

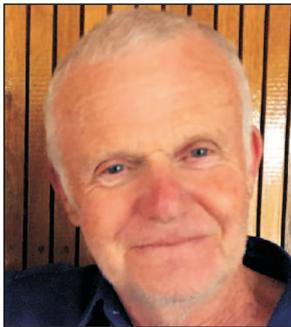
Leading proponents for reform in our treatment of nonhuman animals gather at the University of Cape Town to map the way forward.

The *Cape Town Animal Conference 2019* took place on September 14 and 15 and was co-organised by the Animal Coalition of Southern Africa, We are Animals, Animal Law Reform South Africa (ALRSA) and Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark, Law School (CALs).



BELOW ARE GLIMPSES INTO SOME OF THE PRESENTATIONS

Prominent SA academic **Les Mitchell** is an *Alternatives to Violence* facilitator. The violence inherent in the human domination of animals starts in our heads, he said, and dissipates with a shift in our thought processes. *"We are in a struggle about nothing less than the construction of reality itself."*



To better understand the deep roots of violence, read his mind-shifting new book titled ***Landscape of the damned.***

Contact Les: les@peacecaravan.co.za

Africa is funded by public money. Let there be transparency regarding the nature of the experiments and how many animals die."

Werner Scholtz

Professor of Law at the University of the Western Cape, Werner Scholtz called for global reform whereby humanity moves from the Anthropocentric management of our planet, to living in harmony with the environment and biosphere. *"We must erode human dominance and move away from the catastrophic approach that we have followed for 5000 years."*



Kenyan advocate **Jim Karani** who specialises in animal protection with particular focus on the human/wildlife conflict, asked: *"Isn't it about time that we open up some of the land to wildlife? We need to have land use that is compatible with wildlife through zoning."*



Sheena Swemmer

Sheena Swemmer, attorney and head of the Gender Programme at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Wits University, said she would advocate for changes in the law so that the intersection of violence against women, children and animals becomes integrated into domestic violence legislation. *"There is a scourge of violence against women and children in this country and we can assume this is also so for companion animals in the home. The shocking thing is that our victims of violence become violent themselves. Violence is about power and children subjected to violence try to regain control. They redirect their anger and exert*



Elisa Galgut

University of Cape Town philosophy lecturer Elisa Galgut called for transparency in animal experimentation. *"Experimentation at universities around South*



violence on those they see as less powerful than themselves – often this is an animal.”

Legal options to consider, she said, included:

- * Protection orders for abused animals in the household
- * Making it a crime not to report animal abuse in the household
- * Establishing a special court for animal abuse cases
- * Establishing a list of animal abuse offenders that is open to the public
- * Perhaps following the route set out in some states of the USA whereby vets have to report acts of violence against animals to social welfare authorities

Amy Wilson

Amy Wilson, a director of Animal Law Reform South Africa, said: *“We are tied into a legal system of oppression of nonhuman animals, a system in which we are all complicit and which has failed us, and continues to fail us on a daily basis.”*



She said water pollution and the climate crisis were examples of how the cruelty inherent in industrialised animal agriculture impacted severely on humans.

“When we commodify and dominate animals, they are not the only victims, humans are too. There is a strong link between the interests of humans and the interests of animals and we need to integrate this into our legal system, policy and education. Human rights are enriched when we give consideration to the interests of animals.”

Jenni Trethowan

Jenni Trethowan, founder of Baboon Matters Trust, said: *“If we are talking about law reform, the baboons have to come in right up near the top. We treat them so appallingly. They are not 'owned' so they are not covered by the Animals Protection Act.*



They are judged and killed as criminals. One of the most urgent things is the way paintball guns are used on them.

“The City of Cape Town has employed a service provider to create a 'landscape of fear' using paintball guns to frighten off the baboons. What sort of message are we giving our children when they see full-grown men in uniform chasing baboons and shooting them with paintball guns? Recently a young female was sitting on a roof in Kleinmond.”

A witness saw her being shot with a pellet gun and when we took her lifeless body to our vet, seven pellets were found in her. The list of atrocities against baboons goes on and on. There is a farmer who threw a baboon into a cage together with his dogs to rile them up. She was torn to pieces. In all these instances, and despite witness accounts and video footage, there are no prosecutions.”

David Bilchitz

Law Professor and Constitutional Law expert David Bilchitz said:

“Animals are unable to defend their interests against human power. We have to move to a society where violence is not acceptable neither to humans nor animals.

Animals are still consigned to the category of things or objects and if there is a clash between human interests and animal interests, the animal will always lose.”



He said the SA government had adopted an attitude of colonial exploitation of animals. *"We need to confront this and treat animals with value in their own right. They are entitled to a dignified existence without suffering."*

He added that a radical shift was underway in South African law regarding the welfare of animals. *"But we are only at the beginning. We need to challenge (cruelty) step by step."*

Andrew Rowan

Founder and President:

WellBeing International

Dr Rowan said: *"I think it is just appalling that we are farming lions. There is something appalling about this that I can't really express."*

See: www.wellbeingintl.org

Solutions for people, animals and environment



Louise van der Merwe

Animal Voice editor and Humane Education specialist, said: *"Imagine a world where the basic building blocks of our IQ –our ABC's and 123's - are removed from the curriculum. The very thought makes no sense. So what about the building blocks of our EQ? The Five Freedoms for Animals are a fundamental building block of our EQ and our education authorities should give the Five Freedoms the kind of clout that plastic pollution of our seas has received recently!"*

There are approximately 7979 Lions in captivity in 366 facilities in South Africa



Photo Courtesy: *Pippa Hankinson*

Driven from her habitat
Struck on the face by a paintball
Tormented by an outrageously big collar



Photos courtesy Jenni Trethowan: *Baboon Matters*

Shot 7 times with a pellet gun, this little baboon died of her wounds

