

## Friday Forecast

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## Friday Forecast – April 12, 2024



**Big News:** This week, the Animal Law & Policy Clinic sent a **comprehensive letter**, written by 3Ls Kira Horowitz and Savannah Bergeron, to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), calling on DEEP to safeguard wildlife by prohibiting the use of leghold and body-gripping traps. These barbaric devices are designed to slam shut on an animal's foot or body, causing them prolonged pain and panic. Some trapped animals even chew or rip off their own limbs to escape. The letter highlights a variety of safe, humane alternatives to trapping that promote coexistence with wildlife. Clinical Instructor Rachel Mathews supervised the students' work.



**Why is this important?** In addition to the pain the use of these traps causes to all animals caught in them, leghold and body-gripping traps are often used to target species such as beavers, who are critical to healthy ecosystems and help reduce the impacts of climate change. Moreover, these traps have high rates of capturing animals other than those intended—including federally protected eagles and owls. DEEP's own records show that the agency has received complaints of trapped cats, dogs, and many other animals, yet it does not monitor the capture of non-target animals by requiring trappers to report this information.

**What now?** ALPC's letter argues that the use of leghold and body-gripping traps is inconsistent with the mandate of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act, which requires agencies to use all practicable means to ensure their programs avoid

undesirable and unintended environmental consequences. ALPC awaits action by DEEP in response.

**Bottom line:** Nine states—including Connecticut’s neighbors Massachusetts and Rhode Island—have banned or significantly limited the use of leghold traps. It is time for Connecticut to join them.

## Lectures & Presentations



**April 15:** Professor **Kristen Stilt** (left) and Visiting Fellow **Macarena Montes Franceschini** (right) will present the Ecuadorian Constitutional Court’s decision on woolly monkey Estrellita at Professor Rebecca Henderson’s course *Reweaving Ourselves and the World: New Perspectives on Climate Change* at Harvard Kennedy School.



**April 16:** Associate Director of Policy & Research **Ann Linder** will be giving a guest lecture at Stanford Law School discussing the findings of the program’s 2023 report **Animal Markets and Zoonotic Disease in the United States**.



**April 18:** Ann Linder will speak to students at UMKC Law School about **her work** examining the racial implications of breed-restrictive legislation and understanding the problem of breed-specific legislation through the lens of social justice.



**April 15:** Visiting Fellow **Dinesh Wadiwel** will give the Annual Tom Regan Memorial Lecture on **Animal Rights and Capitalism** at Harvard Law School. The respondent will be **Lori Gruen**, William Griffin Professor of Philosophy at Wesleyan University. The moderator will be Faculty Director Professor **Kristen Stilt**. The Animal Law & Policy Program is honored to host this event, which celebrates the life and thought of philosopher, animal advocate, and Culture & Animals Foundation co-founder Tom Regan. The event is open to the public and will take place at **12:30pm in Room 1019, Wasserstein Hall, Harvard Law School**. **Register** to join by Zoom.



**April 19:** Visiting Fellow **Cleo Verkuijl** will speak at the **Emerging Science of Animal Consciousness** event hosted by the NYU Mind, Ethics, and Policy Program and Wild Animal Welfare Program. **Register** to attend in-person or online.



**April 13:** Visiting Fellow **Jian Yi** will join a panel and speak about food systems transformation at the **US-Asia Sustainable Development Summit** to take place at Harvard. This event is open to the public.



**April 24:** Visiting Fellow **Carlos A. Contreras López** will be a keynote speaker at the Barcelona Bar Association in Barcelona and will present *Animalization and Dehumanization Concerns: Another Psychological Barrier to Animal Law Reform*.

**April 19:** Carlos Contreras is speaking at the second meeting of the Spanish Animal Advocacy Network in Madrid.



**April 24:** Clinic Staff Attorney **Rebecca Garverman** (JD '21) will present *Oh Deer! The Case of the Trapped Tomales Point Tule Elk* to the **HLSA Animal Law & Policy Network** and the **Harvard Alumni in Animal Health** Shared Interest Group.

This online event is open to the public and you can register **here**.

## Visiting Fellow Workshops

Attendance by **request**



**April 17:** 3:00–4:30pm  
*China's Dog Meat Trade: Zeroing in on a Legal and Political Quagmire*, presented by Visiting Fellow **Peter Li**



**April 24:** 3:00–4:30pm  
*Animals and the Concept of the Rule of Law*, presented by Visiting Fellow **Dinesh Wadiwel**



**May 1:** 3:00–4:30pm  
*The Biology of Dignity: Connecting Labor Unionization and American Hog Life*, presented by Visiting Fellow **Alex Blanchette**



**May 6:** 2:15–3:45pm  
*The Whistleblower*, presented by Visiting Fellow **Carlos A. Contreras López**



**May 15:** 3:00–4:30pm  
*Working with Whistleblowers*, presented by Visiting Fellow **Amanda Hitt**



**May 19:** 3:00–4:30pm  
*Food Valleys & Deserts*, presented by Professor **Kristen Stilt**

## Events

Attendance by **request**



**May 10:**  
**Lunch with Philosopher Paula Casal**  
**Harvard Law School**

The Brooks McCormick Animal Law & Policy Program will host a lunch event with philosopher **Paula Casal**, at which she will talk about nonhuman animal persons and their rights. Is a person a kind of animal? How have the features associated with personhood evolved in very different species? How do these features alter the moral rights an individual or group may have?



Paula Casal is an ICREA Professor at the Law Department of Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona). She was previously a Lecturer and a Reader in Moral and Political Philosophy at Reading University (2004-08), and a Lecturer at Keele University (1996-2004). She was also a Fellow in Ethics at Harvard University (1999-2000), Keele Junior Research Fellow, also at Harvard (2000-01), Hoover Fellow at Université Catholique de Louvain (2001-02), and Leverhulme Research Fellow at Oxford University (2002-04). Her work has appeared in journals such as *Ethics*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Political Studies*, and *Utilitas*. She is also President of the Great Ape Project-Spain and Co-Director of the UPF Centre for Animal Ethics.

**November 15–17:**  
**The Endangered Species Act @ 50**  
**Harvard Law School**

Please save the dates for an upcoming major conference at Harvard Law School dedicated to the Endangered Species Act as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. This event is open to the public and tickets will be available soon. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email [Nirva Patel](mailto:nirva@hs-nlp.org).



**Highlights from this week's**  
**Brooks Animal Law Digest: U.S. Edition**

**Virginia Expands Prohibition on Animal Ownership by Cruelty Offenders**

Virginia **enacted** House Bill 223, authorizing courts to prohibit misdemeanor animal cruelty offenders from owning animals for up to five years and felony animal cruelty offenders from owning animals for life.

**U.S. Egg Company Plans to Use In-Ovo Sexing Technology to Stop Culling Male Chicks**

Egg Innovations **intends** to introduce in-ovo sexing technology to eliminate the practice of culling male chicks, which would make it the first U.S.-based company to do so.

**Three in International Monkey Crush Video Network Plead Guilty to Conspiracy**

Two individuals in the U.S. **pleaded** guilty to unlawful conspiracy to create and distribute crush videos featuring the torture and killing of monkeys as part of an international network. A third individual, the ringleader, also agreed to plead guilty.

**USDA's Wildlife Services Killed 375,045 Native Wild Animals in 2023**

The Center for Biological Diversity **reported** that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services disclosed killing 375,045 native animals in 2023, a number similar to the three prior years.

**Friday Forecast Archives**



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