Acknowledgments

This book is the culmination of a lifetime of thinking and writing in the arena of animal law. My journey began back in 1978 with the drafting of my first law review article, “Wildlife Rights: The Ever-Widening Circle.” There have been many individuals who have helped in my journey through time. I have received support from my institution and all the deans of my Law College even as it transitioned from a free-standing Detroit College of Law to now a fully integrated Michigan State University College of Law. I have had the opportunity to travel the world and meet with many individuals from other countries, all with different experiences and insights about animals and our relationships with them.

My wife Marty and I have lived on a farm in Michigan for the past twenty-four years with sheep, chickens, lamas, and most recently some neighbors’ cows have moved into our pastures. This has given me the opportunity to observe and contemplate many different species and how we all interact within our own modest ecosystem of domestic and wild animals. I respectfully acknowledge their critical role in the development of my ideas.

The graphic that follows, *Animals Ascending*, was artfully executed by Oscar Munoz: thank you for your good work.

As animal law is a global issue, in the drafting of this book I reached out to four individuals knowledgeable in animal law to help provide perspectives from other common law countries. Their comments and information are contained in the text boxes scattered throughout the book. The author of each box can be identified by the country in bold letters at the beginning of the box.

United Kingdom – Solicitor Alice Collinson, Contributing Editor, Animal Legal and Historical Center (with help from Advocates for Animals) UK.

Canada – Professor Catherine Sykes, Thompson Rivers University, Canada.

New Zealand – Professor Marcelo Rodriguez, Otago University, New Zealand.

Australia – Dr Steven White, Griffith Law School, Australia.

I am very thankful for their willingness to share their insight and information, but of course, they are not responsible for anything that I say which may upset

the reader. They are free to take co-credit, or not, for all the ideas that the reader agrees with.

For the past decade or so one of my biggest concerns in the scholarship of animal law is the lack of looking into the future and suggesting paths forward. I will be always grateful to Edward Elgar Publishing for the opportunity to publish my thoughts about the future. I hope this book challenges the reader to think deeper and longer about where we are going and how to get there.

Remember the Animals.

Source: © David Favre; illustrator, Oscar Munoz.

Figure 1 Animals ascending

Those of us that have been immersed in the animal movement for years often feel loss. Have we made any progress? What is progress? Am I just going in circle? The attached graphic is to remind us that in the long view the status of animals has indeed been improving. It was not that long ago that the animals meant nothing beyond being an economic resource—they lived in the pit of despair. But, with the ideas and actions of humans, some animals have been climbing the mountain of social and legal acknowledgement. Groups and communities of animals are moving up the mountain at different speeds. Companion animals may have climbed the furthest. However, as we and all the other animals are on the mountain, it is hard to see the top. Just how far is it? What will it be like when we get there? We humans are on the mountain trying to help the animals, but I don't think we all share the same vision about what is at the top. Perhaps the clouds of concepts hide the top from us. What ideas, concepts and actions will clear the way to the top? Is there one or many paths up the mountain?