



## For the Media

CATs has many experts in wildlife science, and many coalition members both local and national ready and available to meet your deadline for interviews.

You can read bios for our spokespeople here.

**Contact:** [info@catsarenttrophies.org](mailto:info@catsarenttrophies.org)

*Thank you on behalf of CATs.*



### Delia Malone

(Redstone) Delia is an ecologist with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and vice-chair of Roaring Fork. She is an adjunct professor at Colorado Mountain College in their Sustainability Program where she teaches Conservation Biology and Ecology. Her avocational activities include Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter for which she serves as chair of the Wildlife Committee, and Roaring Fork Audubon for which she serves as vice-chair and the Rocky Mountain Wolf Project where she serves on the science advisory team.



### Pat Craig

More than four decades ago, Pat Craig had an audacious idea to rescue exotic animals living in inhumane conditions in the United States. Today, you can visit more than 750 rescued lions, tigers, bears, and mustangs at The Wild Animal Sanctuary's four facilities located in Colorado and Texas. The Wild Animal Sanctuary totals over 33,000 acres of safe haven for more than 750 large carnivores — think lions, tigers, and grizzly bears, along with mountain lions, wolves, jaguars, cheetahs, and many other

species — rescued from abusive or illegal conditions. He is a trusted messenger on wild cats of Colorado and CATs is grateful for his leadership and vision.



### **Rick A. Hopkins, PhD**

(San Jose, Calif.) [Rick](#) is President of Live Oak Associates and a nationally recognized wildlife ecologist, who has dedicated more than 45 years to the study of large mammalian carnivores. His proficiency extends to many other wildlife taxa, as well, and encompasses a range of ecosystems in California and elsewhere. Over the course of his career, he has focused most of his research efforts on:

- Conservation biology
- Population ecology
- Movements of wildlife, particularly mammalian carnivores
- Conservation of threatened and endangered wildlife species
- Application of robust spatial tools to landscape-scale conservation efforts for large carnivores (e.g., cougars)

Under Rick's leadership, Live Oak Associates has not only relied on standard and traditional approaches to meeting clients' ecological needs, but where applicable, has incorporated novel and robust spatial tools to strengthen the scientific basis for, and defensibility of, ecological impact analyses and mitigation plans. This innovative approach was behind the company's successful development of a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan for the 190-km<sup>2</sup> Elk Hills Oil Field, a cougar habitat management plan for a nearly 40,000-km<sup>2</sup> area of Southern California, conservation strategies for utility-scale solar projects in the central to southern San Joaquin Valley and Panoche Valley, and unique solutions for mitigating impacts to burrowing owls in Imperial County from a utility-scale solar project.



### **Christine Capaldo, DVM**

(Telluride, CO) Christine has some stories to tell from her many years as a veterinarian. Whether helping to tranquilize, treat and transport rescued baboons, responding with a team to rescue a bear in a pit from a roadside attraction, or working in emergency clinics to administer life-saving procedures to dogs, cats, and other pets, her resume reflects her determined advocacy and deep love for animals. She is part of the team at the Animal Hospital of Telluride in Ilium.

Christine has worked for the PETA Foundation as one of the organization's national veterinarians, with her work focusing on treating and rescuing captive wildlife in situations of

abuse and neglect in roadside zoos around the country. “I enjoy working with various species,” she said. “We moved a lot of animals from the roadside zoos to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado, primarily bears and large cats.”



## Dave Ruane

[Dave](#) is an avid naturalist and outdoorsman, and much of his camping is accompanied by hiking, wildlife watching, birdwatching, searching for reptiles and amphibians, fishing, (elk and deer) hunting, climbing and four-wheeling.

Dave likes turtles! His truck camper stops for critters crossing the road. “With the reptiles, I’ll go out and find new species. I used to go to Illinois and camp along Mississippi river and watch the turtles out there laying eggs. I’ll also lift up boards and look for snakes. I get really good pictures of wildlife that way.”



He has a really nice camera and always goes looking for wildlife. Cooper and Gracie are 85-pound Labrador Retrievers, and they also go on outdoor camping adventures. His third dog is a cocker mix.

“I have taken both labs with me before. I remember when Cooper was a puppy, he would come up with me in the cabover all the time. Then later in the night, Gracie would hop up with me, so I had both labs up with me in the cabover.”

Dave is a sane and reasoned voice in wildlife management, especially when it comes to predators, and he is not at all shy to voice his opinion.



## Mark Surls

Photography has defined [Mark's](#) life in many ways. His earliest outings occurred with his brother and father. These consisted of him carrying a camera bag full of every lens

his dad gave him and a slow hike, usually to a waterfall or a beautiful North Georgia mountaintop.

After his father's premature passing, Mark drifted away from photography, and it wasn't until his early 30s that he brought the camera back into the center of his life.

All along, a strong appreciation of the outdoors was instilled in him. Mark has gone beyond wildlife photography and now advocates for the animals he loves so dearly. He lobbies legislators and speaks to neighbors and strangers with great passion and hope for inspiration.



Mark is the author of *Coyote Conversations* and Coexistence Ambassador for the Mountain Lion Foundation



### Katie Dolan

(Edwards, CO) [Katie](#) is a journalist who lives with her husband and dogs in Edwards, Colorado. She has an MS in Environmental Studies from Yale and an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College, where she also taught courses on Animals in Literature. In one of her children's books, a dog explains the reasons why piping plovers are endangered, and the measures being taken to protect them.





From a book review of *Bella, the Wildlife Ambassador*:

An engaging environmental message from an endearing canine character: “The author ... straightforwardly explains the scientific material, such as how an ecosystem is thrown out of balance when “apex predators” disappear and “mesopredators” thrive. She’s convincing without hammering the points home, making it more likely that kids will be inspired to make their own environmental contributions.



## Charles Seymour

I’ve been a passionate fly fisherman for 25 years and I have purchased fishing licenses and habitat stamps here in Colorado for 25 years.

My wife Ellen and I love to travel - we do a lot of biking vacations, enjoy food and wine and spend time with our dog Birdie. We foster a lot of dogs and since 2019 have helped 30-plus dogs find their forever

families. We enjoy hiking/camping in the summer, skiing, fishing and wildlife watching all year. We are very excited for wolves to come back to Colorado and I pay particular attention to CPW and follow wildlife issues nationally/internationally. The more I started reading about groups like the Safari Club and the nefarious disinformation campaigns that they wage (they promote coyote killing contests as “responsible wildlife management”), I realized that SCI and other nefarious actors have fully infiltrated/bought our state wildlife agencies, elected officials and are targeting youth organizations as their next generation.

I’m thankful that Gov. Jared Polis has made some good commissioner appointments over the years and is slowly turning things in the right direction.



## Brett Ochs

Brett has been hunting the majority of his life and believes that mountain lions belong on the natural landscape and should not be hunted for sport. He is outspoken on the need for more ethical hunters in Colorado to not be afraid to speak up for the true conservation of carnivores.

Listen to him speak here: [The Wolf Connection Episode #45 Brett Ochs — Hunter, Naturalist, Wolf Advocate](#)



## Valerie Johnson, DVM

[Dr. Valerie Johnson](#): I am a critical care veterinarian with a strong interest in exotic species and wildlife. I received my PhD in 2020 at Colorado State University and have a long history of working at The Wild Animal Sanctuary. During my 10 years at CSU I developed a protocol to grow mesenchymal stem cells from blood from elephants and giraffes and have treated multiple exotic species including elephants, giraffes, large felids, bears, monkeys,

Sichuan takin and multiple other species. I am an associate professor at Michigan State University. Over the past 10 years I have been investigating the effects of mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) as a therapeutic modality for various disease processes including multidrug resistant infections, immune-mediated disease and arthritis. I have worked with animal models trying to elucidate the mechanisms by which these cells exert a therapeutic effect and additionally have participated in several clinical trials in dogs and exotic species with a variety of inflammatory diseases infectious disease and inflammatory disease. With systemically administered allogeneic (same species different animal) MSC adverse reactions are rare similar to what is documented in humans. My current research interests include investigating the potential anti-viral effects of mesenchymal stem cells and comparison of MSC and therapeutic effects between species.