

## Humane Pet Store Ordinance in St. Paul Protects Dogs and Cats

We had great success in 2018 for the protection of dogs and cats. After multiple public hearings, a humane pet store ordinance was unanimously passed by the St. Paul City Council in December 2018.

This ordinance puts safeguards in place to protect animals and consumers, and recognize humane business practices and community values. Specifically, the ordinance bans pet stores from selling dogs and cats obtained from commercial breeding facilities and promotes partnering with animal rescues and shelters to host adoption events.

Animal Folks created and submitted a multi-page document to each council member to explain the distribution link between breeding facilities (puppy and kitten mills) and pet stores.



**Success! Humane pet store ordinance passes in St. Paul**

*Announcement posted by Animal Folks in 2018 when ordinance was passed.*

Ann Olson, Executive Director of Animal Folks, and three other board members of Animal Folks, are residents of St. Paul. Ms. Olson approached her city council member, Rebecca Noecker (Ward 2), who agreed to introduce the ordinance and be its champion. Thanks to Councilmember Noecker and to the Animal Humane Society, the Humane Society of the United States, and countless St. Paul residents and Minnesotans who worked collaboratively to make this effort a success.

**OUR MISSION** The mission of Animal Folks is to protect animals and fight animal cruelty by modernizing the animal law enforcement system in Minnesota.

**NONVIOLENCE** In 2018, Animal Folks passed a Statement of Nonviolence to support and promote our views on conduct. It reads:

*Animal Folks believes animals deserve to live a quality life void of cruelty and suffering at the hands of humans. We believe violence toward animals is a serious crime and must be confronted legally, institutionally, and culturally. These types of crimes are difficult to see or read about and often provoke strong emotions and reactions. While we understand these reactions and frustrations, Animal Folks does not encourage or condone violence as a response.*

*We denounce violence— exemplified by personal attacks, threats, degrading or hateful language, physical assaults, or destruction of property—in all forms, and believe hostility against humans can undermine efforts to create compassion and understanding for animals. We believe peaceful and respectful actions through education, advocacy, and dialogue are the best methods to achieve our mission. Animal Folks will speak fearlessly and with conviction to protect animals, and we reject violence against all animals—human and non-human.*



## OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH: SYSTEM REFORM

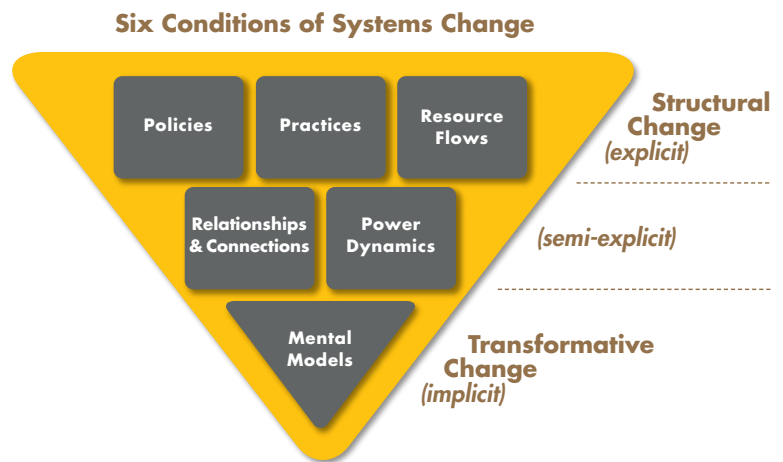
As stated on page 1, the mission of Animal Folks is to protect animals and fight animal cruelty by modernizing the animal law enforcement system. In 2018, Animal Folks hired a systems-thinking consultant to help us develop a multi-year strategic plan to achieve this mission. Our strategic approach focuses on the development of sustainable solutions across multiple disciplines to improve the enforcement of animal law and protection of animals.

### Creation of Multi-Year Strategic Plan based on Systems-Thinking

**The Systems Approach:** Core to any system change is to first acknowledge that a “system” is already in place — whether effective or not. (Consider the education system, health care system, or, in our case, the law enforcement system). There are already policies, practices, resources, and relationships that exist within this system and they are guided by “mental models” (i.e. opinions, assumptions, beliefs).

Changing the mental models is the tough part. For instance, how does a community view animals? Are crimes against animals taken seriously? Do all stakeholders agree in making structural changes or re-allocating resources to support the improved enforcement of law?

The diagram on the right displays the six conditions of system change. For transformative change to happen (i.e., how people view crimes against animals), explicit changes need to occur, such as the development of policies and procedures that clearly explain Minnesota statutes and how best to investigate or litigate a crime per the law, and what resources are needed to support these actions. Semi-explicit changes must also occur, such as the continual building of relationships so that authorities have the opportunity to give input and offer ideas to any changes being proposed. (Understanding who has the power to influence decisions and change is also essential for progress to be made.)



Source: Kania, John, Kramer, Mark, and Senge, Peter. “The Waters of Systems Change”. FSG report, June 2018.

**The Animal Folks Vision:** Our vision is bold and comprehensive, and it is driven by the systems approach. We seek justice for animals and people through the creation of a robust animal protection system. This system includes:

- animals who are protected;
- authorities who have learned what is needed to provide that protection; and
- a system (i.e., laws, rules, people, money, information, infrastructure) that is structured in such a way as to credibly support and promote measurable outcomes for the protection of animals.

Achieving this vision will require significant system transformation, which we have been doing and will continue to do. Our new strategic plan gives us a roadmap to set priorities, build capacity, and achieve results.

For all of you who, for years, have financially and spiritually supported Animal Folks and these efforts, we thank you.

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## PROGRAM GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our strategic approach is supported by five primary programs: 1) Animal Cruelty Research; 2) Animal Law Resources; 3) Civil & Criminal Justice; 4) Legislative Action; and 5) Outreach & Communication.

### 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.

#### 2018 Activities

- **Animal Cruelty Databank** — Animal Folks has continued its compilation of animal cruelty cases (convictions) statewide from 2008-2018. This research allows us to study all aspects of a case, from charging to sentencing to related crimes, which supports our training and system reform efforts.
- **General Animal Cruelty** — Animal Folks gathers data on a variety of animal cruelty issues, such as The Link (animal abuse linked to elder abuse, child abuse, domestic violence). This research is used to support our education activities.



### PROGRAM 2: 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.

#### 2018 Activities

- **Animal Cruelty Training for Veterinarians** — For the fourth year, Animal Folks partnered with the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) to host a training session at the MVMA annual meeting in February. This was a full day session with local speakers and national speakers (from the ASPCA). Key topics included Minnesota animal law, forensic photography, and how to identify, document, and report animal cruelty. Over 50 veterinarians attended. The second day we also hosted a one-hour session on identifying animal cruelty to about 200 veterinarians. For the multi-day conference, Animal Folks had a booth to distribute literature and meet with veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and vet students.
- **Law Enforcement Policies and Procedures** — Animal Folks hosted pilot training sessions on animal cruelty for peace officers and animal control officers in 2017. Through these sessions, we learned that policies and procedures were needed to clearly explain Minnesota’s animal cruelty statutes, so laws would be interpreted correctly. In 2018, we started the “policy and procedures” initiative, and are working to develop clear explanations of animal law.



*Full-day training session on animal cruelty to MN-licensed veterinarians.*

### PROGRAM 3: Civil and Criminal 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.

#### 2018 Activities

- **Filing of Animal Cruelty Complaints** — In 2018, Animal Folks worked on multiple cases of suspected animal cruelty. (As some of these cases are still active, we cannot provide full details.) One case example:

**Pigeon case (Alexandria)** — An undercover investigation by a national organization showed that a Minnesota company that preserves animals for sale and use in dissection was allegedly killing pigeons by drowning the animals. Evidence of this maltreatment was submitted to the city prosecutor who charged the company with 25 counts of animal cruelty. However, soon after charging, a Minnesota-licensed poultry veterinarian, employed by the University of Minnesota, submitted a letter to the prosecutor suggesting that drowning pigeons was considered “pest control” and the practice of drowning pigeons “is consistent with industry standards.” She further opined that “pigeons do not hold their breath when they enter water” and, therefore, this type of death was not cruel. We disagreed with these statements.



Live pigeons in cages at company ready to be killed though drowning; from undercover video obtained through data request.

Animal Folks presented the case and letter to five veterinarians in the United States who specialize in avian health. These avian specialists wrote a letter disputing the veterinarian’s statements. (Specifically, drowning is *not* an acceptable form of euthanasia and pigeons can and do hold their breath, which creates suffering when drowning — meeting the definition of cruelty.) We submitted their letter to the prosecutor, and asked for the charges to be reconsidered. The prosecutor refused to do so.

While the prosecutor’s refusal to act did not hold the company responsible for its actions or provide justice for the animals, it did provide another example of why reforms are needed in the enforcement of animal law.

Multiple intervenors (see diagram at right) can touch a criminal case and determine its outcome, for the good or bad. Some authorities may not fully understand animal law or animal anatomy and health. Differences about how animals are viewed or should be treated can also vary and influence decisions.

Animal Folks uses these types of cases to reach out to authorities to discuss animal cruelty and enforcement efforts. This case is being used in our training for veterinarians and will be used in training for prosecutors.



- **Lawsuit against USDA** — Animal Folks is a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for abruptly removing critical animal welfare documents from its website. Led by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, oral arguments were presented December 17, 2018 before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

## PROGRAM 4: Legislative Action

**GOAL:** To lead and support state and local legislative efforts, including crafting of humane laws, lobbying, and advocacy, that protects animals and lays a foundation for systemic reform.

### 2018 Activities

- **Humane Pet Store Ordinance** — As explained on the cover page, Animal Folks, working with the St. Paul City Council and others, was able to get a humane pet store ordinance passed in the city of St. Paul which prohibits the selling of dogs and cats (obtained through commercial facilities) at pet stores.
- **Veterinary Immunity Bill** — In 2018, Animal Folks continued to lobby the “Veterinary Immunity” bill (HF 787/SF 1167), working with veterinarians and the bill authors. This bill would grant immunity to veterinarians for good faith reporting of animal cruelty. (MN-licensed veterinarians are mandated reporters of animal cruelty.)
- **Companion Animal Board** — The Minnesota state government is currently structured to serve the needs of livestock production, animal disease, or wildlife issues. There is no state agency with the knowledge and expertise to serve the welfare needs of companion animals. In 2018, Animal Folks worked to craft a bill (introduction in the 2019-2020 legislative session) to create a new Companion Animal Board with authority to address companion animal issues.



## 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.

### 2018 Activities

- **Outreach** — In 2018, Ann Olson, Executive Director of Animal Folks, was invited to speak at two national conferences on animal issues and the work of Animal Folks.

#### 1) Animal Grantmakers Conference in Massachusetts

Animal Grantmakers is a group of funders who support organizations that are working to create real and lasting change for animals. Ann Olson spoke about Animal Folks’ efforts to create a multi-disciplinary, systems approach that will transform how animal law is enforced in Minnesota.

#### 2) The Kirkpatrick Foundation Animal Conference in Oklahoma

The Kirkpatrick Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of all animals through its Safe & Humane Initiative. The Foundation hosted a conference in Oklahoma that included animal experts, advocates, and leaders. Ann Olson spoke at the 2018 Animal Conference about Animal Folks’ efforts.

- **Community Events** — To educate the community and generate awareness about animal cruelty, Animal Folks hosted booths at community events throughout Minnesota.



## FINANCES

Animal Folks is proud to be a Charities Review Council Meets Standards® organization and a Gold Guidestar participant.



### STATEMENT – Fiscal Year 2018 — January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

#### Support and Revenue

Individual Contributions	\$93,186
In-kind Contributions	\$184,502
Corp/Fdtn Contributions	\$52,997

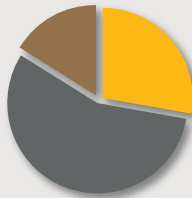
**Total Support and Revenue \$330,685**

#### Expense

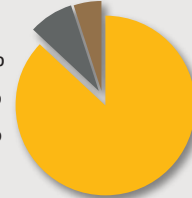
Program Services	\$282,505
Fundraising	\$27,092
Administration	\$17,058

**Total Expenses \$326,655**

■ Individual Contributions	28%
■ In-kind	56%
■ Corp/Fdtn Contributions	16%



■ Program	87%
■ Fundraising	8%
■ Administration	5%



#### Balance Sheet – Fiscal Year 2018

Assets – Cash	\$55,676
Assets - Accounts Receivable	\$12,440
Liabilities – Accounts Payable	\$1,325
Net Assets	\$66,791
Liabilities & Net Assets	\$68,116

## GOVERNANCE

### Animal Folks: Board of Directors

Reese Frederickson, Esq.  
 John Kingrey, Esq.  
 Pat Ormston  
 Cotton Wilson  
 Lisa McCargar, DVM  
 Kerry D'Amato  
 Ann Olson  
 Resource Advisor: Cynthia Erickson

### Our Team

Ann Olson, Founder and Executive Director  
 Arianna Pittman, Senior Researcher and Writer  
 Mike Tincher, Design and Marketing  
 Megan Wright, Administrative and Event Coordinator  
 Jeff Moravec, Social Media and Public Relations  
 Lena Atchan, Researcher  
 Brittany DeVito, Researcher

**Thanks** to numerous volunteers and consultants who assisted Animal Folks with our work; and thank you to Robins Kaplan LLC for pro bono legal assistance.

## VALUES

Our actions are guided by our values: Innovation, Respect, Ethics, Credibility, and Nonviolence.