

Animal Law Services in Australia

There are a range of animal law organisations and law firms offering animal law services across Australia.

The table below provides information on some of the animal law organisations and law firms offering animal law services in Australia.

This is not a comprehensive list, and Voiceless does not recommend or endorse any of the entities listed.

Queries can be directed to: info@voiceless.org.au

	Legal Advice	Jurisdiction	Areas of practice	Limitations	Costs	Other services	Law student internships and/or PLT placements	General information	Contact
<p>Animal Defenders Office</p> <p>National non-profit community legal centre specialising in animal law.</p>	Yes.	National.	<p>General (any animal law related matters).</p> <p>Companion animal matters.</p> <p>Dangerous dog cases.</p> <p>Advising animal activists.</p>	Do not assist animal breeders, veterinary negligence cases, internal organisational disputes.	No charge.	<p>Law reform submissions on animal law issues.</p> <p>Provide education to law students and the public on animal law.</p> <p>Run animal law events.</p>	The ADO offers internships to law students and PLT placements for law graduates.		<p>Email: contact@ado.org.au</p> <p>Contact form: www.ado.org.au/advice</p> <p>Phone: 0428 416 857.</p>
<p>Animal Law Institute</p> <p>National non-profit community legal centre specialising in animal law.</p>	Yes.	<p>National.</p> <p>Anti-Puppy Farm Legal Clinic: Vic only.</p>	<p>Strategic Litigation.</p> <p>Anti-Puppy Farm Legal Clinic: the Australian Consumer Law.</p>	Limitations are outlined on the ALI website here .	<p>No charge.</p> <p>Strategic litigation is no-win, no-fee.</p> <p>Anti-Puppy Farm Legal Clinic: No charge for preliminary legal advice.</p>	<p>Run animal law events including the ANIMAL student Moot competition.</p>	No.	<p>ALI is a predominantly volunteer run organisation, they take on strategic legal cases and offer advice via the Anti-Puppy Farm Legal Clinic.</p>	Applications for legal assistance can be made via the Animal Law Institute website (www.ali.org.au) under the tab 'Legal'.
<p>Barristers Animal Welfare Panel</p> <p>National animal law and advocacy organisation.</p>	No.	National.	NA.	NA.	NA.	NA.	NA.	The BAWP website contains useful animal law resources, including an Animal Law e-book, <i>Animal Law: Principles and Frontiers</i> by Graeme McEwen (2011).	Website: http://bawp.org.au/
<p>Law Institute of Victoria Animal Welfare Committee</p> <p>Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria, focusing on animal law matters.</p>	No.	Victoria.	<p>General (any animal law related matters.)</p> <p>Strategic Litigation</p>	Do not offer legal advice.	NA.	<p>Write submissions and conduct policy work in animal welfare and animal law and promote law reform.</p> <p>Consider all animal welfare matters in the law reform and policy space with a particular focus on Victoria.</p>	No.	<p>The Committee's past submissions can be found on the LIV website under 'Advocacy': https://www.liv.asn.au/</p>	<p>Email: alhrsection@liv.asn.au</p> <p>Website: https://www.liv.asn.au/Professional-Practice/Areas-of-Law/Get-Involved#14</p>

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<p>Lawyers for Animals</p> <p>National non-profit animal law think-tank based in Melbourne.</p>	<p>Yes – through the Animal Law Clinic at the Fitzroy Legal Service.</p> <p>Lawyers for Animals is entirely volunteer-run, is not a law firm and cannot give legal advice by telephone or email.</p> <p>Legal advice is provided through the Animal Law Clinic at the Fitzroy Legal Service.</p>	National, but only provide legal advice in VIC.	General (any animal law related matters).	<p>The Clinic only offers one-off advice to assist clients to run their own cases.</p> <p>Does not provide ongoing representation.</p> <p>Follow-up appointments at the Clinic may be booked, if necessary.</p> <p>The Clinic operates to promote animal welfare, so it only offers appointments in situations where the client's interests appear to align with the interests of the animal(s) concerned.</p>	No charge.	<p>Law reform submissions on animal law issues.</p> <p>Provide education to the public and high school and law students on animal law.</p> <p>Run animal law events.</p>	No (Clinic volunteers only).	<p>When seeking assistance, please mention your location, and advise whether or not you might be able to afford to pay a private lawyer, in case a targeted referral is needed.</p>	<p>For information on how to book an appointment at the free Animal Law Clinic run in partnership with Fitzroy Legal Service, see: http://lawyersforanimals.org.au/clinic-2/</p> <p>Clients should telephone the Fitzroy Legal Service to book an appointment: (03) 9419 3744.</p> <p>For referral to private lawyers, especially in Vic: enquiries@lawyersforanimals.org.au</p>
<p>NSW Young Lawyers Animal Law Committee</p> <p>Young Lawyers Committee of the Law Society of NSW, focusing on animal law matters.</p>	No.	NSW.	NA.	<p>The NSW Young Lawyers Animal Law Committee provides general legal information, not advice, on a range of animal protection issues.</p>	NA.	<p>Law reform submissions on animal law issues.</p> <p>Provide animal law education to students.</p> <p>Run animal law events.</p>	No.	<p>The Committee holds meetings on the last Monday evening of each month (excluding January and December). These meetings are open to the public and vegan refreshments are provided.</p> <p>For more information, contact alc.chair@younglawyers.com.au</p>	<p>Email: alc.chair@younglawyers.com.au</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/nswyl.alc/</p> <p>Web: www.lawsociety.com.au/legal-communities/NSW-young-lawyers/committees/animal-law</p>
<p>Voiceless, the animal protection institute</p> <p>National non-profit animal protection organisation.</p>	No.	National.	NA.	<p>Voiceless does not provide legal advice.</p>	NA.	NA.	NA.	<p>You can access a wide range of animal law resources on the Voiceless website: https://voiceless.org.au/animal-law/</p>	<p>Email: info@voiceless.org.au</p> <p>Website: www.voiceless.org.au/animal-law</p>

NATIONAL

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Chamberlains Law Firm	Yes.	National.	General (any animal law related matters). Strategic litigation.	NA.	Yes.	NA.	NA.	NA.	Email: Lachlan.mcbride@chamberlains.com.au Email: Alana.davison@chamberlains.com.au www.chamberlains.com.au/
Christie Nelson Geysen (CNG) Law	Yes.	National.	General (any animal law related matters). Strategic litigation. Companion animal matters. Dangerous dog cases.	NA.	Yes. Some pro bono.	NA.	No.	NA.	Contact: Thomas Christie. Email: info@cnglaw.com.au Phone: (07) 3398 1819.
Equilegal	Yes.	National.	Strategic litigation. Equine law.	Does not defend in animal welfare matters.	Yes. Some pro bono.	Writing law reform submissions on animal law issues.	Both law students and PLT students. Students can email their resume to leah@equilegal.com.au Students are exposed to all areas of the practice and are involved in research and assisting in file work.	NA.	Contact: Leah Manning Email: leah@equilegal.com.au Phone: 0413 478 478. Website: www.equilegal.com.au Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/equilegal.au/
Icon Legal	Yes	National	General (any animal law related matters). Strategic litigation. Companion animal matters. Dangerous dog cases.	Animal cruelty cases or any cases against the RSPCA.	Yes. Some pro bono.	Writing law reform submissions on animal law issues.	Both law students and PLT students. Interested students may email their resume to Leah Manning: leah@iconlegal.com.au Students undertake research tasks and work alongside the Principal on files for clients.	NA.	Email: (Leah Manning, Principal): leah@iconlegal.com.au Website: www.iconlegal.com.au Phone: (07) 3399 6006.

NATIONAL

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K & R Animal Law	Yes. National law firm specialising exclusively in animal law.	National (online).	General (any animal law related matters). Advising animal activists. General legal services for people with a track record of helping animals.	Do not assist people who obtain an economic benefit from animals (e.g. dog breeders). Do not take on matters where K & R's involvement may lead to an adverse animal welfare outcome.	Yes. Some pro bono.	Law reform submissions on animal law matters. Any animal law related services required by clients, subject to logistical constraints.	Yes – law students only. Do not have a formal internship program. Interested legal volunteers may be offered ad hoc animal law related tasks.	K & R are passionate about advancing the interests of animals and their human defenders. They take on matters where their involvement is likely to lead to a positive animal welfare outcome.	Contact: https://www.kandranimallaw.com.au/contact-us
Lawyers for Companion Animals	Yes.	National.	Private law firm specialising in companion animal law.	See the description of LCA practice areas here: https://lawyersforcompanionanimals.com.au/about/areas-of-law/	Yes.	Law reform submissions on animal law issues. Provide education to law students and the public on animal law. Animal advocacy.	NA.	NA.	Website: https://lawyersforcompanionanimals.com.au/contact/ Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Lawyers-for-Companion-Animals-215111308674835/
Maurice Blackburn Lawyers	Yes. National Australian social justice law firm, with a pilot Animal Law Program.	National.	Strategic litigation. Animal law-related class actions and consumer law matters.	As the Animal Law Program is a pilot program, there is limited capacity for Maurice Blackburn Lawyers to provide legal advice or representation. Staff are required to refer animal law-related enquiries out to other organisations, but will consider them internally too. If legal advice or representation can be provided, staff will be in contact to arrange an appointment. Maurice Blackburn Lawyers regrets that it is unable to respond to every enquiry.	Yes. Some pro bono.	Law reform submissions on animal law matters. Host and facilitate animal law events.	No.	NA.	Website contact: https://www.mauriceblackburn.com.au/contact/ Telephone contact: 1800 621 880.

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Ocean Legal (trading as Australian Wildlife Legal Service)	Yes.	National advocacy and animal law organisation.	Advocacy for dingoes, kangaroos, brumbies and native wildlife. Fee-free initial consultation with wildlife carers and organisations, meeting by Zoom. Advocacy on behalf of organisations.	Veterinary negligence cases.	Fee-free first consultation. Some costs may be applicable and will be given following an initial fee-free consultation.	Law Reform. Advocacy. Litigation. Run animal law events.	No.	Australian Wildlife Legal Service. Advocacy for Dingoes, Kangaroos and Brumbies. Proactively working to remove 1080 and PAPP poisons from use in Australia. Not accepting Vet Negligence.	Contact: Marilyn Nuske. Email: marilyn@oceanlegal.com.au Phone: 0400 784 754. Website: www.oceanlegal.com.au/
Thexton Lawyers	Yes.	National.	General (any animal law related matters). Strategic litigation. Dangerous dog cases.	NA.	Yes. Some pro bono.	NA.	Yes – both law students and PLT students. Apply via email: glenn@thextonlawyers.com.au	NA.	Contact: Glenn Thexton. Email: glenn@thextonlawyers.com.au Phone: 0410 639 921. Website: https://thextonlawyers.com.au/

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QUEENSLAND

Anderson Fredericks Turner Lawyers & Advocates	Yes.	QLD.	Dangerous dog cases. Advising animal activists. Criminal Law matters.	NA.	Yes. No pro bono.	NA.	Yes – PLT students only. Students can apply to brisbane@aft.legal	NA.	Email: brisbane@aft.legal Website: www.aft.legal
CastleGate Law	Yes.	QLD.	Property law. Family law. Wills/estates. Animal law.	No.	Yes. Some pro bono.	No.	No.	NA.	Email: hello@castlegatelaw.com.au Phone: (07) 5480 6200. Website: www.castlegatelaw.com.au
McNamara Law	Yes.	QLD	General (any animal law related matters). Strategic litigation. Companion animal matters. Dangerous dog cases.	NA.	Yes. No pro bono.	Education to high school students.	No.	NA.	https://www.mcna.com.au/contact-us/
TLG LAW – Family, Children and Animal Law	Yes.	QLD (some national matters).	General (any animal law related matters). Companion animal matters. Advising animal activists.	No dangerous dogs cases.	Yes. Some pro bono.	Run animal law events.	Yes – both law students and PLT students	NA.	Email: TLG@TLGLAW.COM.AU Phone: (07) 3009 5388. Mobile: 0425 831 498. Website: https://tlglawfamilychildrenandanimallaw.com.au/contact-us

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

O'Toole Lawyers	Yes.	South Australia.	General (any animal law related matters). Companion animal matters. Dangerous dog cases. Provide pro-bono advice and representation to no-kill shelters.	NA.	Yes. Some pro bono.	Writing law reform submissions on animal law issues.	No.	NA.	Contact: Susan O'Toole Email: susan@otoolelawyers.com.au Website: http://otoolelawyers.com.au/
Shaw & Henderson	Yes.	South Australia.	Companion animal matters. Dangerous dog cases. Advising animal activists. Veterinary negligence.	Do not act for people accused of animal cruelty offences.	Yes. Some pro bono.	Education to law students.	Yes – both law students and PLT students. Students should email: rshaw@shawandhenderson.com.au	N/A	Email: admin@shawandhenderson.com.au Phone: (08) 8221 6237. Website: http://www.shawandhenderson.com.au/

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VICTORIA

Melke Legal	Yes.	VIC.	General (any animal law related matters). Strategic litigation. Companion animal matters. Dangerous dog cases. Farmers and breeders.	NA.	Yes. No pro bono.	Happy to speak with students and animal protection groups pro bono.	No.	NA.	Phone: (03) 8802 7825. Website: http://www.doglawyer.com.au/contact-us/
Russell Kennedy Lawyers	Yes.	VIC.	Family law & companion animals.	NA.	Yes.	NA.	No.	NA.	Email: NNeville-Jones@rk.com.au Phone: (03) 8602 7214. Website: russellkennedy.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Maureen O'Connell Lawyer	Yes.	WA.	General (any animal law related matters).	NA.	Yes. Some pro bono.	NA.	No.	NA.	Contact: maureenocconnelllawyer.com.au
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*National jurisdiction refers to law firms and organisations providing services in all states and territories of Australia.