

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Global Animal Law Project

By Sabine Brels & Antoine F. Goetschel¹

The Global Animal Law (GAL) Project is a brand-new platform online at:

www.globalanimallaw.org.

Through this innovative project,

Everybody can contribute to build a better world for animals through law!

How? In making proposals in this sense, everybody can contribute! From the local to the global level, and from short-term to longer term proposals... Even until utopias!

Why? In order to better protect animals all around the world through law, with 4 main goals: foster the adoption of legislation, strengthen their enforcement, improve the legal system and promote the education on animal protection.

Where? In the [Matrix](#) as a revolutionary concept, everyone can make its own proposal for improving animal legislation in the world. If accepted, the proposal will be published and can lead to further progress.

Who? Everybody can contribute and make proposals, becoming then a member of the "dolphin family" of [contributors](#). Who are the other [GAL people](#)? Every proposal is received by the GAL **directory board**, composed by two international animal law experts who co-created the project: the President at the head is the doctor Antoine F. Goetschel (the "lion") and the executive Manager is Sabine Brels (the "unius"). In a second stage, proposals are peer reviewed by the **Steering committee** (the "owls") composed by eminent animal lawyers in the world, knowing: Birgitta Wahlberg, Jean-Marc Neumann, Tom Kelch and Alex Bruce. This project is also endorsed by **prominent people** (the "grey wolves"), who are: Peter Singer, Marc Bekoff, Steven Wise and Matthieu Ricard. The GAL Project also invite all animal lawyers to register as experts ("foxes") in order to constitute the first **international expert group of animal lawyers** in the world. Major experts as Gieri Bolliger and Olivier Le Bot are already part of this crucial expert group. Finally, the GAL Project has two major

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collaborators: The GAL Project has 3 major collaborators by now: Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), the Swiss Foundation for the Animal in the Law called "Tier im Recht", and the Master of Animal Law & Society at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (UAB).

When? The GAL Project was launched on the 10th of July 2014, at the Global Animal Law Conference II, hosted by the UAB University in Barcelona, Spain. This conference was organized and directed by key professors in animal law, the Pr Marita Candela (from the UAB), the Pr Pamela Frash (from the University Lewis & Clark) and the Pr David Favre (from the Michigan State University). Since its launch, the GAL Project received a great support from the general public, as expressed notably in social networks.

What? Last but not least, let's describe better what the GAL Project is in the website in itself.

Kim Ventura, Independent Editor, Content Curator and Animal Advocate, wrote an interesting article about the GAL Project while it was presented by its directors, when it was launched last summer 2014. As an exterior "cold eye", we would like to transcribe her view, with some additional information hereinafter:

The [Global Animal Law Project](#) (GAL) is a newly formed non-governmental organization (NGO) whose objective is to "help reduce animal suffering and create a friendlier world for humans and animals alike" and further described "in short, the goal and aim of the **GAL Project** is to **help and create a new framework for the global discussion on animals in law.**"

On July 10, 2014, in Barcelona, Spain, the **GAL Project** was presented at the **Second Global Animal Law Conference**. The [GAL Project website](#) has also launched. Let's take a look at some of the mechanics and features of the site.



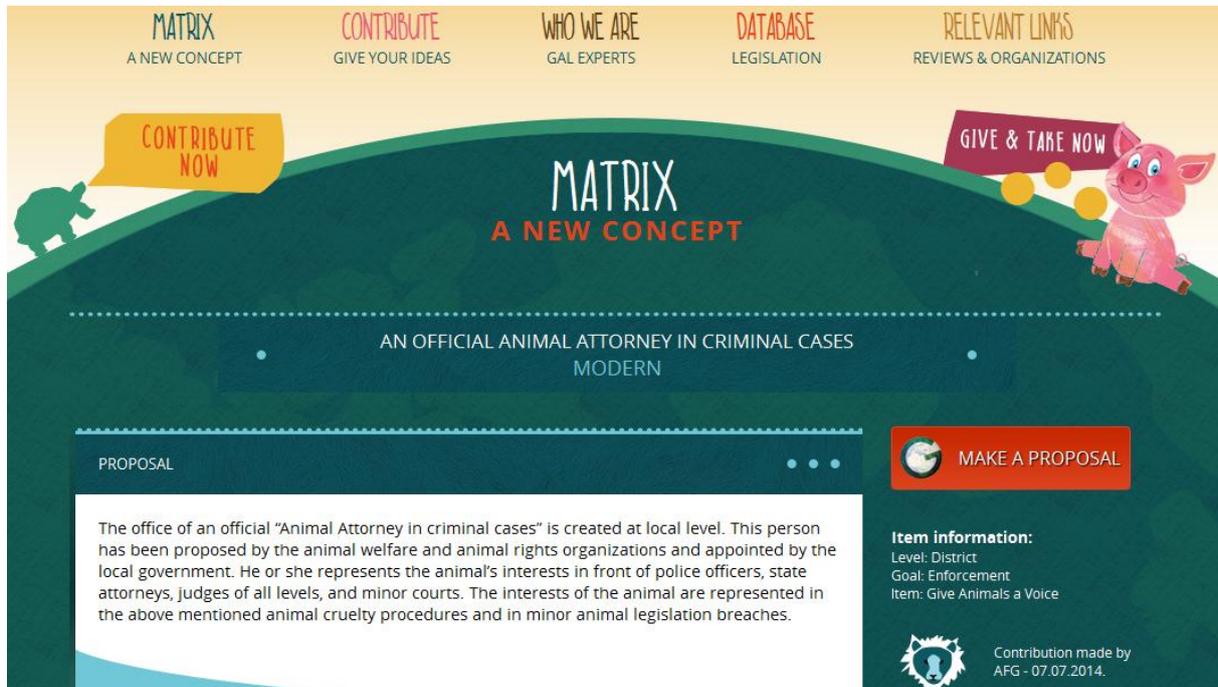
When you enter the website, the [homepage](#) shows a short video (in English, German, French and Spanish) explaining the principles at the core of the GAL Project, also presenting the so-called "Big 5" : Roxy (the dog -standing for the *companion animals*), Micy (the mouse - standing for the *lab animals*), Pigly (the pig -standing for the *farm animals*), Speedy (the horse -standing for the *sport animals*) and Bamby (the deer -standing for *wild animals*).

Then the first area is the "[Matrix](#)". It is clickable and breaks down to various components of animal law and welfare issues geographically. Specifically:

"It contains our – courageous – proposals what can and should be followed and aspired to in the fields of law adoption, enforcement, improvement and education. This should also apply from local to global level and from the short term to a utopian setup. A lot of experience in the fields of law making, law enforcing, lobbying and scientific knowledge is contained within it"- The President Antoine F. Goetschel said.



The next area is the **Contribute** page. Everyone is invited to submit an idea, realistic & visionary, as a proposal via the Matrix. Contributors are then becoming "Dolphins". As a "fruity & juicy" but also playful concept, every contributor will be soon able to choose its own totem animal to represent him or her on the GAL website.



Now let's see who is behind the **GAL Project** at "**Who We Are**". The co-directors of GAL are President, Antoine F. Goetschel, a Swiss attorney and international animal law and ethics consultant and Manager, Sabine Brels, a French lawyer with a specific background in international animal law. In addition to Antoine and Sabine, there is a committee of animal law experts from around the world. That makes up the core members of the **GAL Project**. A list of international experts in animal law, called the "GAL Foxes", is also present as an important group in this project. An **invitation** is extended to all animal lawyers:

"You can strengthen the legal world for animals by becoming a member of the Global Animal Law Expert Group and becoming a GAL FOX. All animal lawyers, from students to professors, are invited to be part of the GAL Expert group! Please join this group by writing to us info@globalanimallaw.org with your name, title, institution, email, and, if you like, a picture of yourself, plus a short summary of your work and interests in animal law. You can also invite animal lawyers that you know, either friends or colleagues, to become GAL FOXES too!"

A comprehensive world wide **Database** follows that includes animal welfare legislation at every level:

"Containing the major anti-cruelty and pro-welfare laws aiming to protect individual animals in the world, at the basis of the Animal Welfare Legislation Database (AWLD) may help you draft better bills as you will then know what exists elsewhere", the Manager Sabine Brels said.



This database includes the main legislation at:

- **National level:** Anti-cruelty, protection and pro-welfare laws are listed per continent and represented in a map, for almost one hundred countries world-wide. This constitutes a unique database on animal legislation and a very useful tool, only in this website. Furthermore, official texts are available on click in English and original version (when available). The website links to the more actual and reliable texts of the legislation. It also invites everybody to help keeping this database as actual and comprehensive as possible, if having any relevant information. Other comprehensive databases are planned regarding the constitutional and civil provisions on animal protection, as well as a complete listing of bans (on animal activities, such as : fur farming, foie gras, ritual slaughter, testing for cosmetics or on primates, shark fining, animal shows as fighting, competition, circus etc.), along with a complete list of obligations related to animal treatment (duty of care, social contact, duty to satisfy physiological and ethological needs depending to the animal species concerned etc.). Once

again, those comprehensive databases will inventory and show clearly the relevant provisions existing all around the world, and constitute useful tools for everybody who wants to improve the lives of the animals through the law, in showing what is already existing, where are the most important gaps and what still needs to be done. In order to develop those tools, the GAL Project needs the strong support of interested foundations to go further for the animal cause.

- [European Level](#): The main European legislation on animal welfare, knowing the main conventions of the Council of Europe and major instruments of the European Union, are listed in the website, with direct access to the official texts.

- [International level](#): Here are the international standards on animal welfare adopted by the World Organization on Animal Health, with direct access to the actual official texts.

- [Universal level](#): Here is reproduced the last version of the draft proposal for a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW).

A last category on the website provides some [Relevant Links](#). It leads to the main reviews in animal law, knowing the: *Animal Law review*, *Global Journal of Animal Law*, *Journal of Animal Welfare Law* and *Derecho animal* online. It also refers to the websites of some major organizations dedicated to the protection of animals globally, as the World Animal Protection and the IFAW.

[Fundraising opportunities](#) exist in the form of donations, as well as a separate opportunity of earning a commission by identifying investors and acquiring their interest and funding, in becoming a "squirrel". "Money rules the world - Animals pay the price" is a quote from the page. It takes money to put all of these projects and changes into action.

CONTRIBUTE NOW

GIVE & TAKE NOW
SUPPORT THE GAL PROJECT

GIVE & TAKE NOW

MONEY RULES THE WORLD - ANIMALS PAY THE PRICE

 **"Money rules the world - Animals pay the price":** This statement in our presentation on the GAL basics SHOULD not be regarded as being too true.

The GAL PROJECT needs money to improve the lives of animals globally - what a mind-blowing vision. Therefore every \$, £, € etc. is urgently needed. The more we receive, the quicker, the bigger, the deeper and the higher the GAL Project will grow.

A 'dozen' plans are waiting to be funded and put into action, such as:

- refining the MATRIX
- getting our Contributors (dolphins) in touch with each other in an electronic "paddock" to share knowledge and experience;

BE A SQUIRREL AND HELP US - AND GET RICH YOURSELF!

Squirrels are great at finding acorns in the woods. They save them, they help them through the winter, they help other squirrels too, and the woods profit as well.

 In a similar way, **you can also offer crucial and essential HELP to GAL** - as a "GAL Squirrel". Speak to friends and to generous, warm-hearted people about the GAL Project. Convince them to support the project financially. **AND then you can profit from this support too ... also financially!** Because you can get a commission on the sum paid if you want - paid to you by GAL. You can also leave your commission to GAL, but if you change your mind, you can, without any questions, ask for it back. This might motivate you even further to make the GAL project grow in every sense.

Please explore the **GAL Project** website! We have included hot links throughout this publication. Please also support and promote the site. Although in its infancy, this site, and the organization behind it, is a substantial tool and resource in the critical area of animal law. By continuing to come together; by strengthening and creating laws; and through education and awareness, a significant positive difference can (and will) be made for animals everywhere in the world².

² Some parts of this paper refer to the article following the launch of the GAL Project, written by the independent editor and animal advocate Kim Venturo. See VENTURO, K., "New Animal Law Organization Launches - Global Animal Law Project", September 07, 2014, online at: <https://www.linkedin.com/today/post/article/20140907183143-26656909-new-animal-law-organization-launches-global-animal-law-project?published=t>.



The animal cause is a global concern

Nowadays, more and more people want to protect animals around the world. Global awareness and mobilization against their huge suffering is on the increase because they too are sentient beings having dignity and inherent value.

As animal lawyers, we are convinced that **Law is a useful tool to better protect animals in the world.** We also think that **Union is strength.** The greater our number, the more we can help our animal friends. The GAL Project will first allow everyone to work together, with collaborative effort and joint thinking.

As a **brand-new online platform**, the GAL website invites everybody to make realistic and visionary proposals to improve the legal conditions of animals: from local to universal level, and from quick to utopian wins!

As an innovative project, GAL also proposes a list of animal law experts and a complete database of the actual legislation concerning individual animals all around the world.

Please share your idea(s) to make a better world for animals through Law on globalanimallaw.org or contact us on contact@globalanimallaw.org

We are greatly looking forward to your proposals on www.globalanimallaw.org

Thanks for supporting



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