

Friday Forecast

HLS Animal Law & Policy Program & Clinic <alpp@law.harvard.edu>

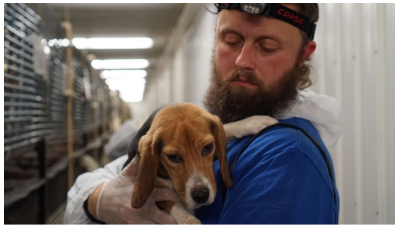
Fri 4/19/2024 5:09 PM

To:Patel, Nirva <npatel@law.harvard.edu>



Friday Forecast – April 19, 2024

Big News: An animal rescue group coalition **petitioned** the Dane County Circuit Court in Wisconsin to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Ridglan Farms' alleged abuse of beagles at its beagle breeding and research facility.



Following the submission of the petition, Professor **Kristen Stilt** sent a **letter** to the Honorable Rhonda Lanford, the judge hearing the coalition's arguments. Her letter notes that corporations like Ridglan Farms can be prosecuted for violating state animal cruelty laws and states that such corporations should not be permitted to shirk liability for criminal conduct.

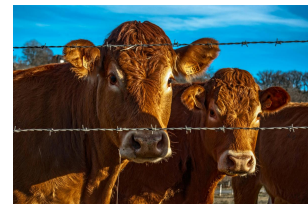
Why is this important? The petition alleges that Ridglan Farms has committed criminal animal abuse involving thousands of beagles in its facility for over a decade in violation of Wisconsin state law.

What Now? On April 18, Judge Lanford heard arguments on the petition and scheduled a full evidentiary hearing on it to take place on July 10.

ALPP in the Press

In the news: **JBS, the world's largest beef producer, is being sued for false advertising**, *Sentient Climate*, April 16, 2024.

Why is this important? The **lawsuit**, brought in February by New York Attorney General **Letitia James**, alleges JBS

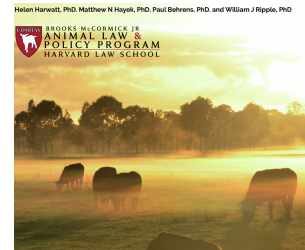


broke state law by “engaging in deceptive acts or practices.” At issue in the lawsuit are marketing practices like JBS’s “Net Zero by 2040” promise to produce net-zero meat. The state alleges that JBS lacks a plan to achieve net-zero and that the claim constitutes false and misleading advertising.

As noted in the reporting on the lawsuit by Sentient Climate, as “research has made clear, the most effective strategy for reducing food-related greenhouse gas emissions is scaling back meat production.” Referenced in the article is [Options for a Paris-Compliant Livestock Sector](#), a [report](#) recently published by the Animal Law and Policy Program and authored by its former fellow [Helen Harwatt](#).

The facts? JBS is responsible for significant climate emissions and Amazon deforestation. The lawsuit’s outcome could help set precedents for climate advertising and corporate accountability.

Bottom Line: The lawsuit mirrors a global trend of governments starting to scrutinize corporate climate pledges, marketing, and action or inaction.



[The Truth About Organic Milk](#), *The Atlantic*, April 12, 2024

Visiting Fellow [Amanda Hitt](#) was quoted twice in *The Atlantic* in an article about the truth behind organic milk. Discussing how there are more than a dozen humane certifiers, some with rigorous standards and some that are just industry fronts, the article quotes Hitt: “It has this patina of a Yelp review: five stars for this processor! . . . This is a certification to make you feel better about eating a certain product. But it has no basis in any kind of reality.”



Upcoming Lectures & Presentations

April 20: Visiting Fellow [Yi Jian](#) and his work will be featured in two events during [Crafting the Real: Forms and Politics of the Documentary in the Interplay of Theatre, Music, Film and Digital Art](#), a two-day gathering hosted at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University. The gathering is free and open to the public, taking place at the Barker Center, Room 133, 12 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA.

The first of Yi Jian's events will be *Screening the Real Staged Film Excerpts from Jian Yi's Zodiac Film-Project in Collaboration with Citizen TALES Commons and Q&A*, from 2–4pm. The second event will be *Panel 3: Food as Document of Culture—Panel with Brandon Woolf, Yi Jian, and Mitra Wakil*, from 4:30–6:30pm.



April 23: Visiting Scholar **Peter Li** will give a talk on *China's Dog Meat Trade: A Ticking Timebomb*, sponsored by In Defense of Animals and the Global Anti-Dog Meat Coalition. The talk is scheduled for 5pm and is open to the public. To join, click: <https://meet.google.com/hee-jvqr-bjx> or dial: 1 (224) 990-0274 PIN: 334 014 373#.



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 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 at 7pm. This online event is open to the public and you can register [here](#).

April 29: Visiting Fellows **Carlos A. Contreras López** and **Macarena Montes Franceschini** will participate in an activity supervising a group of students in Dr. Sparsha Saha's course "The Great Food Transformation: Food Systems and Politics" in the

Department of Government,
Harvard University.



Visiting Fellow Workshops

Attendance by request



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.Patel@law.harvard.edu).

SPONSORED BY THE BROOKS INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS LAW & POLICY

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024 ♥ HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

the ENDANGERED
 SPECIES ACT @ 50

SAVE THE DATE



Check Out This Week's
Brooks Animal Law Digest: U.S. Edition
Quarter 1 Highlights and Perspectives Column

Friday Forecast Archives



Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program, Harvard Law School | 1585 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138

[Unsubscribe npatel@law.harvard.edu](mailto:npatel@law.harvard.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by alpp@law.harvard.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!