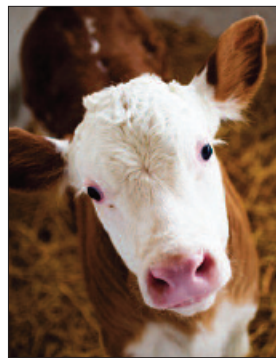


There are many different types of crimes committed against animals in Minnesota involving many different species. This fact makes these crimes a specialized area of law, and yet there is no modern animal law enforcement system in Minnesota that provides standardized processes and forms, mandated training and certification in animal law, cross-reporting and tracking of cruelty complaints, and other necessary resources, tools and funding.

Through interviews with county and city attorneys, law enforcement, judges, veterinarians, humane agents, rescue groups, mental health professionals and others, Animal Folks has learned that authorities want to effectively enforce laws that protect animals, and welcome strategies that will assist their efforts. We must and can make the systemic changes we all envision to protect animals, people and communities now and in the future.



## OUR VISION

For Minnesota to be a safe and humane state for animals.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of Animal Folks is to protect animals and help fight animal cruelty by creating a modern system of animal law enforcement in Minnesota.

## OUR POSITIONING

Public safety and crime prevention. Our positioning involves the creation of innovative and sustainable systemic reforms in Minnesota — that enable animal anti-cruelty laws to be effectively enforced in every community, enhancing the protection of animals and humans.

## TAGLINE

**Making a just world for animals.**

## WHO WE SERVE

Animals in Minnesota. Animal Folks is a statewide nonprofit made up of 7,500 (human) supporters, representing all districts in Minnesota. While our efforts are on behalf of animals, we also serve the interests of Minnesota residents who believe animals should be treated humanely and the laws to protect animals should be enforced; in doing so, we serve the broader interests and values of the State. Through a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach, we also work with and serve Minnesota authorities who are involved in the enforcement of animal law.

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## OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Animal Folks accomplishes its mission through five primary programs:

1. **Animal Cruelty Research**
2. **Criminal & Civil Justice**
3. **Animal Law System Reform**
4. **Animal Law Resources**
5. **Outreach & Communication**

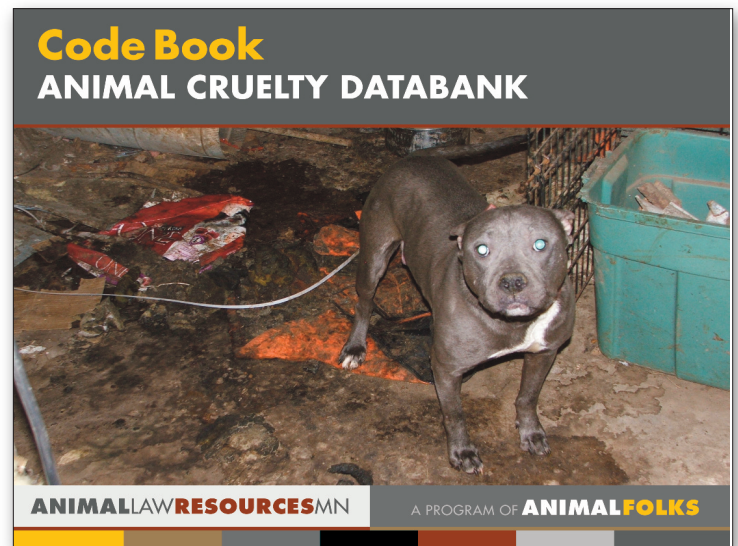
## PROGRAM GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### PROGRAM 1: Animal Cruelty Research

**GOAL:** To research animal cruelty cases and issues pertaining to crimes against animals, and provide credible Minnesota-specific data to the public, agencies and organizations upon request.

#### 2015 Strategies and Accomplishments

- **Animal Crimes Databank** — To determine the nature and prevalence of animal cruelty in Minnesota, Animal Folks is conducting a study of animal cruelty cases in all 87 MN counties from 2018-2013; 234 out of 625 cases were collected in 2015 and coded for analysis, with pro bono assistance from attorneys and volunteers at 3M.
- **Commercial dog breeding** — Animal Folks gathers data, including USDA inspection reports, on commercial dog and cat breeding facilities in Minnesota. This research is used to generate awareness about puppy and kitten mills and track if violations are occurring.
- **Certificates of Veterinary Inspection** — Animal Folks collects Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) to track sales of dogs from MN breeders and dealers to consumers and pet stores throughout the United States. We use these certificates and provide them to citizens/consumers and nonprofits in other states to give evidence of breeder size, location and distribution network.
- **Pet Stores** — Animal Folks conducted a study of pet stores in Minnesota to define how many stores exist that sell live animals (139) and which stores sell dogs and/or cats (14). This work will be used to define supplier/distributor connections and support local ordinances.



## PROGRAM 2: Criminal and Civil Justice

**GOAL:** To investigate and report suspected or known animal cruelty (or related crimes against animals) and provide input to criminal and civil cases throughout the legal process.

### 2015 Strategies and Accomplishments

- **Animal Cruelty Complaints** — To protect animals under criminal law, Animal Folks files animal cruelty complaints, with affidavits and supporting documents, with law enforcement in Minnesota. We monitor and follow up on selected cases until they are resolved. Animal Folks also provides advice and guidance to citizens requesting help in filing complaints. In 2015, one major complaint was filed against a large-scale MN commercial dog breeder; research assistance was provided on 4 other cases of suspected animal cruelty.
- **Watchdog** — To protect animals under civil law, Animal Folks acts as a watchdog of federal and state agencies that conduct regulatory activities of commercial dog and cat breeding facilities. We report activities that violate or are not supportive of the intent of the law.
- **Court Hearings** — Animal Folks attended multiple hearings and trials in Minnesota involving animal cruelty cases and animal welfare issues to observe and record actions by the courts. Locations included four Minnesota counties.

## PROGRAM 3: Animal Law System Reform

**GOAL:** To provide leadership and systemic change on issues related to the enforcement of animal law in Minnesota.

### 2015 Strategies and Accomplishments

- **Veterinary Task Force** — Animal Folks formed a Task Force-Veterinary Advisory Committee to define the role of veterinarians in animal cruelty cases and assess what is needed to improve reporting of cruelty by MN-licensed veterinarians. Committee organized and held a 6-person panel discussion about animal cruelty at the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) Annual Conference in February with over 80 veterinarians in attendance.
- **Stakeholder engagement** — Animal Folks supports a multi-disciplinary approach for the protection of animals. We work with key stakeholders (see diagram) for advice and discussion of ‘animal law’ enforcement and systems.



## PROGRAM 4: Animal Law Resources

**GOAL:** To foster professionalism and competency by providing training, resources, and support to Minnesota authorities responsible for the enforcement of animal law.

### 2015 Strategies and Accomplishments

- **Training Materials for Law Enforcement** — Animal Folks worked with sheriff and police investigators, prosecutors and veterinarians to develop training materials about animal law and cruelty investigations and enforcement. We wrote and published 6 multi-page training sheets and 4 forms. These Q&A sheets (examples below) include checklists that officers can refer to at a crime scene, definitions of the law, and resources on what to do and who to call.
- **Investigations: Animal Cruelty**
- **Forensic Necropsy**
- **Cruelty to Animals: MN Statutes Chapter 343**
- **Pet and Companion Animal Welfare Act: Minn. Stat. Section 39**
- **Seizure and Disposition of Animals: MN Statutes Chapter 343**
- **4 Multi-Copy Forms: Seizure of Animals**
- **Dogs and Cats in Motor Vehicles**

### INVESTIGATIONS: ANIMAL CRUELTY

**Q&A: MN ANIMAL LAW** Investigating Crimes Against Animals in Minnesota

Investigating animal cruelty can be complicated. While animals are defined (per law) as property, they are also living beings capable of feeling pain and suffering. This fact means both criminal and civil actions are often required. In cases where more than one animal is involved, the situation could represent mass cruelty and seizure of multiple animals may be needed. Investigative planning and processes are critical.

**How is "animal" defined per Minnesota statute?**  
The State of Minnesota (Minn. Stat. Sec. 343.20 Subd. 2) defines animal as: "every living creature except members of the human race." This means every animal in Minnesota is protected from cruelty. Penalties, however, vary.

**What authority does law enforcement have in regards to animal cruelty?**  
Minnesota Statute Section 343.12 authorizes peace officers to investigate animal cruelty. "...it shall be the duty of any sheriff or the agent's deputy or any police officer to investigate any alleged violation of the law relative to cruelty to animals, and to arrest any person found violating these laws." Chapter 343 also authorizes peace officers to seize animals and, if needed, to request assistance.

**What is the definition of cruelty?**  
The definition of cruelty can be found in Minn. Stat. Sec. 343.20 Subd. 3. It is defined as: "inflict cruelty" means "every act, omission, or neglect which causes or permits unnecessary or unjustifiable pain, suffering, or death." Minnesota does not just define cruelty in terms of an "act" — it also defines cruelty in terms of lack of action (omission) or neglect.

**What laws should be used during an investigation?**  
The animal anti-cruelty law in Minnesota is Minn. Statute Chapter 343. It prohibits a variety of actions, such as overworking or mistreating animals (e.g., overheat, overfeed, torture, cruelty back, neglect, or unjustifiably injure, maim, mutilate, or kill any animal, cruelly work any animal when it is unfit for labor, or any act of cruelty). Other requirements in Chapter 343 include providing necessary food, water and shelter; wholesome exercise and change of air; Other specific crimes, too, are listed within Chapter 343, such as animal fighting, abandonment, injury to birds, selling animals with infectious disease, and more. There are other Minnesota statutes, codes and rules and local ordinances that may apply to a situation based on the species and crime. See back pages for a list.



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### FORENSIC NECROPSY

**Q&A: MN ANIMAL LAW**

To provide credible evidence as to an animal's cause of death and other related factors, a necropsy can be requested as part of the investigation. Below are answers to basic questions about a forensic necropsy and how to obtain this service.

- 1. What is a necropsy?**  
A necropsy is the examination of a dead animal to determine its cause of death. Similarly, a necropsy may be performed on an animal that is euthanized to determine the extent of the animal's disease. A necropsy refers to the medical examination of dead animals. An autopsy refers to the medical examination of deceased humans.
- 2. What is the difference between a basic necropsy and a forensic necropsy?**  
Sometimes an animal's death may be accidental, such as if the animal was hit by a car, or it may be due to illness or disease, such as death from cancer or an infection. This is when a basic necropsy might be conducted. At other times, the cause of death may be due to criminal actions (including neglect), such as starvation, heat stroke, a beating, stabbing, drowning, deliberate poisoning, or other means. A forensic necropsy is an examination of the animal to determine the cause of death and to also collect and provide scientific data about this case, which can then be used as evidence in a court of law. While the role of the veterinarian is very important, it is important to note that veterinarians are not investigators, judges or juries. The veterinarian's role is to thoroughly examine an animal and identify disease and/or injuries sustained by the animal (such as a fracture, laceration, puncture wound) and ultimately try to determine the cause of the injuries or death of the animal. In a forensic necropsy, detailed records of abnormalities are made, including photographs and other forms of imaging. Microscopic and analytical tests may also be performed on body fluids or tissues.
- 3. Who does necropsies in Minnesota?**  
Necropses are performed by a veterinarian: ideally, a veterinary pathologist. A "pathologist" is a veterinarian specializing in postmortem examinations and diagnostics. In Minnesota, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) at the University of Minnesota (U of M) is the only accredited necropsy facility for privately owned animals that employ veterinary pathologists. The laboratory is in St. Paul, MN ([www.vet.umn.edu](http://www.vet.umn.edu)). If the animal cannot be transported to the VDL, the veterinarian performing the necropsy should seek guidance from a pathologist beforehand. There are also accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratories in adjacent states.

Additional Q&As continued on page 3.



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### CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

**Q&A: MN ANIMAL LAW** Chapter 343 Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 343 is titled Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. This statute defines animal cruelty in the State of Minnesota and cites violations for specific crimes, such as animal fighting, poisoning of animals, abandonment, docking horses and more. The statute also provides some requirements for the humane treatment of animals and specifies duties of authorities, penalties, and seizure and disposition processes.

- 1. How is "animal" defined in Chapter 343?**  
Minn. Stat. sec. 343.20 subd. 2 defines animal as: "every living creature except members of the human race." This means every animal in Minnesota is protected from cruelty.
- 2. Is cruelty mainly about lack of food, water and shelter?**  
No. Lack of food, water and shelter is a narrow and limited definition of the statute. Providing for and ensuring the health and well-being of an animal entails more. See page 2 for definition of cruelty.
- 3. What is the process for seizure and disposition of animals?**  
Chapter 343 gives authority to peace officers to seize and dispose of animals. Minn. Stat. sec. 343.23B explains the disposition process. As animals are sentient beings and also defined as property, cruelty cases involve both criminal and civil action on the transfer of ownership of each animal can occur. Chapter 343 provides explanations for seizure and disposition procedures, required forms, timing, hearings, and cost of care.
- 4. Who pays?**  
Minn. Stat. sec. 343.23 states: "If the person alleged to have violated section 343.21 is found guilty of the violation, the county shall have judgment against the guilty person for the amount of the expenses." Note the word "shall" (must). Some national and local animal welfare organizations will also assist financially with the seizure and disposition of the animals. Identify and contact these organizations during the planning phase of the investigation.
- 5. What are the penalties for violation of Chapter 343?**  
The penalty for violation of Chapter 343 can include a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony. A petty misdemeanor is also used within some sections. Felony under Chapter 343 only applies to pet or companion animals or service animals. (A pet or companion animal could include any species, such as a dog, cat, horse, pig, rabbit, chicken, bird or other animal. If that animal is considered or treated as a pet or companion animal, an understanding of these penalties can guide evidence collection during an investigation.)



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- **Dogs in Hot Cars Materials** — Research conducted by Animal Folks showed "dogs in hot cars" was a significant problem in Minnesota. Animal Folks prepared a "dog in hot car" flyer and web page for citizens and law enforcement to obtain information and distribute.
- **Veterinary Manual** — As veterinarians are mandated reporters of known and suspected animal neglect, cruelty and abuse, Animal Folks began work on a Veterinarian Manual for Reporting Animal Neglect for distribution to and training of veterinarians in 2016.



## PROGRAM 5: Outreach & Communication

**GOAL:** To educate the public on animal law and cruelty issues, and enhance communication and cooperation between various stakeholders involved in the enforcement of animal law.

### 2015 Strategies and Accomplishments

- **Presentations on Puppy Mills** — “Minnesota Puppy Mill” presentations given at annual meetings upon request:
  - **Carver-Scott Humane Society** – March
  - **Minnesota-Wisconsin Collie Rescue** – November

- **Community Events** — To generate awareness about animal cruelty issues, Animal Folks has hosted booths at 7 Minnesota events:

- **Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) Conference** – February
- **Walk for Animals** – May
- **Bark For Life** – May
- **Petapalooza** – June
- **Grand Old Days** – June
- **MN Sheriff’s Association Conference** – June
- **Paws On Grand** – August



- **Networking with Experts** — Animal Folks attends local and national conferences on animal law, animal forensics, animal cruelty, and crime prevention for networking and building relationships:
  - **International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association (IVFSA) Conference** – May
  - **MN Criminal Justice Institute Annual Conference** – August
  - **Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) Conference** – November
  - **Sheriff Outreach** – At the 2015 MN Sheriffs’ Conference, Animal Folks met individually with some sheriffs to learn more about resources needed to prevent crimes against animals.

## ANIMALFOLKS MN

Animal Folks also works with our legislative arm, **Animal Folks MN (AFMN) – Legislative Action**, providing research on various animal issues to support humane legislation. AFMN programs include writing and support of legislation, state and local lobbying, advocacy and constituent building, and education of issues. AFMN Board members: Ann Olson, Deb Ouellette, Kerry D’Amato, Cotton Wilson, Pat Ormston.



## VALUES

Values are key to the efforts of Animal Folks. Our actions are guided by our values: Innovation, Respect, Humility, Ethics and Accuracy.

## GOVERNANCE

### Board of Directors

Reese Frederickson, Esq.  
 Louise Dobbe, Esq.  
 Lisa McCargar, DVM  
 Ann Olson, Executive Director  
 Advisor: Cynthia Erickson

### Our Team

Ann Olson, Founder and Executive Director  
 Amy Lake, Fund and Program Development  
 Arianna Pittman, Research Assistant/Project Manager  
 Mike Tincher, Design/Marketing  
 Jeff Moravec, Communications/Social Media

## STATEMENT – Fiscal Year 2015

January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

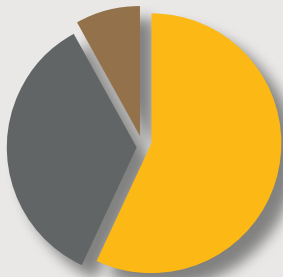


### Support and Revenue

Individual Contributions	\$114,175
In-kind Contributions	\$71,328
Corp and Foundation Contributions	\$16,905

**Total Support and Revenue \$202,408**

■ Individual Contributions	57%
■ In-kind	35%
■ Corp and Foundation Contributions	8%

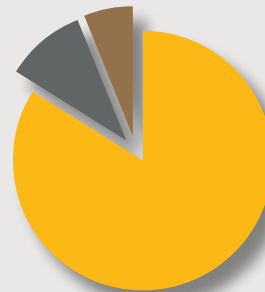


### Expense

Program Services	\$143,436
Fundraising	\$16,182
Administration	\$10,452

**Total Expense \$170,070**

■ Program	84%
■ Fundraising	10%
■ Administration	6%



## Balance Sheet – Fiscal Year 2015

Assets – Cash	\$118,684
Liabilities – Accounts Payable	\$2,144
Net Assets	\$116,540
Liabilities & Net Assets	\$118,684

