



Helping Sanctuaries
Help Animals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2013

Media Contacts:

Patty Finch, Executive Director
Global Federation of
Animal Sanctuaries
1-928-472-1173
patty@sanctuaryfederation.org

Ed Stewart
PAWS
(209) 745-2606
Estewart@PAWSweb.org

Pat Derby & PAWS Receive International Award for Animal Sanctuary Excellence

Nashville, TN – On Wednesday, May 8, the 2013 "Carole Noon Award for Sanctuary Excellence" will be awarded to Pat Derby, posthumously, and to The Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), the sanctuary she co-founded. Pat passed away in February of this year after a long battle with cancer.

The award was established by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), to honor those who dedicate themselves passionately to sanctuary animal care and is named in honor of Carole Noon, Ph.D., a courageous and innovative sanctuary pioneer and champion of chimpanzees. The award will be presented at The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Care Expo opening ceremonies by Michael Markarian, GFAS Vice President, and chief program and policy officer of HSUS.

"Pat Derby was a remarkable champion for captive wildlife, and she knew that our movement must not only take in the cast-offs and care for them, but also advocate for policy changes and shifts in attitudes to get at the root causes of problems," says Markarian. "She has inspired so many to take on this cause and stand up for captive wild animals in all settings."

Pat Derby was a strong advocate for sanctuary standards and helped to found The Association of Sanctuaries (TAOS), which was a predecessor to GFAS. GFAS has continued to build on what Pat helped to create. Ms. Derby battled the use of wild animals in the entertainment industry and exposed the cruelties inherent in the use of captive wildlife in Las Vegas acts, circuses, and roadside zoos.

And while she worked tirelessly to end the cruel exploitation of performing wild animal acts, she is perhaps best known for her work rescuing and providing lifetime care for wild animals in the sanctuaries she helped start in California. While she was a guardian of numerous species including bears and big cats, her greatest love was elephants, for whom she cared for with the love of a parent. She and her life partner, Ed Stewart, who will accept the award on behalf of Pat and PAWS, created the nation's first sanctuary for elephants. "Pat's legacy is one of compassion, vision and dedication and she is an example for all sanctuary directors and employees to follow," Markarian added.

Pat's legacy not only includes PAWS, which Bob Barker recently stated "is perhaps the finest sanctuary in the world," but also includes her advocacy work which eventually led to landmark legislation in California to protect captive wildlife from inhumane practices such as "canned hunts," and to ban private ownership of dangerous wildlife, thereby preventing the horrendous suffering that so many wildlife "pets" endure.

A donation to PAWS accompanies the award, made possible this year by generous contributions from International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Born Free USA, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), and individual donors.

###

About Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the sole purpose of strengthening and supporting the work of animal sanctuaries/rescues worldwide. The goal of GFAS in working with and assisting sanctuaries/rescues is to ensure they are supported, honored, recognized and rewarded for meeting important criteria in providing care to the animals in residence. GFAS was founded in 2007 by animal protection leaders from a number of different organizations in response to virtually unchecked and often hidden exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. The GFAS Board of Directors guides the organization's work in a collaborative manner. They represent top leadership from Born Free USA, The Humane Society of the United States, International Fund for Animal Welfare, the ASPCA, and American Anti-Vivisection Society. www.sanctuaryfederation.org.