



**Animal
Litigation
Network**

Animal Litigation Network Strategy 2026 to 2030

(updated version October 2026)

The change we seek

Animal Litigation Network stimulates and enables strategic litigation and enforcement action to improve animals' lives structurally. We bring animal protection organisations and legal expertise together across Europe so that effective legal approaches can be developed jointly and adapted to other jurisdictions. Our ultimate 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. We seek an end to the industrial exploitation of animals for food and trade. Stronger legal protection for animals is both an immediate objective and part of that wider transition.

Mission

We make animal law work. We strengthen enforcement, advance strategic litigation and build legal capacity to secure lasting protection for animals.

Vision

A society in which animals' interests are represented, protected in law and upheld in practice, within a food system that respects animals and the ecological conditions on which life depends.

Why Animal Litigation Network is needed

Legal protection is weakened when inspections fail, unlawful practices persist or authorities do not act. Organisations encounter similar barriers in different countries, while useful evidence, judgments and strategies often remain within national boundaries. Many also lack the time or specialist capacity to develop legal action alone. Animal Litigation Network builds a continuing European (and potentially international) structure focused specifically on animal law enforcement. Its distinctive contribution is to turn experience held by individual organisations into shared legal capacity and coordinated initiatives. Knowledge exchange serves that practical purpose. Our primary geographic focus is Europe, including countries outside the EU. Farmed animals are the first priority because of the scale and severity of harm and the potential for structural change. The mission also encompasses other animals where work meets our selection criteria.

Theory of Change

If animal protection organisations can combine evidence, legal expertise and practical experience across jurisdictions, they can develop stronger enforcement and litigation strategies than many could prepare alone. Animal Litigation Network makes this possible by convening focused project groups, connecting expertise and sharing usable legal resources. Participating organisations can then pursue well-founded enforcement requests and strategic cases that challenge official inaction, clarify obligations and change harmful practices beyond individual disputes. Following implementation and adapting successful approaches elsewhere can extend those benefits to more animals. Our first test



of this approach is the Pig Legislation Enforcement Team (PLET) project work on routine tail docking and suitable enrichment material. Over time, stronger legal protection and accountability can help challenge production systems that subordinate animals' interests to output and price, supporting the transition towards an animal-friendly, more plant-based food system and a liveable planet. This pathway depends on capable national organisations, sufficient resources and institutions responding to legal action. The wider transition requires complementary political, economic and social change.

Three strategic priorities

- **Develop coordinated enforcement and litigation strategies**

The Pig Legislation Enforcement Team (PLET) is the first priority. It brings participants together around routine tail docking and suitable enrichment material. It will test how a shared legal problem can become a workable strategy for action in different countries. We will use its results to decide whether to deepen this work or take on another issue.

- **Make legal experience usable across borders**

We will develop the Animal Law Database into a practical resource linking relevant law, selected judgments and expert explanation. Webinars and focused exchanges will examine what an approach achieved, what evidence it required and whether it can work in another legal system.

- **Build the organisation that sustains this work**

A small funded coordinating function, trusted relationships and reliable digital facilities are necessary for collaboration to produce action. Communications will explain the enforcement gap, demonstrate the value of legal strategies and attract relevant expertise and funders. Its scope will follow available capacity.

The position we aim to reach by 2030

Animal Litigation Network aims to be a financially viable European network in which participating organisations routinely use shared legal experience to prepare and pursue strategic action. At least one jointly developed strategy should have progressed to participant-led enforcement or litigation, with implementation followed and lessons available to others. The ambition is demonstrable changes in institutional practice and protection for animals, recognising that proceedings may continue beyond 2030.

Phased delivery

- **2026 Establish and focus**

Animal Litigation Network is established as a Dutch foundation with ANBI status, six unpaid Board members and an Advisory Committee. As at October 2026, 39 organisations in 23 countries participate. The first webinar took place in September; the second is scheduled in November. PLET has been initiated and the Animal Law Database exists and is being expanded. Funding is being sought to cover the operational costs for the next two years.



- **2027 and 2028 Build a working model**

Subject to funding availability, establish reliable coordination; develop at least one joint enforcement strategy through PLET; support participating organisations in assessing and preparing national action; and maintain selected legal resources. Aim for quarterly webinars. A physical network meeting in 2027 requires a separate capacity and budget decision.

- **2029 and 2030 Consolidate and apply what works**

Evaluate implementation and early outcomes from participant action. Adapt successful approaches to additional jurisdictions where feasible. Expand into another issue only if PLET, organisational continuity and resources justify it. Secure a funding base spread across multiple institutions.

Ownership and independence

Participating organisations propose cases, ideas and projects and shape substantive priorities collectively. The Board remains responsible for the foundation's mission, commitments, finances and legal obligations. The Advisory Committee contributes expertise and strategic advice.

Participating organisations retain control of their cases and national proceedings. Animal Litigation Network facilitates and supports their work; it does not undertake national litigation in its own name. Any future participation in European proceedings would require a separate Board decision, an appropriate legal basis and dedicated resources.

A sustainable funding model

The model combines multi-year institutional funding for a small core organisation with separately funded projects. Core costs are not intended to be financed through participant fees. Participants may contribute expertise, time or project funding to agreed initiatives. Project budgets should include a transparent, proportionate allocation for the Animal Litigation Network work they require.

Individual donor recruitment is not a planned workstream. Pro bono support can supplement funded capacity but cannot replace continuity. Expansion will follow secured resources rather than create unfunded obligations.

How we will judge progress

Annual reviews will distinguish Animal Litigation Network's own outputs from participant actions and the outcomes to which Animal Litigation Network contributed. We will record active collaboration, usable legal resources, completed strategies, subsequent enforcement requests or proceedings, changes in decisions and institutional practice, and evidence of improvements for animals.

The Board will review priorities annually with participant input. Insufficient funding, weak participation, adverse legal developments or lack of implementation may require narrowing or changing the approach. In 2028, a substantive review will determine the scope and resources for the remaining strategy period.



Risks and mitigation

The following overview identifies the main risks to delivering Animal Litigation's strategy and how we will manage them.

Risks	Mitigation
Ambitions exceed available funding and coordination capacity.	Prioritise PLET, maintain a small core organisation and start additional projects only when resources and participant contributions are identified.
Dependence on a single funder threatens continuity.	Develop relationships with several institutional donors during the build-up phase and prepare follow-on funding before initial support ends.
Participation remains focused on information exchange rather than action.	Agree responsibilities and realistic milestones for each initiative, with participating organisations willing and able to lead national follow-up.
Evidence is insufficient or a legal strategy cannot be transferred between jurisdictions.	Assess evidence requirements and national procedures early, obtain qualified legal review and distinguish transferable elements from those requiring local adaptation.
Legal action fails or produces an adverse precedent.	Assess legal merits and wider consequences before proceeding, consider alternative enforcement routes and review the strategy as proceedings develop.
Favourable decisions do not lead to improvements for animals.	Follow implementation, document changes in practice and identify further enforcement steps where necessary.
Sensitive case information is disclosed without permission.	Agree confidentiality arrangements, obtain consent for sharing and restrict access to sensitive material.
Animal Litigation Network overstates its impact or claims participants' achievements as its own.	Distinguish Animal Litigation Network's contribution from participant outcomes and assess progress through documented changes in practice and protection for animals.
