

Friday Forecast

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Friday Forecast – May 3, 2024

Student Profile

Finding an unexpected passion while advocating for beloved creatures,
Clinic Stories: Clinic Student Voices, Harvard Law School, April 29, 2024.



Sophie Pereira, HLS '24

Third-year Harvard Law School student Sophie Pereira shared a thoughtful **reflection** on her time spent in the Animal Law & Policy Clinic **advocating to re-list manatees** as an endangered species.

Sophie wasn't sure what to expect when she joined the **Animal Law & Policy Clinic** in her final semester at HLS. "At that point in time," she writes, "little did I know the profound and meaningful impact the Animal Law & Policy Clinic projects would have on my life."

In her words: "I never imagined myself working in the sphere of Animal Law. Admittedly, growing up, I was always a huge animal-lover, raised in a home with pets. But I never expected that this work would become such an integral part of my Harvard Law School experience. Looking back on this semester, I will be eternally grateful for the Animal Law & Policy Clinic, and I cannot recommend this work to fellow students enough."

On Our Food Policy Plate

Gov. DeSantis signs a first-in-nation ban on sale of lab-grown meat, *Florida Politics*, May 1, 2024.

What happened: On May 1, Governor Ron DeSantis signed **SB 1084** into law, banning the production, distribution, and sale of cultivated meat in Florida.

Why this is important: Cultivated meat (also known as “cell-based” or “lab-grown” meat) is meat grown from animal cells outside of an animal’s body. It is a novel food production technology that could significantly benefit animals, human health, and the environment, but it still faces significant obstacles to commercialization.

The bigger picture: Given its novel nature, governments are still determining how to regulate cultivated meat products. At the federal level, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food & Drug Administration (FDA) **share** regulatory jurisdiction for cultivated meat from cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, goats, and catfish cells. FDA has sole jurisdiction over products such as cultivated game meat and cultivated seafood other than catfish. In 2023, the agencies **approved** the first two cultivated meat products for sale to consumers. At the state level, the new Florida law is the first to ban cultivated meat. Similar bills have been introduced in states such as **Alabama, Arizona, Tennessee, Texas,** and **West Virginia**, and the Florida law could encourage other states to follow suit. Outside of the U.S., Italy **banned** cultivated meat at the end of 2023.

Our involvement: The **Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program** actively tracks cultivated meat policy developments like SB 1084 and has supported research into cultivated meat, **convened** experts, and hosted fellows producing scholarship in the space.

The **Animal Law & Policy Clinic** has been a leading advocate for the development of fair and commonsense cultivated meat regulations since its inception, submitting regulatory comments, participating in public hearings, and supporting other organizations in their litigation and advocacy efforts related to alternative proteins like cultivated meat products. Significantly, the Clinic submitted a **petition** to USDA in 2020 that helped **spur** the agency to issue a favorable advance notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the labeling of cultivated meat products under its jurisdiction. We are continuing to closely monitor developments in the cultivated meat and alternative protein policy space and stand ready to respond as needed.

Also notable: SB 1084 is a wide-ranging legislative package that contains other provisions affecting animals, including the creation of a felony crime of “trespass[] with the intent to commit a crime on [posted] commercial agricultural property” and a civil and criminal defense for killing or injuring a dog who was killing livestock or another domestic animal.

Advocating for Alternative Protein Innovation Funding in Massachusetts

On May 3, the Animal Law & Policy Clinic submitted written testimony to the Massachusetts legislature, supporting a call led by **Food Solutions Action** for the inclusion of a \$40 million investment package for alternative protein innovation in the economic development bill, **H.4459**. While Massachusetts already is a leader in alternative protein research and development, there is more that the Commonwealth can do to advance the alternative protein sector, which has tremendous potential to positively impact animals, human health, and the environment.

Upcoming Lectures & Presentations

May 8: Guest Lecture at Tufts

Visiting Fellow [Cleo Verkuijl](#) will give a guest lecture to students in the Master's in Animals and Public Policy program at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. The lecture will focus on climate change, animal agriculture, and policy.

The lecture is not open to the public.



May 8: 7:00–9:00pm, Zoom Animals, Capitalism, Marxism: A Conversation

Visiting Fellows and Professors [Dinesh Joseph Wadiwel](#) and [Alex Blanchette](#) will explore the potential and limits of Marxist theory for addressing the roles and fates of nonhuman animals, as well as ways to connect anti-capitalist struggles to animal liberation and environmental justice. Prof. Wadiwel is the author of [Animals and Capital](#), and Prof. Blanchette is the author of [Porkopolis: American Animality, Standardized Life, and the Factory Farm](#).



The talk is open to the public. To attend, please register [here](#).

Visiting Fellow Workshops

Attendance by [request](#)



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**

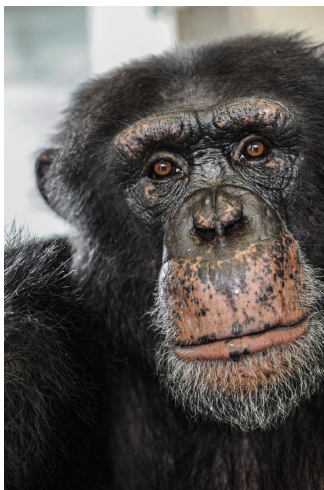
Events

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.

Lower photo credit: Jo-Anne McArthur/NEAVS/We Animals

Media

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**

President Biden **Reauthorizes** Appropriations for Conservation of Neotropical Migratory Birds

Vermont **Expands** Poultry Slaughter Inspection Exemption to Include Raw Poultry Parts

Settlement Agreement **Requires** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to Finalize ESA Decisions Affecting Five Species

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department **Seeks** to Ban Canned Hunting of Mountain Lions

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