

BAT ADVOCATE RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED AWARD

Bats are a highly misunderstood and underappreciated animal, but they have a champion in Amanda Lollar, founder of Bat World Sanctuary. In recognition of her leadership and work as a bat caregiver, advocate, and educator, Lollar is the recipient of the 2016 Carole Noon Award for Sanctuary Excellence. This award was established by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries in 2009 to honor sanctuaries or individuals for their vision, dedication, and excellence in animal care.

Located in Texas, Bat World Sanctuary was founded by Lollar in 1994 and currently cares for over 200 permanent residents. Over the years, Lollar has saved over 2,000 bats who were sick, injured, and orphaned, including some from labs. If possible, they were rehabilitated and released back to the wild. Her love and admiration of these animals are obvious.

"Bats are miraculous creatures [who] deserve our protection. They are highly intelligent, have remarkable language skills, and form deep social connections," she says. "It has been my life's work and my greatest joy to defend and support the species."

AAVS President Sue Leary is a member of the committee that selects the award recipient. "I highly recommend visiting Bat World Sanctuary's website and viewing the 'bat cam' to see the incredibly thoughtful rehabilitation Amanda has set in place. I am delighted that AAVS contributed to this award." Learn more about bats at BatWorld.org.