



**February 15-17, 2017: ACC&D Think Tank on Ethical Decision-Making in Innovation for Animal Welfare**

**Think Tank Attendees**



**Deepashree Balam, BVSc & AH, MBA**

*Outreach Director at Global Alliance for Rabies Control*

Deepashree Balam is the Outreach Director at the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), which has a collaborative One Health approach to eliminate rabies across the world, embracing human and animal health and welfare partners. She works on campaigns and outreach for the organization, including management of the annual World Rabies Day; development of communications/ awareness resources and capacity building tools; and coordination of partner campaigns.

A veterinarian by training, with a MBA, she has worked in the field of animal welfare for over 15 years, gaining varied experience at international organizations and co-founding ACTAsia for Animals. Her work has involved development of humane education resources, planning and capacity building for NGOs and NGO networks in different countries, international campaign development, and companion animal welfare field programs.



**Michael Barrett**

*Vice President of Grants Management, ASPCA*

Michael Barrett has led the grants department at the ASPCA since 2008. Under his leadership, cumulative grants have surpassed \$120 million to nearly 3,300 grantees, and grant programs have expanded to include a variety of creative initiatives that respond to the needs of animals in every U.S. state.

Previously, Michael worked for the Gulf Coast Task Force at New York's regional grant maker association, Philanthropy New York.

Michael lives in New York City with his dog, Binah, who was rescued by the ASPCA from a puppy mill in 2010.



**Sarah Endersby, BVetMed**

*International Cat Care*

Sarah Endersby qualified from the RVC and spent time in both mixed and small animal practice before joining Ceva Animal Health in 2010 as a veterinary advisor. Sarah has enjoyed working with experts for many species and disciplines during her time at Ceva, but is now looking forward to devoting her time to cats when she joins the team at International Cat Care.



**Carla Forte Maiolino Molento, Méd. Vet., MSc, PhD**  
*Professor, Federal University of Parana, Curitiba, Brazil*

Professor at the Federal University of Parana, Carla Molento coordinates the Animal Welfare Laboratory, founded in 2004. The mission of the Laboratory is to improve the quality of life of animals, through teaching in Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine Programs and through the development of outreach and research projects that lead directly or indirectly to the increase in animal welfare status.

Amongst the main research topics, there are dog welfare issues, mostly related to stray dogs and methods for humane population management. Other research lines developed relate to farm animal welfare, laboratory animal welfare and the development of a protocol for expert report in cases of animal mistreatment suspicion.

Carla Molento is the president of the Ethics and Animal Welfare Committee at the Federal Council of Veterinary Medicine in Brazil, an institution similar to AVMA in the USA, for the period from Jan 2015 until 2018. She is also vice-director of the Veterinary Medicine Program at UFPR, where a new curriculum has been developed and implemented this year.



**Roger Haston, PhD**  
*Chief Administrative Officer, PetSmart Charities*

Dr. Haston grew up in Northern California enjoying the beautiful redwood forests and Pacific Ocean with the family dog, Sebastian La Wrinkle – a basset hound. He received a Ph.D. in geophysics from the University of California Santa Barbara and a MBA in finance from Rice University.

After working for Amoco and Arco in Houston, Dr. Haston moved to Colorado in 1998 where he started and grew a successful business in geophysical data processing. He had a strong desire to give back to the community and became involved with Humane Society of Boulder Valley as a volunteer, board member and board chair. He also worked with both for profit and non-profit organizations on strategy and leadership development with a strong focus on creating mission-driven organizations.

His passion for helping animals continued to grow and in 2012 he committed himself full-time to animal welfare and took over as Executive Director at the Animal Assistance Foundation where he has merged his passion for science, business, and people to help the animals of Colorado and beyond.

He has recently joined PetSmart Charities as the CAO. He also serves on the boards of Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund, Emancipet, Animal Grant Makers, the National Council on Pet Overpopulation, and Shelter Animals Count.



**Rod Jouppi, BA, DVM**  
*President, Wild at Heart Wildlife Centre; University Veterinarian, Laurentian University*

Dr. Rod Jouppi graduated with a DVM degree from the Ontario Veterinary

College in Guelph, Ontario, Canada in 1978. He has been co-owner of a six veterinarian small animal hospital in Northern Ontario until 2015 & is also the founder and president of Wild at Heart, a wildlife refuge center, which treats all indigenous wildlife of northern Ontario.

Dr. Jouppi is the Director of the Animal Research Facility and University veterinarian at Laurentian University in Sudbury Ontario and is assistant professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine where he focuses on zoonotic disease.

Dr. Jouppi is very involved with animal welfare issues. He works very closely with all animal charities in the Sudbury area and he works with remote fly-in First Nation communities on James Bay setting up spay/neuter clinics as well as consulting in areas of animal care and control and related public health issues.

Dr. Jouppi is closely associated with many veterinary organizations in animal welfare issues and has organized several international veterinary outreach programs in South Africa, Philippines and Brazil.

“I may wear many hats but really, my main job is being an animal advocate.”



**Monica List, MV, Mag B**

*Animal Welfare Specialist, Compassion in World Farming; PhD Candidate, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University*

Monica List received her Veterinary Medicine degree from the National University of Costa Rica in 2000. From 2000 to 2006, she practiced at the Zoo Ave Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Alajuela, Costa Rica, where her work focused on the rehabilitation of small primates and birds. From 2006 to 2010, she worked as Regional Veterinary Programs Manager for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (currently World Animal Protection), implementing WSPA’s companion animal welfare and higher education programs in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

In 2011, she obtained a Master’s degree in bioethics from the National University of Costa Rica, and she later continued her graduate studies at Michigan State University, where she is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Philosophy. Monica’s research interests include animal ethics, the ethics of food and agriculture, environmental ethics, and animal welfare, with a focus on the social and ethical dimensions of animal welfare science.

Currently, she works as an Animal Welfare Specialist for Compassion in World Farming USA, where her role involves providing technical support in the areas of animal welfare science, ethics, and policy, as well as advancing farm animal welfare standards through engagement with producers, consumers, food businesses, and other animal welfare organizations.



**Lisa Moses, VMD, DACVIM**

*Pain Medicine Service, Angell Animal Medical Center Research Fellow in Bioethics, Center for Bioethics, Harvard Medical School Chair, Animal Ethics Study Group, Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics*

Dr. Lisa Moses is the current chair of the Animal Ethics Study Group at Yale’s Center for Interdisciplinary Ethics and a research fellow at Harvard Medical School’s Center for Bioethics. She completed a fellowship in

bioethics at the Harvard Center for Bioethics and received her veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Moses was a senior staff member in the Emergency and Critical Care Medicine Section for over a dozen years before founding the Pain Medicine and Palliative Care Service at the MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. The Pain Medicine Service is a unique program that assesses and treats complex cases of pain in all companion animal species. The service also provides comprehensive palliative care for animals with long-term chronic illness and end-of-life patients.

In addition to her clinical practice, she runs an ethics consultation service and monthly ethics discussion group, both open to members of the entire MSPCA staff. She also provides ethics consultation to outside academic institutions, veterinary hospitals, zoological, and animal welfare organizations regarding issues such as euthanasia decision-making, medical errors and use of pets in clinical research.

Dr. Moses began her career as an animal welfare officer in a large animal shelter in rural Oregon, which shaped much of her interest in animal use and animal ethics. Her research interests include moral distress and ethical dilemmas in clinical veterinary practice, the ethics of advanced veterinary medicine and end of life care, and the use of animals for human therapy and service.



**Kate Natrass Atema, MS**

*Director, Global Companion Animals Programs, IFAW*

Kate Natrass Atema is Director of the Global Companion Animals Program at the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), comprising community-based dog and cat welfare projects and campaigns in 13 countries on 6 continents. She also serves as Chairperson of the International Companion Animal Management Coalition (ICAM).

Kate began her career at the Social Science Research Center of Berlin (WZB) in Germany, and holds a Master's degree Animals and Public Policy from Tufts University, where she subsequently served as adjunct faculty and continues to enjoy mentoring students in global animal welfare policy and research.

Kate has published numerous articles in scientific and popular literature on topics ranging from assistance dogs to Animal Law, and regularly presents her team's work internationally with emphasis on the impacts of animal welfare on communities and strategies for community engagement in animal welfare. Her work at IFAW focuses on the development and implementation of participatory processes for empowering communities to sustainably address both human and animal welfare development challenges.

Originally from California, Kate has lived in Berlin and the Hague, and currently resides in Falmouth, Massachusetts. She shares an unusual abode on Hunky Dory Farm Road with her husband, two sons, a dog who likes to sing the Canadian anthem, and eight chickens whose excellent names exceed the word count of this bio.



**Katie Parker, CAWA**

*Executive Director, Animal Assistance Foundation*

Katie Parker currently serves as Executive Director for the Animal Assistance Foundation, a grant-making organization with a focus on companion animal welfare throughout the state of Colorado. She has been with AAF since 2013.

Previously, Parker was an animal welfare inspector with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, where she developed a strong connection with Colorado's rural communities. Parker also spent several years on the staff of the Dumb Friends League where she honed her animal welfare expertise and renewed her passion for serving the Denver community.

A Denver native, Parker is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. She served as an officer in the US Air Force, building and maintaining weapons systems for the F-16 aircraft. She is a Certified Animal Welfare Administrator and currently serves on the board of directors for The Grey Muzzle Organization, a national grant-making group dedicated to improving the lives of homeless senior dogs.

Parker previously served as a board member for the Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies and is closely involved with the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund.

Katie resides with her husband Eric, another Air Force Academy graduate, in Denver with several wonderfully crazy adopted pets.



**Peter Sandøe PhD**

*Professor, University of Copenhagen*

Peter Sandøe has been professor of bioethics at the University of Copenhagen since 1997, presently with his chair divided between the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and the Department of Food and Resource Economics.

He was educated in philosophy at the University of Copenhagen (MA 1984) and the University of Oxford (D.Phil. 1988). From 1992 to 2012 he served as the chairman of the Danish Ethical Council for Animals, an advisory board, set up by the Danish Minister of Justice.

From 2000 to 2007 he served as the president of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics. Since 1990 the major part of his research has been within bioethics with particular emphasis on ethical issues related to animals, biotechnology and food production. He is committed to interdisciplinary work combining perspectives from natural science, social sciences and philosophy.

He has published 123 papers in journals with peer review, more than 300 other academic contributions, and more than 230 contributions aimed at a broader audience. His books include *Ethics of Animal Use* (co-authored with Stine B. Christiansen), published by Blackwell in 2008, and *Companion Animal Ethics* (co-authored with Sandra Corr and Clare Palmer), published by Wiley/Blackwell in 2016. He is the co-author of a number of tools for e-learning, including *Animal Ethics Dilemma* ([www.aedilemma.net](http://www.aedilemma.net)).



**Kara Schmitt, MSW, LCSW**

*Consulting Partner, Rocky Mountain Center for Positive Change*

Kara Schmitt brings 20 years of leadership and consulting experience in the nonprofit sector to her work with the Rocky Mountain Center. Her skills include: organization and program development; strategic planning; cross-sector work and partnerships; team-building; mediation; and fundraising.

She has worked directly with youth and families experiencing homelessness, immigrant and refugee families, children involved with child welfare, and individuals impacted by mental illness. She enjoys utilizing her experience in direct service to strengthen organizations and systems that support children, families and the larger community.

As a facilitator and consultant, Kara supports individuals, teams, organizations and systems to operate from their greatest strengths. She believes that all members of our community should have an active voice and role in coming up with the solutions to make our communities stronger. Past clients include Mile High United Way, Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative, and Florence Crittenton Services.

She has also served as adjunct faculty for the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work.



**James Serpell, PhD**

*Professor of Humane Ethics & Animal Welfare, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine*

James Serpell holds the Marie A. Moore endowed Chair of Animal Ethics & Welfare at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. He received his bachelor's degree in Zoology from University College London in 1974, and his PhD in Animal Behavior from the University of Liverpool in 1980.

At Penn Vet he teaches veterinary ethics, applied animal behavior and welfare, and human-animal interactions. His research focuses on the behavior and welfare of dogs and cats, the development of human attitudes to animals, and the history and impact of human-animal relationships.

He has published more than 150 articles and book chapters on these and related topics, and is the author, editor or co-editor of several books including *Animals & Human Society: Changing Perspectives* (1994), *In the Company of Animals* (1996), *Companion Animals & Us* (2000), and *The Domestic Dog* (2016). Dr. Serpell is also the creator of the widely used Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire (C-BARQ: [www.cbarq.org](http://www.cbarq.org)).



**Vic Spain, DVM, PhD**

*Senior Director, Applied Research and Development, ASPCA*

Dr. Vic Spain is Senior Director in the American SPCA's Research and Development department. In that role, Vic provides scientific leadership on research strategy, study design, and data analyses. His current research includes forensics for animal-cruelty cases, effectiveness of animal-related legislation, assessing state and local emergency preparedness for animals, and methods for connecting consumers to higher welfare animal-based food products.

Vic received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of California, Davis and later attended Cornell University, where he received a PhD in Epidemiology with a graduate minor in biostatistics. He began his career at the San Francisco SPCA Animal Hospital where he served first as associate veterinarian and then as Medical Director. In San Francisco, Vic was also a commissioner for the city's Animal Control and Welfare Commission and president of the Board of Directors for Pets Are Wonderful Support, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases care for their pets.

Vic served as the Bioterrorism and Infectious Disease Epidemiologist for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, where he evaluated and refined the city's surveillance systems and oversaw the evaluation of mass-vaccination and mass-dispensing exercises. During his seven years in the pharmaceutical industry, Vic was an advisor on research study design and outcomes measurement with a focus on assessing cost-effectiveness of new treatments and measuring healthcare quality.

When Vic is not working, you will often find him playing cello with the Transbay Piano Trio or biking around San Francisco with his family.



**Andrew H. Sparkes, BVetMed, PhD, DipECVIM, MANZCVS, MRCVS**  
*Veterinary Director, International Cat Care*

Andrew Sparkes graduated from the Royal Veterinary College (University of London) in 1983, and after a period of four years in general practice joined the staff of the University of Bristol as an intern/resident in feline medicine in 1987, a post funded by the charity International Cat Care ([www.icatcare.org](http://www.icatcare.org)).

Following completion of the residency he went on to a research appointment at the University of Bristol (1990-1993), which led to the successful completion of a PhD. In 1993, Andrew was appointed Lecturer in Feline Medicine in the Department of Clinical Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol (a position also funded by International Cat Care).

In 1999, he was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Feline Medicine and then in the summer of 2000, Andrew moved to the Animal Health Trust in the UK where in 2008 he took over as Head of the Division of Small Animal Studies. In 2010, Andrew became an independent consultant and then in 2012 was appointed as the Veterinary Director of International Cat Care and its veterinary division the International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM).

Andrew has published widely in the field of feline medicine, is a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and is the founding and current co-editor of the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery – the official journal of the ISFM and the AAFP.



**Apryl Steele, DVM**  
*COO, Denver Dumb Friends League*

As chief operating officer of the Dumb Friends League in Denver, Dr. Apryl Steele is charged with developing and coordinating strategic innovations and solutions to achieve the mission of ending pet homelessness and animal suffering. From a strategic and collaborative viewpoint, she oversees operations, development, communications, finance and administration for the Dumb Friends League and for the Colorado Humane Society.

A dynamic leader as well as a practicing veterinarian in Denver for 18 years, Apryl has extensive knowledge of our community and animal welfare. She is a past president of the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society, of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and of the Animal Assistance Foundation.

Apryl is currently on the board of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, is a delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association house of delegates, has served on the boards of PetAid Colorado and the Dumb Friends League, and is a veteran of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. She currently serves as the president of the Colorado Humane Society.

Apryl and her wife share their home with two dogs, Mister and Reba, and two cats, Karou and Rufous.



**Philip Tedeschi, LCSW**

*Executive, Director, Institute for Human-Animal Connection*

Professor Philip Tedeschi is the Executive Director of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver within the Graduate School of Social Work. He has been with the University of Denver for 22 years and is the founder of the Animal Assisted Social Work

Program.

He is recognized for expertise in the clinical methods for Animal Assisted Interventions and coordinates the school's Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate program for the Master of Social Work students, as well as the global Animals and Human Health professional development certificate program.

Philip's research, scholarship, presentations, training and community practice work have focused on human-animal interaction, conservation animal welfare, human ecology and international social work.

Philip is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, certified Master Therapeutic Riding Instructor, former course director and instructor with Outward Bound, wilderness medical technician, certified animal cruelty forensic evaluator and humane law enforcement professional.



**James Yeates, PhD**

*Chief Veterinary Officer, RSPCA*

James Yeates is Chief Veterinary Officer of the RSPCA, a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioral Medicine, and RCVS Recognized Specialist in animal welfare science, ethics and law.

He holds bachelor degrees in veterinary science and medical ethics, the RCVS Diploma in animal welfare, ethics and law and a PhD. His management role covers a range of HR, functional management, policy and public-facing responsibilities. His research interests include veterinary ethics, and the ethics underlying animal welfare science.

## **ACC&D Staff and Board of Directors Attending**



**Joyce Briggs, MS**  
*President, ACC&D*

Joyce Briggs has been involved in a leadership capacity with ACC&D since 2004 and has served as president since 2006. During this time she has helped substantially advance interest in, work toward, and support for creating non-surgical sterilants for progressive population control of cats and dogs. She has led the organization's strategic planning, fundraising, and program development, established a respected Scientific Advisory Board, and produced and directed three major scientific symposiums and five scientific think tanks prior to this one. She played a key cultivation role in developing strategic partnerships advancing this field, including the Michelson Prize & Grants.

Ms. Briggs has been a leader in national animal welfare for over twenty years through top general management, marketing, development, program and public relations positions at national nonprofit organizations including PetsMart Charities and the American Humane Association, and as a management consultant bridging nonprofits, corporations and communities. She also served on the national Board of Directors for the Delta Society for three years and is active with the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP), a regional coalition of animal shelters. Prior to working full-time in animal protection, Ms. Briggs held corporate positions for 15 years. Her career spans management positions with New York City advertising agencies, including Ogilvy & Mather, and marketing leadership positions with Nabisco, Nutri-System and the Franklin Mint. She holds a master's degree in advertising from Northwestern University.

Ms. Briggs shares her home in Portland, Oregon, with her husband, daughter, two dogs, two cats, two hens, three goats, and a frog.



**Valerie Benka, MS, MPP**  
*Project Manager, ACC&D*

Valerie Benka's responsibilities include organizational communications and outreach, organizing ACC&D's International Symposia, and participating in organizational planning, programmatic activities and fundraising.

Valerie brings a background in nonprofit management and animal welfare work to ACC&D. She worked as a grantwriter for a non-profit working to increase college enrollment among low-income youth.

She coordinated a feline adoption program in Virginia and interned at both the International Fund for Animal Welfare and The Humane Society of the United States. As a graduate student in the Animals and Public Policy Program at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Valerie explored strategies to expand humane canine population control in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Closer to home, in central Massachusetts, she conducted research on reduced-cost feline spay/neuter, including the factors that motivate people to have their pets sterilized and both the life histories and long-term outcomes of feline clients. Valerie also has graduate degrees in Conservation Biology and Public Policy from the University of Michigan, where she focused on

human-wildlife conflict in rural Kenya.

She has published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA)*, *Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery*, *EcoHealth*, and *Humans and Animals: A Geography of Co-existence*.

Valerie currently lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with two cats and a dog.



**Amy Fischer, PhD**

*Teaching Associate and Extension Specialist, Animal Sciences, University of Illinois*

Dr. Amy Fischer is a Teaching Associate and Extension Specialist with the University of Illinois Department of Animal Sciences, where she coordinates the Companion Animal Biology and Humane Education program. This program emphasizes the science of companion animals as well as their roles in society, and encourages students to apply knowledge through a wide variety of internships, service-based learning projects, and other opportunities based on community partnerships.

Dr. Fischer is an active member of the Central Illinois Animal Welfare Coalition. She also serves as an ad hoc member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Michelson Prize & Grants, a program of the Found Animals Foundation. She has volunteered with numerous domestic and international population control campaigns, and is deeply committed to advancing the application of nonsurgical sterilization methods in humane population control.



**Susan Getty, MS**

*Coordinator, ACC&D*

Susan Getty has been working in the field of animal welfare for close to ten years. She has a breadth of experience including serving as a veterinarian's assistant, managing support services for low-income, disabled persons and their companion animals, coordinating outreach regarding co-existence with wildlife, and animal shelter program assessment and design.

In 2013, Susan earned an MS in Animals and Public Policy from Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, for which she conducted research on the whale shark tourism industry in Holbox, Mexico. She has since worked as a consultant in responsible tourism for an animal welfare non-profit and presently serves as an animal welfare advisor for Ethical Traveler.

Susan lives in Portland, OR.



**Kevin Morris, PhD**

*Consultant, Morris Consulting; Scholar in Residence, Institute for Human-Animal Connection, University of Denver*

Dr. Kevin Morris pursues an interest in applying his scientific expertise to a better understanding of the human-animal bond and the advancement of animal health and welfare. He does this as a professional consultant and as a

Scholar in Residence within the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver.

As the Director of Research at the Animal Assistance Foundation from 2008 into 2012, he developed models for better understanding the issues of animal sheltering, dog and cat sterilization, unwanted horses and animal-assisted therapy. The information was used to drive the foundation's grant making strategy. Now, his research with local and national organizations continues to create important new information for the animal welfare community.

Dr. Morris brings an extensive background in medical research and technology development to his work in animal health and welfare. He was involved in cancer research for over 20 years, including a 10-year stint as a Co-Founding Partner of Sirius Medicine, a research and development company that generates new radio-surgical technologies for cancer treatment.

Dr. Morris received his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Chicago, and was a Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Cancer Research Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Colorado.



**Jesse Winters**

*Senior Director, ASPCA Shelter Outreach*

Jesse Winters joined the ASPCA in 1999 and currently serves as Senior Director of the ASPCA's Shelter Outreach department, helping guide development and implementation of the mentoring program for the ASPCA Relocation Initiative. Jesse provided subject matter expertise for the ASPCA Position Statement on Community Cats, and served on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for the GonaCon vaccine trial at Clowder Concepts in Illinois, a flagship project of the Alliance for Contraception of Dogs and Cats (ACC&D).

Certified in Appreciative Inquiry Facilitation, Jesse has extensive facilitation experience in participatory decision-making, and workshop design and facilitation using adult learning principles. Her areas of expertise include strategic planning, pet retention and safety-net programming, shelter operations, compassion fatigue and stress management, adoption policies, and ethical decision making.

During her tenure at the ASPCA, Jesse has deployed to numerous natural disasters and large-scale cruelty cases with the ASPCA Animal Disaster Response Team, including Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, and Ike, as well as multiple cruelty investigations including the "Missouri 500", a multi-jurisdictional dog fighting case in Missouri. She is trained in Veterinary Forensics Animal Crime Scene Investigations, Ice Rescue, Technical Animal Rescue, and Search & Rescue III.

Jesse received her bachelor's degree from Clark University in Worcester, MA. She is humble servant to her eight adopted companions - canines Jasper and Nigel, and felines Lewis, Leo, Queenie, Mercy (adopted during a cruelty case deployment involving 400 cats in Pennsylvania), Mariska, and Marlene (two of the GonaCon Study cats).