

*The Nation's First
Elephant Sanctuary*



PAWS
PERFORMING ANIMAL
WELFARE SOCIETY

Founded in 1984
PROTECTION
EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
SANCTUARY
pawsweb.org

June 25, 2014

Mr. Jimmy Fallon
The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY

Dear Mr. Fallon:

I write on behalf of the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), our international base, and our celebrity supporters – some of whom have appeared on “The Tonight Show” over the years – regarding the recent appearance of the Asian elephant, Roxie, on your show. We join together to urge you to end the appearance of elephants and all wild and exotic animals on “The Tonight Show.”

I formerly worked with my partner and PAWS co-founder, the late Pat Derby, training wild animals for film, television and live appearances. Pat was a famous Hollywood trainer, known for her gentle training of animals on shows like “Lassie” and “Flipper” and for the Lincoln Mercury “Sign of the Cat” cougars. In fact, she appeared with some of her animals on “The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson.”

After witnessing first-hand the behind-the-scenes inhumane treatment of wild animals, Pat and I retired our animals and left the entertainment industry. We founded PAWS in 1984 to advocate and care for retired, abused, and neglected wild and exotic animals. PAWS currently operates three sanctuaries in California and cares for a variety of species. ARK 2000, our 2,300-acre natural habitat sanctuary in San Andreas, is home to 11 Asian and African elephants, black bears, African lions and tigers. I personally have managed captive elephants for over 30 years.

Unfortunately for elephants, their use in entertainment equates with being subjected to highly unnatural and inhumane conditions. Elephants endure intensive confinement and long hours spent on chains, social deprivation, transport in cramped semi-trucks, and abusive training methods. Trainers use the bullhook – a steel-tipped rod resembling a fireplace poker – to hook, prod, strike and intimidate elephants so they remain under the trainer’s strict control. The city of Los Angeles banned the use of bullhooks, and the Rhode Island House of Representative passed a resolution condemning this weapon.

Trainers reserve the most brutal training of elephants and other wild animals for behind the scenes; it is never done in front of the public. In fact, I noted that on your show the handlers used what are called “show” hooks, which they often hid behind their backs. I guarantee you that the actual bullhook used for training is far larger, more menacing, and capable of inflicting severe and intense pain.



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Ed Stewart, PAWS

June 25, 2014

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Elephants may be broken and tamed but they do not lose their wild natures, so they remain dangerous animals. The facility that provided Roxie knows this very well: It was the subject of enforcement action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The agency recently fined them for an incident involving another one of their elephants who severely injured a woman.

We know so much more now about elephants – the fact they are highly intelligent, self-aware and widely known to mourn dead relatives. Surely it is time to stop using them as objects of amusement and props to elicit a few laughs.

The bottom line is there is nothing amusing about featuring elephants, tigers or any other wild animals on “The Tonight Show”, when these animals suffer terribly just to "entertain" people.

Mr. Fallon, you represent a new generation of articulate, progressive nighttime talk show hosts who can make a real difference by abandoning the inhumane and outdated practice of featuring wild animals on their shows. Together with our supporters and the celebrity signatories below, we urge you to end the use of wild animal acts now.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request. Many of the signatories are available to come and talk on your show about this important issue, as am I.

Should you be in Northern California, I invite you and your family to visit us at our 2300-acre, natural habitat captive wildlife sanctuary and experience rescued and retired elephants living the most natural life possible in captivity.

Sincerely,



Ed Stewart

President and Co-founder, PAWS

We join Ed Stewart and the Performing Animal Welfare Society in urging you to end the use of wild animals on “The Tonight Show”:

Bob Barker

Kim Basinger

Kristin Bauer van Straten

Jorja Fox

Ross McCall

Lily Tomlin