

# 2016 ANIMAL GRANTMAKERS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DENVER | OCTOBER 23-26

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### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 | *Pre-Conference*

*Heartland Ranch field trip is sponsored by The Summerlee Foundation. For questions, please email Melanie Anderson (mal3@summerlee.org) or call 303-697-6796.*

*Southern Plains Land Trust website - [www.southernplains.org](http://www.southernplains.org)*

Departure at 11 AM Saturday, October 22

Return by 4 PM Sunday, October 23

**Overnight Field Trip | \$50 fee per person, includes transportation, rustic accommodations and vegan meals** (*additional details to come*)

#### **A Refuge for Wild & Domestic Animals | Heartland Ranch**

The Southern Plains Land Trust's "Heartland Ranch" preserve extends over 11,000 glorious acres in the wild prairie of southeastern Colorado. This is a land that's full of surprises, with gently rolling grassland terrain, at least 6 prairie dog colonies that occupy about 750 acres, dramatic rock-covered mesas awash in fossils, lush and deep canyons, juniper woodlands, multiple perennial springs, and many miles of seasonal streams (West Mud Creek and Little Angry Creek) that feed into the Arkansas River to the north. Abundant wild animals find refuge here. Coyote and bird song fills the air, and eagles grace the sky. Wildlife on the property includes elk (a rarity in the shortgrass prairie), mule deer, pronghorn, badger, coyote, swift fox, black-tailed prairie dog, black-tailed jackrabbit, desert cottontail, a wide variety of songbirds and raptors, diverse snakes, and many lizards. Year-round springs and seasonal creeks and ponds provide crucial habitat for wildlife, and we have sandpipers, ducks, herons, and plains leopard frogs using these fertile areas on the property.

A herd of nearly 90 bison now resides on the preserve, transferred from property in Texas owned by The Summerlee Foundation. Also in residence is a herd of more than 50 longhorn cattle (brought up from Texas as well) and a dozen donkeys, taken in from owners who didn't want them. SPLT has a full-time preserve manager whose main task is to meet the needs of all these animals. Heartland provides a forever home to these creatures, where they will live out their natural lives.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

#### **10:30 AM – 4:00 PM Field Trips**

There will be two unique field visits this year. Trip 1 will encompass a visit to two different facilities featuring the Gabriel Foundation's Aviary and then followed by the state-of-the-art Harmony Equine Center where you can see some of the great work going on in Colorado animal welfare. Trip 2 will be a visit to Wild Animal Sanctuary to get a view into the amazing efforts being made for exotic animals.

#### **The Gabriel Foundation Aviary**

Founded in 1995, The Gabriel Foundation is a nationally recognized parrot welfare organization that provides for the complete physical, psychological and environmental well-being of the parrots in its care via an integrated holistic approach.

The Gabriel Foundation's Aviary and Adoption Center is currently providing consistent, high-quality care for over 800 psittacine birds. The team of avian veterinary partners evaluates the acute, chronic and long-term medical needs of all incoming and outgoing birds and provide for their total health care, as well as psychological and environmental needs. Many caring and committed adoptive families and guardians provide homes for those birds that will continue to

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thrive as companions. For those birds ill-suited as companions, permanent sanctuary is a safe and enriched habitat dedicated to each resident's well-being. Through education, follow-up, and support services, The Gabriel Foundation ensures the continued well-being of every parrot, whether they remain in sanctuary or transition to adoptive or foster homes.

### **Harmony Equine Center**

The Harmony Equine Center is a private rehabilitation and adoption facility for horses, ponies, donkeys and mules that have been removed from owners' care by law enforcement authorities. The center, located 45 minutes south of Denver in Franktown, CO, serves as a centralized hub where horses from humane societies and rescue groups in the Midwest and southwestern United States can receive training and re-homing. Harmony Equine Center is not a rescue or sanctuary facility and does not accept owner-surrendered animals.

The professional staff oversees up to 100 horses at a time at the 168-acre facility, which includes three barns, 26 pastures and turnouts, two indoor riding arenas and an education center. At the center, equines find relief from suffering and opportunities for new lives. A knowledgeable, professional staff provides top-quality care and gentle training. Once the animals are restored to health, they are offered to responsible new owners through an application and interview process.

### **Wild Animal Sanctuary**

The Wild Animal Sanctuary, located in Keenesburg, CO, is the world's largest carnivore sanctuary—with more than 400 rescued lions, tigers, bears, wolves and other large carnivores living and roaming freely. The Wild Animal Sanctuary specializes in rescuing carnivores that were born in captivity and were victims of human immoderation. In order to provide a life of dignity and contentment for rescued animals, the Sanctuary operates a 720-acre refuge located on the open plains of Colorado 30 miles Northeast of Denver.

The mission of the Wild Animal Sanctuary is to provide every rescued animal with the best life possible. In order to accomplish this, the Sanctuary has been designed so that rescued animals can go through an initial rehabilitation process and then be released into large acreage natural habitats where they can live freely with others of their own kind. The rescued animals can live together for the rest of their lives in a natural setting, free from the pain and degradation they endured prior to coming to The Wild Animal Sanctuary.

1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Conference Registration Desk Open**

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Cocktail Reception & Conference Welcome**

*Speaker: Patricia Calfee, President, Animal Grantmakers*

### **Member Highlights**

*Speaker: Roger Haston, Executive Director and Katie Parker, Program Director  
Animal Assistance Foundation*

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### MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM Conference Registration Desk Open

7:30 AM – 8:55 AM Continental Breakfast

8:55 AM – 9:00 AM Opening Welcome Remarks

*Speaker: Roger Haston, Executive Director, Animal Assistance Foundation*

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM **Rewilding Our Hearts, Compassionate Conservation, and Humane Education: The "Practical Turn"**

*Moderator: Melanie Anderson, Executive Director, The Summerlee Foundation*

*Speaker: Marc Bekoff, Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder will open this year's conference with a discussion on ways to personally reconnect with nature, the importance of individual animals in all of our collective funding, and translating results into action for future generations.*

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM Break

10:00 AM -- 12:00 PM **Data-Driven Approaches to Advancing Animal Protection: A Two-Part Series**

*Moderator: Claire Sterling, Director, Grant Strategies, Grants Management, ASPCA*

**10:00 – 11:00 AM Part 1: Gauging Organizational Effectiveness**

Empirical research plays a critical role in assessing the state of animal protection and in helping to determine where grant dollars can have the greatest impact. Faunalytics (formerly Humane Research Council) and Animal Charity Evaluators (ACE) both focus on moving the field forward through rigorous analysis of available data.

*Speaker: Che Green, Executive Director of Faunalytics, will discuss the evolution of evaluation practices in the animal protection movement, emerging trends across animal issue areas in assessing effectiveness, and knowledge gleaned from his hands-on work to help strengthen the impact of individual animal protection organizations.*

*Speaker: Jon Bockman, Executive Director of ACE, will discuss the methodology underpinning ACE's criteria for identifying which organizations are most effective, how using an animal-focused lens has shaped ACE's evaluation criteria, and applying what ACE is learning about organizational impact assessment to a variety of animal-related causes.*

**Colorado Loves Pets! Video**

**11:10 AM -- 12:00 PM Part 2: Focusing on Specific Programmatic and Geographic Areas**

Organizations across the animal protection movement are drawing upon their unique core strengths to pioneer specific types of field-wide efforts that can positively impact animals. Shelter Animals Count is a new national organization, formed collaboratively by animal protection organizations and associations to create and steward a national database of sheltered animals, while the Kirkpatrick Foundation is combining its intimate knowledge of both Oklahoma and animal protection grantmaking to assess and improve the welfare of various animal populations statewide.

*Speaker: Jodi Buckman, Senior Director of Community Outreach at the ASPCA, will discuss the Shelter Animals Count data gathering initiative supported by a coalition of major U.S. companion animal organizations. Shelter Animals Count guides municipal and nonprofit shelters nationwide in collecting and tracking their animal data in a standardized format that will help them better assess, benchmark, and increase their effectiveness over time.*

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*Speaker: Louisa McCune, Executive Director of the Kirkpatrick Foundation, will discuss The Oklahoma Animal Study, which the foundation published to share findings and recommendations for improvement based on the current status, laws, regulation, care, and general well-being of companion animals, livestock and farm animals, horses, wildlife, exotic animals, and laboratory animals in the state. It is the first such study of its kind.*

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

**Lunch & Networking**

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

**Social Change**

*Moderator: Roger Haston, Executive Director, Animal Assistance Foundation*

In this session we will take a look at the growing importance of social change and community outreach in improving the lives of animals. The session will explore the basic principles of social change, examine a real-world example that will challenge many long held beliefs and end up with a look at the latest and greatest in humane education. It really is all about the people.

*Speaker: Amy Mills, CEO of Emancipet, will discuss how more and more companion animal welfare organizations are looking outside shelter walls and into the lower-income parts of their communities to deliver services. This emerging type of animal welfare work is actually a social change movement: the goal is a transformation in the behavior patterns of pet owners to solve chronic animal welfare challenges. In this interactive session, we'll review the elements of other successful social change efforts, discuss emerging trends in social change, and explore how these lessons can be applied to improve the lives of animals and the people who love them. Our shared goal will be to learn to spot the initiatives with the best chance of success and establish a way to evaluate the results of social change efforts in an animal welfare context.*

*Speaker: Katie Parker, Program Director, Animal Assistance Foundation, will discuss efforts to manage cat populations that are underway everywhere you look. These projects often focus on strategies and programs specifically designed around cats. In Denver, AAF, the project staff, the members of the coalition who initiated the project, and the animal welfare community in Denver as a whole, are building a people-based approach to go beyond population control and create a long-term community solution. This session will discuss some unique methods for reaching into your community and review critical lessons learned to increase effectiveness in getting services to the people -- and animals -- that need them most.*

2:30 PM -- 2:45 PM

**Life of Sherman Video / Break**

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

**Veterinary Science Initiative: Effectively Using Humane Education in a Comprehensive Community Shelter Approach**

*Moderator: Roger Haston, Executive Director, Animal Assistance Foundation*

*Speaker: Brittany Watson, VMD, PhD. Director of Shelter Medicine and Community Engagement, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, will discuss the latest research in producing changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors in your community and how this can be used to the benefit of all your shelter programs. Topics will include: an overview of the Veterinary Science Initiative program, research results from the dissertation, and what this means for how the field of shelter medicine approaches humane education and community outreach.*

3:45 PM -- 4:00 PM

**Networking Break**

4:00 PM -- 5:30 PM

**AG Business Meeting (Members Only)**

5:30 PM -- 6:30 PM

**Free Time**

6:30 PM -- 7:00 PM

**Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres**

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7:00 PM -- 7:30 PM      Dinner

7:30 PM -- 8:30 PM      **KEYNOTE: A Wild Solution for Climate Change**

***How biodiversity is both affected by and can help us address climate change***

*Moderator: Patricia Calfee, President, Animal Grantmakers*

*Speaker: Thomas Lovejoy, PhD, Senior Fellow at the United Nations Foundation, will discuss how Climate Change impacts on biological diversity are already apparent on a worldwide basis. This talk will present an overview of current impacts, and examine what the future may hold for the animals, plants and micro-organisms that share our planet. A little-appreciated mitigating factor is that atmospheric CO<sup>2</sup> concentrations can be lowered by restoring degraded and destroyed ecosystems (e.g., via reforestation), thereby avoiding the amount of climate change that those concentrations would otherwise cause by trapping radiant heat, which highlights the importance of conservation in understanding and mitigating the impacts of climate change.*

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### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM      **Conference Registration Desk Open**

7:30 AM – 8:55 AM      **Continental Breakfast**

8:55 AM – 9:00 AM      **Colorado Collaboration**

9:00 AM -10:30 AM      **Education and Advocacy in Animal Protection**

*Moderator: Mitchell Fox, Program Officer, Glaser Progress Foundation*

As our understanding of animals, animal welfare and animals as sentient beings has grown, the need to improve our public policies has become a significant issue. However, meaningful change in animal welfare policies and practices cannot be obtained without reaching key constituents with the right message, but how is this best accomplished? This panel features speakers who have effectively moved animal protection forward using education and advocacy.

**9:00 -9:30 AM              Animal Sentience**

*Speaker: Jonathan Balcombe, PhD, Animal Behavior Expert*, will discuss how sentience—the capacity to feel—is the bedrock of ethics. Recent decades have witnessed an unprecedented rise in ethical concern for animals, fueled by a combination of philosophical arguments in animals' defense, and by advances in our understanding of the rich complexity of animals' lives. Innovative scientists have designed studies to explore animal cognition and emotions in ways never before considered, including: complex emotions such as optimism and depression; cognitive feats including episodic memory, metacognition, and self-reflection; social skills like referential signaling, democratic decision-making, and interspecies mutualisms mediated by a quest for pleasure. As we become aware of the intensity and awareness with which animals live their lives, the stage is set for dissolving the human-animal divide.

**9:30 – 10:00 AM              Advocacy for Prairie Dogs**

*Speaker: Patricia Olson, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACT, ACAW*, will discuss how values concerning wildlife have changed over the past several decades, including a decline in hunting, growth of nongovernmental organizations, increase of urbanization, more ballot initiatives, and citizen-initiated petitions. In some cases, the values of citizens differ from those held by wildlife agencies. One species that seems to be perpetually involved in urban/wildlife conflict in Colorado is the prairie dog. Developers often consider these animals to be pests, whereas citizens may consider the animals to enrich their communities. Elementary school teachers frequently use prairie dogs to discuss family units, communication strategies, and sharing of habitat. Several Colorado communities have been involved with addressing this issue over the past few years. Developers who are better educated on the issue can benefit as they work with community advocates to humanely manage or relocate the animals.

**10:00 – 10:30 AM              Education as Advocacy**

*Speaker: Vince Wong, Deputy Director of Policy & Civic Engagement for the Michelson Found Animals Foundation*, will discuss how the line between education and advocacy is blurry and can be as thin as a whisker. Nonprofits and foundations often find themselves barred from taking stances on critical legislation, bills, and policy. Or are they? Sometimes, advocacy through education is the most successful means by which we can effect change and create innovative and lasting programs for our communities to protect and save animals. The Found Animals Foundation is at the forefront of innovative and highly impactful initiatives that use municipal politics and policy intersecting community and civic engagement to further animal welfare locally and nationally.

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10:30 AM – 10:45 AM **Break**

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM **Wildlife Panel**

*Moderator: Melanie Anderson, Program Director, Board Member and Vice President, The Summerlee Foundation*

Top carnivores help to shape nearly every aspect of their environment. More than three quarters of the world's large carnivores are now in decline, primarily due to loss of habitat and prey and persecution by humans, states a study published a year ago, in the journal, *Science*. Lead author, Professor William Ripple of Oregon State University, writes, "Many of these animals are at risk of extinction, either locally or globally" and that, "human tolerance of these species is a major conservation issue."

This panel will explore how using a strategic combination of science, advocacy, education, and public policy may be the only hope for saving the animals who will save our world

### **War on Our U.S.-Based Native Carnivores: Does Politics Trump Good Science?**

*Speaker: Nicole Paquette, Vice President of Wildlife Protection for The Humane Society of the United States*, will discuss how in recent years, conservation biologists have sounded an alarm decrying the disappearance of top carnivores including cougars, bears, wolves, and bobcats, who benefit ecosystems, the economy, and hold intrinsic value. Wild carnivores are persecuted by trophy hunters, trappers and government agents who use some of the most egregious and inhumane practices including aerial gunning, baiting, hounding, poisons, steel-jawed leg hold traps and cable neck snares.

Rather than relying on the best available science, wildlife managers' decisions are informed by myth, misinformation and hysteria. Nevertheless, the Humane Society of the U.S. has achieved several recent victories for native carnivores, and Nicole will describe a pathway forward to conserve and protect these majestic animals.

### **Trophy Hunting in Africa**

*Speaker: Josphat Ngonyo, CEO of the Africa Network for Animal Welfare*, will discuss the evolution and challenges of wildlife conservation in Kenya. In 1977, Kenya banned all hunting due to the general decline in wildlife populations. It was felt that hunting encouraged a sense of "winner takes all." Further, foreign exploitation and wildlife abuses fueled demand and justification among local people for the taking of bush meat, adding to the slaughter of Kenya's wildlife. Corruption, poor management, lack of adequate enforcement and habitat destruction due to human population growth all factored into Kenya's decline of natural resources. This session will compare hunting practices in other countries on the African continent to Kenya's wildlife management laws and policies and take a look at the ongoing battles for conservation taking place in this East African country today.

### **Trophy Hunting by Human Super Predators: Stories and Solutions from the Great Bear Rainforest and Beyond**

*Speaker: Chris Darimont, PhD, University of Victoria*, will discuss the concept and implications of the super predator in context. When people think of predators, they often think of wolves, or sharks - maybe spiders. Few would identify humans as predators. Dr. Chris Darimont will argue that not only do humans function as predators but also that their impact is one of a 'super predator' - a predator of predators that causes great harm to populations and individuals. This session offers hope for change, revealing what is working to save carnivores in the Great Bear Rainforest of Canada.

12:15 PM -- 1:30 PM **Lunch & Networking**

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1:30 PM - 2:45 PM

### **Elevating Impact Through Strategic Communications**

*Moderator: Claire Sterling, Director, Grant Strategies, Grants Management, ASPCA*

The manner in which funders communicate with their constituents can greatly help or hinder the effectiveness of their work. This session will provide insight into how grantmaking organizations can develop their communications strategy and practices that make the grantmaking process more efficient, strengthen relationships with grantees and applicants, and positively influence the broader fields in which they operate.

*Speaker: Sean Gibbons, executive director of the Communications Network, will discuss the ways in which developing a clear communications strategy helps funders to work smarter and improve more lives. Attendees will take away tips on creating a communications plan, including the role of social media in strategic communications and how to incorporate it effectively.*

*Speaker: Michelle Greanias, executive director of the Grants Managers Network, will discuss the Project Streamline initiative designed to help grantmakers align their practices with their values while reducing the burden of application and reporting practices on nonprofit grantseekers. Attendees will learn about Project Streamline's core principles, recommended practices that make the biggest difference for grantseekers, and practical tools and resources that grantmakers can use to facilitate positive interactions with grantseekers.*

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

### **Video / Break**

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

### **Going Whole Hog for Animal Welfare in Agriculture**

*Moderator: Scott Cullen, Executive Director, GRACE Communications Foundation*

Factory farms are on the rise nationally and globally, with huge animal welfare implications for billions of animals. Not unlike what we've seen in the poultry industry, hogs – who we know have high cognitive capacity – are increasingly being raised in highly concentrated, inhumane, unhealthy conditions, by farmers trapped in abusive contracts with vertically integrated corporations. We'll hear from some of the country's leading advocates for improvements in the industry.

### **Trends in Factory Farm Expansion Across the U.S. and Rural Community Responses**

*Speaker: Danielle Diamond, Executive Director, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, will give a broad overview of the fight against factory farm expansion across the country and talk about the legal, organizational and communications support her team lends to communities on the ground.*

### **Solutions in Agriculture**

*Speaker: Andrew Gunther, Executive Director, A Greener World, will discuss alternatives to the current systems, how consumers can support change, and how viable alternatives are critical in successful reform.*

### **Improving the Lives of Billions of Animals**

*Speaker: Nathan Runkle, Founder and President, Mercy for Animals, will discuss last year's release of an undercover video that documented abuses at a Colorado hog factory and methods he and his team employ to push for industry reform.*

4:30 PM

### **Session Closes; On Own for the Evening**



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### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:00 AM – 1:00 PM **Conference Registration Desk Open**

7:15 AM – 8:30 AM **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 AM – 10:00AM **Humans and Animals**

*Moderator: David L. Gies, Executive Director (1998-2012) of the Animal Assistance Foundation*

Understanding the bond between humans and animals has been fundamental to much of modern animal welfare efforts and thinking. This session explores the bond between humans and animals with a look at the role that pets play in the family structure, their use in clinical trials for better patient outcomes, and through the role of the legal system in cruelty investigations and convictions.

#### **Human-Animal Bond**

*Speaker: Philip Tedeschi, Executive Director of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver, discusses the human-animal bond. More than 60-70 percent of all modern households include a pet. America's love affair with animals suggests they're not only considered important family members, but that they also contribute to feelings of well-being. Whether operating in a service capacity, as a form of specialized therapy, or simply as a companion, the critical role that animals play cannot be denied. This talk will explore the powerful influence animals have on our social support, health and companionship across the lifespan.*

#### **Assessing the Impacts of Therapy Animals**

*Speaker: Kevin Morris, Scholar-in-Residence, University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, will discuss how a rapidly growing body of international and interdisciplinary research is helping define and measure the numerous impacts animals have on the lives of humans. This talk will focus on research in three key areas: the clinical effects of therapy animals in a variety of environments, the reciprocal impact between humans and other animals in communities, and the incorporation of conservation ideology in social work practice. Dr. Morris will review studies involving therapeutic animal-assisted interventions and the reciprocal impacts of companion animals in communities.*

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM **Break**

10:10 – 11:00 AM **From Crime Scene to Court Room**

*Moderator: David L. Gies, Executive Director (1998-2012) of the Animal Assistance Foundation*

*Speaker: Diane Balkin, Retired Prosecutor, Senior Staff Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund's Criminal Justice Program, will discuss how violence towards animals has long been recognized as a predictor of future violent conduct. There is also a striking correlation between animal abuse and domestic violence. This presentation will discuss these "links" as well as the increased public awareness and outcry regarding crimes against animals. These offenses are often front-page news on mainstream media sites and are prevalent across social media webpages.*

This presentation will introduce the attendees to legal considerations in crimes against animals including an overview of animal cruelty laws. Ms. Balkin will also discuss the challenges when investigating and prosecuting these types of cases. The talk will cover examples of certain types of cruelty including abuse, neglect, and hoarding. She will offer an optimistic view of the trend towards improvement in the handling of cases with victims that cannot speak for themselves.

11:00 – 11:15 AM **Conference Closing Remarks**

*Speaker: Patricia Calfee, President, Animal Grantmakers*