

WRS: Animal Law
Spring 2017
Professor Sarah Morath
1:00-3:00 p.m. Tuesday

Course Description: Animal Law is one of the fastest growing fields of legal practice and may involve issues of constitutional law, administrative law, environmental law, family law, and estates and trusts. In this class, we will address a broad range of topics including: the historical status of animals in the law; state legislative efforts and citizen initiatives to strengthen animal protection laws; the application of federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act and the Animal Welfare Act, to captive animals, wildlife, and farm animals; animal-related torts; constitutional standing to sue on behalf of animals; companion animals and the law; and the movement to obtain legal recognition of the rights of animals. All perspectives will be considered in class discussion and assignments. The class may include a guest speaker and a field trip.

Textbook: TBD (The text we used last year was *Animal Law: Welfare, Interests, and Rights*, David Favre, Wolters Kluwer Press (2nd ed., 2011), but with the rapid change in animal law is somewhat out of date).

Assessment: Students will be assessed through a combination of classroom participation, written reflections, hot topic presentations, and a final paper.

Final Paper

The purpose of the paper is to assess your ability to critically analyze a real-world situation based on the content and skills you learned in this course. Your paper can address any topic related to animal law including:

- Ethical treatment of animals by businesses (medical research facilities, circuses, farmers) and individual pet owners
- Keeping exotic animals as pets
- Regulating animal “ring” fighting
- Rights of those with companion animals (for assistance with physical disabilities or emotional disorders).
- Providing for pets after death or divorce
- Breeding or slaughter laws
- Protecting endangered or threatened species
- Cloning animals

If you are having trouble finding a topic for your paper or “hot topic,” consult the following resources:

- <http://www.abajournal.com/topic/animal+law/>
- <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/library/research/guides/AnimalLaw.cfm>
- <https://www.animallaw.info/browse-topics>
- http://libguides.law.uga.edu/animal_law
- <http://www.animallaw.com/Bibliographies.cfm>

Below is a tentative schedule for assignments. Assignments should be uploaded to TWEN by the assigned date and time.

Paragraph describing your paper topic: Feb. 6 (5% of grade)

List of References: Friday, Feb. 27 (5 % of grade)

Two drafts of paper and outline: Dates TBD (15% of grade)

Final paper: Friday, April 20 by 5:00 p.m. (50% of grade)

Paper presentation: Tuesday, April 24 (5% of grade)

In accordance with the Law Center handbook WRS papers must be at least 10,000 words, including footnotes. More specifics on the paper and presentation will be made available later in the semester.

Class Participation

You are expected to come to class having completed all assigned readings and exercises. If you are prepared for class and actively participate, you will receive full credit for participation (10% of grade).

Hot Topic Presentation

Find a recent newspaper, magazine, or journal article (on-line or in-print) discussing any topic related to animal law. The topic should not be the same topic as your paper. The article can be about a recent court decision, agency decision, or the promulgation of a new law at any level (state or federal) or the article can be about something an advocacy or policy group is working on. Each of you will report on your hot topic during the first ten (10)-fifteen (15) minutes of class twice in the semester. This component counts for 5% of your final grade. Hot topic sign-ups will be available on the first day of class.

Field Trip Reflections

The purpose of a field trip is to see an industry, business, government facility, or site affected by some aspect of animal law. Your reflection should describe how the location relates to animal law and what you learned from the trip. Length: ~ 250 words. This assignment counts for 5% of your grade.

There is the potential for two field trips this semester. You can attend one or both. For those of you unable to attend a field trip, an alternative writing assignment will be assigned.

Curve and Deduction

In accordance with the Law Center handbook, this course will be graded on a 3.0 to 3.4 curve. You must turn in all assignments on time. If you are ill or otherwise unable to turn in a graded assignment on time, please notify me via e-mail prior to the time the assignment is due to seek an accommodation. If your assignment is late, and you have not received a prior extension from me, I reserve the right to reduce your grade on the assignment by one grade level for the first hour (or part of an hour) the assignment is late. After the first hour, I will impose one additional grade reduction for each hour the assignment is late.

TWEN

I will maintain a course website on The West Education Network (TWEN). Please register for the course and provide an email address that you check frequently, because I will send all class related e-mails to the e-mail address you register with TWEN.

Student Services

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

Draft Syllabus 1.13.16

Class Period	Class Topic	Reading Assignment
Week 1 January 17	Animal Law Introduction/ Finding Paper Topics	Chapter 1 Read Finding Your Topic and Developing Your Thesis on TWEN
Week 2 January 24	Animal Ownership	Chapter 2 Read the Sample Articles posted on TWEN
Week 3 January 31	Veterinarian Malpractice	Chapter 3 Paper Topic Due Feb. 1 5:00 p.m.
Week 4 February 7	Damages for Harm to Pets	Chapter 4
Week 5 February 14	State Regulation of Ownership	Chapter 5 References due Feb. 17 5:00 p.m.
Week 6 February 21	Anti-Cruelty Laws	Chapter 6 & 7
Week 7 February 28	Agricultural Animals	Chapter 8 Read Writing the Draft on TWEN
Week 8 March 7	Access to Courts-Standing	Chapter 9
March 13- March 17	SPRING BREAK	Outline Due March 15 at 5 p.m. (or as much as you have completed)
Week 10 March 21	No Tuesday night class	
	HSPCA Tour from 6-7 p.m. http://www.houstonspca.org/ 900 Portway Drive Houston, TX 77024	
Week 11 March 28	The Animal Welfare Act	Chapter 10 First Draft Due April 1 at 5 p.m.
Week 12 April 4	Animal Rights	Chapter 11 & 12
Week 13 April 11	Conferences	Conferences Second Draft Due April 14 at 5 p.m.
Week 14 April 18	No class work on paper	
Week 15 April 25	Paper Presentations	Class Presentations
Thursday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m.	Sea Turtle Tour @ NOAA Facility in Galveston 4700 Avenue U Galveston, Texas 77551 http://www.galvestonlab.sefsc.noaa.gov/seaturtles/FAQ/	Final paper due April 28 at 5:00 p.m.