

Animal Law Forum 2026

October 9 – Nashville Zoo

Total Credits: 5 General; 1 Dual

Producer: Jessica Schultz, Attorney at Law



This unique opportunity will provide updates on trends and advancements in animal law while allowing participants to network and enjoy the fun and activities the zoo offers. Topics for this year's forum include: ...

8 – 8:30 a.m. CDT	Registration / Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Nashville Zoo Presentation Dale McGinnity, Nashville Zoo
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Break
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Crimes Against Animals This session will provide an overview of animal abuse laws and how the State Veterinarian's office and Division of Animal Health receive and inspect complaints and coordinate with law enforcement. Dr. Samantha Beaty DVM, Tenn. Department of Agriculture
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Animal Law in Tennessee: 2026 Legislative Review and 2027 Outlook This presentation will provide a review of animal-related legislation considered during the 2026 Tennessee General Assembly. The presenter will examine enacted laws, unsuccessful proposals, and significant legislative trends affecting animal welfare, veterinary practice, agriculture, criminal law, local government regulation, and companion animal issues. The presentation will also explore emerging policy discussions and potential legislation expected to be introduced during the 2027 legislative session. Jessica Hyder, Humane World for Animals
11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch / Zoo Exploration

1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

Putting Legal Skills to Work: How Lawyers Can Strengthen Nonprofits to Better Protect Animals and the Environment

This panel will focus on the legal challenges and opportunities nonprofits face and how lawyers can make an impact. The session brings together practitioners and a law professor who work with nonprofits to discuss common legal issues. Panelists will share their experiences representing or working in organizations involved in animal care, animal welfare and environmental conservation. **Amanda Tarsa, Vanderbilt Univ. Medical Center (Moderator)**

Doug Jones, Duck River Conservancy

Grace Stranch, Harpeth Conservancy

Joan Heminway, Univ. of Tenn. Winston College of Law

Laura Baker, Nashville Humane Association

2:45 – 3 p.m.

Break

3 – 4 p.m.

TWRA Update

This session will provide an overview of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Association (TWRA). Panelists will discuss notable hunting/fishing updates, legislation of note, captive wildlife permitting, nuisance species and federal government intersect.

Captain Matt Brian, Tenn. Wildlife Resources Assoc.

Captain Ray Allen, Tenn. Wildlife Resources Assoc.

4 – 5 p.m.

DUAL

Ethics

Dr. Rob Simpson DVM, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine