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).

   • 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)