



**Animal
Litigation
Network**

Animal Litigation Network Policy Plan 2026–2030

Mission The Animal Litigation Network makes animal law enforceable. We strengthen partners, pursue strategic litigation and build a network of legal and enforcement capacity to challenge animal rights violations and transform the systems that undermine animal welfare.

Vision The Animal Litigation Network works towards a society in which animals' interests are taken seriously in law, structurally protected and effectively upheld.

Tagline Making animal law work

1. Introduction

The Animal Litigation Network (ALN) is a collaborative European initiative bringing together animal law and animal protection organisations to strengthen the enforcement and implementation of animal welfare legislation across Europe.

Despite extensive European and national animal welfare laws, enforcement remains inconsistent and often ineffective, particularly regarding farmed animals. The Network aims to address this enforcement gap through strategic cooperation, legal action, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building.

ALN believes that effective enforcement of existing laws is essential to achieving meaningful improvements in animal welfare and ensuring accountability of both public authorities and private actors.

2. Core objectives

The Animal Litigation Network aims to:

- Strengthen enforcement of European and national animal welfare laws;
- Support strategic litigation and legal interventions across jurisdictions;
- Facilitate cross-border cooperation between animal law NGOs and legal experts;
- Promote exchange of legal knowledge, jurisprudence, and best practices;
- Build litigation and enforcement capacity within member organisations;
- Increase public and institutional accountability regarding animal welfare obligations;
- Improve the lives of farmed animals through systemic legal change.



3. Strategic priorities (2026–2030)

a. Strategic litigation

ALN will identify and support high-impact legal cases concerning failures in enforcement of animal welfare legislation, with particular focus on:

- Intensive farming systems (related to pigs, chicken, calves etc);
- Animal transport;
- Slaughter practices;
- Illegal trade and import practices;
- Failures of governmental oversight and inspections.

b. Knowledge sharing

ALN will establish a shared platform for:

- Exchange of case law and legal analyses;
- Sharing litigation strategies and procedural tools;
- Developing joint legal positions and guidance documents.

c. Capacity building

ALN will organise:

- Trainings and workshops for lawyers and NGOs;
- Litigation strategy sessions;
- Webinars and legal seminars on developments in European animal law.

d. Advocacy and institutional engagement

ALN will engage with:

- European institutions;
- National enforcement authorities;
- Prosecutors and courts;
- Academic institutions and legal professionals.

ALN will advocate for stronger compliance mechanisms and more effective enforcement systems.



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4. Governance

ALN will operate as an independent collaborative platform composed of participating organisations from different European countries. ALN will function on the basis of:

- Transparency;
- Independence;
- Shared expertise;
- Mutual trust and cooperation.

A coordinating body or advisory committee may be established to oversee strategic priorities, communication, and joint activities.

5. Expected impact

Through coordinated legal action and collaboration, ALN aims to:

- Increase enforcement of existing animal welfare legislation;
- Create stronger legal precedents for animal protection;
- Improve governmental accountability;
- Strengthen the role of litigation within the animal protection movement;
- Achieve measurable welfare improvements for farmed animals across Europe.

6. Conclusion

The Animal Litigation Network represents a new and ambitious step in European animal protection efforts. By combining legal expertise, strategic cooperation, and coordinated action, the Network seeks to ensure that animal welfare laws deliver real and lasting protection for animals in practice, not only on paper.