



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation & Four Paws International
Unite to Raise Awareness for Global Animal Welfare on October 23rd**

HRH Princess Alia bint Hussein of Jordan, Dr. Amir Khalil of Four Paws, and National Geographic's Sharon Guynup among international supporters to attend and participate in a panel discussion on rescuing abused and abandoned animals in war-torn countries

October 3, 2019 (TORONTO): The Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation, an organization focused on supporting animal welfare and humane practices worldwide, is pleased to announce **an evening of awareness and support for animals, in partnership with Four Paws International**, on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto.

The event will welcome animal welfare advocates on an international scale as they come together in support of Four Paws' vision of **creating a world where people treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding**. The invitation only reception will be followed by a **panel discussion focusing on the intricacies and complexities of planning and executing high-risk animal rescues**. Often taking place under extreme circumstances and with excruciating time constraints in active war zones. The Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation founder **Eric Margolis** will be joined on the panel by **Princess Alia bint Hussein of Jordan** (The Princess Alia Foundation), **Dr. Amir Khalil** (Director of Project Development, Four Paws International) and **Sharon Guynup** (Senior Writer, National Geographic).

As Director of Project Development, **Dr. Khalil** is responsible for Four Paws missions in crisis, leading negotiations on daring animal rescues in areas faced with military conflict and violence. The dangerous animal evacuations require support from global partners including **Princess Alia bint Hussein of Jordan** who hosts many of the rescued at the sanctuary, **Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife**. It is here that animals experience their first taste of freedom. The Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation, led by **Eric and Dana Margolis**, continue to support Four Paws on their animal rescue efforts in war-torn areas of the world, with past missions including Aleppo, Rafah, and Mosul.

"I have never been able to witness the suffering of helpless animals who have no voice to express their pain, fears, loneliness and being wrenched away from family – without taking action. We share all these emotions with animals – and they with us," says **Eric S. Margolis, Founder of The Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation**. "Four Paws and the Princess Alia Foundation continue to impress me greatly with their dedication of providing a sanctuary for abused, neglected and abandoned animals, both wild and domesticated, and we are honoured to have them join us in Toronto for this meaningful evening of awareness and support."

About the Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation

Eric Margolis is a veteran journalist and author. He has covered numerous conflicts around the world as a correspondent and witnessed much suffering. Born out of a love of animals, humanity and nature, The Eric S Margolis Family Foundation has been established to support and nurture these vital elements. The mandate of the foundation is threefold: to support organizations worldwide, who provide a natural sanctuary for abused, neglected and abandoned animals, both wild and domesticated; to support the advocacy work of organizations worldwide, who rally for more stringent animal cruelty laws and subsequent penalties; and to support organizations worldwide, whose main focus is to help animals, both wild and domesticated, who may be in immediate distress.

For more information on the Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation, please

visit: <http://www.margolisfoundation.org/>

About Four Paws International

FOUR PAWS is an international animal welfare organisation with headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Founded by Heli Dugler in 1988, the organisation strives to help animals in need with sustainable campaigns and projects. The work is based on substantiated research and scientific expertise as well as intensive national and international lobbying. FOUR PAWS focuses on animals that are directly under human influence: stray dogs and stray cats, farm animals, companion animals and wild animals including bears, big cats and orang-utans kept in inappropriate conditions. With offices in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA and Vietnam, FOUR PAWS aims to help animals in need directly and quickly.

For more information on Four Paws International, please visit:

www.four-paws.org

Hashtag: #animalsandarmedconflict

Instagram: @four_paws_international

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Facebook: @fourpaws.org

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