



NEWS RELEASE

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DR. JULIE BARNES NAMED TO NEW POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HEALTH & CARE AT SANTA BARBARA ZOO

- **Other Staff News: Mark Heully Promoted to Curator of Ectotherms; Elizabeth Wilson Named Curator of Elephants**

Santa Barbara, CA, - August 5, 2016 - Santa Barbara Zoo's Director of Animal Health Dr. Julie Barnes BVSc MSc has expanded her responsibilities to include Animal Care, it was announced by Zoo Director Nancy McToldridge today, August 5th, 2016.

In addition, two longtime members of the Animal Care team have been named curators. Mark Heully, who joined the Zoo in 2007 as Apprentice Keeper: Ectotherms, has been promoted to Curator of Ectotherms. Elizabeth Wilson, Elephant Keeper since 2006, has been named Curator of Elephants.

In the newly created position of Director of Animal Health & Care, Dr. Barnes continues her oversight of all preventative and responsive medical care for the Zoo's diverse animal collection, and adds responsibilities for all aspects of animal collection management and the day-to-day operational needs of the Animal Care & Animal Health Department. A search for an additional Zoo veterinarian will begin soon.

"By combining Animal Care and Animal Health under Dr. Barnes' leadership, we will have a holistic approach to providing excellent animal medical and husbandry care," said Zoo Director Nancy McToldridge. "She has been outstanding with our collection and our staff, and has the broad background that allows us to do this."

About Dr. Julie Barnes, BVSc MSc

A native of Australia, Dr. Barnes moved to Santa Barbara in 2004 and served as a part-time clinical veterinarian at the Los Angeles Zoo until 2010 and Campus veterinarian at University of

California, Santa Barbara, from 2005-2009. She began as the Santa Barbara Zoo's relief veterinarian in 2005, and became the Director of Animal Health in 2011.

Dr. Barnes graduated from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and completed a Master's degree in Wild Animal Health at the University of London and London Zoo. Returning to Australia, she was a relief veterinarian at several zoos and wildlife parks, and then was employed as a full-time clinical veterinarian at the Taronga Zoo (Sydney, Australia) for seven years, which included work as a field veterinarian on seal research projects on two scientific research cruises in Antarctica, and as a consulting veterinarian for a large public aquarium.

Dr. Barnes has published papers in scientific journals including *The Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* and *Marine Mammal Science*; written veterinary medicine book chapters; and taught undergraduate and postgraduate students from many veterinary schools both in Australia and the U.S.

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*Known as one of the world's most beautiful zoos, the **Santa Barbara Zoo** is located on 30 acres of botanic gardens and is home to nearly 500 individual animals in open, naturalistic habitats. It is accredited by the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#) (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care, and participates in AZA cooperative programs for endangered species including Asian elephant, California condor, Channel Island fox, and Western lowland gorilla, among others. The Santa Barbara Zoo is the region's top paid visitor attraction, attracting nearly 500,000 guests yearly, and has more than 15,000 members.*

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