

Canadian Animal Law Conference 2021

Friday, Oct 01

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Legal Protection of Animals in China: Obstacles & Prospects

Scholars Track

Peter Li

Associate Professor, University of Houston-Downtown

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in China once again brought the country's massive wildlife industry under the global spotlight. What explains the widespread lawlessness of China's wildlife trade? Are there laws for regulating the trade and activities should scientists later establish a connection between wild animals sold for food and the outbreak of the pandemic? In this talk, supported by the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, I shall introduce the central arguments, i.e., China's contemporary politics of economic modernization rather than cultural tradition, from my recently published book *Animal Welfare in China: Culture, Politics and Crisis* ...

Friday, Oct 01

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Student Conference: Opening Remarks & AGM

Student Conference

Camille Labchuk

Executive Director, Animal Justice

Samantha Skinner

Animal Law Research Associate, University of Toronto Faculty of Law

*This panel was private to law student and therefore not available for viewing. The AGM will kick off the Student Conference, beginning with opening remarks from the Director of Animal Justice, Camille Labchuk, and Animal Justice Student Program Lawyer, Samantha Skinner. This AGM, hosted by Animals Justice Student Program Lawyer Samantha Skinner, will provide a space for Animal Justice students from across Canada to meet and network. In discussing successes from previous years, students will brainstorm how to optimize the next academic year for animal law in Canadian law schools. This AGM is welcome to all current law students in Canada. The ...

Friday, Oct 01

11:30 AM - 01:00 PM

Towards an Animal-Friendly Democracy

Scholars Track

Will Kymlicka

Professor, Queen's University

Defenders of the 'political turn' in animal ethics agree that animals must be represented within democratic decision-making processes. There are, however, deep disagreements about how to represent animals politically, and these disagreements rest in part on deeper disagreements about the very nature and value of democracy itself. Traditional mainstream theories of democracy have typically emphasized that democracy is tied to ideas of political community and political agency. Because animals have often been seen as incapable of participating in either political community or political agency, many theories of the animal political turn seek to articulate a conception of democracy that downplays ...

Friday, Oct 01

12:15 PM - 12:30 PM

Student Conference: Break

Enjoy your break! We'll be back at 12:30pm with more sessions.

Friday, Oct 01

12:30 PM - 02:00 PM

Student Conference: Careers in Animal Law

Student Conference

Ali Pester

Angela Lee

Assistant Professor, Ryerson University

Marty McKendry

Senior Advisor - Parliamentary Strategy (Senator Marty Klyne & Senator Pierre Dalphond), Canada

Scott Tinney

Staff Lawyer, Animal Justice

Sophie Gaillard

Director of Animal Advocacy and Legal Affairs, Montreal SPCA

Featuring Canadian law school graduates who keep animal law as a focus of their careers, this panel allows students to ask professionals in the animal law field any burning questions they may have about law school and early career experience. Panelists include: Alexandra Pester, criminal defence lawyer at Silver Pennypacker Barristers, advocate for animal rights activists. Marty McKendry, Senior Advisor - Parliamentary Strategy, key player for animal-friendly legislation at the federal level. Angela Lee, Assistant Professor at Ryerson University's Lincoln Alexander School of Law, animal law scholar. Sophie Gaillard, Director of Animal Advocacy at the Montreal SPCA, oversees the SPCA's ...

Friday, Oct 01

02:00 PM - 03:30 PM

Defining Carceral Animal Law, an Empirical Study of Carceral Animal Law, and Considering Paths Forward for Animals

Scholars Track

Justin Marceau

Prof., Denver Univ

In recent years, the efficacy of investing in prosecutions and convictions as a lever for social change has been substantially called into question. Advocates concerned with harms in areas as disparate as domestic violence, hate crimes, public order crimes, and animal protection have started to question whether from a civil rights perspective criminal interventions produce a positive outcome. This talk will focus on a different, but related question: Does carceral animal law help animals? It is impossible to arrive at anything approaching analytic certainty on these points, and the talk will not claim any such certainty. But the original empirical ...

Friday, Oct 01

02:00 PM - 02:15 PM

Student Conference: Break

Enjoy your break! We'll be back at 2:15pm with more sessions.

Friday, Oct 01

02:15 PM - 03:15 PM

Student Conference: Student Scholarship Panel

Student Conference

Samantha Skinner

Animal Law Research Associate, University of Toronto Faculty of Law

This panel will feature the three winners of Animal Justice's Student Animal Law Research Paper Contest 2021. The contest is designed to encourage student scholarship on the growing field of animal law, and support students who have done outstanding research into the pressing legal issues facing nonhuman animals. The contest is part of Animal Justice's work to support animal law clubs at Canadian law schools and foster the next generation of animal lawyers. The three featured speakers submitted outstanding academic work, and will receive a prize as winners of this year's contest. Moderator Sam Skinner will also be available to discuss ...

Friday, Oct 01

03:30 PM - 05:00 PM

"Five Times the Money": Everyday Acts of Commodification, Consumption, & Desire at the "Poultry" Auction

Scholars Track

Kathryn Gillespie

Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Kentucky

The lived realities of farmed animals as property, as capital, and as commodities are dependent in foundational ways on the human desires and cultures of consumption in which they are entangled. Settler-colonial and capitalist logics that render animals ownable capital shape the everyday relationships of harm to which animals are subjected in food production. This talk draws on original field research at a series of "poultry" auctions in the Pacific Northwestern United States where the routine sale of live chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quails, game hens, and rabbits unfolds. Perhaps even more so than other farmed animal auctions "poultry" auctions ...

Friday, Oct 01

03:30 PM - 04:45 PM

Student Conference: Paw & Order Podcast Live!

Student Conference

Camille Labchuk

Executive Director, Animal Justice

Jessica Scott

Journalist, Freelance

Peter Sankoff

Professor, University of Alberta (Canada), Faculty of Law

Hosts of Canada's only animal law podcast, Camille Labchuk, Peter Sankoff, and Jessica Scott-Reid return for this highlight of every Student Conference. In addition to discussing animal law issues from the news and - everybody's favourite segment - Heros and Zeros, a live trivia game with prizes is sure to keep us all entertained. The Student Conference is Sponsored by the Robert & Judith Clark Foundation for Animal Rights

Friday, Oct 01

07:00 PM - 09:00 PM

Property, Personhood, or Something New: Reimagining the Legal Status of Animals

Keynote Panel

Law

Angela Fernandez

Professor, University of Toronto

Douglas Kysar

Prof., Yale Law School

Gary Francione

Professor of Law and Philosophy, Rutgers University/University of Lincoln

Jessica Eisen

Assistant Professor, University of Alberta Faculty of Law

Maneesha Deckha

Professor and Lansdowne Chair, University of Victoria

Steven Wise

President, Nonhuman Rights Project

The property status of nonhuman animals, and the desire to transform that status to some form of personhood, has been a mainstay of animal law scholarship for the last 25 years. The debate has usually assumed two options: that animals can be classified as either legal property, or legal persons. However, the time is ripe to ask whether there are more than two options and whether, even re-framed, this is a debate the animal law movement should continue to have. This Keynote Panel, the kick-off event to the 2021 Canadian Animal Law Conference, will put into conversation a range of ...

Saturday, Oct 02

08:15 AM - 08:45 AM

Saturday Morning Coffee: Virtual Connections

Networking

Make some connections, say hello to old acquaintances, and network with amazing like-minded folks in our Virtual Connections session. Animal Justice Academy Director & AJ Campaigns Strategist, Kimberly Carroll will be hosting these always fun and welcoming gatherings. Get to see some of the faces of your co-conferencers and talk to our speakers in a more casual setting. This session will include breakout groups so you can chat with folks on a more intimate basis. Click the link below to join directly via Zoom! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83256876173>

Saturday, Oct 02

08:45 AM - 08:55 AM

Welcome Address

Camille Labchuk

Executive Director, Animal Justice

Welcome address from Animal Justice Executive Director, Camille Labchuk

Saturday, Oct 02

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Animal Law & Europe

Law

Alice Di Concetto

Martina Pluda

This panel will feature perspectives on animal law from Europe. Recent reforms in the European Union's farm animal protection legislation will be discussed, focusing on both the advancement of animal protection law, as well as opportunities in improving the recognition of animal sentience. The domestic Constitution of Italy will be discussed with respect to several bills currently under consideration in the Senate which, if passed, would include animals in the Italian Constitution. The panel will also include discussion of using international treaties to advance animal welfare, and recent UK cases focusing on the international trade in exotic wild animals.

Saturday, Oct 02

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Canada's Proposed Prison Farm Program

Why It Won't Work, & What Would Work Better

Politics

Amy Fitzgerald

Professor, University of Windsor

Calvin Neufeld

Founder, Evolve Our Prison Farms

Kevin Belanger

Consultant, Independent

Shane Martinez

Lawyer, Martinez Law

Prison farms have long been controversial. Current Canadian prison farm debates have focused on the ethics of prisons operating animal-based commercial cow and goat farms and slaughterhouses. Evolve Our Prison Farms is a Kingston, Ontario-based initiative that works to transition Canada's new prison farm project away from animal agriculture, and toward a therapeutic model of green agriculture. Their efforts ultimately led the federal government to pause prison farm projects at Kingston-area institutions. Working at the intersection of justice for incarcerated persons, animals, and the environment, panelists will critique the current proposed commercial industrial dairy and beef operations, while advancing evidence-based ...

Saturday, Oct 02

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Saturday Morning Break

Enjoy your break! We'll be back shortly with more sessions!

Saturday, Oct 02

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Animal Advocacy & Civil Disobedience: The Canadian Context

Culture

Amy Soranno

Activist, Meat the Victims, BFFBC (Ban Fur Farms BC)

Jenny McQueen

Animal Rights Activist, Direct Action Everywhere-DxE, FurFreeToronto, Animal Rights Toronto

Malcolm Klimowicz

Activist, End Fur Farming

Civil disobedience has long been a tactic used to drive social change, and considered an essential part of some such efforts. Historical acts of civil disobedience by members of some social movements have been looked on favourably, but is this true of the animal protection movement? This panel will highlight the experiences of three prominent Canadian animal rights advocates who have been prosecuted for their efforts. They will discuss their experiences in various Canadian jurisdictions, explaining why they choose to engage in civil disobedience knowing the potential legal consequences. The panel will consider the challenges of media coverage, legal costs, ...

Saturday, Oct 02

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Animal Victimhood in Criminal Cases

Law

Jennifer Bluhm

a/Chief Animal Protection, Ontario SPCA

Kendra Coulter

Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence, Brock University

Michael Swistara

Law Student, The George Washington University Law School

Scott Tinney

Staff Lawyer, Animal Justice

This panel will discuss various important topics of animal victimhood in animal abuse/cruelty cases. Topics will include: judicial considerations of animal abuse, the impact on humans when their companions are victimized, the role of carcerality in criminal sentencing, data on animal cruelty, and alternative provincial enforcement models.

Saturday, Oct 02

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Environmental Rights: Implications for Animals

Law

Jessica Blome

Shareholder, Greenfire Law, PC

Sophie Gaillard

Director of Animal Advocacy and Legal Affairs, Montreal SPCA

Tyler Totten

Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, York University

This panel considers the potential for environmental law and environmental rights to improve the legal status or legal protections of animals. Beginning with a discussion about a possible human right to a natural world, the panel will proceed to critically evaluate the Magpie River's newly given legal personhood in Quebec.

Saturday, Oct 02

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM

Saturday Lunch Break

Enjoy your lunch! We'll be back at 12:15pm for more live sessions.

Saturday, Oct 02

12:15 PM - 01:30 PM

Ag Gag Laws: Updates from Canada & the United States

Law

Cristina Stella

Managing Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund

Jodi Lazare

Assistant Professor, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie

Kelsey Eberly

Senior Staff Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund

Samantha Skinner

Animal Law Research Associate, University of Toronto Faculty of Law

Beginning in 2019, various Canadian jurisdictions have promised, proposed, and passed US-style ag gag laws, designed to further conceal animal abuse inside farms, slaughterhouses, and animal transport trucks. This panel features ag gag experts from both sides of the border, and will build on the conversation, specifically discussing updates since last year's Conference. Two panelists will discuss new developments in ag gag litigation in the United States, while two panelists will discuss recent legislation and litigation related to ag gag laws in Canadian provinces, and at the federal level.

Saturday, Oct 02

12:30 PM - 01:30 PM

Canadian Live Horse Export Industry & CHDC v Minister of Agriculture

Politics

Rebecca Ledger

Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare Scientist, Animal Behaviour & Welfare Consulting / Langara College

Rebeka Breder

Animal law lawyer, Breder Law

Sinikka Crosland

President, Canadian Horse Defence Coalition

When the United States stopped allowing the slaughter of horses around 2012, many horses destined for slaughter were rerouted to Mexico and Canada. In Canada, some of these horses are slaughtered domestically (along with those that originated in Canada), while other horses are exported live to Japan to be killed for sushi meat. Featuring leading horse experts, his panel will discuss the Canadian live horse export industry, its impact on the welfare of horses, and the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition's ground-breaking lawsuit against the federal government over the manner in which it allows horses to be transported by airplane.

Saturday, Oct 02

12:30 PM - 01:30 PM

Unfarming Farmed Animals

Reversing Selective Regulation and Regulatory Capture and Shifting Smartly to Sanctuary

Law

Maneesha Deckha

Professor and Lansdowne Chair, University of Victoria

Marie Leth-Espensen

Doctoral Candidate, Lund University

Tayler Zavitz

Sessional Instructor and PhD candidate, University of Victoria

This panel showcases socio-legal contributions to investigate and potentially resolve legal problems connected with animal farming, particularly intensive animal agriculture. The panelists together expose the political nature of the regulatory capture that benefits the animal agricultural industry, suggest a legal pathway for transformative change, as well as point to the residual effects of intensive farming in sanctuaries seeking to care for previously farmed animals. The panel moves from Canada across the Atlantic to a Nordic context, considering multijural and international legal orders and perspectives to envision different legal futures for farmed animals. The panel includes the following three papers: The ...

Saturday, Oct 02

01:30 PM - 01:45 PM

Saturday Afternoon Break

Enjoy your break! We'll be back at 1:45pm with more sessions.

Saturday, Oct 02

01:45 PM - 02:45 PM

Representing Animal Advocates: What Every Lawyer Should Know

Law

Ali Pester

Arden Beddoes

Principal, Beddoes Litigation Law Corporation

This panel features lawyers in Canada who represent both individual animal advocates as well as animal protection organizations, in both civil and criminal matters. Panelsits will discuss their experience representing animal advocates, and offer information that advocates may wish to keep in mind while working toward stronger animal protections. Note: This panel will not provide case-specific legal advice, but may discuss how Canadian law may apply in certain situations.

Saturday, Oct 02

01:45 PM - 02:45 PM

Using International Trade Law to Help Animals

Law

Iyan Offor

Law Lecturer, Birmingham City University

Katie Sykes

Associate Professor, Thompson Rivers University

Saar Cohen-Ronen

President, New Zealand Animal Law Association

This panel will focus on developments in different areas of international trade, how they affect animals, and the practical tools available for animal advocates to advance pro-animal policies. Together, the panel presentations—from presenters representing three different continents—will cover a broad range of interconnected areas of international trade law: the World Trade Organization, the law of non-WTO trade blocs, and the interaction of trade law with domestic animal protection law.—Katie Sykes, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law at Thompson Rivers University, will present on her new book, *Animal Welfare and International Trade Law: The Impact of the WTO Seal ...*

Saturday, Oct 02

01:45 PM - 02:45 PM

A New Breed of Animal Documentary

Culture

Chris Green

Executive Director, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program

Elizabeth Lo

Pippa Ehrlich

"A New Breed of Animal Documentary" brings together the directors of three groundbreaking animal documentaries from the past year: *Gunda*, *Stray*, and *My Octopus Teacher* (2021 Academy Award winner for Best Documentary Feature). Each of these films reflects a new narrative and cinematic approach that focuses primarily on the animals themselves, from their own, eye-level perspective. While the three films all center on different categories of animals (farmed, companion, and aquatic), they each similarly underscore the agency, cognition, and emotional capacity of their individual animal protagonists. We were deeply sorry that director Victor Kossakovsky was unable to join us for ...

Saturday, Oct 02

02:45 PM - 03:00 PM

Saturday Afternoon Break: Virtual Connections

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Saturday, Oct 02

03:00 PM - 04:00 PM

Farmed Animal Welfare Law in New Zealand

Investigating the Gap Between the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and Its Delegated Legislation

Law

Danielle Duffield

Associate, Joseph Hage Aaronson LLP

Kari Schmidt

Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere

Mr, University of Otago

This panel will feature prominent animal lawyers and legal scholars from New Zealand. The panel will discuss discrepancies between the Animal Welfare Act 1999 in New Zealand, and the associated Codes of Welfare and Regulations. The panelists will focus on the delegated legislation pertaining to farmed animals, in particular pigs, dairy cattle, layer hens and meat chickens. They will also consider how neglected fish are in the farmed animal welfare context and the need for a code of welfare and regulations for farmed fish. This presentation will be based on the panelists' recently published report for the New Zealand Animal ...

Saturday, Oct 02

03:00 PM - 04:00 PM

Four-Legged Family Members: Animals in Family Law

Law

Jennifer Friedman

Kaeleigh Phillips

Law Student, Allard Law

Rochelle Stevenson

Dr., Thompson Rivers University

Families have long considered companion animals to be members of the family unit, and the law is starting to catch up. This panel will discuss the effects of lockdowns on domestic animals and family violence, legal difficulties for women fleeing domestic violence with animals, and how courts decide who gets custody of companion animals following separation and divorce.

Saturday, Oct 02

03:00 PM - 04:00 PM

Issues in Food Labelling: Lawsuits, Discourse, and Dietary Choices

Law

Angela Lee

Assistant Professor, Ryerson University

Iselin Gambert

Professor of Legal Writing, The George Washington University Law School

Jay Shooster

Consumers increasingly wish to avoid purchasing products from animals raised in abusive, intensive confinement-style farms. This has led to food companies making marketing claims about the welfare of the animals kept to produce meat, dairy, and eggs—not all of which are true. In addition, shifting dietary preferences have led to immense growth in the plant-based and cellular meat sector. This panel will discuss how organizations have used competition and false advertising laws to combat the mislabelling of animal products. The panel will also discuss issues with the discourse and labelling surrounding "clean meat" and "plant-based" products. Speakers will explore the potential ...

Saturday, Oct 02

04:15 PM - 05:15 PM

How International Treaties & Conventions Can Protect Animal Welfare

Law

Alice Collinson

Solicitor, Advocates for Animals

Nigel Blackaby

In a globalized world, international treaties and conventions compliment domestic law in protecting animal welfare. Panelists will discuss specific conventions, such as CITES and BERN (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats). Panelists will also discuss the possibility of a new international treaty for animal welfare to help prevent the next global pandemic.

Saturday, Oct 02

04:15 PM - 05:15 PM

Public Engagement & Animal Protection Law Reforms

Politics

Jennifer Riley

Head, Communications and Marketing, SAFE for Animals

Kimberly Carroll

Animal Justice Academy Director and Animal Justice Campaigns Strategist, Animal Justice

Olga Kikou

Laws follow societal attitudes, but passing strong new animal protection laws also depends on an engaged population, willing to voice support and publicly advocate for better laws. This panel will highlight the power and importance of public engagement in legal reform campaigns. Individuals leading successful legal reform campaigns in Canada, New Zealand, and Europe will discuss why public engagement matters, sharing examples of challenges and successes they have encountered.

Sunday, Oct 03

08:30 AM - 09:00 AM

Sunday Morning Coffee: Virtual Connections

Networking

Make some connections, say hello to old acquaintances, and network with amazing like-minded folks in our Virtual Connections session. Animal Justice Academy Director & AJ Campaigns Strategist, Kimberly Carroll will be hosting these always fun and welcoming gatherings. Get to see some of the faces of your co-conferencers and talk to our speakers in a more casual setting. This session will include breakout groups so you can chat with folks on a more intimate basis. Click the link below to join directly via Zoom! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83256876173>

Sunday, Oct 03

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Animals & COVID-19

Culture

Brittany Peet

Deputy General Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement, PETA Foundation

Jessica Scott

Journalist, Freelance

Tara Ashtakala

As some parts of the world begin to settle into a new normal as the pandemic subsides, many populations of animals continue to experience lasting effects from the changes and disruptions caused by the pandemic response. This panel will highlight several animal legal issues raised by the pandemic, including the further isolation of animals kept in captivity, puppy mills producing pandemic pets, and fears over the "great dog dump" of 2021. This panel will also highlight litigation on behalf of big cats in the aftermath of Tiger King.

Sunday, Oct 03

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Reforming Enforcement & Penalties in Wildlife Law

Politics

Joshua Barath

Faculty, Georgian College

Melissa Matlow

Canadian Campaign Director, World Animal Protection - WSPA

COVID-19 shone a spotlight on the role of the wildlife trade as a top driver of pandemics. Canada plays a significant role in the legal and illegal wildlife trade which contributes to animal suffering, biodiversity loss and public health risks. Every year millions of wild animals, products and derivatives are legally imported for exotic pets, research, entertainment, food, trophies, traditional medicine, fashion and trinkets. Canada is also a major source of wild animals sold on the illegal market and a transshipment country for the global illegal trade. This panel will discuss the challenges with Canada's regulatory, monitoring and enforcement system ...

Sunday, Oct 03

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Sunday Morning Break

Enjoy your break! We'll be back at 10:15am with more sessions!

Sunday, Oct 03

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Making Sense of Animals in Québec Today

Culture

Alexandra Popovici

Professor, Université de Sherbrooke

Marie-Andrée Plante

D.C.L. Candidate, McGill University

Michaël Lessard

Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert

At the crossroads between languages and legal traditions, Québec has become a site of recent animal law reform. Inspired by legislative trends from western Canada to central Europe, the Parliament of Québec declared that animals are not things but sentient beings with biological needs and enacted corollary protections. However, much more needs to be done to safeguard animals' interests. This panel, by exploring the legal, linguistic and socio-historical issues that underlie this animal law reform, brings to light the lessons and the shortcomings to be drawn from the Québec experience.

Sunday, Oct 03

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Nonhuman Personhood: Cognitive Bias In the Courtroom

Law

Dr. Lori Marino

President, Whale Sanctuary Project

Kevin Schneider

Executive Director, Nonhuman Rights Project

Marty McKendry

Senior Advisor - Parliamentary Strategy (Senator Marty Klyne & Senator Pierre Dalphond), Canada

Robert Jones

Associate Professor, California State University, Dominguez Hills

Cetaceans, great apes, and elephants all possess autonomy—a classic hallmark of personhood. Yet the effort to recognize personhood for nonhuman animals in legal courts remains an uphill struggle, due in part to inherent biases in how humans view other animals. These biases exist in everyone, including judges, and yet judges are in the position of weighing and deciding upon scientific, philosophical, and legal arguments put forth on behalf of other animals. The Nonhuman Rights Project has the unenviable task of not only delivering cogent arguments about the cognitive characteristics of other animals, but overcoming inherent confirmation biases prevalent in society ...

Sunday, Oct 03

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Animals in Medical Research—Toward a New Paradigm

Science

Andrew Fenton

Charu Chandrasekera

Jarrod Bailey

As animal-free alternatives to animal experimentation are developed and refined, the usefulness of medical experimentation on animals is diminishing. This panel will discuss how the biomedical research field can – and must – transition to human-centric models of testing. Discussions in this panel will include ethical considerations in scientific advancement, and current scientific breakthroughs that are rapidly making animal testing obsolete.

Sunday, Oct 03

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Sunday Lunch Break

Enjoy your lunch! We'll be back at 12:30pm with more sessions.

Sunday, Oct 03

12:30 PM - 01:30 PM

“Decolonize Your Mind”: Agriculture, Law, and Education

Culture

Darren Chang

PhD Student, University of Sydney

Jason Hannan

Associate Professor, Department of Rhetoric & Communications, University of Winnipeg

Meneka Repka

This panel offers decolonial perspectives on three distinct systems of animal oppression in Western societies today: agriculture, law, and education. The aim is to identify the enduring legacy of European colonialism in these three systems. Panelists will further explore how colonialism shapes what we think and say about animals, and sets the terms and limits for acting on their behalf. This panel is part of a broader effort within the humanities and social sciences to understand the complex historical relationship between colonialism and animal oppression, with the aim of contributing to the ongoing project of undoing colonialism's violent and unsustainable ...

Sunday, Oct 03

12:30 PM - 01:30 PM

The Rise of Federal Animal Protection Legislation

Politics

Julie Dabrusin

Member of Parliament, Toronto—Danforth, Government of Canada

Luc Bourgeois

Marty McKendry

Senior Advisor - Parliamentary Strategy (Senator Marty Klyne & Senator Pierre Dalphond), Canada

The last few years have seen huge strides in terms of Canadian legislation protecting animals at the federal level. This panel will feature and discuss some of the key players making moves in Parliament for animal welfare. This panel will also engage in a critical analysis of the effects of federal legislation, such as the Ending the Captivity of Whales and Dolphins Act and the potential impacts of the proposed Jane Goodall Act.

Sunday, Oct 03

12:30 PM - 01:30 PM

Wild Animal Considerations in Urban Spaces

Culture

Caitlin Cunningham

PhD Candidate, Dalhousie University

Emily Pickett

Campaign Director, Vancouver Humane Society

Erin Ryan

MSc, UBC

As cities in Canada expand, animals in urban areas are frequently labelled as "pests", and efforts to eradicate these animals ensue. This panel will explore wild animal considerations in urban spaces, including (1) a possible animal right to shared spaces with humans, (2) growing concerns surrounding the use of poisons in British Columbia, and (3) possibilities of humane so-called "pest" control options as models for municipal and provincial legal reform.

Sunday, Oct 03

01:30 PM - 01:45 PM

Sunday Afternoon Break

Enjoy your break! We'll be back at 1:45pm with more sessions!

Sunday, Oct 03

01:45 PM - 02:45 PM

Animal Ethics in Primary & Secondary Education

Science

Elisabeth Ormandy

Executive Director, Canadian Society for Humane Science

Mike Farley

Teacher, University of Toronto Schools

Using a humane education model, this panel will explore opportunities to introduce ethical animal practices in Canada's primary and secondary schools, including legal and rights-based considerations. This includes changing school policies to include alternatives to animal dissection, easy access to plant-based foods, and introducing humane education in curricula.

Sunday, Oct 03

01:45 PM - 02:45 PM

Animals In Indigenous Governance

Law

Daniel Dylan

Associate Professor, Lakehead University, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

Leah Arcand

Founder, Owner/Operator, Save Rez Dogs

This panel will feature various aspects of Indigenous governance affecting animals. Addressing animal welfare in Indigenous communities, Save Rez Dogs stands out as a national voice in Indigenous-led animal welfare organizations. Opportunities for community leadership to address animal welfare in Indigenous communities will be explored. Nunavut's Wildlife Act – rooted in Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit Traditional Knowledge) – will be highlighted as legislation offering a unique paradigm intersecting wildlife management and animal welfare.

Sunday, Oct 03

01:45 PM - 03:00 PM

The Violence Link: Shared Difficulties in Spousal, Child, & Animal Abuse Cases

Law

Amy Lubik

Councillor, City of Port Moody

Angela MacDougall

Christian Lim

Crown Prosecutor, Alberta Justice NCPAC Committee Member

V. Victoria Shroff

lawyer, Shroff & Associates

The connection between spousal abuse, child abuse, and animal abuse is well-established. This panel will unpack that connection, featuring the perspectives of a lawyer, SPCA officer, Crown attorney, and city councillor. The panel will discuss whether domestic violence increased during pandemic confinement, unpack the sociolegal factors that should be considered in addressing this connection, and highlight challenges and opportunities for legal reform that can help both humans and animals.

Sunday, Oct 03

03:00 PM - 03:15 PM

Sunday Afternoon Break: Virtual Connections

Networking

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Sunday, Oct 03

03:15 PM - 04:15 PM

Issues in Animal Sales

Law

Adrian Walton

Owner/Lead Veterinarian, Dewdney Animal Hospital

Michele Hamers

Wildlife Campaign Manager, World Animal Protection

Sorelle Saidman

Founder/President, Rabbits Rescue Society

This panel will highlight issues with the 'sales' aspect of animal trade. From exotic animals, to companion rabbits, to sled dogs, panelists will discuss how varying classifications and buy/sell websites have complicated animal sales regulations.

Sunday, Oct 03

03:15 PM - 04:15 PM

Legal Protections for Vegan Belief Systems in Ontario and Beyond

Law

Adam Knauff

Forest Firefighter

Allison Covey

Assistant Teaching Professor, Villanova University

Veromi Arsiradam

Articling Student, Cavalluzzo LLP

Human rights law protects people from facing discrimination based on a variety of grounds, and there are efforts underway to ensure that belief systems about animal ethics are included. The Ontario Human Rights Commission has already recognized that ethical vegan belief systems may constitute a "creed", and could thus be entitled to protection. A groundbreaking test case before the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario may formalize this protection. After being denied adequate vegan meals while on the job in a remote location, forest firefighter Adam Knauff filed a human rights complaint. On this panel, Knauff will be joined by other ...

Sunday, Oct 03

03:15 PM - 04:15 PM

The Big Picture: Consciously Connecting the 'Dots'

Culture

Amy P Wilson

Brooks Institute Animal Law and Policy Fellow, UCLA School of Law

Kathy Hessler

Clinical Professor of Law and Animal Law Clinic Director; Director, Aquatic Animal Law Initiative, Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School

Will Lowrey

Legal Counsel, Animal Outlook

This panel will explore the effects of successful animal welfare activism, bringing attention to the unintentional effects of disenfranchising already marginalized groups of humans or increasing animal exploitation in other areas. Panelists will explore this displacement of exploitation, and discuss how advocates must be more broadly inclusive in their advocacy. Another panelist will discuss the intersectional effects of agriculture, using the example of ongoing US litigation in slaughterhouses which highlights in animal welfare issues, environmental welfare issues, and worker's rights issues.

Sunday, Oct 03

04:20 PM - 04:30 PM

Closing Remarks

Camille Labchuk

Executive Director, Animal Justice

Closing remarks from Animal Justice Executive Director, Camille Labchuk

Sunday, Oct 03

04:30 PM - 05:00 PM

Virtual Connections Wrap Up

Networking

Take a moment to share your thoughts on the conference and connect with fellow attendees. Animal Justice Academy Director & AJ Campaigns Strategist, Kimberly Carroll will be hosting these always fun and welcoming gatherings. Get to see some of the faces of your co-conferencers and talk to our speakers in a more casual setting. This session will include breakout groups so you can chat with folks on a more intimate basis. Click the link below to join directly via Zoom! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83256876173>