

NZALA (University of Otago) and subsidiary branch constitution

The club will be called *New Zealand Animal Law Association (University of Otago) (NZALA UoO)* and will be affiliated or registered to the *New Zealand Animal Law Association (NZALA)*

NZALA is found at <http://nzala.org/>

1. Annual General Meetings

NZALA UoO meets in the second week of lectures commencing for the AGM and endeavours to meet in person fortnightly thereon.

Notice of Annual General Meetings (AGM) will be given by the Club Secretary. Not less than 14 clear days notice to be given to all members.

The AGM will receive a report from officers of the Secretary and a statement of the accounts.

Nominations for officers of the Executive will be sent to the Secretary or President prior to the AGM.

Elections of officers are to take place at the AGM.

All members have the right to vote at the AGM.

The quorum for AGMs will be those that are available to attend the AGM.

The Management Committee has the right to call Special General Meetings (SGMs) outside the AGM. Procedures for SGMs will be the same as for the AGM.

2. AGM: This is held annually with all interested law students and is publicly advertised.

3. Executive positions:

Co-Presidents x 2
Secretary/ Treasurer
Events officer
Publications Officer
Volunteer Coordinator

- **President:** Member of NZALA executive. Provides leadership and is the primary representative of the group (such as when liaising with the media or other groups and individuals). Responsible for ensuring that the executive and wider group are working well together, generating and following through on ideas, and that tasks are allocated fairly to people with capacity to perform them.

The President's role is also:

-creating and ensuring policy is created and upheld

- Raising agenda, especially annual agenda, ensuring limitations on agendas including making sure that the group is on track, limiting political ideas and liaising with external organisations including maintaining relationships and memorandums of understandings with wider groups.
- Primary education officer (in charge of or allocation of) animal law public education.
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Responsible for taking minutes at weekly meetings, making room bookings for meetings and events, and managing the group's finances. This includes managing applications for grant money, ensuring money is spent responsibly, and filing tax returns if necessary.
- **Publications Officer:** Responsible for publications that the group produce or are involved in. This includes the creation and distribution of promotional material (such as posters, flyers and e-mails), getting columns and articles published in media outlets, and distributing press releases.
- **Events/Volunteer Officer:** Responsible for booking rooms, finding speakers and liaising with the group to create events and fundraise & Primary contact with groups or individuals that NZALA are carrying out volunteer activities with, working with Events Officer

Voting is based on majority however if there are not enough people interested, positions remain by default positions of the previous year

4. Relationship with NZALA

NZALA: The New Zealand Animal Law Association is a charity, it is a coalition of lawyers, law students and law graduates working to improve the welfare and lives of animals through the legal system. It currently have over 500 members throughout the country signed up, from Whangarei to Invercargill, spanning various practice areas, including lawyers working for large commercial law firms, criminal and civil litigators, in-house counsel, lawyers working for government and the judiciary, and include a Queens Counsel. The Association also has a number of honorary patrons, including the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG Australia .

Objective: Promoting positive legislative reform of animal law by writing submissions and reports to Select Committees and the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee; Improving public awareness of animal law through public lectures, seminars, and other outreach efforts; Providing free legal assistance to animal protection organisations; Assisting with animal cruelty prosecutions; and Promoting the field of animal law at New Zealand law schools through community placement programmes.

NZALA UoO The president of NZALA (UO) is an executive member of NZALA has a right to vote in NZALA matters, the President attends monthly meetings. NZALA responsible for vito-ing media and other significant matters affecting the objective. NZALA (UoO) is bound by the NZALA Rules.

Further negotiations and ratifications between NZALA and UoO are in Schedule One.

5. Finances:

The bank account is held by NZALA for charitable purposes. Student bodies are responsible for their own fundraising and the application for grants subject to what is available by NZALA.

All monies are to be used in accordance with the objective.

6. Animal Law week:

Animal law week is held in September or talks are held during the year. Speakers are prominent lawyers or persons that work in the animal law field or have conducted research that align with the objective.

Facebook: facebook.com/otagostudentanimallegaldefencefund

7. Minutes:

Minutes must be taken by the secretary at every meeting and must be available to NZALA and uploaded to the google docs page affiliated with the official email address after meetings.

8. Email:

The Otago email is found at otago@NZALA.org.

Password: Animal123

Previous email address is: otagosaldf@gmail.com

Password: 321Animal

9. Discipline and appeals

All complaints regarding the behaviour or conduct of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary.

The Management Committee will meet to hear complaints within *14* days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.

The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within *7* days of the hearing.

There will be the right of appeal to the Management Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within *14* days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

10. Dissolution

A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an NZALA AGM or SGM through a majority vote of the membership with the presence of the President.

In the event of dissolution, any assets of the club that remain will become the property of NZALA.

11. Amendments to the constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or SGM.

12. Student divisions:

The Otago division is student and learning focused.

The Otago branch is the supervisory body because of the merger with NZALA. the Otago Student Animal Legal Defence Fund (before the merger) had been working on establishing student interest outside of Otago in prior years and this is a structure that we had in mind in order to sustain consistency through the student bodies.

The name of any subsidiary group will be New Zealand Animal Law Association (*Name of University*)

12.1 Public correspondence relating to student bodies is directed at Otago through facebook or email.

12.2 In the event of all the executive members in NZALA UoO graduating or the executive ceasing to exist, the President continues as Chair of the student groups and continues the role and responsibilities of the President. This may be amended by vote of NZALA in a AGM or SM. The role is in place to ensure that the structure and consistency of NZALA continues and that subsidiary bodies have directive and a point of contact.

12.3 The student body has the power to vote for executive roles within the student body in its own region.

12.4 Positions for a student subsidiary:

President- which will be you as elected by Otago due to your expression of interest an leadership.

Vice President

Secretary

Events officer

Otago also have a publications officer which is in charge of formulating the newsletter, there are other positions that sometimes crop up and die off over the years.

Student divisions may create any relevant positions needed based on talents.

12.5 Publications and Facebook are run by Otago however all student contributions will be taken. This means that agendas and articles will be taken by all students interested, all law students from the student bodies can make any contribution and will be credited by name.

12.6 The events held by a student body will be entirely the bodies own responsibility but must align with NZALA objective, this means a pragmatic- non-extremist approach to animal welfare.

12.7 The student body may align itself with the interests of other groups. It is the President's job to ensure any conduct within the group aligns with the objective.

12.8 The President is primarily responsible for fostering interest and membership within the region and its law faculty.

12.9 Non-law students are able to attend meetings and help with the group, these are then 'supporters' not members. .

12.10 Any constitution of that group must be in accordance with this constitution and the requirements held by the relevant student association.

12.11 Interested groups should hold a first meeting, set an agenda for the group, and elect positions, fortnightly meetings at the same time that works for the first attendees of your group are recommended and subsequent communications will take place with NZALA UoO at the conclusion of that meeting.

12.12 Yearly agendas are a loose agenda, any interest for any other area for animal law is welcome throughout the year. It is recommended to align agendas with hot topics in the news.

12.13 Once an initial meeting has taken place, the student executive will join the Otago executive page on facebook for discussion and correspondence.

12.14 An AGM must be held at either the conclusion of that year or start of the next year to elect a new executive.

12.15 In the event of dissolution or resignation the President must notify the President of NZALA UoO. NZALA UoO must manage the dissolution of the group or resignation of an executive member with the cooperation of the President and must take all reasonable steps to allow for the continuing running of the group including making reasonable endeavours to fill the President's position.

Any future interest held by students of the relevant region will be deemed as a new executive subject to approval by NZALA UoO to allow the formation of a new group.

NZALA and Subsidiary groups

The President and executive must take reasonable steps to foster interest in the group throughout the law faculty to allow for the group to continue in subsequent years.

NZALA membership is granted to all student law members, they must register as a member however do not have to pay associated membership fees. They must be enrolled in an Llb and have a current, active student ID

The student group is responsible for becoming a club as a part of the relevant student association and is responsible for any obligations under that association and is responsible for its own funding.

Declaration

NZALA UoO hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

Schedule One:

Negotiation agreement between NZALA and OSALDF 2018:

Confidential between:

Otago Student Animal Legal Defense (OSALDF) and New Zealand Animal Law Association (NZALA).

Proposed Transition:

SALDF (USA) has strongly advised us to become affiliated with New Zealand Animal Law Association (NZALA).

NZALA will be recognised as the parent group and SALDF must change its name in recognition of this.

NZALA has proposed that OSALDF keep its name and grant opportunities with SALDF, however, SALDF strongly advises us to discontinue affiliation with SALDF and it recognises that SALDF has worked hard to gain reputation and success with its current name and offers to keep funding grants open to our group for the remainder of 2018 and 2019.

NZALA: About:

NZALA is a charitable trust, it is currently run by an executive consisting of volunteers.

NZALA consists of Lawyers and Law students.

It is currently funding its own private prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act.

It is a non-extremist group, therefore, does not protest or officially support mainstream animal rights ventures and has a law- based, pragmatic and factual approach.

This approach directly aligns with OSALDF.

OSALDF About:

SALDF is a non-incorporated organisation affiliated to the University of Otago through clubs registration under the Student Association.

It is run by volunteer students currently undertaking their law degree, it is open to members of the public that have a strong interest in animal law and also university professors.

SALDF runs an annual 'Animal Law Week' around September which is the main event of the year. The week usually consists of prominent animal law talks including strong interest topics such as the status of marine animals in New Zealand and hosts speakers from other animal rights groups such as SAFE.

SALDF effects meaningful change through a pragmatic and law-based approach.

It was the recipient of the SALDF 'Chapter of the Year' award in 2017 after an interesting and successful Animal Law Week and successfully lobbying the Dunedin City Council to implement a database for deceased cats.

As a result of a meeting on 1 July 2018, President of OSALDF Rachel Stedman, Executive member Farah Hussain and University of Otago Associate Professors Marcelo Rodriguez-Ferrere, Nicola When and NZALA President Saar Cohen-Ronen have suggested the following obligations to be taken on by both organisations.

Student-parent body: OSALDF will be responsible for furthering interest in animal law in universities in New Zealand including being the first reference for any future student animal law groups involved with universities.

Media:

OSALDF runs a facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OtagoStudentAnimalLegalDefenseFund/> And sends seasonal newsletters

It also submits on MPI proposals and parliamentary bills.

SALDF expressed the need for some flexibility with the use of media to further the student group's agenda, however, is happy to attune any statements or newsletters to match NZALA.

Recent media links:

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/work-animal-research-centre-begin>

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/dcc/dcc-urged-scan-dead-cats-microchips>

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2017/08/more-than-10k-animals-euthanised-at-university-of-otago-in-2016.html>

RHDV Submission:

<http://rachelmariastedmansaldf.blogspot.com/2017/12/otago-studentanimal-legal-defense-fund.html>

NZALA executive: NZALA to have one member of the executive of 'OSALDF' sitting on the NZALA board.

OSALDF and NZALA suggests that this will be the President.

Constitution: OSALDF will be putting the constitution into writing in 2018, therefore, this is a good opportunity to realign any important matters in accordance with NZALA.

Animal Law week: NZALA will work in collaboration with OSALDF and contribute to the success of the Otago Animal Law Week and will provide speakers and/or help the student body with networking and promotion.

Funding and Grants: Subject to what SALDF is able to offer, NZALA is to endeavour to provide OSALDF with funding as appropriate however as NZALA is a volunteer organisation it is limited in what it is able to offer. There is, therefore, an onus on both groups to fundraise as appropriate.

OSALDF runs a bank account for student events and has a treasurer however the bank account is currently sitting at \$0.00. OSALDF suggests that future funds are retained independently by both organisations, and the use of which is subject to a vote by the executive.

New name for OSALDF:

New Zealand Animal Law Association (University of Otago).

These negotiations were ratified into the NZALA Rules at the 2018 NZALA AGM.