MEET THE TEAM

Indra Lahiri, PhD, Founder

Indra has rescued thousands of animals from dire circumstances around the world. She tells their stories in her writing and speaking and lives amongst them between her travels. In the course of her decades of learning from the animals, Indra founded Indraloka Animal Sanctuary (2005) and since 2014 has volunteered her time as a consultant, helping other sanctuaries succeed. She teaches, mentors, coaches and delivers keynote addresses to tens of thousands of people on a range of topics that are always, at their core, based on ethical leadership and compassion for all. Indra has keynote addressed numerous conferences globally.

Indra’s award-winning blog chronicling sacred moments with rescued animals is followed by tens of thousands of readers on every continent. Indra is grateful to have the opportunity to dedicate her life to helping traumatized animals rediscover joy, love and trust.

Before devoting herself full-time to animal rescue, as the founder of Global Inclusion Strategies, Indra provided expert coaching and consulting on communicating across differences. She is the author of an academic book chapter, a critically-acclaimed manager’s guidebook, several research reports and numerous articles on cultural competence and leadership.

The sanctuary is not named after Indra, but rather she is named after the Hindu God Indra who created Indraloka (Sanskrit name for the heaven for the Gods).

Johnny Braz, Creative Director

Johnny is a documentary filmmaker, farm animal artist and yogi. He is also a visionary who helped design Indraloka’s current animal enclosures and every aspect of the sanctuary’s physical appearance. As Creative Director, Johnny creates film and still portraits that reveal his reverence for all life and the earth herself, telling the story of Indraloka’s many rescues through his photography and films, while overseeing the sanctuary’s aesthetics and functionality.

Johnny began his filmmaking career in 1996 working as a camera operator with Clint Eastwood on “The Monterey Jazz Festival: 40 Legendary Years.” In 2016, he completed “Truckin’; the Story of Eddie Traffic,” an uplifting glimpse into the unique

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bliss experienced by a pig named Eddie, who was rescued just hours before his slaughter. Other recent films include “Peace, Love & Animals,” a documentary that has been called “a lyrical message of hope,” premiering to rave reviews at the International Animal Rights Conference 2013 in Luxembourg and in Scranton. Johnny produces numerous short animal rescue films that have garnered a worldwide audience. He has also directed episodes of “Yoga Journeys,” a children’s program on PBS TV station WVIA.

Johnny holds a deep reverence for the earth. His years of experience designing and installing alternative energy systems for homes and businesses culminated in touring twice with Bonnie Raitt as her environmental spokesperson. As Indraloka’s Creative Director, Johnny is a teacher at heart. All of his work, whether mucking stalls, filming a rescue, feeding a once-traumatized chicken by hand or teaching others how to meditate, is mindful, kind and filled with lessons through example. Johnny is honored to put his skills to work raising awareness about animal sentience worldwide.

Robin Olson, Director of Development

Robin joined Indraloka in July of 2020. She has been raising funds professionally for 18 years. Prior to working at Indraloka, Robin has worked for several children’s charities including Junior Achievement and Make-A-Wish. She holds an Executive MBA from St. Joseph’s University, and two bachelor’s degrees from Saint Louis University as well as a certificate of Fundraising Management from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University.

Sarah Thornton, Director of Education

Sarah has been an Indraloka volunteer since 2014 and has served as Director of Education since 2018. As an educator, Sarah taught instrumental music to students in grades 5 through 12 and general music for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade, for a combined 20 years in the Sullivan County School District. She has also served as a youth sports instructor, a basketball coach for elementary school-aged students and junior high school girls, youth and adult running club coach, and a camp counselor and counselor supervisor. Sarah holds a BM in Music Education from Susquehanna University and an MM in Music Education from Ithaca College. Sarah is a free-spirit dedicated to instilling joy and kindness in those around her through mindful listening, energy healing, music and the power of unconditional love.

Leslie Interlandi, DVM, Director of Veterinary Care

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Leslie joins Indraloka in June 2022 to spearhead the sanctuary’s new veterinary clinic. As a Shelter Medicine specialist, Leslie brings the ideal skillset to diagnose, treat and care for problems specific to shelter animals as well as experience in general veterinary medicine. Leslie also holds Fear Free Veterinary Certification, a methodology that enables vets to reduce fear, anxiety and stress in animal patients, making vet care safer and more enjoyable for all involved.

Leslie has performed a wide range of surgeries and procedures, including spays and neutering, hernia repairs, tooth extractions and limb amputations. She has experience in treating diverse pathologies and has worked with numerous species, including equines, cows, goats, sheep, fowl, pigs, dogs and cats. After more than 25 years in her first career as a health analytics and marketing consultant, Leslie is now in a position to pursue her passion. Through practicing Shelter Medicine, Leslie is treating animals who have been abused, abandoned, injured and neglected—the animals who need her most.