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Historic Release of Evangelical Statement on Responsible Care for Animals

Washington, D.C., September 30, 2015—The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Ethics and Public Policy Center, and The Clapham Group released the Evangelical Statement on Responsible Care for Animals—the first of its kind unifying document for Evangelicals on animal treatment.

The Statement and associated yearlong Every Living Thing Campaign was announced at a press conference earlier today by the drafters: Dr. Barrett Duke (Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission), Michael Cromartie (Ethics and Public Policy Center), and Mark Rodgers (The Clapham Group), with contributions from Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States and Christine Gutleben, senior director of The HSUS' Faith Outreach program. Filmed comments by Dr. Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, were featured as well as a presentation of research findings by Lifeway Research's Dr. Ed Stetzer on a commissioned survey of 1,000 pastors on the issue of faith and animal welfare.

“The Statement was created to help teach about respect for all life,” said Dr. Barrett Duke. “Now we have a clear understanding of what it means to be stewards of animals.”

The Statement is a call for people of faith to examine their relationship with all living things, specifically animals, in the context of a holistic commitment to faithful and conscious living.

Notable Early Signers of the Statement include:

Dr. Russell Moore (Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission)
Dr. Daniel Akin (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary)
Dr. Richard Land (Southern Evangelical Seminary)
Dr. R. Albert Mohler (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)
Pastor Bill Hybels (Willow Creek Community Church)
Rev. Samuel Rodriguez (National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference)
Eric Teetsel (Manhattan Declaration)
John Stonestreet (Colson Center)
Andrew Walker (Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission)
Craig Ellis (Redeemer Presbyterian Church)
Dr. Bruce Ashford (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)
Dr. Matthew Hall (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)
Dr. C. Ben Mitchell (Union University)
Dr. Hunter Baker (Union University)
Dr. Nathan Finn (Union University)
Dr. Steve Lemke (New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary)
Dr. Daniel Heimbach (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Dr. David Crosby (First Baptist Church, New Orleans)
Dr. Karen Swallow Prior (Liberty University)
Pastor Joel Hunter
Rev. Walter McCray (National Black Evangelical Association)
Nancy Sleeth (Blessed Earth)
Dr. Stephanie Summers (Center for Public Justice)
Carl Moeller (Biblica)
Dr. Douglas Moo (Wheaton College)
Dr. Steven McMullen (Hope College)
Rev. Heath Rada (Presbyterian Church USA)
Jedd Medefind (Christian Alliance for Orphans)
Dr. Barrett Duke (Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission)
Michael Cromartie (Ethics and Public Policy Center)
Mark Rodgers (The Clapham Group)
Among others.

Motivated by centuries of Christian reflection on Biblical teaching, the Statement builds upon the iconic voices of people of faith who have encouraged the responsible treatment of animals as necessarily connected to the promotion of civility and morality within society—people such as William Wilberforce, C.S. Lewis, John Wesley and Billy Graham.

The Statement is not a doctrinal end in itself; instead, it is a framework for conversation. If you would like to take part in the conversation, please go to www.everylivingthing.com.

To watch the press announcement at the National Press Club, please visit:
<http://www.everylivingthing.com/press-announcement/>.

Recent National News stories on The Statement:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/09/30/animal-rights-religion-christian-evangelical-kirsten-powers-column/73028104/>

<http://www.lifewayresearch.com/2015/09/30/protestant-pastors-support-but-rarely-preach-animal-welfare/>

http://blog.humanesociety.org/wayne/2015/09/evangelical-leaders-recognize-every-living-thing.html?credit=blog_post_100215_idhome-page

<http://www.meetingplace.com/Industry/News/Details/61567?allowguest=true>

<http://www.bpnews.net/45573/study-addresses-pastors-views-on-animal-welfare>