

Our Speakers

2016 PAWS' INTERNATIONAL CAPTIVE WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Carson Barylak

Campaigns Officer | **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Washington, D.C.**

Carson Barylak leads IFAW's U.S. Big Cats in Captivity policy campaign and spearheads wildlife policy efforts related to trapping and predator control reform. Prior to joining IFAW, Carson worked as a Federal Policy Advisor at the Animal Welfare Institute. She also completed a post-graduate litigation fellowship with the Natural Resources Defense Council and, while in law school, served as an intern with local and national wildlife advocacy organizations. She holds a J.D., B.S. and B.A from Ohio State University, where she was active in advancing sustainability policies. Carson has considerable experience with legislative and regulatory issues affecting wildlife protections at the state and federal level.

Carole Baskin

Founder and Chief Executive Officer | **Big Cat Rescue**

Carole Baskin is the founder and CEO of Big Cat Rescue. She manages 20 staff and contractors, 80+ local volunteers, and at any given time 10-20 interns from around the world who live on property for three months. The sanctuary's mission is to "provide the best home we can for the cats in our care, end abuse of big cats in captivity and prevent extinction of big cats in the wild."

Howard Baskin

Advisory Board Chairman | **Big Cat Rescue**

Howard Baskin is a former management consultant who spent 11 years at Citicorp and was an equity participant and general manager in three companies. He met Big Cat Rescue Founder Carole Baskin in 2002 and gave up his consulting practice to devote full time to Big Cat Rescue focusing on finance, marketing, administration, real estate issues and advocacy to stop big cat abuse. Howard received his B.S. *cum laude* from Union College, Schenectady, NY, in 1972, his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Miami School of Law in 1978, and his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1980.

Scott Blais

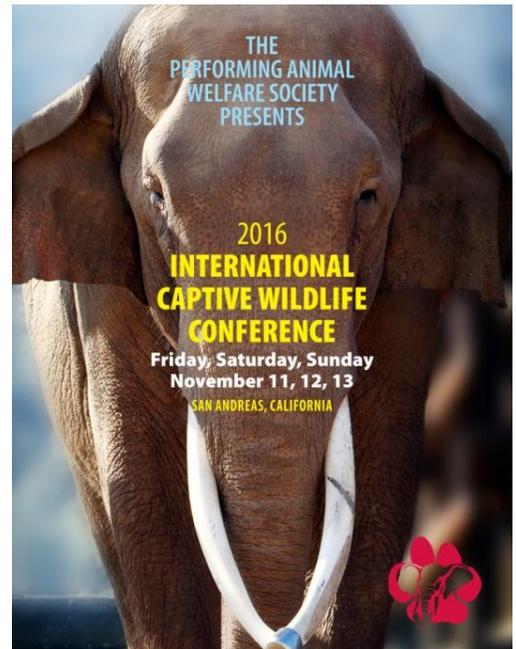
CEO and President | **Global Sanctuary for Elephants**

Scott Blais is CEO and President of Global Sanctuary for Elephants, dedicated to the creation of a worldwide network of safe havens for elephants rescued from captivity. Scott has worked with elephants for over 20 years, analyzing the impacts of captivity, advocating for protective legislation and creating spacious healing environments designed to address elephants' unique physical and emotional needs. During his 16-year tenure as co-founder and director of operations for the 2700-acre Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, Scott developed holistic rescue and recovery protocols that he now shares in his role as an international consultant for captive elephant health and welfare. With his partner, co-founder and GSE Director of Elephant Health Kat Blais, Scott established Global Sanctuary for Elephants in 2013 in collaboration with Dr. Joyce Poole and Petter Granli of ElephantVoices. Scott is currently overseeing the expansion of Elephant Sanctuary Brazil, the first refuge in the Global Sanctuary family. Scott and Kat welcomed their first two ele-residents, Maia and Guida, to Elephant Sanctuary Brazil in September 2016.

Bobbi Brink

Founder and Director | **Lions, Tigers & Bears**

Bobbi Brink's personal involvement with exotic big cats began in 1992 in Texas. What she thought would be an exciting job working with tigers, lions and other big cats, instead became a nightmare when she took a job with a breeder and exhibitor. After seeing the horrible abuses and neglect of captive exotics, Bobbi vowed to make a difference and to end the cycle of indiscriminate breeding for profit. She founded Lions, Tigers & Bears (LTB) in Alpine, Calif., in 2002, when she rescued two endangered Bengal tigers from an owner who threatened to kill the tigers when local authorities entered his property to rescue the cats. Her direct intervention with the owner saved these animals, and they are now the patriarch and matriarch of LTB, Raja and Natasha. Bobbi is active in all aspects of managing LTB, from daily feedings to office management. In addition, she has taken an active role in advancing legislation to protect captive exotic animals.



Jennifer Conrad, DVM

*Exotic Animal/Wildlife Veterinarian; Founder & Director | **The Paw Project***

The Paw Project is a nonprofit organization that educates the public about the harmful and often crippling effects of declawing cats, both large and small. The organization's efforts led to a ban on the declawing of wild and exotic cats in California in 2005 and resulted in the USDA changing the Animal Welfare Act to no longer allow the declawing or de-fanging of big cats. Together with Dr. Kirk Wendelburg, Dr. Conrad invented a paw repair surgery for big cats who had been declawed. They have helped 78 big cats in over 230 surgeries with tremendous success in giving these animals the ability to walk free of pain again. The effort was chronicled in the documentary film, *The Paw Project*, which is currently available on various video-on-demand sites, including Netflix. Currently, both New York and New Jersey have pending legislation to ban declawing. Dr. Conrad provides physical rehabilitation therapy to big cats and bears who have been maimed by declawing or have become arthritic in captivity and to elephants who have suffered limb impairment from land mine explosions.

Sarah Baeckler Davis

*Chief Executive Officer | **Project Chimps***

Sarah Baeckler Davis is a primatologist, a non-practicing lawyer, a nonprofit professional, a fundraiser, and a bridge builder. She has worked with and for chimpanzees since 1997, when she met Washoe, the famous "sign language chimp," in grad school. She has a graduate degree in primatology from Central Washington University and a juris doctor from Lewis and Clark Law School. She led Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest (as its Executive Director) for its first five years, taking it from its infancy to an established and respected member of the professional chimpanzee sanctuary community. She then spent a year and a half leading the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance – which she co-founded in 2010 along with six other sanctuary directors. She encountered an opportunity she couldn't pass up in 2014, and now happily leads the amazing team at Project Chimps.

Wim DeKok

*Director Southeast Asia | **FOUR PAWS International***

Wim DeKok is Director Southeast Asia of FOUR PAWS International, based in Boston, Massachusetts. He is board member of the Species Survival Network (SSN), the European Alliance of Rescue Centres and Sanctuaries (EARS) and President of World Animal Net. FOUR PAWS has offices in 14 countries and is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. It operates bear sanctuaries in Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Kosovo; big cat sanctuaries in South Africa, The Netherlands and Germany; and an Orangutan project on Borneo Indonesia. New sanctuary projects of FOUR PAWS are in Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand. DeKok worked in his native Netherlands as policy advisor to a seal sanctuary and a primate rescue center. The Wim DeKok Animal Rights Archives at North Carolina State University consist of papers and documents on the animal welfare and animal rights movement which DeKok collected over 35 years.

Catherine Doyle

*Director of Science, Research & Advocacy | **Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)***

Catherine Doyle has worked in captive elephant welfare for more than 12 years. She leads research efforts for PAWS, with an interest in elephant behavior and keeper-elephant relationships. She is currently conducting a behavioral study of the sanctuary's African elephants – the first long-term study of elephants in a U.S. sanctuary. Catherine also directs PAWS' advocacy efforts, focused on captive wildlife issues. She played an integral role in passing a statewide ban on the use of elephant bullhooks in California and citywide bans in Los Angeles and Oakland, California, and contributed to the Rhode Island state ban. Catherine has a Master of Science degree in Anthrozoology. Her essays on elephants appear in *The Ethics of Captivity* (Oxford University Press, 2014) and *The Handbook of Practical Animal Ethics* (in press; Macmillan Series on Animal Ethics for the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics). She organizes the PAWS' biennial International Captive Wildlife Conference.

Chris Draper

*Associate Director for Animal Welfare and Care | **Born Free Foundation***

Chris Draper is a zoologist and chartered biologist, and leads on animal welfare issues for the Born Free Foundation's captive wild animal program Zoo Check. He has worked for several animal welfare organizations on issues involving laboratory animals, farmed animals and wildlife. He previously worked as an animal keeper in a sanctuary in the U.S. with a range of wild animals, and primarily with 50 retired laboratory chimpanzees. Chris is also the European Coordinator for the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS). He is undertaking a Ph.D. at the University of Bristol on the implementation of legislation and assessment of animal welfare in zoos.

Jackie Gai, DVM

Director of Veterinary Services | Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)

Dr. Jackie Gai has worked with captive wildlife for 27 years, the past 15 years as a veterinarian. She has cared for animals in sanctuaries, zoos, wildlife rehabilitation, private ownership, the entertainment industry, and as a USDA inspector. Dr. Gai is the Director of Veterinary Services for the Performing Animal Welfare Society, where she started working in 2001. She has a heartfelt commitment to the care of elderly elephants, bears and big cats, as well as serving the special needs of captive wild animals with a history of neglect or abuse. Dedicated to community service and animal welfare, Dr. Gai has served on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director's Advisory Committee on the Humane Care and Treatment of Wild Animals since 2003. She enjoys mentoring UC Davis veterinary students, introducing them to unique aspects inherent in caring for captive wildlife.

Bob Jacobs

Professor, Neuroscience | Colorado College

Bob Jacobs received his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics at UCLA, where he worked with John Schumann and Arnold B. Scheibel. He has lived for extended periods of time in Germany, Japan, and China. He joined Colorado College in 1993 and developed the Neuroscience major in 1996. His research interests include language acquisition, non-human animal communication, cognitive neuroethology, and comparative neuroanatomy. In the last decade, he has been conducting collaborative quantitative neuromorphological research on several more exotic mammalian species, including humpback whale, hippopotamus, giraffe, manatee, clouded leopard, lion, zebra, and Siberian tiger. In particular, he was the first researcher to document the morphology of nerve cells in the cerebral cortex of the African elephant. Bob was also recently featured in the *National Geographic* documentary, "Mind of a Giant", which examined the neurocognitive abilities of elephants.

Ron Kagan

Chief Executive Officer | Detroit Zoological Society

Ron Kagan is a strong advocate for compassionate conservation and animal welfare. He regularly lectures at universities and has authored many journal articles, encyclopedias entries and book chapters. Ron produced 10 award-winning documentaries and established an Academy for Humane Education and Center for Zoo Animal Welfare. He has led the development of unique and award-winning facilities including the "Wildlife Interpretive Gallery" (exploring the relationship between humans and animals over time and in different cultures) and the Wild Adventure Simulator (a motion-based cabin simulator that builds empathy for other species as people experience the world through animals' eyes). Ron serves/has served on many boards including: Center for Zoo Animal Welfare (Chair), International Council of Museums, American Association of Museums, Regents of Association of Zoos and Aquariums (Chair), the Association of Animal Sanctuaries, Michigan Nature Conservancy, Gorilla Rehabilitation, Conservation and Education Center (Congo).

Patrick Lampi

Executive Director | Alaska Zoo

Patrick Lampi has worked for the Alaska Zoo since 1986. He has worked as a zookeeper and curator, and has acted as Executive Director for the past 10 years. Patrick has experience in all facets of the zoo, from animal care to veterinary procedures to facilities maintenance to education programs. He has fostered and developed many valuable working relationships with state and federal wildlife agencies, in addition to industry in Alaska. He is a member of the Polar Bear Response Team, an interagency group working to increase capability for emergency response for polar bears on the North Slope of Alaska, including response protocols and staged equipment for the quickest response in the event of an oil spill. Patrick was instrumental in the Alaska Zoo's relocation of "Maggie", one of the African elephants who now reside at the PAWS facility. He also participated in the transport of the African elephants from the Toronto Zoo to PAWS.

Keith Lindsay

Collaborating Researcher | Amboseli Elephant Research Project (AERP)

Keith Lindsay is a conservation biologist and environmental consultant based in Oxford, United Kingdom, with over 40 years' professional experience. His areas of expertise include: biodiversity research and conservation, protected area monitoring and management, environmental assessment, institutional analysis and climate change mitigation in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Canada. Keith joined the Amboseli Elephant Research Project in 1977, leading to research on feeding ecology, habitat interactions and population demography. He continues to serve on its Scientific Advisory Committee and oversees studies of ecosystem change. In his professional work, Keith's many elephant-focused assignments include: southern Africa (elephant management policies in Botswana and South Africa), Central Africa (regional elephant conservation coordination for the Convention on Migratory Species), West Africa (research on the Gourma elephants in Mali) and East Africa (Kenya's national elephant strategy, forest conservation in Tanzania). His broader concerns include stopping the ivory trade through coordinated action on CITES and improving the welfare of captive elephants in North America and Europe.

Lori Marino

President | The Whale Sanctuary Project

Lori Marino is a neuroscientist and expert in animal behavior and intelligence, formerly on the faculty of Emory University. She is currently President of The Whale Sanctuary Project, whose mission is to create the first seaside sanctuaries for orcas and beluga whales in North America, and Founder and Executive Director of The Kimmela Center for Animal Advocacy, which focuses on bridging the gap between academic scholarship and on-the-ground animal advocacy efforts. Lori is internationally known for her work on the evolution of the brain and intelligence in dolphins and whales and comparisons to primates. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and magazine articles on marine mammal biology and cognition, comparative neuroanatomy, self-awareness in other animals, human-nonhuman animal relationships, the evolution of intelligence, marine mammal captivity issues, such as, dolphin assisted therapy. Lori also works on studies of intelligence in farmed animals with Farm Sanctuary's The Someone Project. Lori appears in several films and television programs including the 2013 documentary *Blackfish*, about killer whale captivity, and *Unlocking The Cage*, on the Nonhuman Rights Project, with which she worked for two years as lead scientist.

Carney Anne Nasser

Senior Counsel for Wildlife and Regulatory Affairs | Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF)

Carney Anne Nasser is ALDF's captive wildlife and regulatory specialist. In this capacity, she provides the organization with expertise regarding laws and strategies to ameliorate the exploitation of big cats and other captive exotic animals. Carney Anne played a key role in the rescue and transfer of Ben the bear from a roadside zoo to PAWS, where he has been thriving since August 2012. Her current cases include pursuit of a legal strategy to liberate four tigers from the Houston Aquarium who have been confined for over a decade in a concrete enclosure with no access to the outside or natural light. Carney Anne holds a B.A. from U.C. San Diego, a J.D. from Tulane University, and an additional graduate degree from George Washington University. Carney Anne was recently selected by *New Orleans Magazine* as one of the city's top female achievers for 2016.

Bill Nimmo

Founder and President | Tigers in America

Tigers in America was formed in 2012 to provide transportation, vet care and shelter for unwanted tigers retired from performing, exhibition at roadside zoos, or from owners unable to care for them. Prior to the establishment of Tigers in America, Bill was Managing Director of Smith Barney and a member of the merger team that managed the acquisitions of Salomon Brothers, Shearson Lehman and other securities firms that culminated with the formation of Citigroup where he was Senior Vice President. He graduated from Manhattan College with a degree in Electrical Engineering and began his career at General Dynamics at the Vandenberg AFB missile site as a Launch Control Engineer. He moved back east to work on computerized trading for the New York Stock Exchange and became their manager of National Market Trading. Bill currently resides in New York with his wife Kizmin and three rescued domestic cats.

Nicole Paquette

Vice President of Wildlife Protection | The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

Nicole Paquette has worked in the animal protection field for over 18 years, with a diverse focus on legislation, litigation, campaigns, and organizational governance. She is the Vice President of Wildlife Protection for The Humane Society of the United States and oversees the organization's work to end unsporting forms of wildlife cruelties such as the trophy hunting of large carnivores; prohibit the private possession of dangerous wild animals and use of exotic animals in entertainment; ensure existing protections for marine mammals; assist imperiled wildlife displaced by urban sprawl, and implementation of non-lethal approaches in managing wildlife. Prior to joining The HSUS, Nicole was the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Born Free USA/Animal Protection Institute. She has assisted countless states and cities with introducing and passing laws relating to dangerous wild animals in private possession, animals in entertainment, and a range of wildlife issues. She has also played an integral role in successfully defeating anti-animal welfare bills across the country. Nicole is a graduate of Vermont Law School, a member of the California, District of Columbia, and Massachusetts Bars.

Joel Parrott, DVM

President, Chief Executive Officer and Staff Veterinarian | Oakland Zoo

Dr. Parrott received his BS and DVM degrees from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. He was born in the Adirondack region of New York State and spent his high school years in Miami, Florida before moving to Colorado for his college education. Upon graduation from veterinary school, he completed an internship at the Denver Zoo and then went into private practice in Castro Valley, California. His specialty was exotic animals and he was a consulting veterinarian for the Oakland Zoo until 1984, when Dr. Parrott became the Staff Veterinarian and Assistant Director. A year later he became the Executive Director at the Zoo. In 2012, his title changed to President, CEO. Dr. Parrott has overseen many new developments at the Zoo in the past 31 years. An avid conservationist and naturalist, he views the role of zoos as instrumental to environmental education.

Brittany Peet

Director of Captive Animal Law Enforcement | **PETA Foundation**

Brittany Peet is the Director of the Captive Animal Law Enforcement Division for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Foundation which advocates on behalf of animals used in entertainment, including circuses, roadside zoos, marine parks, and in television and movie productions. Brittany, an attorney, works with a team that includes attorneys, veterinarians, wildlife experts, and support staff who monitor the most notorious animal abusers in the United States and work through litigation and regulatory avenues as well as via traditional advocacy and outreach. She also coordinates exotic-animal rescues for PETA and has overseen the rescues of more than 400 chinchillas, more than 50 bears, and seven chimpanzees formerly kept in solitary confinement.

Adam Roberts

Chief Executive Officer | **Born Free USA**

Adam Roberts has a quarter century of experience in international wildlife trade and captive wild animals, and serves on the board of directors of the Species Survival Network (SSN), for which he chairs various committees and working groups. With 82 member organizations from 33 countries, SSN is dedicated to ensuring that the international wildlife trade does not cause overexploitation of animals and plants. Adam is also a founding board member of the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing humane standards of care for animals held in wildlife and farm animal sanctuaries, and accrediting facilities globally. Adam has written more than 50 articles for medical, legal, scientific, and advocacy organization publications. He is a frequent lecturer/speaker at national and international conferences on issues concerning captive wild animals, compassionate conservation and the protection of all animals.

Jamie Sherman

Ph.D. and DVM Candidate, School of Veterinary Medicine | **University of California, Davis**
Wildlife Investigation Lab | **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Jamie Sherman is a Ph.D. and DVM candidate from the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis. Her research focuses on furthering the understanding of disease prevalence, genetics and effective management of black bear populations. Jamie has been the primary investigator and consulted on numerous black bear studies throughout the state of California, including a newly founded population in the Central Coast and an urban population in Mammoth Lakes, CA. In 2011, Jamie joined the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Investigation Lab where she works on human-wildlife conflicts, orphaned and injured wildlife and disease investigations. In concert with CDFW, Jamie has assisted in the rehabilitation and release of over 20 wild black bear cubs. Jamie plans to combine her passion for research and veterinary knowledge in order to advance black bear population health and welfare into the future.

Ed Stewart

President and Co-founder | **Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)**

Together with his partner, the late Pat Derby, Ed Stewart founded PAWS in 1984, to advocate and provide sanctuary for abandoned, abused or retired performing animals and victims of the exotic animal trade. PAWS established the nation's first elephant sanctuary. Ed oversees PAWS' three California sanctuaries, including the 2,300-acre natural habitat ARK 2000 refuge, where the organization cares for elephants, tigers, bears, nonhuman primates, and other wild or exotic species. Ed is recognized for his expertise in the management and care of wild animals, and his innovative habitat designs at ARK 2000. He serves on the Director's Advisory Committee on the Humane Care and Treatment of Wild Animals for the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Detroit Zoological Society's Center for Zoo Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Ed regularly consults for organizations around the world on wild animal rescues and habitat design, and has worked in range countries on projects aimed at mitigating human-elephant conflict.

Delcianna J. Winders

Academic Fellow, Animal Law & Policy Program | **Harvard Law School**

Delci's work at Harvard focuses on captive wildlife and the Animal Welfare Act. She has been involved in legal issues pertaining to captive wildlife for more than a decade, including as the head of Captive Animal Law Enforcement at the PETA Foundation, where she spearheaded various efforts, including a lawsuit that ended the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' decades-long practice of secretly issuing permits to circuses and roadside zoos; legislative efforts that resulted in Ringling's elephant phase-out; and the rescue of dozens of animals from substandard facilities to sanctuaries. In addition to her scholarship and frequent opinion pieces, Delci continues to be actively involved in advocacy efforts. She is arguing an Endangered Species Act appeal on behalf of the orca Lolita, serving as an expert witness in a lawsuit against the UniverSoul Circus, and files friend-of-the-court briefs.

Julie Woodyer

Campaigns Director | Zoocheck

Julie Woodyer has worked in animal protection for more than 25 years, including four years as an Ontario SPCA agent and as Chair of a wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation centre. Since 1999 Julie has worked for Zoocheck, where she documents and researches issues regarding wildlife in captivity and the wild. Successful campaigns include improving legislation to protect animals in captivity, exposing the plight of grizzly bear cubs taken from the wild which led to the BC government endorsing a grizzly bear rehabilitation program, and exposing the plight of captive whales and dolphins. Julie campaigned to transfer the Toronto Zoo elephants to the PAWS sanctuary, and continues to fight to move the elephant Lucy to a more suitable facility. In 2015 she stopped the Alberta government from culling wild horses and continues to fight to keep them safe. She is currently working to shut down the supply of black bears coming out of the wild in the Province of Manitoba and being sent to zoos.

Janice Zeitlin

Chief Executive Officer | The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

Having served as a volunteer, an advisory council member, and a board member at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee since 1997, Janice Zeitlin joined the sanctuary's staff as Senior Management Coordinator and Board Liaison in 2012. In 2013, the Board appointed Janice COO, responsible for day-to-day leadership and management, and in August 2014 she was appointed CEO. Her leadership efforts have focused on establishing whole elephant care using best practices to meet the needs of aging elephants in captivity, evaluating and updating organization systems and structures for long-term sustainability, expanding education programming, and rebranding for increased awareness and understanding of conservation and welfare issues impacting elephants globally. With an M.S. degree and background in social work, Janice is a long-time active community volunteer and organizer, and has owned and operated Zeitgeist gallery in Nashville since 1994.

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