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Hollywood Celebrities Join Performing Animal Welfare Society in Urging Jimmy Fallon to Stop Wild Animal Acts on “The Tonight Show”

Bob Barker personally challenges Fallon to end inhumane and outdated practice!

San Andreas, Calif. (June 25, 2014) – The Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), an animal welfare organization dedicated to rescuing, providing sanctuary care and advocating for captive wild and exotic animals, is calling on Jimmy Fallon to end the use of captive wildlife on “The Tonight Show.” In a letter sent to Fallon following the appearance of an elephant named Roxie last week, PAWS is joined in its call by famed Hollywood celebrities, including:

- **Bob Barker**, television legend, animal activist and champion for captive elephants
- **Kim Basinger**, Academy Award-winning actress and long-time advocate for captive elephants
- **Kristin Bauer van Straten**, film and television actress best known for her role on HBO’s “True Blood,” and an advocate for elephants in captivity and in the wild
- **Jorja Fox**, actress best known for her role on “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” and an advocate for wild animals in entertainment
- **Ross McCall**, film, television and stage actor best known for his role on HBO’s “Band of Brothers”
- **Lily Tomlin**, film and television actress, comedienne and producer of the award-winning HBO documentary, “An Apology to Elephants”

“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,” wrote PAWS’ president and co-founder Ed Stewart. “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.”

In a personal challenge to Fallon, Bob Barker stated: “As someone who has worked on animal protection issues for decades, I sincerely hope that Jimmy Fallon, who reaches and entertains millions of people each night, will take the lead and no longer book wild animal acts. We simply know too much about the intelligence of elephants and other animals to continue to let them suffer. We should never again call this ‘entertainment!’”

According to Stewart, elephants like Roxie are subjected to highly unnatural and inhumane conditions. Starting as young calves, they are separated from their mothers and brutally trained. As “performers” they will endure intensive confinement and long hours spent on chains, social deprivation, transport in cramped semi-trucks or train cars, and cruel training methods that include use of the bullhook – a cruel weapon resembling a fireplace poker that was recently banned in the city of Los Angeles.

Stewart formerly worked with his partner and PAWS co-founder, the late Pat Derby, training wild animals for film, television and live appearances. Pat was a popular 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. She appeared with some of her animals on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. The couple founded PAWS, which currently provides permanent sanctuary for elephants, bears and big cats, many of whom are rescued or retired from the entertainment industry.

The letter concluded: “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... we urge you to end the use of wild animal acts now.”

For more information about PAWS, please visit www.pawsweb.org.

View a copy of the letter to Mr. Fallon [here](#).

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*Founded in 1984, the **Performing Animal Welfare Society** (PAWS) operates three sanctuaries in Northern California that are home to a large variety of species including 11 Asian and African elephants, African lions, tigers, and other exotic animals rescued or retired from circuses, zoos and the exotic pet trade. Its largest facility is the 2,300-acre natural habitat sanctuary, ARK 2000, located in San Andreas, Calif.*

PAWS is licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. It is accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, and is rated a four-star charity by Charity Navigator.

PAWS is currently celebrating 30 years of rescue, sanctuary care, education and advocacy.