

## Friday Forecast

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

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



## Friday Forecast – April 26, 2024



On April 20, the Harvard Law School Animal Law Society visited [Unity Farm Sanctuary](#) in Sherborn, MA. From left to right, the HLS students featured in the group photo above from the visit are Jeremiah Scanlan (JD '24), Shashank Vura (JD '24), Ricardo Diaz-Alarcón (LLM '23), Sam Meyerson (JD '26), Lla Anderson (JD '27), Nyala Carbonado (JD '25), Vinny Byju (JD '25), and Walker Morrell (JD '25).

## In the Press

**In the news:** [One in five](#) samples of retail dairy milk are testing positive for avian influenza viral fragments.

**Why is this important?** The infection of U.S. dairies with avian influenza appears to be much more widespread than initially thought, causing generally

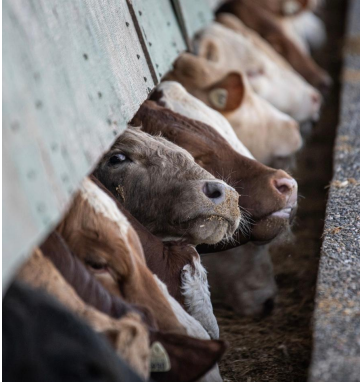


Photo by Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals Media

mild illness in dairy cattle and leaving viral remnants in dairy milk products. While only one dairy worker so far has been confirmed as infected, the virus could be transmitted to more humans with potentially deadly consequences, sparking fears of another pandemic.

**The facts?** As Associate Director of Policy & Research **Ann Linder** detailed in the ALPP report **Animal Markets and Zoonotic Disease in the United States**, industrial animal agriculture creates and exacerbates the risk of pandemics. The report notes that “influenzas are perceived by experts to be the most dangerous because of their pandemic potential, driven by their ability to reassort, mutate, and spread through droplets in the air.” The World Health Organization’s Chief Scientist, Dr. Jeremy Farrar, **recently called** the widespread avian influenza outbreak, which he says primarily started in poultry and duck flocks several years ago, a “global zoonotic – animal – pandemic.”

**Bottom line:** Government officials are **expanding** dairy herd testing and still need to investigate whether pasteurization fully inactivates bird flu in dairy milk. Over the long term, as Ann Linder stated in an **interview** in the Harvard Gazette last year, “[w]e need a unifying, comprehensive scheme” to address regulatory and communication gaps in order to proactively prevent and respond to disease outbreaks like this one.

**Hay que regular la Inteligencia Artificial para que no sea discriminatoria con los animales** (translation: Artificial Intelligence must be regulated so that it does not discriminate against animals), *Animalados*, April 25, 2024.

Visiting Fellow **Silvina Pezzetta** was interviewed by Animalados and featured in a story published on their Spanish-language platform. The interview discusses the contradiction between Argentina’s role as both the nation with the highest beef consumption per capita and as a nation with some of the most favorable judicial decisions for animals, recognizing some animals as bearers of rights. It also discusses the need to reduce species biases in the development of artificial intelligence and to consider negative impacts on animals in addition to those on human rights, vulnerable populations, and the environment when designing regulatory limitations on the novel technology.



Additionally, Silvina Pezzetta’s scholarship will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Chilean legal journal *Ius et Praxis*. Her article, written in Spanish, is titled *Animal Welfare and Animal Rights. Argentinean legal regulation and Caselaw*.

## Upcoming Lectures & Presentations



**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**



**May 1:** 3:00–4:30pm  
*Off-Animals, Sweated Life, and the American Pig at the Limits of Capitalism*, 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*,



**May 19:** 3:00–4:30pm  
*Food Valleys & Deserts*,

presented by Visiting Fellow **Amanda Hitt**

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).



## Highlights from This Week's Brooks Animal Law Digest: U.S. Edition

Kentucky **Enacts** Ag-Gag Bill Criminalizing Use of Drones and Recording Devices on Farms

Virginia **Bans** Declawing

Virginia **Establishes** Task Force to Research and Report on Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **Streamlines** Endangered Species Act Enhancement of Survival and Incidental Take Permit Process

### Friday Forecast Archives



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

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