

March 20, 2021

# International Day of Happiness

4:00 PM ET

The science  
(& stories) of how  
animals make us  
happy

A year into the coronavirus pandemic, what have we learned? This virtual conversation will highlight Gallup polling data along with stories and anecdotes from the field of how wildlife, nature, and animals bring us joy—especially in challenging times like these.

**RSVP to register & receive log-in details:**

[tmann@onenatureglobal.org](mailto:tmann@onenatureglobal.org)

- PANELISTS -



**Monica Medina**

**Moderator**  
Co-Founder,  
Our Daily Planet



**Beth Allgood**

Founder & President,  
One Nature



**Stephanie Marken**

Executive Director,  
Education Research,  
Gallup



**Lisa LaFontaine**

President & CEO,  
Humane Rescue Alliance

+ four-legged special guest

**Monica Medina**

**Co-Founder, Our Daily Planet**

Monica Medina is the founder and publisher of Our Daily Planet, an environmental e-mail newsletter, and an independent consultant. She is also an adjunct professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Previously, Monica served as deputy director of the Environment Program at the Walton Family Foundation, and she was senior director of ocean policy at the National Geographic Society. From 2012 to 2013, she served as special assistant to the secretary of defense. Earlier, she served as principal deputy undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She serves on the boards of two nonprofit organizations: SkyTruth, Inc. and the Service Women's Action Network. Monica is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She attended Georgetown University on an U.S. Army R.O.T.C. scholarship and began her legal career on active duty in the Honor's Program of the Army General Counsel's office. For her service in the Army, she was awarded an Army Commendation Medal in 1989 and a Meritorious Service Medal in 1990. In 2013, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta awarded Monica the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal.

**Stephanie Marken**

**Executive Director, Education Research, Gallup**

Stephanie previously served as Chief Methodologist at Gallup where she was responsible for sample design, data collection approach and methodology for Gallup's public release studies in education and workforce development areas. In this role, Stephanie was the sample and design architect for Gallup's largest education studies including the Gallup Alumni Survey, formerly the Gallup-Purdue Index, and the Strada-Gallup Education Consumer Survey. Stephanie also was responsible for individual university projects surveying currently enrolled students and alumni and conducted complex program evaluations. To date, Stephanie has worked with more than 100 colleges and universities, designing complex research projects to address their unique research questions and measure the long- and short-term outcomes of a college degree.

**Beth Allgood**

**Founder and President, OneNature**

Beth is a passionate advocate for policies and practices that promote well-being for people, animals, and the planet. With more than 25 years of experience in conservation, animal welfare, and community development, she knows that our wellbeing depends on how we rebuild a post-COVID world with all beings in mind. Her mission is to help people recognize, value, champion, and act to protect the wellbeing and interconnection of all beings and the planet. Before founding One Nature, Beth was the US Director at the International Fund for Animal Welfare. She led a team of conservation and animal welfare experts, and conceptualized, established and led IFAW's work integrating animals and human wellbeing to create system change. Starting in 2014 Beth began to research, publish reports and papers, and develop partnerships on the topic of wildlife and wellbeing, presenting her findings at international summits such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Conference of the Parties in Cancun and Egypt and policy venues like the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. She has held briefings for Congressional and UN audiences, and authored published, peer-reviewed articles on the topic that have been quoted in the media.

**Lisa LaFontaine**

**President & CEO, Humane Rescue Alliance**

Lisa serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA), which provides animal welfare programs and services to the community. In 2019, Lisa oversaw the merger of the Humane Rescue Alliance with St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center of New Jersey to create the first regional, community-based, multi-state animal welfare organization in the nation. In her previous role as CEO of New Hampshire's Monadnock Humane Society, Lisa spearheaded a successful capital campaign that resulted in construction of a new, state-of-the-art animal welfare facility and an expanded endowment fund for the organization. In 2007 she was hired as President and CEO by the Washington Humane Society, where she significantly increased the live release rate for animals from one of the lowest to one of the highest in the country. She also advocated for greater animal protection through innovative programs and changes in law and built critical relationships with DC's diverse interests and communities on behalf of animals in need. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Association for Animal Welfare Advancement.