

Congratulations to the 2024 winners of our Outstanding Sanctuary Awards!

Carole Noon Award 2024 – Dr. Indra Lahiri

"One to save a few.
A few to save many.
Many to save the world.
All starts with one."



Few people embody this idea like Dr. Indra Lahiri. If you have ever wondered what the impact of a single person can be, look no further. Indra has gone above and beyond her organization to support this movement in a ripple effect.

Indra founded Indraloka in 2005 and it was one of the first farm sanctuaries in the world to be accredited by GFAS; it remains a pillar in the movement to this day. Under her leadership, the sanctuary has rescued over 2,500 animals and established initiatives that have significantly influenced the field of animal rescue and sanctuary management.

Perhaps it is her background in organizational psychology, or perhaps simply an abundance of compassion and perception of what this movement really needs, but Dr. Lahiri has made stunning efforts to support human AND nonhuman animals alike in her work. Few sanctuaries have the kind of focus Indraloka does on not only healing the nonhuman animals rescued, but healing humans along with them. In fact, they have numerous programs to help underserved youth, help mental health professionals cope, and provide a trauma-informed healing space for those who need it.

Perhaps furthest reaching has been Indra's support for other farm sanctuaries, through her work establishing the Global Coalition of Farm Sanctuaries, a network that connects and supports farm sanctuary operators.

Most recently, Dr. Lahiri has worked to establish the Northeastern Pennsylvania Veterinary Clinic, which ensures high-quality care for animals at Indraloka and other sanctuaries. Skilled veterinary care is a scarcity for sanctuaries, but Indraloka is sharing the love.

Indraloka centers interconnectedness – between humans and nonhumans and between sanctuaries. And it is these connections that Dr. Lahiri has created, that will save so many.

Outstanding Farm Sanctuary Award- Peace Ridge Sanctuary



Spanning over 1800 acres, Peace Ridge Sanctuary cares for over 600 residents on multiple properties. During our visit, they said, “Do you see that mountain ridge in the distance? That’s Peace Ridge. That’s all the sanctuary. Not just for farmed animals, but protected habitat for wild animals too.”

EVERYTHING that Peace Ridge does is centered on the animals themselves. They have built this incredible capacity – the only shelter and sanctuary in Maine, if not all of New England, that can accommodate large scale seizures- and has been integral to law enforcement being able to enforce animal cruelty laws in their state.

Despite the number of their residents coming from abuse and cruelty cases, the quality of animal care provided there is *legitimately* unparalleled. Their executive director Daniella’s veterinary background and laser focus on top medical care means that these are some of the best cared for farmed animals IN THE WORLD.

Through her professionalism, unbending dedication to excellence for her residents, and steadfast integrity in her work she has assembled an equally impressive team to secure her legacy.

Daniella and her team truly let the work speak for itself, and in doing so, they have saved thousands of lives and garnered the respect of this movement. And they’re not done yet.

With now 4 locations and big plans for a location dedicated to education and outreach that will share their compassionate ethics, this sanctuary is positioned to save animals well beyond their mountain. I don’t think they’ve *peaked* yet. But I know with absolute confidence, the example they set in the sanctuary movement and their rescue work is moving mountains for animals.

Outstanding Equine Sanctuary – Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue

The horses at Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue are just that - lucky! Before arriving at Lucky Orphans, they had been discarded, unwanted, neglected, injured, and abused. Once at the sanctuary, their lives are transformed. Each and every horse is tenderly cared for. They are offered quality feed and hay, given fresh water, provided veterinary care, space to just be a horse, but most of all, given unconditional love.

Located in New York, Lucky Orphans was established in 2008 by Deanna Mancuso and has been a safe haven for rescued horses that in turn provide education and equine assisted programs to the community. Currently home to 47 horses, Lucky Orphans is accredited by GFAS, EQUUS, TAA and CHA as well as other certifications by state and national agencies. Maintaining these prestigious accreditations reflects the dedication of the staff and volunteers who care for these horses.



As a sanctuary, Lucky Orphans provides a safe, forever home for their herd. This enables the team to build a trust-based relationship with the horses, and they in turn help to give back to the community through equine education and therapy programs. These programs not only provide equine assisted therapy and education but are essential to creating an environment within the community that is kind and caring towards all beings. Lucky Orphans' mission of *People Helping Horses Heal People* guides all they do for the horses and their community. From the very beginning, Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue was established to be a part of the solution and to offer permanent sanctuary to otherwise unwanted, abused, or neglected animals, and to provide them with a safe haven where they would never again experience the situations that led them to Lucky Orphans in the first place.

Outstanding Wildlife Sanctuary – Wolf Haven International



Wolf Haven has provided true sanctuary to over 300 captive born animals rescued from a myriad of bad situations including: private ownership, and roadside zoos since 1982. Their wolves and wolf-dog residents enjoy a tranquil home with enclosures that feature above and below ground dens, healthy diets, a wide variety of enrichment and excellent veterinary oversight. Wolf Haven is keenly focused on the positive impact they can bring through on and off-site educational programs offered in both English and Spanish. They are a leading voice on wolves and the vital role they play in nature as well as the role we must play in their conservation.

In addition to direct care and education, Wolf Haven has partnered with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the American Red Wolf SAFE program since 2003 and the Mexican Wolf SAFE program since 1994. These programs couldn't be more imperative as, American Red wolves remain one of the most endangered species in North America, with only 19 to 21 individuals estimated to be living in their native North Carolina habitat. Wolves in the program are housed deep in the sanctuary away from visitors and skillfully cared for through remote camera observation. Interaction is limited in order to nurture the wolves' wild instincts and behaviors so they have the best chance at release. Recently, Wolf Haven, garnered international attention when their wolf named, Finch, was released in the wild, joined up with a female and a litter of wolf pups was born.

Outstanding International Sanctuary – Wild Futures



Wild Futures has been with GFAS since the very beginning and was the first sanctuary in Europe to achieve GFAS Accreditation in 2012. This organization has 60 years of expertise rescuing and caring for victims of the monkey pet trade at their facility aptly named, “The Monkey Sanctuary” in Cornwall, England. The sanctuary is located in a beautiful seaside environment and provides the most peaceful respite possible for monkeys that have endured neglect, abuse and all the pitfalls of the human ego. In this true sanctuary, each individual’s character and personality are recognized and supported. Their need for socialization is met as they are allowed physical space and companionship often for the first time.

While caring for each monkey’s special needs, the sanctuary team delivers an educational message to visitors about the plight of primates in private homes. It’s a message they must keep hammering, as the pet trade in the UK is flourishing. After 20 years of campaigning, the UK government finally introduced the “Kept Animals Bill” which looks to restrict the trade in primates. Wild Futures directly contributed to this effort through hosting government ministers at the sanctuary, writing white papers, and through expert consultation, and testimony in the UK Parliament.

Wild Futures courageously navigated the pandemic, which saw the long-term closure of the sanctuary to visitors along with the income they provided, the end of funding from a popular European internship program as a result of Brexit, and the ongoing cost of living crisis. Wild Futures had to mobilize to stay afloat and with organizational restructuring, celebrity fundraising appeals and strict cost saving measures, they avoided closing their doors permanently. Throughout it all, the team remained deeply committed to the individual care of their rescued monkeys while never letting up on their call to ban private ownership.