Foreword

Marine Lercier, Tiamat Warda and Eva Bernet Kempers

The 'Animals in Wars and Disasters' Symposium (AWDS), organised by the *Global Research Network's Think Tank* (GRN) *programme* on *Animals and Biodiversity* on 3-4 September 2022, marked a significant online success.[1] This event had an impressive lineup of over 25 presenters, including three distinguished keynote speakers.[2] Over the course of two days, it drew a live audience of over 1,000 participants.

The AWDS examined the complex ways in which wars, natural and anthropogenic disasters, and climate change affect animals. It emphasised the critical importance of recognising the unique challenges animals face in such situations, underscoring the principles of equality, compassion, and care that are central to advocating for animal rights. In essence, the AWDS sought to bridge the gap in policy and protection for non-human animals in times of crisis. It called for the recognition of all animals as sentient beings and underscored the need for robust policies reflecting their protection.

The GRN's *programme on Animals and Biodiversity* served as a vital platform for advancing these goals. Its values centre around promoting interspecies justice and the idea of a harmonious society where humans and other animals coexist. It contributes to a deeper understanding of animals and biodiversity by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and recognising the interconnectedness of various issues and academic fields.

Marine Lercier, Tiamat Warda, and Eva Bernet Kempers are the co-editors of this special issue. Marine Lercier is a PhD candidate in global animal law and a predoctoral researcher at the *Autonomous University of Barcelona*. Her research explores the avenues for granting labour rights to non-human animal workers and conceptualises what she calls 'animal labour law'. Using racehorses as a case study, she identifies and addresses the gaps in protection in this industry, intending to safeguard horses' fundamental interests beyond their racing careers.

---

[1] Animals and Biodiversity Think Tank Programme, 'Meet Our Members' (Global Research Network Think Tank) <https://grn.global/animals-biodiversity/> accessed 7 November 2023.

[2] The keynote speakers were Marina Lostal on 'Animals in International Criminal Law: Invisible, Objectified, and Forgotten'; Gerardo Huertas on 'The risk of emergencies for animals'; and Clare Palmer on 'Climate change, wild animals, and ethics.' The full programme and links to the recordings of the live presentations are available here:
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/gsuiteintegration/index.html?state=%7B%22ids%22%3A%5B%221kO1XFuqLMlgsmUyl9VMyxzp776Bzufqa%22%5D%2C%22action%22%3A%22open%22%2C%22userId%22%3A%22115035831574303561115%22%2C%22resourceKeys%22%3A%7B%7D%7D> accessed 7 November 2023.

Eva Bernet Kempers is a postdoctoral researcher in animal law at the *University of Antwerp* and Junior Research Associate at the *Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law*.[3] In her research, she aims to critically assess the role of law in reshaping our relations with non-human animals and nature in the Anthropocene.

Tiamat completed her MA and PhD in anthrozoology (the study of dynamics and relationships between humans and individuals of other species) at the *University of Exeter*. Her aim is to bring together academic research with practitioner expertise to initiate sustainable, regulated, meaningful change for all stakeholders in multispecies workplaces and is working toward emotional labour being recognised as a professional skill.

We, the co-editors, are immensely grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the *Global Journal of Animal Law* (GJAL) to create this special issue. A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated editors of *GJAL* for their instrumental support in bringing this project to fruition. We also thank Dr. Yoriko Otomo, director of the *Global Research Network Think Thank*, for her efforts to provide an inclusive and diverse academic platform for early-career scholars and for supporting us as former Junior Fellows of the GRN.

Deep appreciation is extended to Professor Irvine from the Department of Sociology at the *University of Colorado Boulder*. It is a great honour that Irvine has contributed an editorial that serves as an introduction to the articles included in this special issue. Irvine's academic contributions are paramount in the study of animals in disaster contexts. Her research is a wake-up call to recognise and address the often-overlooked issues surrounding animals in times of crisis. By illuminating the unique challenges faced by animals in disaster situations, Irvine's work underscores the imperative of safeguarding their welfare and protecting them as an integral aspect of disaster preparedness and response. Irvine's work significantly impacted policy discussions and the development of disaster management strategies, prompting authorities to incorporate provisions for animal welfare in emergency plans.

In this special issue contribution, entitled 'Why Study Animals in Disasters?', Irvine underscores the need to consider the welfare of animals in disaster planning and response, highlighting the intricate, entangled relationships between humans and individuals of other species in the face of disaster. The co-editors are grateful for her valuable participation in this endeavour and anticipate that her expertise will provide a valuable and insightful perspective, further enhancing the discourse on the welfare of animals in the challenging contexts of wars, disasters, and climate and ecological crises.

The co-editors extend their regards to all readers engaging with this special issue and encourage a revisit of the symposium's recorded presentations and blog posts.[4] These supplementary resources provide an opportunity for a more in-depth examination of the multifarious perspectives and scholarship in this area.

---

[3] Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law, 'About Our Centre' (Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law) <https://animalrightslaw.org/ourcentre> accessed 9 November 2023.

[4] Aditya SK, 'Let's help wild animals affected by the Kaziranga floods' (Global Research Network Think Tank, 31 December 2022) <https://grn.global/lets-help-wild-animals-affected-by-the-kaziranga-floods/> accessed 15 November 2023; Harley McDonald-Eckersall, 'What Happens to Animals When the World is on Fire? – Framing Animals as Individuals in Climate Communications' (Global Research Network Think Tank, 7 January 2023) <https://grn.global/what-happens-to-animals-when-the-world-is-on-fire-framing-animals-as-individuals-in-climate-communications/> accessed 15 November 2023; Josh Milburn and Sara Van Goozen, 'Animals and the Ethics of War: A Call for An Inclusive Just War Theory' (Global Research Network Think Tank, 8 December 2022) <https://grn.global/animals-and-the-ethics-of-war-a-call-for-an-inclusive-just-war-theory/> accessed 15 November 2023; Lauren Strumos, 'Religion and Justice in Climate Change' (Global

Sustained engagement and scholarly pursuits in this academic field are instrumental in advancing collective understanding and fostering meaningful change for all animals facing the challenges of wars, disasters, and the climate crisis. This special issue is anticipated to serve as a springboard for future research and discussion. In closing, we extend sincere gratitude to the contributors and readers alike and hope that the diverse and insightful publications within this special issue enrich your intellectual pursuits and provide both enjoyment and inspiration.

Research Network Think Tank, 2023) <https://grn.global/religion-and-justice-in-climate-change/> accessed 15 November 2023; Valentyna Vozna, 'Why should we protect animals in disasters and what can the EU do?' (Global Research Network Think Tank, 25 January 2023) <https://grn.global/why-should-we-protect-animals-in-disasters-and-what-can-the-eu-do-2/> accessed 15 November 2023.