects and themes and collectively shape substantive priorities. Animal Litigation Network will seek agreement among the organisations involved on project objectives and working arrangements. The Board checks alignment, feasibility, financial exposure and legal responsibility. The Advisory Committee advises on priorities, legal opportunities and the quality of the approach. It does not replace the Board's responsibility or the professional responsibility of lawyers advising on individual cases. Coordination may be carried out by staff or contracted experts as funding permits.

Selecting additional initiatives

Access to justice, legal personhood, constitutional protection and/or international treaties concerning inclusion of animal rights may be considered later. They are not funded operational programmes under this plan. Any proposed Animal Litigation Network role in European proceedings requires its own legal and financial assessment and Board decision.

Confidentiality and responsible collaboration

Participants retain ownership and control of the information they share. Sensitive case material will be shared only with appropriate permission and access restrictions. Details of ongoing matters will not be published without the organisation's consent. Meeting arrangements will apply the Chatham House Rule where appropriate, as described in Animal Litigation Network published participation guidance.

Working groups should agree who may access documents, who may speak publicly and how legal review will be arranged. Sharing information within Animal Litigation Network does not in itself create legal professional privilege. Relevant conflicts of interest, including personal professional interests, should be declared and managed before decisions are made.



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Communications

Communications will position Animal Litigation Network as an active European advocate for effective legal protection and a facilitator of strategic action. Content will explain the enforcement gap, share authorised examples and make the connection to food-system change clear. The scale of communications will follow its budget. Animal Litigation Network will credit participants and distinguish their achievements from its own contribution.

Financing the work

Animal Litigation Network intends to finance its core organisation through multi-year institutional grants and specific projects through separate grants. Participants are not expected to pay for the core organisation. They may contribute time, expertise or funding to projects they propose or join, through agreed arrangements.

As a priority, Animal Litigation Network will seek financial support to cover for operational costs for the two years 2027 – 2028 first. The longer-term model combines several institutional funders, joint project applications where useful and a proportionate contribution to Animal Litigation Network coordination costs within project budgets. Other project funding opportunities may be considered on their merits. Individual donor recruitment is not planned. Pro bono expertise will supplement rather than substitute for funded coordination.

Financial management and continuity

The Board will approve annual budgets and monitor expenditure and available funds through the Treasurer. Restricted grants will be used for their agreed purposes. Commitments will be proportionate to secured resources, with project and core costs distinguished. The Board will review cash needs and continuity before creating recurring obligations.

Board service is unpaid. Actual expenses may be reimbursed under the foundation's applicable arrangements. External experts may be engaged at reasonable rates within approved budgets.

Monitoring and review

For each active project, Animal Litigation Network will track agreed outputs, participating organisations' follow-up and subsequent outcomes separately. Records should cover strategies completed, use of shared resources, enforcement requests or proceedings arising from the work, changes in official practice and evidence of improved protection for animals.

The Board will review delivery and finances annually, obtain participant feedback and adjust the work plan. A review in 2028 will assess PLET (and other potential projects), funding continuity and the case for further work through 2030. Public reporting will distinguish completed work, ongoing activity and funding-dependent ambitions.
