



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Article One: Name

The name of this organization shall be Nova Southeastern University Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Article Two: Purpose

Nova Southeastern University Animal Legal Defense Fund [hereafter referred to as NSU SALDF] is dedicated to the following goals: 1) Educating the Nova Law School Community about forms of institutionalized animal abuse and animal cruelty, 2) fostering awareness about means of combating animal abuse and animal cruelty through education, legislation and litigation, 3) working towards the preservation of the earth's animal population, including, but not limited to helping to prevent the illegal importation and exportation of exotic and endangered species, 4) providing opportunities for students to work with attorneys on litigation projects aimed at protecting the lives and interests of animals, both domestic and wild, thriving and endangered. The activities of NSU SALDF shall include, but not be limited to: hosting speakers, debates, and conferences on current issues in animal rights and animal welfare law; carrying out research projects for lawyers, organizations and environmental agencies involved in animal welfare and animal rights litigation; networking with students at other law schools who are pursuing interests in animal rights and animal welfare law; conducting educational events such as information tables and video screenings on pertinent issues; and advocating on behalf of all animals regardless of species. NSU SALDF further recognizes and abides by the purposes and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Article Three: Membership

Membership in NSU SALDF shall be open to all students currently enrolled in Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, regardless of sex, race, creed, age, color, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation. Individual membership in the Animal Legal Defense Fund is encouraged, but not required for all NSU SALDF members.

Article Four: Officers

- 1) The Officers of NSU SALDF shall be the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary.**
- 2) Qualifications for persons who are eligible to serve as officers of NSU SALDF are as follows:**
 - (a) registration as a student at Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center**
 - (b) membership in NSU SALDF**
 - (c) attendance at a minimum of two meetings of NSU SALDF**
 - (d) an agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and compliance with all by-laws, rules, regulations, and duly adopted policies of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.**
- 3) The President shall exercise general supervision over the programs of NSU SALDF, and shall serve as the liaison with the Faculty Supervisor and the Dean of Student Affairs.**
- 4) The Vice President shall exercise secondary supervision over the programs of NSU SALDF, and shall serve as President in President's absence.**
- 5) The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping all financial records, submitting financial reports, and handling other financial matters as they occur.**
- 6) The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of each meeting.**

Article Five: Elections

- 1) Officers shall be elected annually by the membership of NSU SALDF, and shall serve a term of office beginning one week after the date of election.**
- 2) Students interested in serving as officers shall so inform the President prior to the day of elections. In electing officers, each member shall have one vote. Candidates must have obtained a majority of all votes in order to be elected to office. In the event that no candidate attracts the requisite number of votes for election, a run-off shall be held between the candidates with the highest number of votes.**

Article Six: Meetings

- 1) Regular meetings of NSU SALDF shall be held at least once a month.**
- 2) Decisions to meet shall be made by consensus, with every present party agreeing to, asserting to, or abstaining from every action there decided. A necessary quorum for all decisions shall be five members, which must include at least one officer.**
- 3) Special meetings of NSU SALDF may be called by any number of members, who shall inform the President or the entire membership at least two days prior to the date of the proposed meeting.**

Article Seven: Association with the Animal Legal Defense Fund

Activities of NSU SALDF shall, at all times, be consistent with the purpose of the Animal Legal Defense Fund ["ALDF"]. No legal action will be initiated in the name of NSU SALDF. However, NSU SALDF reserves the right to assist ALDF in their research and litigation projects at ALDF's request. NSU SALDF shall keep the President of ALDF informed of all public policy positions taken in the name of NSU SALDF. NSU SALDF will not purport to speak for ALDF or commit it to any position on any matter of public policy or law without ALDF's prior written consent.

Article Eight: Incorporation of Animal Legal Defense Fund By-Laws

The ALDF By-Laws are hereby incorporated into this Constitution and By-Laws, by this reference thereto. In all matters not specified in this Constitution, the ALDF By-Laws then in effect shall govern.

Article Nine: Amendments

Any two current members shall be entitled to propose amendments. These amendments shall be communicated to the President, who shall schedule meeting for the purpose of deciding on these amendments. If the date of submission of these amendments is near the date of a regular or special business meeting, then no additional meeting need be scheduled. A two-thirds majority of all votes shall be required for any changes to this Constitution, with a necessary quorum of four members and of at least one officer.

October 19, 2001