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# Animals Society Institute

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In like a lion.... That's certainly true for March so far in my neighborhood, where several feet of heavy snow have fallen and strong winds have been bringing tree limbs down. For those of us who enjoy winter, we are also treated to many sunny days under bright blue skies for late season skiing and snowshoeing.

This is a time of transition, though, and there is also melting and flooding and lots of mud - signs that spring is on the way.

Thanks to your support, there is also a lot of change and renewal happening at ASI. This is a productive time for us and we're really excited about the work we're doing. Read more below, as well as on our [website](#) and social media feeds.

Meanwhile, for those of you who prefer longer, warmer days, know that they are coming soon and that March will surely go out like a lamb....



**HAP Corner**

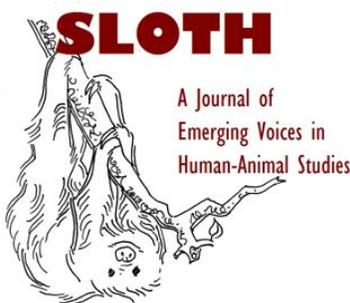
We are excited to provide an update on ASI's newest resource, a 16-week group program for misdemeanor animal maltreatment offenders. The program, which addresses a critical gap in sentencing alternatives designed to reduce recidivism, was piloted in Syracuse, NY, this winter with 14 offenders and has received excellent reviews. Feedback from the participants suggests that the program changed both hearts and minds, providing those who participated with new skills and insights that will improve their interaction with animals. When asked what he had gotten out of the program, one participant said, "I learned to be more in tune and aware of being empathetic to animals. We are their voice!" Another said, "Animals are just like humans. They just have different ways of communicating." And yet another explained that the program provided valuable knowledge, "I NOW have the correct tools to use when caring for an animal and different resources to use if I was to get evicted again." Two participants were so moved by their experience that they volunteered to help facilitate the next program cycle, which is slated to begin in May. The program is the first of its kind in the country, and we are working to get it adopted in jurisdictions nationwide and internationally.

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## HAS Corner

Thanks to the generous donors who responded to our Valentine's Giving Grid fundraiser, ASI will be able to offer three scholarships to students who otherwise would not have been able to attend the Summer Institute for Human-Animal Studies at the University of Illinois Center for Advanced Study. Thank you for your investments in the future of the Human-Animal Studies field!

Congratulations to ASI's latest International Development Program partner, the National University of Central Buenos Aires (UNICEN) in Argentina! UNICEN will develop a program of academic seminars and events on Critical Animal Studies, and subsequently create an inter- and trans-disciplinary specialization on Critical Animal Studies.



A new issue of our undergraduate online journal, *Sloth*, just came out. It includes articles on the meaning of being human vs. animal, the benefits of wolf reintroduction to Yellowstone, the consequences of deforestation and poaching on lions, tigers, and jaguars, and the question of non-human animals in sociology. Read the latest issue of [Sloth](#) online, where you can also find information about the journal and back issues.

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## Volunteer Spotlight

**Exciting news! ASI's Board of Directors recently expanded to include two new members; here's an introduction to them.**

Liz Hirky earned a B.A., cum laude, from Barnard College, a Ph.D. in Clinical Health Psychology from Yeshiva University, and a certificate in Interpersonal Psychoanalysis from the William Alanson White Institute. She is a life-long animal lover, rescue and spay/neuter proponent, and currently lives with 3 rescue dogs and 2 rescue cats. Liz supports a wide-range of animal welfare and education efforts, and is an

advocate for plant-based diets. Her volunteer efforts include many years as Board Member and a President of Animal Alliance of NJ.



Elan Abrell received his J.D. from Berkeley Law School at the University of California, and his M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. His dissertation, *Saving Animals: Everyday Practices of Care and Rescue in the US Animal Sanctuary Movement*, examines how sanctuary caregivers respond to a range of ethical dilemmas and material constraints while attempting to meet the various and sometimes conflicting needs of rescued animals. He is a 2017-18 Farmed Animal Law & Policy Fellow at the Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard University, where his current research focuses on

cellular agriculture, a new field of agricultural production intended to reduce the negative impacts of animal-based agriculture on animals and the environment. He was an Animals and Society Institute/Wesleyan Animal Studies 2014 Human-Animal Studies Fellow.

**Welcome, Liz and Elan!**

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It's spring-cleaning time! If you've got a vehicle that you're ready to get rid of, you can donate it to ASI. You can support our work and clear out your garage or driveway at the same time.



Donate your old vehicle to V-DAC and support ASI: any vehicle, anywhere in the U.S., running or not!

877-999-8322

<http://www.v-dac.com/org?id=22-2527462>

For more information and to donate, [click here](#).

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