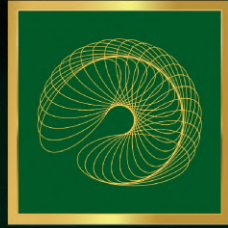


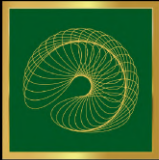
SUSTAINABILITY



SIMPLIFIED

LOPES ATTORNEYS INC

The Legal Edge in Animal Welfare
A Specialist Profile



Sustainability
Simplified

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

At Lopes Attorneys Inc, we believe the legal protection of animals is a moral and constitutional imperative. In a country as biologically rich as South Africa, animal welfare demands robust legal, policy, and governance frameworks. Our legal systems must actively guard the voiceless.

We've proudly worked on South Africa's most pressing animal welfare matters, from biodiversity permitting and halting unethical animal testing to shaping ethical conservation. We're deeply committed to using the law to defend all life. In this respect, Lopes Attorneys Inc. is the leading animal welfare law firm in Africa, having won various accolades and awards for our work in this field.

We know organisations like yours are on the front lines: protecting, rescuing, rehabilitating, and conserving. Our role is to legally empower you with strong strategies and regulatory footing, enabling you to challenge injustice.

This proposal reflects our legal credentials and our values. We seek meaningful, long-term partnerships, grounded in mutual respect and a shared commitment to ethical progress.

Let us be your legal ally, ensuring your vital work on the ground has unwavering legal protection.



CEO & EQUITY PRINCIPAL



OUR VALUES

- **Ethical Stewardship:** We believe legal practice must contribute to a more just, humane society, including upholding the intrinsic value of all living beings. Our work in animal welfare law is grounded in this commitment to ethical responsibility.
- **Constitutional Integrity:** Our approach is firmly rooted in the values of South Africa's Constitution. We advocate for transparency, accountability, and procedural fairness in all matters, particularly those involving vulnerable species and environmental governance.
- **Impact-Oriented Legal Strategy:** We focus on outcomes that make a difference. Whether through strategic litigation, regulatory reform, or compliance support, our goal is to create legal frameworks that advance animal welfare in real, measurable ways.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** We recognise that legal solutions must complement scientific, ecological, and community-driven approaches. Our work is shaped by cross-sector cooperation, from NGO entities and state institutions to conservationists and academics.



WHO WE ARE

Lopes Attorneys Inc. is a proudly South African Level 2 B-BBEE law firm with a distinguished reputation in public interest, regulatory, and environmental law, and it's one of the only legal practices in the country dedicated specifically to advancing animal welfare through the legal system.

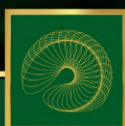
As a boutique specialist firm, we offer personalised, high-impact legal services that extend beyond traditional legal boundaries. Our unique focus allows us to deliver tailored solutions to organisations working at the forefront of conservation, animal protection, and biodiversity management.

What sets us apart is our deep understanding of the intersection between law, ethics, and environmental governance. We do not treat animal welfare as a peripheral issue. Rather, we recognise it as a constitutionally grounded obligation that is increasingly critical to legal reform, policy development, and rights-based advocacy in South Africa and across the continent.

Our team consists of experienced attorneys and public interest litigators who are not only committed to fighting against trophy hunting, the illegal wildlife trade, inhumane exports, and animal testing, but also to a wide range of animal-related legal matters. We have a proven track record of successfully representing clients, from challenging unethical animal testing and advising on the lawful importation of threatened species to litigating cases relating to environmental policy decisions by the State. Our lawyers are equipped with the legal insight and strategic foresight necessary to tackle complex legal challenges with the utmost professionalism, urgency, and care.

We are proud to collaborate with animal welfare organisations, environmental NGOs, academic institutions, and state bodies. These partnerships form the backbone of our mission: to use the law not only as a tool of defence, but as a catalyst for positive change in how animals are treated and protected under South African law and within the broader international legal framework.

At Lopes Attorneys Inc, we believe that protecting the most vulnerable, including non-human species, is a mark of a just legal system and a compassionate society. This belief shapes every matter we take on, every argument we prepare, and every solution we offer.



KEY SERVICES IN ANIMAL WELFARE LAW

At Lopes Attorneys Inc, we are proud to be one of the only dedicated animal welfare law firms in South Africa. Our legal practice is rooted in the belief that the protection of animals is not only a moral imperative but a constitutional responsibility.

Our work spans legal advisory, advocacy, litigation, and regulatory support, all centred on promoting the humane, ethical, and lawful treatment of animals across South Africa's diverse ecosystems.

Regulatory Compliance & Permitting: We assist NGOs, sanctuaries, and conservation bodies with:

- NEMBA and TOPS permit applications, including transport, standing, disposal, and euthanasia permits.
- Our services include assisting clients with TOPS-listed species import and export, covering all permit applications and legal compliance requirements.
- Interpretation of the Animals Protection Act and related statutes
- Drafting, submitting, and advising on requests for access to information (PAIA Requests) in terms of PAIA to private and public bodies.
- Assist NGOs, sanctuaries, centres and conservation bodies on registering with the Information Regulator, preparing and filing their Annual PAIA Reports.
- Preparation of reports, legal opinions and memorandums regarding policy reforms, powers of regulatory authorities, developments, recognition and statutes of wild species (*res nullius* and *res publicae*), the legal framework for various types of animals and legal documents.

Litigation & Enforcement Support: We represent clients in animal-related litigation, including:

- Litigation in relation to the issuing of trophy hunting quotas for leopard, elephant, and Black rhino and other related species
- The interpretation and application of section 24 of the Constitution, and the interplay by NEMA, NEMBA and other pieces of the South African and International Framework
- Drafting of legal opinions and memorandums on the prospects of success of any legal avenue on legal proceedings.



KEY SERVICES IN ANIMAL WELFARE LAW

Legal Support for Advocacy & Policy Reform: We work closely with advocacy organisations to:

- Assist with preparations, advise and represent entities, NGOs, sanctuaries, centres and conservation bodies in public meetings, committee meetings, stakeholder consultations and other related appearances and engagements on policies, campaigns, disputes and collaborations.
- Preparation of reports, legal opinions and memorandums regarding policy reforms, developments, the legal framework and legal documents.

Ethical Oversight for Scientific and Academic Use:

Where animals are used in education or research, we help clients:

- Navigate ethics committee processes
- Ensure compliance with legal limits on animal testing
- Promote alternatives to invasive procedures
- Uphold both scientific integrity and animal dignity

Welfare-Focused Advisory Services: We offer legal support on:

- Drafting animal welfare policies and institutional guidelines
- Assisting facilities such as shelters, rescue centres, or rehab projects with governance and operational compliance
- Advising on transport, housing, handling, and care regulations
- Training boards and staff on legal duties, ethical risks, and enforcement pathways.



TRACK RECORD & CASE HIGHLIGHTS

At Lopes Attorneys Inc, we have successfully advised, represented, and partnered with some of the country's leading animal welfare organisations on precedent-setting and ethically urgent matters. Our legal team brings a rare blend of regulatory insight, litigation strategy, and unwavering commitment to the humane treatment of all animals. Each matter we undertake reflects our mission: to protect the voiceless through robust, principled legal advocacy.

ENDING PRIMATE TESTING AT A MAJOR SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

Our firm played a key advisory role in halting non-human primate testing conducted at a leading academic institution. Through strategic legal submissions and ethical argumentation, we supported one of South Africa's largest animal welfare organisations in securing a university-wide shift toward non-invasive research methods. This landmark intervention reaffirmed the role of legal pressure in advancing ethical science.

PERMITTING AND COMPLIANCE FOR THREATENED SPECIES

We provide ongoing legal support to international clients importing and managing TOPS-listed species within South Africa. Our work ensures that the welfare of each animal is prioritised within a strictly compliant, transparent, and enforceable framework: from import permits and welfare standards to ongoing regulatory communication with government authorities.

ANIMAL WELFARE IN STATE OVERSIGHT

We have been involved in reviewing and challenging state failures to meet constitutional and statutory obligations in relation to animal welfare. These matters include legal actions ensuring that municipal and national bodies uphold their responsibilities to consult with stakeholders, enforce humane treatment laws, and embed animal protection into service delivery planning.



TRACK RECORD & CASE HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGING HARMFUL TESTING AND PRACTICES

Our litigation team has assisted in preparing urgent legal strategies against entities engaging in unethical testing practices on animals, working swiftly with NGOs to protect animal lives, raise public awareness, and ensure regulatory enforcement. These interventions are often time-sensitive and require meticulous legal work and coordinated stakeholder engagements.

POLICY REVIEW AND ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Lopes Attorneys Inc has supported clients in drafting submissions for new legislative frameworks impacting animal welfare and animal wellbeing, including areas such as captive wildlife regulations, exotic animal ownership, and live animal trade. Our role often includes legal research, public commentary drafting, and liaising with regulatory stakeholders to advance rights-based animal protection.



WHY WORK WITH US

At Lopes Attorneys Inc, animal welfare is a core pillar of who we are, rather than merely a side practice. As one of South Africa's only specialist animal welfare law firms, we offer more than just legal representation: we offer strategic partnerships grounded in integrity, technical expertise, and measurable impact.

For leading environmental and conservation organisations, our firm offers a rare blend of legal insight and sector-specific understanding. We expertly navigate the regulatory and policy landscape, driven by a deep commitment to protecting wildlife and advancing ethical treatment.

SECTOR EXPERTISE

Our deep familiarity with the Animals Protection Act, Animal Diseases Act, The Animal Health Act, NEMA, NEMBA, TOPS and CITES regulations, and provincial ordinances ensures that we provide credible, informed advice on every matter, thereby eliminating any learning curve.

PROVEN LITIGATION TRACK RECORD

From stopping unethical testing on non-human primates to urgent interventions against regulatory failures, our litigation outcomes speak for themselves. Our approach involves fighting with precision and purpose, going far beyond the mere filing of papers.

TRUSTED BY LEADING NGOS

Our clients include some of the largest animal welfare organisations in South Africa and across the globe. They trust us to represent them in sensitive, strategic, and often high-profile matters, relying on our consistent delivery and genuine care.

VALUES-ALIGNED PRACTICE

We are guided by a simple but powerful principle: the law should serve the voiceless. Whether it's a threatened bird species, a mistreated domestic animal, or systemic regulatory neglect, we act with integrity and compassion.



MEET OUR TEAM

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., our strength lies in our people. As one of the few specialist legal firms in South Africa with a deep focus on animal welfare, our team is driven by a shared commitment to ethical advocacy, conservation, and the protection of all sentient beings.

Our attorneys bring together diverse expertise in environmental law, animal welfare regulation, public interest litigation, and ESG compliance, enabling us to tackle some of the most complex legal challenges in the sector. From advising on the humane treatment of wildlife and combating harmful industry practices, to supporting non-profits and shaping regulatory reform, we are proud to serve as trusted legal partners to the animal welfare community.

Each member of our team contributes not only legal skill, but a profound sense of purpose. Together, we are shaping a future where the law works to protect those who cannot speak for themselves.



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CONTACT US

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., our dedication to animal welfare is grounded in compassion, accountability, and the belief that protecting animals strengthens our communities as a whole. We are proud to stand with those who give a voice to the voiceless, and we welcome the opportunity to work alongside individuals and organisations who share our commitment to safeguarding animal rights. If you are passionate about making a difference, we invite you to connect with us so that together we can drive meaningful change.

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