

ANIMAL LAW & YOUTH ACTIVISM EDUCATORS' GUIDE



EP. 6 – CAREERS IN ANIMAL PROTECTION

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

- Have a basic understanding of a variety of careers in animal law and animal protection.
- Identify animal law courses and programs offered in their own country and around the world.
- Summarize how the field of animal law has shifted over the past few decades.

PRE-VIDEO QUESTIONS

1. Prior to viewing any episodes of this series, were you aware of the field of animal law? If so, what did you hear about it (e.g. specific cases in the news)?
2. If you could study and/or work in animal protection, what animals would you most like to protect, and why?

Inspired to Animal Law

1. Nirva Patel describes growing up as a Jain vegetarian, and Jainism as a philosophy expressing ahimsa (non-violence). What other cultures/religions/philosophies around the world pursue kindness and respect towards animals?
2. Doug Kysar describes his dedication to animal ethics and animal rights, to treat animal lives not as “resources to be managed,” but instead as co-equals, and to “live in communion with other forms of life”. Do you think humans have the right to exploit animals for human advantage? Do some species or categories of animals deserve equality more than others?

Animal Law Programs

1. Are you thinking of law as a possible career choice? If yes, why are you attracted to this field?
2. Currently there are over 160 law schools in the [U.S.](#) and [Canada](#) that have offered a course in animal law. Do you think you might be interested in taking an animal law course at some point? Is there a specific area of animal law that you are interested in and might want to study?

Careers in Animal Law & Policy

1. Adam Karp states that the first wave of animal law in the 70s “was really focusing more on species-level issues [such as] protecting wildlife from certain types of adverse actions of government...And then over time there was a move to represent individual animals...So now people are very forthright...making a demand for the lives and interests of animals who are dear to them, including animals they may not even know personally but have an emotional connection to, like at a zoo for instance.” What factors do you think might have contributed to this shift?
2. Nirva Patel states that “prior to this past decade, animal protection has been categorized as a hobby, and now it’s a legit career path”. What do you think led to this overall change in attitude?

POST-VIDEO REVIEW

[Careers in Animal Protection Kahoot](#) (8 questions)

Extension/Research Questions

1. Watch Maneesha Deckha [speak about the untapped potential](#) of reaching humans in their childhood years with regards to maintaining and strengthening empathy for animals of all types (3 min). In your schooling so far have you explored the lives and experiences of different types of animals? What types of animals were included? Excluded? Why do you think this is?
2. Explore a current animal protection campaign being pursued in your country (e.g. see [Animal Justice](#) for Canada, see the [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#) for the U.S.). What are the animals lacking protection, and how would this campaign benefit them if successful? Who might oppose this protection being legislated, and why?
3. Angela Lee describes some other disciplines in the Humanities that address animal protection (Ecofeminism, Critical Animal Studies). What do these studies pursue? Who are some of their founding/main voices?
4. Find an animal law course (or entire program) being offered close to where you live or in your country (e.g. [Canada](#), the [United States](#), [global map](#)). Briefly describe the course or program.
5. Watch animal law lawyer Rebeka Breder speak about her career in her TEDxSFU talk [Passionately carving an unlikely legal career](#) (18 min). What do you think her main message is about pursuing a career in animal law?
6. Rebekah Breder and Maneesha Deckha are also [Global Animal Law \(GAL\) Experts](#). Find a GAL Expert in your country and click on their bio. Briefly describe their work in animal law.

Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Laws that Protect Animals (Humane Canada) • U.S. Laws that Protect Animals and U.S. Animal Law 101 (Animal Legal Defense Fund) • Canadian Law Schools With Animal Law Courses & Programming (Animal Justice) • U.S. Law Schools With Animal Law Courses & Programming (Animal Legal Defense Fund) • Global Animal Law (Global Animal Law Association)
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Torontonians are willing to hire animal law lawyers to fight 'dangerous dog' orders (Toronto Star) • Practice of animal law gives pets, domestic animals and wildlife a 'voice' (Canadian Lawyer)
Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Animal Justice Academy videos (Animal Justice - webinars are about 1 hour and curriculum modules are about 15-30 min) • U.S. Animal Law Academy Webinars (Animal Legal Defense Fund - each webinar is about 1 hour)
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pierson v. Post, the Hunt for the Fox: Law and Professionalization in American Legal Culture (Angela Fernandez - non-fiction)