

Award for outstanding elephant sanctuary



We have presented the Lord Houghton Award for services to Animal Welfare to Pat Derby and Ed Stewart for their remarkable work to protect performing animals and the outstanding standard of care set by their Ark 2000 sanctuary in California, where rescued elephants and tigers are provided with love and protection.



Main Picture: A huge elephant enclosure at the ARK 2000 Sanctuary
Inset: Pat Derby and Ed Stewart with their award, with ADI's Lisa Mitchinson and Corey Evans.

Responsibility to make the Lord Houghton Award is rotated between four of the UK's oldest animal protection groups. Each organisation gets to nominate a recipient every four years, making this perhaps the most prestigious UK animal protection award.

Pat and Ed have been pioneers in the work to end the abuse of animals in circuses, taking up this issue and raising awareness long before others. They marry caring for rescued animals with a genuine drive for lasting change, to expose the suffering and to ensure that one day, the scenes of elephants in chains being beaten with bullhooks in travelling circuses are no more.

ADI and PAWS have been kindred spirits in this campaign. A decade ago we staged our first joint press conference with PAWS at their sanctuary in Galt to highlight the abuse of circus animals. Afterwards, Ed looked at the elephant enclosure and remarked something along the lines that "We do what we can, but it is still an enclosure with bars." The sentiment was reflective of a burning desire to do more for animals, especially those in their care. A decade later and one can see the fruits of that drive, in the wonderful ARK 2000 sanctuary for elephants.

Pat and Ed's work caring for rescued animals and in particular elephants is innovative, exciting and above all else puts the animals' welfare and happiness first and foremost.

We believe that Pat and Ed have reached for the stars in their work, creating a gold standard of care for their elephants. Whereas they might have considered resting on their laurels, they have gone on to raise the bar even higher. They are an inspiration for those who campaign for animals and those who care for animals. Well done, Pat and Ed.

A contented elephant at the PAWS ARK 2000 Sanctuary.

The tragic Sujei

Sujei was a female elephant touring Colombia with Circo de Mexico. A local organisation ADAN noted that Sujei was stereotypic and looked ill. The Environmental Police inspected and Sujei was temporarily seized, albeit remaining with the circus. ADI made a written submission and offered to relocate her to the PAWS ARK 2000 sanctuary in California. Tragically, Sujei has died, before the inquiry could be completed.

Campaign News

Join our Writers' Club

Timing is often vital and there are moments when a letter from you can make a huge difference – to an MP or MEP just before a vote, to a TV network after a programme, to the Advertising Standards Authority to stop a cruel advert being aired, to your local Council as they decide on a circus ban.

Our Writers' Club helps us work with supporters who are likely to send a letter when asked. We supply a draft you can adapt, which can be hardcopy or in electronic form. It can be very expensive to alert every supporter when we need action and time is often short, especially when legislation is being amended.

Writers' Club means your letters can be more effective, because we update you with the latest information.

If you join our Writers' Club we will be in touch whenever animals need you to raise a pen for them – please contact us today by post, or call 020 7630 3340.

Rare apes found in Vietnam

Conservationists have located significant numbers of two endangered primate species in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, in the province of Quang Binh, Central Vietnam. A wildlife survey identified roughly 30 families of southern white-cheeked gibbons and a number of red-shanked Douc langurs. Both species are considered endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. A programme to train local residents to monitor wildlife and report illegal poaching is being hailed a success.

NAVS Extras

ADI's Alexandra Cardenas and Helder Constantino appeared as extras in the film on the life of Jean Charles de Menezes, a Brazilian national who was shot dead in Stockwell tube station by the Metropolitan Police in 2005. A NAVS stand was set up for a scene of the film. The film stars Brazilian actor Selton Mello (pictured), and will open on June 26 in Brazil.

