

Friday Forecast

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Friday Forecast – May 17, 2024

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Clinic Petitions Massachusetts to Stop Use of Harmful Rodenticides



Photo: In April, this Framingham great horned owl and her owlets died of anticoagulant rodenticide toxicity. Only the father remains. Photo courtesy of Cape Ann Wildlife.

This week, the Animal Law & Policy Clinic **submitted** petitions urging two Massachusetts agencies to protect owls, eagles, and other wildlife from anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning.

The **first petition** urges the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to suspend the registrations of anticoagulant rodenticide products because they cause “unreasonable adverse effects to the environment” and therefore fail to meet the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act’s registration standards.

The **second petition** asks the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to investigate the impacts of rodenticides on species protected by the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and ensure that MDAR is using all practicable means to avoid damaging protected species, including bald eagles.

As detailed in these petitions, anticoagulant rodenticides are wreaking havoc on predators and scavengers who eat rodents. Cape Ann Wildlife has commissioned toxicology tests on nearly four dozen birds and mammal patients since 2022—*all* have found anticoagulant rodenticides in the animals' livers.

The petitions were submitted on behalf of bird rehabilitators Erin Hutchings, Jodi Swenson, and Linda Amato of **Cape Ann Wildlife**; mammal rehabilitator Jane Newhouse of **Newhouse Wildlife Rescue**; Marci Cemenska of **Save Lexington Wildlife**; James Joyce II and Patricia Sears-Joyce of **Friends of Horn Pond**; and Laura Kiesel of **Save Arlington Wildlife**.

The Clinic's petitions were authored by students Lla Anderson (2L), Allyson Gambardella (3L), Kira Horowitz (3L), and Lexi Neilan (2L) under the supervision of Clinical Instructor Rachel Mathews.

In the Media

A recent **journal article** in *Frontiers in Animal Science*, led by Visiting Fellow **Cleo Verkuijl**, suggests that the United Nations system and governments should adopt a more comprehensive approach to animal agriculture policy in relation to climate change mitigation. The authors outline seven common strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture and examine their broader impact on One Health, including nutrition, the emergence of zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and animal welfare. The article provides recommendations on how policymakers, international organizations, and the financial sector can adopt a more holistic approach to animal agriculture, promoting climate goals while preventing new problems in public health and animal welfare.



Inside The Crocodile Farming Industry's Dark Calculations, *Sentient Media*, May 13, 2024.

A recent **article** in response to Australia's new saltwater crocodile management plan, which supports the growth of the crocodile farming industry as a solution to manage populations, quoted Visiting Fellow **Dinesh Wadiwel**: "the use of intensive farming for crocodile skin is highly concerning, as history tells us these products will become normalized over time as production increases, as prices lower, and more consumers demand them."



Photo credit: JoAnne McArthur/We Animals Media

Talks & Presentations



May 24: Visiting Fellow **Macarena Montes Franceschini** will present at the Great Ape and Zoos Forum at the Spanish Parliament on the legal personhood of great apes. The event is organized by the Parliamentary Association in Defense of Animal Rights (Asociación Parlamentaria en Defensa de los Derechos de los Animales - APDDA) as part of the discussion on the drafting of a bill protecting great apes in Spain.

June 7: Montes will present the article *Naturalized Rights of Animals, Animalized Rights of Nature*, co-authored with Professor **Kristen Stilt**, at a workshop on climate and future generations at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain.

June 26: Montes will co-teach a class session on animal rights for the **2024 Earth Law Summer Course**.

Last month, Visiting Fellow **Carlos A. Contreras Lopez** was interviewed by the YouTube channel **Animales con Derechos** ("Animals with Rights"). Along with the former Head of the Directorate-General for Animal Rights (DGDA) of the Government of Spain, Contreras discussed the use of animals in experimentation and delved into the specifics of the Vivotecnia case he has worked on.



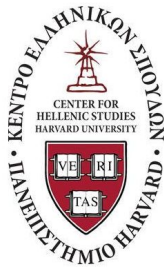
Visiting Fellow Workshops

Attendance by request



May 29: 3:00–4:30pm
Food Valleys & Deserts,
presented by Professor Kristen Stilt

Summer Events in Europe



Center for Hellenic Studies in Greece
Harvard University

June 14 & 15:

Professor Kristen Stilt and Executive Director Nirva Patel will be speaking at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Greece, Harvard University. Professor Stilt’s topic will be, “Someone: Gaining Animal Rights from Unexpected Places,” while Nirva’s topic will be “Animal Advocacy and Banning the Sale of Fur.”



The study weekend is hosted in collaboration with the Animal Ethics Program of the University of Athens. This event is not open to the public, but we hope to share a recording afterward.



August 13 & 14: Professor Kristen Stilt will be the keynote speaker at the 2024 Conference on Welfare, Rights, & Agency: Old and New Trends in Animal Law at the University of Helsinki in Finland.

Save the Date

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 federal 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@harvard.edu).



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

Alabama **Prohibits** Manufacture, Sale, and Distribution of Cultivated Meat Products

Connecticut **Bans** Dog Racing

Maryland **Bans** Use of Certain Captive Exotic Animals in Traveling Entertainment Acts

USDA-APHIS **Finalizes** Horse Protection Act Regulations to End Horse Soring

Belgium **Amends** Constitution to Account for “Well-Being of Animals as Sentient Beings”

Please Support Our Work

We are so grateful to you. Our work is only possible with your support. Your support fuels our mission to champion the rights and welfare of animals through education, advocacy, and impactful legal initiatives. By contributing to our cause, you are investing in the future of animal protection, empowering our students to become effective advocates for change. Your generosity enables us to expand our programs, support research, and offer invaluable learning experiences that shape the next generation of legal minds committed to creating a more compassionate world for all beings. Join us in making a lasting impact through your donation

and help us drive meaningful change in the realm of animal law. Please email [Nirva](#) if you would like to be more involved. If you are able to give today, please click [here](#).

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