Using Animal Law to Teach Legal Research

By Sarah J. Morath. 30 Second Draft 50 (Fall 2017).

Article Categories: Course Creation & Design; Legal Research Instruction for 1Ls

Keywords: Animal Law; Course Design; Curriculum; Engagement; Hypos; Legal Research Instruction; Subject-Specific Legal Research

Reviewer’s Summary:
In this article, Morath advocates using animal law to teach legal research to first-year law students. Animal law builds on first-year legal concepts, such as torts, property, and contracts. Animal law is largely state-specific, allowing instructors to highlight differences between state laws. It can also be used to teach statutory law, administrative law, or common law research. Finally, animals are an appealing, understandable subject matter. In the footnotes, Morath provides some examples of animal-related laws and cases that could be used as the basis for research assignments.

Summarized by: David Haendler, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, in 2020.