

Sustainable Development Law & Policy

Volume 18

Issue 1 *Animal Welfare in the Context of Human
Development*

Article 1

Editor's Note

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EDITORS' NOTE

Since the early days of civilization, animals have played an enormous role in human activities. While they have a very definitive utilitarian purpose, they have also forged important strong emotional bonds with people from *every* walk of life, and it is no surprise that they have won the affection and interest of countless humans. Yet, as in so many of our dealings with animals, our relationships with them are full of contradictions. We spend billions of dollars on *some* animals—showering them with affection and using them for non-harmful pleasures—yet we use *other* animals to generate billions of dollars in commerce and often exploit them in the process.

This publication has never released an issue that focuses solely on animal welfare. Rather, it has focused on topics ranging from energy law and policy to land and water use as well as other important topic areas that come to mind when you think of “sustainable development.” However, development will not be sustainable if animal welfare and human-animal relationships are not included in development programs, policies, and laws. In this issue, the *Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief* seeks to highlight the commonality between animal welfare issues and human justice issues. Our first article, *CAFOs: Plaguing North Carolina Communities of Color* by Christine Ball Blakely, discusses the deleterious effects that Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) have on both humans and non-humans. Author LaTravia Smith in her article, *The “Fowl” Practice of Humane Labeling: Proposed Amendments to Federal Standards Governing Chicken Welfare and Poultry Labeling Practices*, discusses the unique opportunities to improve poultry welfare in the United States’ agricultural industry and offers methods to ensure the accurate labeling of poultry products. The final article in this issue, *Cruelty to Human and Nonhuman Animals in the Wild-Caught Fishing Industry* by Kathy Hessler, Becky Jenkins, and Kelly Levenda, delves into the grave impacts that the fishing industry has on humans, including health and safety issues, labor law violations, and even human rights abuses, such as human trafficking, child labor, and slavery.

This issue also includes six featured articles exploring other important human and animal welfare topics. Carolyn Larcom discusses how anthropogenic noise interferes with echolocation, a process by which marine mammals use to communicate. Our second featured article by Stephanie Kurose discusses the recent and increasing legislative efforts by some members of Congress to weaken the Endangered Species Act. Alexandra C. Nolan examines “cow-tapping,” a technology developed in Argentina for cleaner methane extraction, which entails inserting a tube into a cow’s stomach to extract methane to use an alternative fuel source. Savannah Pugh explores

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how pesticides, mites, and global warming have contributed to a 90% decline in bee populations in the last twenty years. Israel Cook explores how the growth of the meat industry has placed pressure on slaughterhouses to increase the pace of their product lines in order to satisfy humanity’s demand for meat. Due to the faster pace of production, workers are suffering high rates of injury, and animals are being mistreated while still alive. Amanda Arrington, Director of the Pets for Life Program at The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and Michael Markarian Chief Operating Officer for The HSUS—discuss how limited affordable veterinary and pet wellness services disadvantage millions of people and their pets across the United States. The Pets for Life Program promotes the understanding within the larger animal protection movement that a lack of financial means does not equate to a lack of love for a pet. The program delivers direct care to thousands of pets in underserved communities each year.

On behalf of the *Sustainable Development Law and Policy* staff, we would like to thank all of the authors who contributed their time, efforts, and scholarship to this issue. Their scholarship is an inspiration to us all as we search to understand how to

ABOUT SDLP

The Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief (ISSN 1552-3721) is a student-run initiative at American University Washington College of Law that is published twice each academic year. The *Brief* embraces an interdisciplinary focus to provide a broad view of current legal, political, and social developments. It was founded to provide a forum for those interested in promoting sustainable economic development, conservation, environmental justice, and biodiversity throughout the world.

Because our publication focuses on reconciling the tensions found within our ecosystem, it spans a broad range of environmental issues such as sustainable development; trade; renewable energy; human rights; air, water, and noise regulation; climate change; land use, conservation, and property rights; resource use and regulation; and animal protection.

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incorporate animal welfare and human-animal relationships into development programs, policies, and laws. Their pieces highlight how animal welfare is inextricably intertwined with human welfare—they are not mutually exclusive. Their pieces also demonstrate how affinity groups and animal welfare groups share many of the same challenges, goals, and enemies—creating potential opportunities for movements to collaborate against exploitation, poverty, and cruelty. We would also like to thank our staff for all of

their hard work and dedication to *SDLP*. Lastly, we would like to thank our readers for your continuing interest and support of *SDLP*.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Luke Trompeter.

Luke Trompeter
Co-Editor in Chief

Handwritten signature of Ingrid Lesemann.

Ingrid Lesemann
Co-Editor in Chief