

ANIMAL LAW - RESEARCH STRATEGY

I. Topic Selection / Secondary Sources- starting points

A. Animal Law Case book - get sense of variety of legal areas that can encompass Animal law. You will choose different resources, depending upon legal area (*e.g.* constitutional law, tort, property, family law).

B. Animal Law Research Guide (UCLA) - - <http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/animallaw>

- See Introduction and Suggested Readings tabs

C. Specialized Journals TOCs (see Animal Law Research Resources for journals – review recent articles)

D. WestlawNext / Lexis Advance

- Search law review articles for general topic

E. Indexes – Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP), Academic Search Premier, Social Sciences databases

- ILP – for more targeted law review article search
- for non-legal, Social Sciences perspective - see Academic Search Premier
- Subject listing - Science, Social Sciences

F. Treatises - try both narrow interest and broader area

- See Resources handout

If you do not find a useful Treatise in this list, then try broader areas, such as Family, Criminal, Property, Trusts & Estates in the following databases - searches should be very general

- Library catalog
 - Search Subject headings > *e.g.* *animal welfare law and legislation*
- WorldCat - use same subject headings

G. Web sites - Google search - animal law (critically evaluate site reliability)

- <http://www.animallaw.info/> - Animal Legal & Historical web center - note issues on side
- see other web sites on Resources handout

H. Depending on area , may be able to look at BNA databases- *e.g.* Family Law Reporter - for topics and current issues in chosen topic

II. Primary Sources

A. Statutes - some issues will be governed or affected by statutes – look for references in Secondary sources

- Animal Legal & Historical web center - <http://www.animallaw.info/>
- WestlawNext and Lexis Advance
 - Individual or multistate search, filter to statutes
- 50 state surveys
 - HeinOnline - search *animals* in subject
 - also on Lexis and Westlaw (not as good for animal law)

B. Regulations – states’ agencies’ rules

- Use filters on Lexis for Administrative Codes and Westlaw for Regulations

C. Municipal ordinances – (local county/city legislation and regulations) may be relevant

- references from other sources
- Animal Legal & Historical web center - <http://www.animallaw.info/>
- Google

D. Cases

1. References from Secondary sources
 2. In WestlawNext, enter animal law and choose “Animal Law Cases”. Run a keyword search.
 3. Really sophisticated - Using digest on WestlawNext
 - look at relevant case, for example, Corso v. Crawford Dog and Cat Hospital 415 N.Y.S.2d 182
 - look at key numbers - 28k1 and 115k57.38 (Animals and damages)
 - combine in search *28K1! & 115K57.38 & VALU!* and get very current cases
 - Keycite relevant case
 - can also learn topic/key number from keyword search - but difficult search to construct
- e.g. *valu! /s (pet dog cat) & da(last 10 years)*