**A person holding a fish

Description automatically generated Ed Stewart:** ***President and Co-founder, Performing Animal Welfare Society***

Together with his partner, the late Pat Derby, Ed Stewart founded PAWS in 1984 to advocate and provide sanctuary for abandoned, abused or retired performing animals and victims of the exotic animal trade. PAWS established the nation’s first elephant sanctuary in 1986. Ed oversees PAWS’ three California sanctuaries, including the 2,300-acre natural habitat ARK 2000 refuge, where the organization cares for elephants, tigers, lions, bears, nonhuman primates, and other wild or exotic species. He has positioned PAWS as the leader in the “confront captivity” movement, which examines the ethics and efficacy of confining wild animals for novelty, education and conservation. Ed is recognized for his expertise in the management and care of wild animals, and his innovative habitat designs at ARK 2000. He serves on the Director’s Advisory Committee on the Humane Care and Treatment of Wild Animals for the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and is a member of the advisory committees for the Detroit Zoological Society’s Center for Zoo Animal Welfare and The Whale Sanctuary Project. Ed regularly consults for organizations around the world on wild animal rescues and habitat design, and has worked in range countries on projects aimed at mitigating human-elephant conflict.