Support Our Work

Alliance for Animals has been Wisconsin’s voice for animals since 1983. We have been deeply honored to have your financial support. With your help we have been able to produce bus ads and newspaper ads condemning pig wrestling; produce literature, get our message on news shows, table at local events, organize Mad City Vegan Fest and the Vegan Chili Cook-Off; present informational panels, debates, and numerous other events.

This list is too long, but you get the gist. We can’t continue our advocacy for animals without your support. So please, use the enclosed envelope to make as large a donation as you possibly can so our work for the animals can continue.

Thank you.

Little Chance for Ag Gag Revival in WI

Utah’s Law Ruled Unconstitutional

A federal judge in Utah ruled that a state law which made it illegal to film what happens at farms and slaughterhouses is unconstitutional.

These laws -- which are called “ag gag laws” -- are attempts to hide what's happening on farms and slaughterhouses and criminalize efforts to bring the truth to light by photographing or videoing what is occurring or going undercover to gather information.

In 2015, Wisconsin Rep. Lee Nerison (R-Westby) announced that he planned to introduce a similar ag gag law after an undercover investigation secretly filmed footage showing workers kicking and punching cows and using garden shears to cut off cows’ tails at Andrus Dairy Farm in Shawano County, Wisconsin.

Soon after Utah’s 2012 ag gag law was passed, Amy Meyer, an activist with Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC), became the first person to be prosecuted under one of these laws. Amy was charged with agricultural-operation interference because she videotaped a cow being pushed with a bulldozer at a meat packing company in Utah. The cow was unable to walk and was treated like trash. Amy made the recording while standing on public property. Her case gained national attention and the charges were dismissed.

But that is not the end of the story. Later that year, Amy, with the help of Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and PETA challenged the constitutionality of the Utah statute.

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14th Annual Vegan Chili Cook-Off and Raffle

Saturday, November 4, 2017 - Masonic Center - 301 Washington Avenue - Madison

Alliance for Animals is hosting its annual chili cook off, complete with vegan hot dogs, great desserts, and a cash bar! The event features chefs (some new, some familiar) from area restaurants engaged in a friendly competition to see whose vegan chili will reign supreme. There will be a raffle with great prizes along with lively music. Bring the family and enjoy a night with wonderful food in support of a worthy cause.

Doors open at 5:00 so you can enjoy a beverage and peruse the raffle items. Chili sampling begins at 5:30. The raffle ends at 7:30 and winners will be announced shortly after. Stick around until 8:30 to visit with friends and admire your winnings!

This year’s event is being coordinated by Kimberly Jensen who would love to get an email from you if you are interested in joining our group of volunteers. Email her at kim@allanimals.org
Mad City Vegan Fest 2017

The 7th annual Mad City Vegan Fest, at the Alliant Energy Center on June 17, was a fantastic success! We received much positive feedback from exhibitors, speakers, and attendees. They loved the larger food court, products sampled and sold in the exhibitor hall, and inspiring speakers!

There are countless people to thank for making this such a success, but one in particular is Fest coordinator Russ Brown for his dedication and enthusiasm.

Thanks to all our core volunteers: Stephanie Ash, Katherine Beaton, Miles Beining, Genie Metoyer, Paula Romeo, Sonya Sidky, Mollie Stolbov, Aaron Yarmel, and Yasir Alhumaidan.

A special shout-out is more than deserved by Lucy Pearson, our awesome Fest volunteer coordinator!

Thank you to all the companies that donated samples and prizes, and the sponsors who helped us host the event at a new, larger location this year: Pig Minds Brewing Co., Wisconsin House Rabbit Society, Organic Bread of Heaven, and Marina and Steve Drake.

If you couldn’t attend the Fest or if you missed a speaker’s presentation, don’t fear. You can find videos of all of them here: https://www.veganfest.org/speakers

Next Year’s Fest
Saturday, June 16, 2018

Alliance for Animals Youth Group

As today’s youth seek to educate themselves and form their own opinions, more than ever it is important for them to find a community to express their views and passions. This is where Alliance for Animals Youth comes in. AFA Youth seeks to educate and empower others and lead by setting a positive example. We’re accepting to all and are working on building a team of volunteers and people dedicated to learning as much as they can about animal justice.

Along with our discussions and volunteerism, we also want to have fun! We have monthly events such as cooking, crafts, and other things. AFA Youth is open to anyone below the age of 18 with parent/guardian’s permission.

Joining would mean having a broader range of knowledge in the subjects of civics, current issues and the history of social movements. Visit the Alliance website for a link to our AFA Youth group and to join. Peace! - Miles Beining, Youth Ambassador

Board Opening Announcement

Would you like to give of your time by serving on the Alliance for Animals Board of Directors? We have one opening for a two-year term beginning in January of 2018. Board members meet monthly, help with events and campaigns, and are instrumental in the organization. If you would like to know more about board responsibilities and how to apply, email us at alliance@allanimals.org. We will send you information.
On July 7, US District Judge Robert Shelby issued a landmark ruling that struck down the law on the grounds that it violates the First Amendment.

“The court’s ruling recognizes what PETA has said all along, which is that Americans have a right to know that workers in the meat industry kick pigs in the face, stomp on chickens and turkeys, and smash piglets’ heads against concrete floors,” said PETA’s Director of Animal Law, Jared Goodman.

With the Utah ruling, attempts to create an ag gag law in Wisconsin or any other state will most likely fail. These undercover investigations expose the reality of animal agriculture and open the public’s eyes to what happens behind closed doors. Citizens must have access to the truth in order to make their own informed decisions about the industry.

The Utah ruling makes it clear that it is perfectly legal to get a job on a farm, in a lab, a slaughterhouse, a circus, a zoo, anywhere, under a false pretense in order to document suspected animal abuse.

“These unconstitutional laws will fall like dominos,” said Stephen Wells, ALDF executive director. “Ag-Gag laws are flagrant attempts to hide animal cruelty from the American people, and they unfairly target activists trying to serve the public’s interest.”

Community Memorial Gathering for Winkie

Saturday September 30, 2017
Between 2-4 pm
Hawthorne Branch Library
2707 E. Washington Avenue

Winkie was a former Vilas Zoo captive who was given sanctuary at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee in September of 2000. She died there on May 11, 2017, at the age of 50. Please stop by to learn about Winkie’s life and what you can do to advocate for animals in zoos.

This memorial is being organized by Alliance for Animals’ board member and longtime Alliance member, Lesley Crocker. Lesley was among the many activists who were responsible for Winkie’s rescue from Vilas Zoo.

Light vegan refreshments will be served. See you there!

And Speaking of the Henry Vilas Zoo - Is it REALLY Free?

The Henry Vilas Zoo promotes itself as a free zoo. It is true that anyone can visit the zoo without paying an admission fee, but every taxpayer in Dane County pays for the Zoo every year, even if one doesn’t ever visit the Zoo or, like most of us, is ethically opposed to keeping animals in cages, living an unnatural life.

Dane County’s adopted 2017 budget provided the Vilas Zoo with $2,945,800. Almost three million dollars from taxpayers. This is approximately 86% of the Zoo’s budget.

We are assembling a small group of interested activists who have a passion for animals in zoos and in circuses and want to make a difference. Email us at alliance@allanimals.org if you want to get We will need your help in the coming months.

The Use of Animals at the UW - Madison

Madison activist and former AFA Executive Director Rick Bogle has published a history of animal experimentation and the public relations efforts to promote it at the UW-Madison. Those familiar with Rick’s efforts to bring attention to the suffering of animals at the university won’t be surprised that this book draws on decades of primary data, news and scientific articles, university press releases, and first-hand experiences. Rick exposes the dark reality of the nation’s animal labs and the efforts by universities and U.S. government agencies to keep the public from learning the painful and deadly truth.

“We All Operate in the Same Way” is a must read for those who want to learn about the use of animals in university labs around the county. It is available through Amazon or at any AFA event.

“Ag Gag”

Continued from page 1

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Tributes

The animals lost a champion, and AFA lost a good friend with the passing of longtime animal activist Leslie Hamilton on May 31, 2017, at the very young age of 64. Leslie served on the Alliance board for several terms and was an active member of the Alliance for many years.

Leslie volunteered thousands of hours fighting for the rights of animals. She was a leader and key player in AFA’s antivivisection efforts. She and Rick Bogle hosted the “Rick and Leslie Show” on WYOU’s weekly Animals Have Rights television show produced by Anne Emerson. The program focused on the cruel use of animals at the UW Madison and around the state. Leslie’s strong personality and unique sense of humor added a sparkle to the otherwise depressing topics covered in the show.

In her professional life, Leslie was an attorney for Dane County and a recognized expert in legal matters concerning domestic violence and cruelty to animals. Her expertise was sought by national animal rights organizations. She lectured at the UW Law School about animals and the law and spoke at the Animals Law Conference at Harvard Law School.

Leslie’s big smile will always remain in our hearts. Our thoughts are with her husband Wayne Block and daughter Laura Anderton, son-in-law Garry, and grandsons Spencer and Sebastian. - from the AFA Board of Directors

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In loving memory of Patrick Kelly Finnegan, who left us on July 27, 2017. Patrick was always a champion for the “underdog”, and couldn’t tolerate any form of injustice. A vegetarian and animal advocate for over 30 years, he was the impetus for leading many others to an ethical, violence-free, vegetarian life. He had a gift for seeing and connecting with living beings of all species. He was smart, kind, compassionate, generous, interesting, funny, vibrant, and whether you knew him or not, we all lost something when he left this world. - from Amy Burns