

Fall 2023 - Summer 2024

The DU Animal Law Program is committed to educating the next generation of animal law advocates, and in turn, for those advocates to enhance animal protection in the United States and around the world for generations to come.

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WELCOME

FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND MANAGER







Program Manager, Jess Beaulieu

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share the strides we have made in advancing the field of animal law, and preparing the next generation of legal professionals dedicated to this vital cause.

The Animal Law Program at the University of Denver stands at the intersection of academia and advocacy, where passionate students and faculty tackle some of the most pressing ethical, legal, and social issues facing nonhuman animals today. Through our rigorous curriculum, innovative research, and active community engagement, we strive to foster a comprehensive understanding of the laws affecting nonhuman animals and to drive meaningful change.

We are so grateful for our Affiliated Faculty Members,

who continue to advance some of the major animal law discussions of our time, and for the thought-leaders and experts who head our Board of Advisors. They truly help emphasize the Animal Law Program's principle that nonhuman animal matters are explicably intertwined with those of environmental protection and human rights.

This academic year, Program Director Marceau delivered lectures at the Canadian Animal Law Conference, at NYU's Animal Studies Program, and a keynote address for a philanthropic organization, in addition to many online webinars and workshops. His new book, co-authored with Alan Chen, is titled Truth and Transparency, and was published by Cambridge University Press. The book is the most comprehensive socio-legal examination of undercover investigations published to date, providing a detailed look at the role of undercover investigations in catalyzing social change. It recently won the 2024 AEJMC Tankard Book Award.

In addition to teaching and writing, a major source of professional commitment and joy for Marceau is his ongoing work with the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy, where he serves as a member of the Scholars Committee and the Executive Committee. The Brooks Institute is the most dynamic entity supporting research and teaching in the realm of animal protection, with a reputation for funding top-level academic fellowships for scholars across the world, and it is an organization that has hastened the rise of animal law and animal studies across the country, including at the University of Denver.

Marceau is also collaborating on several long-term projects that seek to redefine the boundaries of animal law. He is working on a new book tentatively titled Empirical Animal Law (with Professors Janice Nadler and David Dana (Northwestern)), and he continues to work with Professors Lori Gruen (Wesleyan) and Angela Fernandez (University of Toronto) on an ongoing project looking at innovative ways to respond to animal crime. Perhaps most significantly, along with Professors Angela Fernandez and Kristen Stilt (Harvard), he is also working on a new coursebook for animal law.

Program Manager Beaulieu is focused on bettering the lives of free-living animals. Last summer, she was appointed by Colorado Governor Jared Polis to serve on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, a citizen board that sets regulations and policies for Colorado's state parks and wildlife programs. In February 2024, Beaulieu had her Senate Confirmation Hearing and having a background in animal rights advocacy, the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee did not give her a favorable recommendation for the Senate Floor Vote. However, after considering arguments from both opponents and proponents, the Senate voted to officially confirm her in March 2024 based on her qualifications. In her role as a commissioner she has joined a bighorn sheep count, a Black-footed ferret release, a rehabilitated bear cub release, and more.

In February 2024, Beaulieu and Animal Law Program students attended the 2024 BASAN Animal Law Student Summit at NYU. The Summit brought together several universities with animal law and animal studies programs to provide each other with updates, participate in group discussions, and engage in networking opportunities. Beaulieu was also a speaker at the 2023 Colorado Animal Welfare Conference and presented on animal crimes and rethinking punitiveness when responding to cases of animal cruelty.

Beaulieu continues to further the reach of the Animal Law Program at several community events each year and even spoke with high school students this year about pursuing a career in animal law. She hopes to continue speaking with young professionals who are passionate about advocating on behalf of humans, the environment, and all nonhuman animals.

This report highlights our key initiatives, achievements, and the impact of our work, none of which would be possible without the support of our donors, particularly the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, and the law school administration, to which we are grateful.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the University of Denver Animal Law Program. Together, we are making a difference for nonhuman animals and shaping a more just and compassionate legal landscape!



AFFILIATED FACULTY ADVANCEMENTS











Govind Persad

Phil Tedeschi

Wyatt Sassman

Sarah Schindler

Kevin Lynch

The Animal Law Program's Affiliated Faculty, pictured above, produce a wide array of original research, and are committed to advancing some of the major animal law discussions of our time. Here is a selection of their recent work:

Professor Govind Persad co-authored several scholarly pieces that consider aspects of animal law. The first was Bioethicists Today: Results of the Views in Bioethics Survey, which surveyed 824 U.S. bioethicists on a wide range of ethical issues, including topics related to abortion, medical aid in dying, and resource allocation, among others. One area of focus for the survey was nonhuman animal ethics. The authors found that bioethicists' normative commitments predict their views on bioethical issues and that, in important ways, bioethicists' views do not align with those of the U.S. public. His other piece was The Importance of Getting the Ethics Right in a Pandemic Treaty, which proposes improvements to the Guiding Principles and Approaches section of the WHO's draft pandemic treaty. The piece also discusses the proper place of One Health (an ethical and governance approach that incorporates nonhuman animals) in a pandemic treaty.

Professor Phil Tedeschi gave several incredible talks covering our relationship with nonhuman animals. Those talks included Responding to Animal Cruelty, Research and Intervention Developments, Denver Animal Protection and Humane Law Enforcement, Denver, Colorado; Autumn Conversations, Animals Forward, A One Health/Welfare Perspectives on the intersection of Human and Non-Human Animal Well-Being, World Psychiatric Association, Gustrow, Germany; A One Health/Welfare Perspective on Human and Non-Human Animal Well-Being, Israel Authority for Prevention of Violence, Alcohol and Drug, Jerusalem, Israel; and Animals Forward, Risk, Resilience and Remediation in Animal Maltreatment, Violence Against Animals Group, Tel Aviv University, and The Community of Animals Studies Israel, Tel Aviv, Israel. Additionally, Phil will be co-editor of the 6th edition of the Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy: Foundations and Guidelines for Animal Assisted Interventions to be released on August 24, 2024 as well as a contributing author for two chapters.

Professor Wyatt Sassman and the University of Denver's Environmental Law Clinic are representing the Center for Biological Diversity and Food & Water Watch in a challenge to the Clean Water Act general permit in Colorado for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The Clinic challenged the permit before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), who agreed with their position that the Clean Water Act requires monitoring to ensure that CAFO cesspools are not leaking pollution. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment overruled the ALJ in April 2024, stating there is no evidence the factory farm manure pits are leaking, so there's no reason to require monitoring. The Clinic says exactly - without monitoring, Coloradans will never know the facts, and that's why the federal Clean Water Act requires monitoring. This case is covered in a Colorado Sun article.

BOARD OF ADVISOR UPDATES







Giulia Malerbi



Trent Morton



Frances Chrzan

The Animal Law Program's Board of Advisors, pictured above, is a dynamic group of animal law experts and community leaders who provide research support, increase the Animal Law Program's public visibility, and expand our impact throughout Colorado and across the nation. Here is a selection of their recent work:

Akisha Townsend Eaton, Chief of Policy, Environmental Justice Division, Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE), co-authored a chapter in the Guide to Representing Animal Protection Organizations and was also featured in an open-access, scholarly documentary film series on Animal Law that surveys the current field of animal law and policy through the eyes of four youth active in animal advocacy.

Giulia Malerbi, Head of Global Policy, Aquatic Life Institute, directed the Aquatic Animal Policy (AAP) focus group's efforts, successfully aligning their activities with the principles of reducing, refining, replacing, and rejecting practices harmful to aquatic life. A significant milestone in her leadership was the enactment of legislation that banned octopus farming in Washington State, setting a pioneering precedent in animal welfare law. Inspired by Washington's lead, states like Hawaii, California, and Oregon are advancing similar bills, reflecting a nationwide shift towards more ethical and conservation-minded policies. Giulia has been instrumental in these efforts, collaborating with several committed NGOs to secure bans on octopus farming across multiple jurisdictions. This collaborative movement has gained such momentum that the Aquatic Life Institute is now partnering with a United States Senator to propose a federal bill that would outlaw octopus farming nationwide. Giulia's contributions have made her a respected figure in the policy space, leading to invitations to present her work at prestigious international conferences.

Trenton Morton, Staff Attorney, Mercy for Animals, assisted with several of Mercy for Animals' US-, Canada-, and UK-based campaigns, many of which involved undercover or drone-based investigations. He published Ag-Gag Days of Summer: Zoonotic Disease Risk at Factory Farms is Yet Another Reason to Protect Free Expression in late-September 2023, and a commentary on corporations' abuses of trademark law to silence criticism titled Noncompetitor Critics Aren't Trademark Infringers: It's Time for the Law to Make that Explicit. Trenton volunteers with The Humane League, helping to recruit additional "THL Changemakers" through presentations on virtual calls and leading in-person demonstrations throughout Indianapolis, while also organizing several fundraising events for Brightlane Learning, an Indianapolis-based organization that provides tutors to K through 12 students experiencing homelessness.

THIRD-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Animal Law Program Hires First

ANIMAL LAW RESEARCH FELLOW

Jess Beaulieu Confirmed by Senate to be

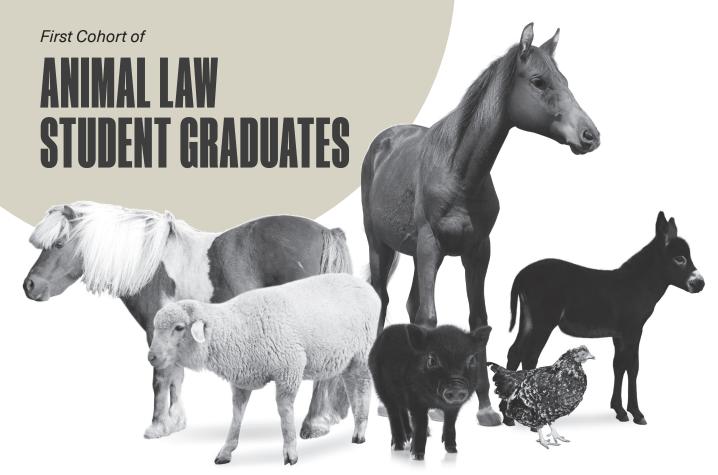
COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSIONER

Animal Law Program Joins Effort to Establish

DU INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL SENTIENCE AND PROTECTION

Justin Marceau and Alan Chen's Truth and Transparency Wins

TANKARD BOOK AWARD



EVENTS

The Animal Law Program engaged students by hosting renowned animal-law scholars and practitioners for in-person and virtual educational and networking opportunities.

EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

Advancing Law for Animals with Vanessa Shakib



September 19, 2023: Vanessa Shakib discussed impact litigation and creative legal strategy for animals, and also the work her nonprofit law firm, Advancing Law for Animals, does for animals exploited in industrial agriculture and experimentation.

Why Plant-Based Meat is the Future and How Data Science Helps



October 11, 2023: Dr. Karthik Sekar, Head of Data Science at Climax Foods, explained how in the long run, plant- and microbial-based food will be tastier, healthier, and more affordable than conventional animal-based products and simultaneously usher in significant benefits for humanity, animal kind, and planet Earth, and why data science and machine learning are necessary to accelerate our food transition.

From Dominance to Justice, Equity, & Inclusion: Extending Human Rights Frameworks to Other Animals



November 6, 2023: Dr. Hope Ferdowsian, drawing on the themes in her book, *Phoenix Zones: Where Strength Is Born and Resilience Lives*, described the intricate connections between human, animal, and planetary rights, health, and wellbeing and how extending human rights frameworks to nonhuman animals can serve as the basis for solutions, recovery, and individual and societal resilience.

The Rights of Nature in Ecuador's Constitution and Jurisprudence



February 13, 2024: the Animal Law Program, Environmental Law Program, and Center for Constitutional Rights & Remedies hosted a rights of nature discussion with Judge Karla Andrade Quevedo from the Constitutional Court of Ecuador. Judge Andrade Quevedo discussed nature's rights in Ecuador's constitution and then explained the evolution of the constitutional jurisprudence on nature's rights. This included the topics of rivers, mangroves, forests, and animals, and she described all the developments that have been made on each of those topics.

Justice for Animals: Practical Progress through Philosophical Theory



March 12, 2024: the University of Denver's new Institute for Animal Sentience and Protection, which aims to expand the scientific understanding of the cognitive and emotional capabilities of nonhuman animals, and the Animal Law Program hosted noted philosopher, Dr. Martha Nussbaum. During this talk, Dr. Nussbaum argued that an approach based on her version of the Capabilities Approach is the one we need to address animal injustices, and she showed how it directs our efforts better than rival approaches.

Protecting and Promoting Insect Welfare



April 18, 2024: the Institute for Animal Sentience and Protection, Animal Law Program, and Butterfly Pavilion hosted an engaging symposium on insect welfare, sentience, and the importance of considering animal welfare across species. This event showcased the groundbreaking work of Dr. Meghan Barrett, an insect neuroethologist and the Director of the Insect Welfare Research Society; Dr. Bob Fisher, the Director of the Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals; and Dr. Richard Reading, Vice President of Science and Conservation at Butterfly Pavilion, a nonprofit that fosters an appreciation of invertebrates by educating the public about the need to protect and care for threatened habitats globally, while conducting research for solutions in invertebrate conservation.

LUNCHTIME ANIMAL LAW CAREER TALK SERIES

Lunchtime Talk with Macarena Montes

September 13, 2023: Macarena Montes Franceschini, Harvard Law Visiting Fellow, described what inspired her animal law journey and offered students advice for pursuing a similar path.

Lunchtime Talk with Manny Rutinel

October 4, 2023: Manny Rutinel, member of the Colorado House of Representatives for the 32nd district, discussed his work in the field of animal law and how as a legislator he plans to ensure his community has access to a quality education, affordable homes, and clean air, land, and water.

Lunchtime Talk with Alene Anello

October 26, 2023: Alene Anello, founder of Legal Impact for Chickens (LIC), explained how LIC develops and refines creative methods to enforce existing cruelty laws in factory farms and to sue companies that break animal-welfare commitments.

Can We Hear You? Models for Listening in the Animal Kingdom and Scientific Communities



January 31, 2024: Katie Zacarian, CEO and co-founder of Earth Species Project (ESP), a non-profit organization with the mission of decoding animal communication, discussed how ESP collaborates broadly across many scientific disciplines, bringing together AI researchers, biological scientists, ethicists, philosophers, conservationists, and more, and discussed the challenges and joys of listening deeply to the science and expertise outside of our own disciplines, and eventually, outside of our species.

Lunchtime Advocacy Talk with Nilang Gor

February 6, 2024: Nilang Gor, founder of Cultivate Empathy for All, an organization that supports advocacy focused on transitioning towards a sustainable food system by leveraging empathy rooted in systems thinking, discussed how we live in a highly interconnected ecosystem, in which our wellbeing is interdependent on fellow humans, nonhuman animals, and the environment.

Confronting Pronatalism and Human Supremacy: The Key to Advancing Reproductive and Animal Rights



February 21, 2024: Nandita Bajaj, executive director of Population Balance, a U.S. nonprofit that offers education and solutions to address the impacts of human overpopulation and overconsumption from a humane education framework, exposed pronatalism and human supremacy as drivers of injustice and offered strategies for engaging in nuanced conversation and policy shifts.

Truth and Transparency Book Event

March 5, 2024: the Office of the Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship, Animal Law Program, and Center for Constitutional Rights & Remedies celebrated Alan Chen and Justin Marceau's new book, *Truth and Transparency: Undercover Investigations in the Twenty-First Century.* The talk featured commentators Fred Freiberg of the Fair Housing Justice Center and Helen Norton of the University of Colorado School of Law.

Introduction to Veganism, Speciesism, and Collective Liberation



April 4, 2024: Christopher "Soul" Eubanks, founder of APEX Advocacy, a nonprofit animal rights organization that teaches grassroots activism and creates various campaigns to empower Black, Indigenous, and People of Color to advocate for animal rights, gave an introductory lecture into the philosophy of veganism and the inherent connections between nonhuman animal exploitation and human rights. During the talk, he highlighted why animal rights is a crucial component in achieving collective liberation for both nonhuman animals and humans.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Speaker at 2023 Colorado Animal Welfare Conference

September 20, 2023: Jess Beaulieu was a speaker at the 2023 Colorado Animal Welfare Conference, a conference that unites professionals who promote the humane treatment of animals; sharing best practices, challenges, and successes in an environment of learning and teamwork. Jess presented on animal crimes and rethinking punitiveness when responding to cases of animal cruelty.

Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary Volunteer Day



September 30, 2023: Students joined the Animal Law Program to help clean the resident animals' spaces and learn about their stories. Luvin Arms is a refuge for abused or neglected farmed animals, including cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens, horses, goats, donkeys, sheep, and ducks.

Vendor at Luvin Arms Fall Fest

October 7, 2023: the Animal Law Program was a vendor at Luvin Arms Fall Fest, an event that celebrates the incredible work of Luvin Arms and raises awareness about the importance of animal welfare.

Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction

October 18, 2023: Jess Beaulieu joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Abduction @ DU

October 23–24, 2023: peta2 brought *Abduction*, a new cutting-edge virtual reality exhibit, to the University of Denver to bring attention to the plight of animals used in laboratories.

Rehabilitated Bear Cub Release

February 2, 2024: Jess Beaulieu joined Colorado Parks and Wildlife to release two rehabilitated bear cubs into the wild. The bear cubs, who were orphaned, were placed together in an artificial den, and left to hibernate for the winter.

2024 BASAN Animal Law Student Summit



February 17, 2024: Jess Beaulieu and Animal Law Program students attended the 2024 BASAN Animal Law Student Summit at NYU. The Summit brought together several universities with animal law and animal studies programs to provide each other with updates, participate in group discussions, and engage in networking opportunities.

CPW Commission Senate Confirmation Hearing

February 29, 2024: Jess Beaulieu had her Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Senate Confirmation Hearing. Having a background in animal rights advocacy, the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee did not give her a favorable recommendation for the Senate Floor Vote. However, the Senate ultimately voted to officially confirm her onto the Commission on March 12, 2024.

CU Anschutz Demonstration

April 11, 2024: the Animal Law Program joined the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine to ask the CU Anschutz Board of Regents to end the school's use of live pigs in its surgical residency training program.

Community Day at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge



April 13, 2024: students visited the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, one of the largest urban refuges in the country. They had the opportunity to learn about the critically endangered Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction, as well as discuss managing a bison herd in connection with bison conservation initiatives. They explored the history of the site and how it came to be to protect wildlife and serve nearly one million visitors each year.

Earth Week Event with NRELS

April 17, 2024: the Natural Resources and Environmental Law Society and Animal Law Program celebrated Earth Week and the end of the spring semester by providing students treats from a local vegan ice cream truck.

Vendor at Luvin Arms Spring Fest

May 4, 2024: the Animal Law Program was a vendor at Luvin Arms Spring Fest, an event that celebrates compassion, community, and sustainable living.

Speaker at Aurora Science & Tech High School

May 8, 2024: Jess Beaulieu presented the work of the Animal Law Program to high school students during a career day at Aurora Science & Tech High School. The Animal Law Program looks forward to working more with high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in the field of animal law.

Vendor at VegFest CO



July 27, 2024: the Animal Law Program was a vendor at VegFest Colorado, an event that celebrates plant-based living, respect for our planet, sustainability, and kindness.

DU INSTITUTE FOR

TIENCE AND PROTECTION

At the University of Denver, we seek to design an Institute dedicated to fostering a more compassionate and ethical world through research, public engagement, training, and advocacy, with the goal of establishing greater legal standing and future wellbeing of nonhuman animals. The Institute for Animal Sentience and Protection (IASP) is a joint initiative between the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) and the Sturm College of Law (SCOL). IASP combines the shared goals of expanding understanding of the cognitive and emotional capabilities of nonhuman animals while advancing legislation to ensure their protection. This interdisciplinary collaboration between GSSW and SCOL allows scholarship and research to be applied in legislation to meet critical community needs concerning animal protection.



RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Animal Law Program and the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy are collaborating to produce a catalogue of emerging animal law and policy related scholarly research, a comprehensive animal law research guide, and state(s) animal law compendiums. To advance these projects, the Brooks Institute has commissioned a full-time Research Fellowship at DU's Animal Law Program. We welcome Kai Wu as the new Research Fellow! The Scholarship Catalogue is expected to take a form similar to the Animal Law Digest (produced by the Brooks Institute in collaboration with the Animal Law and Policy Program at Harvard Law School). We anticipate that a maintained list of subject matter experts will become a product of the Scholarship Catalogue.

STUDENT UPDATES

ANIMAL LAW SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS 2024

The Animal Law Program is committed to supporting summer public interest employment opportunities and providing a guaranteed summer funding award to two animal law students who choose to work in a public interest law position during the summer.

INAUGURAL GRADUATING CLASS OF ANIMAL LAW STUDENTS

This year we celebrated the graduation of our first cohort of animal law students. Their commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of nonhuman animals has been both inspiring and transformative. We are so proud of their accomplishments and are excited to see how each of them will use their talents and passion to make the world a better place for all living beings. The strides they make in their careers will pave the way for future generations of advocates, and we are confident that their contributions will continue to make significant impacts in the field of animal law!

ANIMAL RIGHTS COURSE

Students had the opportunity to take a course on Animal Rights Law or to write directed research papers on topics relating to animal law. The course focused on the difference between animal rights and animal welfare and opened conversations on the benefits of each approach as well as the harmony (or dissonance) between the two fields.

The course was co-taught by Professor Justin Marceau and Colorado's First Gentleman, Marlon Reis. The First Gentleman attended each class and posed policy questions and dilemmas of legislative strategy to the students. An amazing group of distinguished guests offered lectures throughout the semester, including:

- Jess Beaulieu, Program Manager, University of Denver Animal Law Program
- Amanda Becker, Deputy District Attorney
- Marc Bekoff, Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder
- Daina Bray, Clinical Lecturer in Law and Senior Research Scholar in Law, Yale Law School
- Chris Carraway, Staff Attorney, University of Denver Animal Activist Legal Defense Project
- Jake Davis, Staff Attorney, Nonhuman Rights Project
- Angela Fernandez, Professor of Law, University of Toronto
- Becky Niemec, Director of CSU Animal Human Policy Center, Colorado State University
- Nancy Perry, Senior Vice President of Governmental Relations, ASPCA
- Will Potter, Investigative Journalist and Author
- Manny Rutinel, Legislator, Colorado House of Representatives for the 32nd District
- Jay Tutchton, Preserve Manager, Southern Plains Land Trust
- Michael Whitlow, Assistant Professor in University Libraries, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

The students concluded their studies by drafting legislation in groups on an animal law topic of their choosing. They then had the opportunity to present their proposed bills to Colorado legislators for consideration to have the legislators carry their bills.

PLANS FOR FALL 2024

EVENTS

The Animal Law Program has a great line-up of Fall 2024 events, subject to some changes and additions, with many open to the public:

SEPTEMBER

- Animal Law Program Information Session (September 4)
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Student Birding Event (September 28)

OCTOBER

- Evening Advocacy Talk with Kai Huschke (October 8)*
- Transfarmation Book Talk with Leah Garcés (October 23)*
- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Colorado Humane Society (October 31)*

NOVEMBER

- Lunchtime Advocacy Talk with Bina Ahmad (November 7)*
- Institute for Animal Sentience and Protection Event (November 12)*
- * Events open to the public

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

- Jane Goodall



Until next year!



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