

PAWS Celebrates Opening of The Pat Derby Animal Wellness Center

On Wednesday, January 25th, PAWS celebrated the newly completed Pat Derby Animal Wellness Center, named in honor of the late PAWS co-founder. The facility will allow on-site diagnosis and treatment of animals, sparing them the stress of transport to a specialty veterinary facility. Guests at this special, invitation-only event included many of the generous donors who helped make this dream a reality, as well as veterinarians and medical professionals.



Ed Stewart, PAWS President and Co-founder, and Dr. Jackie Gai, PAWS Director of Veterinary Services, are shown cutting the ribbon to officially mark the opening of PAWS' new veterinary facility named in honor of the late Pat Derby. Holding the ribbon (left to right) are guests Linda Gibboney, Nancy Hair, Dr. Kristina Wiley and Lynda Kerr.



The 1,800-square-foot Wellness Center includes a conference room and library, surgery suite (left), office, and a large treatment room with plenty of space to care for the largest bears and big cats who live at the sanctuary. The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment such as a digital X-ray, hydraulic lift table, dental scaler/polisher/drill, ultrasound, and therapeutic laser. One very exciting feature of the X-ray system, manufactured by Vet Rocket, is the ability to take X-rays in the elephant barn that can be wirelessly transmitted to viewing screens in the Wellness Center. The X-ray machine itself is lightweight yet very powerful, and is battery operated so it can be used anywhere in the sanctuary. The entire building, which was designed and built with many energy

efficient features, is powered by solar energy, as are all facilities at PAWS.

The festivities began with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, after which guests toured the building as veterinary staff proudly described the features of the facility. A delicious, plant-based four-course gourmet luncheon was provided by Pivotal Foods Executive Chef MJ Espiritu Gerometta and specialty bakers Cindy Anderson and Rachael Silva.

PAWS Co-founder and President Ed Stewart welcomed guests, and shared stories about Pat Derby and her vision of someday building this Wellness Center. PAWS Director of Veterinary Services Dr. Jackie Gai spoke about Pat's lasting impact on animal welfare, and how the Wellness Center will continue to honor her legacy by enhancing animal care, reducing transport stress on animals needing

care, and by educating future generations of veterinary students about captive wildlife care and welfare.



PAWS veterinary staff get ready to cut the celebratory "champagne" cake. Pictured left to right: Lynn Dowling, Registered Veterinary Technician, Dr. Jennifer Curtis, part-time Associate Veterinarian, and Dr. Jackie Gai, Director of Veterinary Services.

Concluding the festivities was an intimate tour of the ARK 2000 sanctuary, led by Ed Stewart and Dr. Jackie Gai. Under sunny skies, guests had a unique opportunity to view elephants, big cats and bears, and to hear remarkable stories about how these special animals, many with histories of trauma and abuse, have found permanent sanctuary and dedicated care at PAWS.

PAWS extends our deepest gratitude to all who have so generously donated toward the construction, equipment, and operating costs of the Pat Derby Animal Wellness Center. With special thanks to: Julia N. Allen, PhD, DVM; Audrey Steele Burnand; Maggie Ferrari; Jackie Gai, DVM; Linda Gibboney; The Glide Foundation; Ann Henning; The Kerr Family Foundation; Edward Stewart; Kristina Wiley, DDS; and other very special donors who wish to remain anonymous.