United States – Federal

The Fish and Wildlife Service is shortly to propose a rule removing gray wolves from Endangered Species Act protection. Presumably, this will be a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) published in the Federal Register. It will be open to public comment.


Numerous organizations are already mobilizing to raise public awareness and challenge the proposed rule.

Welfare of Our Friends Act (WOOF). WOOF was first introduced in 2017 as H.R. 4691, by Representative Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania with 166 co-sponsors. He reintroduced it on February 6 as HR1002. WOOF would amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit USDA from licensing: (1) a dealer whose previous license was suspended or revoked within the last 10 years if for a facility the dealer previously used; (2) immediate family; (3) persons at the same address; or (4) certain entities if the dealer has an ownership interest.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund succeeded in its 8 year long actions against the Food and Drug Administration regarding factory egg farms. It filed an FOIA request in 2011 for information about conditions at farms, but had to file suit in 2012. In 2013, a magistrate ruled the facilities had to disclose the number of hens per cage, but denied other information requests. The Ninth Circuit held that ALDF was entitled to a trial regarding the remaining requests. On remand, the district court ruled that FDA must disclose information on facility inspections without redacting information about the hens’ living conditions. https://aldf.org/article/animal-legal-defense-fund-victorious-in-factory-farm-transparency-lawsuit-against-fda/

California: Zoological Foundation of Cincinnati v. The Gorilla Foundation, Case 3:18-cv-06529, 2019 WL 414971 (N.D.Cal., filed February 1, 2019). District Judge Richard Seeborg granted summary judgment to the Zoo in the dispute regarding Ndume, the male silverback the Zoo loaned to The Gorilla Foundation (TGF) in 1991 to be a mate for Koko, the female gorilla who learned sign language, and who died in 2018. Ndume is 37. TGF claimed that transporting him at his age would be too risky; the Zoo argued he was born at the Zoo, TGF has no gorillas with whom he could socialize, but the Zoo has several, some of whom are his relatives. Judge Seeborg granted summary judgment to the Zoo based on the parties’ original agreement regarding loaning Ndume to TGF, but noted he is “not ordinary chattel,” and the parties are “expected to cooperate” regarding the conditions of his transport back to the Zoo.

### Other States


**Indiana:** Indianapolis dog owner arrested after her dog froze to death and his body discarded in dumpster; the Mayor’s Action Center invites calls about animals left out in the cold: [https://cbs4indy.com/2019/02/01/indianapolis-man-arrested-for-animal-cruelty-after-frozen-dog-tossed-in-dumpster/](https://cbs4indy.com/2019/02/01/indianapolis-man-arrested-for-animal-cruelty-after-frozen-dog-tossed-in-dumpster/)


### Books, Films & Publications


Non-Legal News
Annual Migratory Bird Fly-In and Photo Shoot, Havana Regional Airport, Illinois: migratory activity through Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge. Please take time to watch the video at the end of this short article: https://generalaviationnews.com/2019/03/06/migratory-bird-fly-in-slated-at-9i0/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=%5BThe+Pulse+of+Aviation%5D+What+s+contributing+to+such+high+oil+consumption%3F&utm_campaign=TPOA-20190307
