



THE ANIMAL CONFERENCE

OKLAHOMA CITY | OCT 18-19, 2024

 KIRKPATRICK FOUNDATION



W E L C O M E

Welcome! Thank you for coming to Kirkpatrick Foundation’s fourth triennial ANIMAL conference. Bringing people together can be one of the most effective means of social transformation and the ANIMAL Conference provides a public forum to build relationships among groups, organizations, and individuals across the animal wellbeing community. Our intention is to be inclusive, wide-ranging, and open to ideas. Many different perspectives exist on some of the most complicated problems facing animals today, and we encourage both individuals and organizations to work toward interdisciplinary solutions. We are excited you are here, and we hope you seek out relationships with fellow participants, discover new viewpoints from speakers, and find a path toward making a better world for animals and humans.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Friday | |
| 8:00 am - 8:45 am | Breakfast Bar |
| 8:45 am - 11:35 am | Welcome and General Sessions |
| 11:35 am - 12:35 pm | Lunch and General Sessions |
| 12:35 pm - 1:35 pm | Animal Encounters |
| 1:35 pm - 3:40 pm | General Sessions |
| 3:40 pm - 5:00 pm | Book Signings and Time to Tour the Zoo |
| Saturday | |
| 8:00 am - 9:00 am | Breakfast Bar |
| 9:00 am - 11:50 am | Welcome and General Sessions |
| 11:50 am - 12:30 pm | Lunch and General Sessions |
| 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | Animal Encounters |
| 1:30 pm - 3:35 pm | General Sessions |
| 3:35 pm - 3:45 pm | Closing Remarks |
| | Adjournment of ANIMAL 2024! |



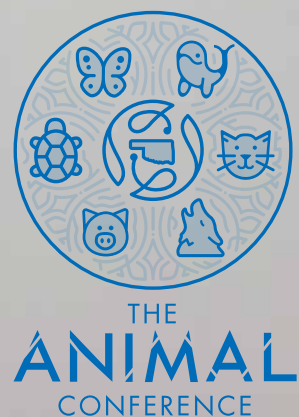
MISSION



The conference is a key component of achieving Kirkpatrick Foundation's Safe & Humane Initiative. Launched in 2012, the initiative's mission is to make Oklahoma the safest and most humane place to be an animal by the year 2032. The path to achieving this mission and the work of the Foundation should balance compassion and logic while also considering the animals, communities, and people of Oklahoma.

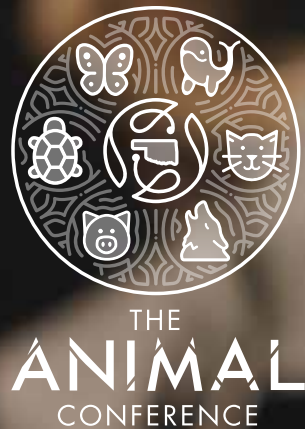
CONFERENCE GOALS:

- Educate the public to be more active in the animal wellbeing community
- Bring awareness to the current topics surrounding the state of the animals in Oklahoma, the U.S., and the world
- Foster a sense of active compassion that will allow attendees to view their world, fellow humans, and animals, in a different way
- Provide affordable access to all those interested in the Safe & Humane Initiative to attend the conference
- Provide networking and connection building opportunities for all conference attendees



"If we were sincerely looking for a place of safety... then we would begin to turn to our communities—and not the communities simply of our human neighbors, but also of the water, earth, and air, the plants and animals, all the creatures with whom our local life is shared."—WENDELL BERRY

The E V E N T S



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

8:00 am - 8:45 am

Breakfast Bar (Vegan)

8:45 am - 8:55 am

Welcome to ANIMAL 2024

Kelley Barnes is executive director of the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

8:55 am - 9:00 am

Invocation

Robin Meyers is senior minister of the Mayflower Congregational UCC Church of Oklahoma City.

9:00 am - 9:10 am

Why Do We Convene?

Brent Toellner is senior director of Lifesaving Programs for the Best Friends Animal Society.

9:10 am - 9:30 am

Our Ever Changing World

Berrien Moore III is director of the National Weather Center and dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences.

9:30 am - 9:40 am

A Big League City Welcome

David Holt is mayor of Oklahoma City.

9:40 am - 10:05 am

Wild New World: Animals and North America

Dan Flores is a writer and historian.

10:05 am - 10:35 am

State of the Animals

Brendan Hoover is

coordinator for the Kirkpatrick Policy Group and Brett Robinson is managing principal for Husch Blackwell Strategies.

10:35 am - 10:50 am

How Do You Know if You're at a Cockfight?

Kevin Chambers is the state director for Oklahoma of Animal Wellness Action.

10:50 am - 11:35 am

On the Forefront: Growth of Animal Law in the Field

Drew Edmondson is a former district attorney and attorney general of Oklahoma and Gary Maxey is an attorney and chair of the animal law section of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

11:35 am - 12:35 pm

Opal - A Greek-Inspired Lunch (Vegan)

At 12 pm, RACE Dance Collective will perform excerpts from RACE's *Hip Hop Nutcracker*.

Presentation over Lunch

Keeping Pets and People Together

Ross Barker is program director of the pet-inclusive housing initiative for the Michelson Found Animals Foundation.

12:35 pm - 1:35 pm

Let's Go Outside!

Animal encounters or tour of the Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital.

1:35 pm - 2:00 pm

Our Wildest Neighbors: Coexisting with Wildlife

Inger Giuffrida is executive director of WildCare.

2:00 pm - 2:25 pm

Caring for Our Pet Friends

David Holt is a professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

2:25 pm - 2:50 pm

Journalism, Animals, and Power

Ben Felder is editor-in-chief of *Investigate Midwest*.

2:50 pm - 3:30 pm

Wastelands: The Hidden Costs of Making Bacon

Corban Addison is an attorney and author of

Wastelands: The True Story of Farm Country on Trial.

3:30 pm - 3:40 pm

Closing Remarks

Kelley Barnes is executive director of the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

3:40 pm - 5:00 pm

Speakers are available to sign books and attendees are free to tour the zoo until closing at 5pm.



RACE DANCE COLLECTIVE



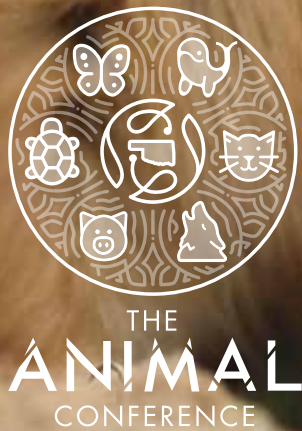
The acronym R.A.C.E. stands for Radical Application of Creative Energy. RACE Dance Collective was founded in 2009 by Korean American immigrant Hui Cha Poos, who wanted to create

more performance opportunities for professional dancers in Oklahoma.

With a vision to redefine who engages with dance and also focus on accessibility and collaboration through a deliberate approach to artistic choices, RACE has provided over 35 multi-genre performance experiences, nearly 350 community classes annually, and youth training programs in the state. RACE partners with dozens of organizations to bring dance education and mentorships to under-served populations.

Jesus Martinez, Ana Velazquez, Emma Palma, Zachariah Noi, and Lai Johnson of RACE Dance Collective will perform at noon on Friday.





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

8:00 am - 9:00 am
Breakfast Bar (Vegan)

9:00 am - 9:10 am
Welcome Back
Kelley Barnes is executive director of the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

9:10 am - 9:20 am
Warm Welcome from the Zoo
Dwight Lawson is executive director and CEO of the Oklahoma City Zoo.

9:20 am - 9:45 am
Elephant Wellbeing from Human Care to the Field
Jennifer D'Agostino is chief animal program officer and Rebecca Snyder is senior director of Conversation, Education, and Science of the Oklahoma City Zoo.

9:45 am - 10:05 am
What's All the Hype About the Monarch Butterfly?
Katie Hawk is executive director of the Oklahoma Monarch Society.

10:05 am - 10:15 am
Animals in Disaster
Cynthia Armstrong is state director of Oklahoma for the Humane Society of the United States.

10:15 am - 10:55 am
Progress Report: Saving Lives in Shelters
Brent Toellner is senior director of Lifesaving Programs for the Best Friends Animal Society, Samantha Burnett is senior director of special projects for Nexus Pets, and Maycee Goza is manager for the Ketcher-Keheley Animal Shelter in Miami, Oklahoma.

10:55 am - 11:25 am
Oklahoma City Has Spoken: A New Municipal Center for Animals
Jon Gary is superintendent of Oklahoma City Animal Welfare and Todd Edmonds is principal architect for HSE Architects.

11:25 am - 11:35 am
A Champion for Animals and People: Louisa McCune Tribute
Christian Keesee is chairman of the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

11:35 am - 11:50 am
Meet Louisa, the Rescue Pig
Jennie Hays is founder of the Oliver and Friends Farm Sanctuary.

11:50 am - 12:30 pm
HaChaCha! - A Fiesta Lunch (Vegan)

Presentation over Lunch
Farmers for a Better Food System
Tyler Whitley is director of the Transformation Project for Mercy for Animals.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Let's Go Outside!
Animal encounters or tour of the Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital.

1:30 pm - 1:40 pm
Fundraising, Photography, and Felines
Priscilla Forehand is creator of Okie Cats.

1:40 pm - 1:55 pm
Mysteries of the Missing: K9 Stories from the Field in Search and Rescue/Recovery Work
Molly Gibb is a search and rescue K9 handler and Little Man is her search dog.

1:55 pm - 2:15 pm
The Way Forward: Ending Extreme Confinement of Female Pigs
Lesa Staubus, is senior program officer for farm animal welfare at the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

2:15 pm - 2:35 pm
Attitudes Toward Factory Farming
Adam Feltz is a professor of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma.

2:35 pm - 3:25 pm
Wolf Like Me
Douglas Smith was a senior wildlife biologist, retired from Yellowstone National Park.

3:25 pm - 3:35 pm
ANIMAL Song
Benji Harris is a songwriter from Nashville.

3:35 pm - 3:45 pm
Closing Remarks
Kelley Barnes is executive director of the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

Adjourn ANIMAL 2024!



LUTHERAN COMFORT DOGS



Launched in August 2008, Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a national human-care ministry embracing the calming nature of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening

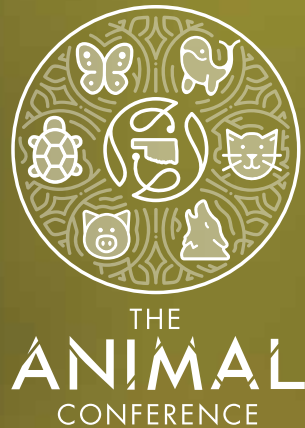
doors for conversation about faith. LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are working animals, trained to interact with people of all ages who are suffering and in need. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serve every day in the community in which they are placed and are deployed in times of disaster and crisis to comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them. Lutheran Church Charities currently have over 130 LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serving in more than 27 states.



Four Golden Retrievers from the Lutheran Church Charities' Comfort Dogs arrived in Oklahoma City Thursday evening. On Friday and Saturday of the conference, the dogs and their handlers will be at the conference. Comfort dog teams have been at all four of the ANIMAL Conferences, and Kirkpatrick Foundation is honored by their presence and thanks them for their work.



The S P E A K E R S



ADOBE STOCK / GELPI



Corban Addison

Author and Attorney

Addison is the bestselling author of four novels as well as the narrative nonfiction, *Wastelands: The True Story of Farm Country on Trial*. He holds a law degree from the University of Virginia and an engineering degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He is a supporter of numerous causes, including environmental justice and the abolition of modern slavery.



Cynthia Armstrong

Oklahoma State Director, Humane Society of the United States

Armstrong has been leading the fight for animals in Oklahoma for the Humane Society of the United States since 2005. She has a long and successful track record of representing animal interests at the state capitol and has helped lead statewide ballot campaigns banning cockfighting in Oklahoma and defeating a Right to Farm measure that sought to provide constitutional protection to factory farms. Armstrong has participated in disaster deployments, assisting authorities with the emergency care of animals, and has worked with Oklahoma law enforcement agencies on numerous animal cruelty cases and training initiatives. Armstrong is a native Oklahoman and holds a BFA from the University of Oklahoma and an MBA in finance from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.



Ross Barker

Program Director for the Pet-Inclusive Housing Initiative, Michelson Found Animals Foundation

Barker and his team use research to inform programs that build bridges between the pet and housing communities and promote the development of more pet-friendly housing opportunities across the U.S. Prior to joining Michelson, Barker led research and innovation teams for Banfield Pet Hospital and Kinship, both part of the Mars Petcare organization.



Kelley Barnes

Executive Director, Kirkpatrick Foundation

Kelley Barnes was born and raised in Oklahoma City. Since 1997, her career has been working for charitable organizations to build program strategies, community engagement, government relations, communications, and development departments. Most recently, she was the Vice President of Community Engagement at Oklahoma City Community Foundation, where she oversaw the foundation's community programs department. Kelley is on the board of the Paseo Artists Association, OKCRep, Patrons of Animal Welfare, and serves on the community MAPS4 Venues Committee. She enjoys skiing, opera, and the great outdoors, with frequent trips to Santa Fe, New Mexico where she lived for ten years working as the Director of Advancement and Administration for the National Dance Institute of New Mexico.



Samantha Burnett

Senior Director of Special Projects, Nexus Pets

Burnett has launched and managed multiple highly credited programs within animal welfare and criminal justice reform, proving her love for both people and animals alike. She leads diverse work teams, developing organization-wide strategies for program excellence, and partnering with internal and external stakeholders to further Nexus's mission. Samantha graduated from Texas A&M with a bachelor's in business administration. When she is not busy working, Sam enjoys traveling, breakfast with friends, spreadsheets, nature, Mexican food, learning and time with family and friends.



Kevin Chambers

Oklahoma State Director and Assistant Director of International, Animal Wellness Action
Chambers brings decades of global and local business, government, and animal advocacy experience to Animal Wellness Action. A former U.S. diplomat and global business expert, Chambers was also the director of international trade and investment for Oklahoma and Missouri, serving five governors. He is author of five books on international business, travel, history, and languages.



Todd Edmonds

Principal Architect, HSEarchitects
Edmonds' skills in architectural design, consultation, and space programming are integral in providing clients a service that caters to their particular needs and expectations. Edmonds has experience working with non-profit organizations and he is the principal architect on the new Oklahoma City animal shelter.



Dr. Jennifer D'Agostino, DVM

Chief Animal Program Officer, Oklahoma City Zoo
Growing up in Michigan around her grandma's working farm fostered D'Agostino's love of animals. D'Agostino moved to Oklahoma City twenty-one years ago and completed her residency specializing in zoo animals. She was promoted to head veterinarian, then to director of veterinary services in 2008 and then to her current position as Chief Animal Program Officer this past February.



Drew Edmondson

Former Oklahoma Attorney General and District Attorney
Edmondson has dedicated his life to the service of others. Edmondson worked as a teacher before being elected to the Oklahoma Legislature and then Muskogee County District Attorney. In 1994, he was elected Oklahoma Attorney General where he championed sustainable clean water, successfully filing suit against a dozen poultry companies for polluting the Illinois River. Since 2010, Edmondson has been in the private practice of law.



Ben Felder

Editor-in-Chief, Investigate Midwest
Felder covers Oklahoma agribusiness and the meat industry for Investigate Midwest. Felder also worked for *The Oklahoman* covering the influences behind the political leaders and their impact on Oklahomans. Originally from Kansas City, Missouri, Felder is a graduate of Trevecca University in Nashville.



Dr. Adam Feltz

Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Oklahoma
Feltz is regarded as one of the world's experts on the psychology and philosophy of ethical disagreement, and is best-known for his work identifying sources of fundamental philosophical biases in moral judgment. Feltz is also an award-winning teacher and scholar whose research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the UCLA Law School, Animal Charity Evaluators, and the Templeton Foundation.



Dr. Dan Flores

Author and Historian
Flores lives in the Galisteo Valley outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is A. B. Hammond Professor Emeritus of the History of the American West at the University of Montana-Missoula. He is the author of ten books, including the bestselling book, *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History* (2016), and *Wild New World: Animals and North America* (2022).



Priscilla Forehand

Founder, Okie Cats
A "cat mom" for more than twenty-three years, Forehand dedicates her time to feline-inspired projects that range from photographing cats across Oklahoma to raise awareness and funds for non-profits, and volunteers at cat events and rescue groups. She worked with Kirkpatrick Foundation during the 2018 and 2021 ANIMAL Conferences cat cafes and an Oklahoma City billboard campaign to encourage cat adoptions.



Jonathan Gary

Superintendent, Oklahoma City Animal Welfare
Gary has dedicated his life to helping the animals of Oklahoma City. He is the Superintendent of the Oklahoma City Animal Shelter. Gary has been with the Shelter for more than twenty years and has held every position there except for veterinarian.



Molly Gibb

Search, Rescue, and Recovery Canine Handler

Gibb and her canines are professionally trained and nationally certified Search and Rescue and Recovery volunteers. A canine handler since 1997, Gibb humanly approaches developing reliable and highly adaptable SAR K9 Teams with her dogs. The teams have assisted law enforcement agencies in wilderness search, criminal investigations and archaeological work in multiple states. Her canine partners come from the sheltering system.



Inger Giffurda

Executive Director, WildCare
Giuffrida joined the WildCare team in August 2019 as the organization's executive director. For the past seventeen years, she has operated a consulting business providing services the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the FDIC, United Way Worldwide, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, working in all fifty states and Canada. A lifelong animal lover, she lives on a mini-farm in Norman.



Maycee Goza
Shelter Manager, Ketcher-Keheley Animal Shelter
Goza is manager for the Ketcher-Keheley animal shelter in Miami, Oklahoma.

In 2018, Goza moved home to be close to family and joined the Miami shelter as an animal control technician. Since she started as manager, Goza has worked to build relationships in Miami. She implemented a Trap-Neuter-Return program, sterilizing more than 200 cats since 2022. She is also a Common Bonds Northeast Oklahoma District Captain.



Benji Harris
Songwriter
Harris is one of Nashville's most talented and versatile mainstay musicians. His original trio, *Scarletta*, has had a Top 30 hit on Country Radio, and a popular music video in high-rotation on CMT. He has played for

country music stars on arena tours across the country, and has appeared on *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *Late Night with Seth Meyers*.



Katie Hawk
Director and Founder, Oklahoma Monarch Society
Hawk is the director and founder of the Oklahoma Monarch Society, a statewide effort to save the monarchs. Her love for animals goes beyond the office. She co-founded Good Dogma, a non-profit that aims to reduce the pet overpopulation in Eastern Oklahoma County. She has three furry children: Dock, Thelma and Astro—who all love digging in her garden.



Jennie Hays
Founder, Oliver and Friends Farm Sanctuary
Hays is a passionate lifelong animal advocate. She graduated with honors in Psychology from UCO and went on to found Oklahoma's largest vegan-farmed animal sanctuary. As the primary caretaker of more than 130 animals across multiple species, Hays has cultivated a community of ethical, like-minded volunteers and professional associations. She places a strong emphasis on educational outreach and research development, promoting plant-based living and advancing animal rights.



David Holt
Mayor, Oklahoma City
Holt was elected the youngest mayor of Oklahoma City since the 1920s and also the first Native American mayor in the city's history. Prior to becoming mayor, Holt worked for the United States Speaker of the House, the White House Office of Legislative Affairs, President George W. Bush, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, the office of Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, and was a Oklahoma State Senator from 2010 to 2018.



Dr. David Holt, DVM
Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
Holt graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Sydney in 1983 and worked in private practice until 1985. He completed a residency in surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1990. He is currently Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. His research interests are imaging cancer during surgery.



Brendan Hoover
Coordinator, Kirkpatrick Policy Group
Hoover serves as coordinator for Kirkpatrick Policy Group. He earned a BA in journalism and began his career at, the Mustang Times. He worked as a freelance writer for thirteen years, writing for publications such as *ArtDesk*, *Oklahoma Gazette*, *Oklahoma Today*, and *Curb-side Chronicle*. Concurrently, Hoover worked in hospitality for more than twenty-five years, including working as dining room manager at Cattlemen's Steakhouse in Oklahoma City.



Christian Keese
Chairman, Kirkpatrick Foundation
Keese is chairman of Kirkpatrick Bank and Kirkpatrick Oil and Gas Company and is chairman of the Kirkpatrick Foundation and president of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. Active in arts and arts education, he is president and founder of Oklahoma Contemporary, Green Box, and the Brett Weston Archive and sits on philanthropic boards, including the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, American Ballet Theater, the

Tate Americas Foundation, and the National Council for the Humane Society of the United States.



Dr. Dwight Lawson
Executive Director and CEO, Oklahoma City Zoo
Lawson plans, coordinates, and directs the operations and management of the Oklahoma City Zoo. Dwight previously worked at Zoo Atlanta as Director, Senior Vice President of Collections, and General Curator. His doctoral degree looked at diversity and natural history of exploited rainforest reptiles in Central Africa. Dr. Lawson is a Professional Fellow member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.



Gary Maxey
Attorney and Chair, Animal Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association
Maxey is the chair of the Oklahoma Bar Association Animal Law Section. He served as special judge for Garfield County and as associate district judge for Craig County until his retirement in 2015. In 1988, he served two terms in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Maxey now practices at The

Maxey Law Firm in Enid, Oklahoma.



Dr. Robin Meyers
Ordained Minister, United Church of Christ
Meyers is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, the Distinguished Professor of Social Justice at Oklahoma City University, the author of seven books, a columnist for the *Oklahoma Gazette*, and a commentator for National Public Radio. He has been the Senior Minister of Mayflower Congregational UCC church of Oklahoma City since 1985.



Dr. Berrien Moore, III
Dean of the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, University of Oklahoma, and Director of the National Weather Center
Moore is an internationally recognized Earth scientist who has been honored by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In 2010, Moore joined the University of Oklahoma, where he holds the Chesapeake Energy Corporation Chair in Climate Studies. He serves as Dean of the College of Atmospheric

and Geographic Sciences, Director of the National Weather Center, and Vice President for Weather and Climate Programs.



Brett Robinson
Managing Principal, Husch Blackwell Strategies
Robinson is a native Oklahoman whose career includes leading Oklahoma City-based lobbying firm Capital City Associates; counseling clients at a leading state government relations firm; and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Oklahoma Attorney General's office.



Manda Overturf Shank
Program Officer, Kirkpatrick Foundation
Overturf Shank, a native of Ada, Oklahoma, has a Master of Arts in History and a Master of Library and Information Studies. After graduation, Overturf Shank managed literature and history programs for the Oklahoma Humanities Council and later she worked as a conference coordinator for the Kentucky Transportation Center. Since 2014, Overturf Shank has managed Safe & Humane Initiative projects at Kirkpatrick Foundation.

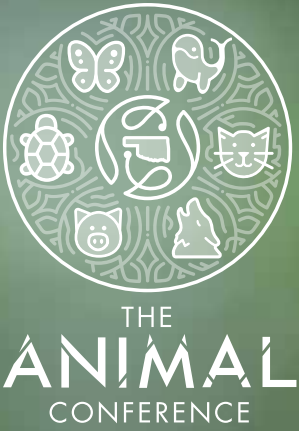


Douglas Smith
Wildlife Biologist
National Geographic Explorer and wildlife biologist Doug Smith worked at Yellowstone National Park for nearly three decades. He was hired in the 1990s to reintroduce the wolves into America's first national park. Unsure of the outcome, Smith and his team hoped for the best and watched as balance in the ecosystem was restored. This success led him to spearhead the *Yellowstone Wolf Project*, one of the most prominent wolf research programs in the world.



Dr. Rebecca Snyder
Senior Director of Conservation, Education, and Science, Oklahoma City Zoo
Snyder is the senior director of Conservation, Education, and Science at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Prior to this, she worked for Zoo Atlanta for twenty years in curatorial and research roles. At the OKC Zoo, she manages wildlife conservation partnerships, guides education programs, mentors students, and leads animal well-being and sustainability initiatives. She and her husband, Dr. Dwight





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Lawson, met at Zoo Atlanta and have been married for 18 years.



Dr. Lesa Staubus, DVM
Senior Program Officer of Farm Animal Welfare, Kirkpatrick Foundation
Raised in Oklahoma City, she received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Oklahoma State University. She practiced small animal medicine, and

taught at OSU-OKC. As an American Humane rescue veterinarian, Staubus supported communities and animals following natural and man-made disasters, and reunited retired Military Working Dogs with their former handlers.



Brent Toellner
Senior Director of Lifesaving Programs, Best Friends Animal Society

As the Senior Director of Lifesaving Programs at Best Friends Animal Society, Toellner oversees the regional, business intelligence, and network partner teams for Best Friends. He works with the Business Intelligence Team to understand the data on 4,500 U.S. brick and mortar shelters, to turn that data into strategies for the Regional Teams, and to engage the organization's 3,100 Network Partners to work toward the goal of ending the killing of shelter pets by 2025.



Tyler Whitley
Director of the Transformation Project, Mercy for Animals
As part of his master's degree, Whitley interned for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization on a project in Cambodia where he administered community reinvestments for 7,500 smallholder farmers in

rural provinces. Whitley also managed a food and farming intervention program in rural Haiti, similar to his Cambodian work. He then moved to North Carolina to work for a small farmer-advocacy organization, staffing a farmer financial-crisis hotline before joining Mercy For Animals as the director of The Transformation Project.

Special Thanks

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The ANIMAL Conference is produced in memory of Joan Kirkpatrick and Louisa McCune, who both cared deeply about the treatment of animals.



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