



FOUR PAWS – Foundation for Animal Welfare

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

More Humanity Towards Animals





*FOUR PAWS has also changed since it was founded three decades ago. Our organisation has grown steadily and won more and more people over to its cause. Nowadays, we act worldwide to protect animals. In 2017 we had branches in eleven countries and were preparing to set up three more national offices. At our five bear*

*In addition to our direct aid for animals, we lobbied politicians and businesses to bring about permanent improvements in animal welfare. Here are just a few of our successes from 2017: in Austria we persuaded all the down producers and bedding manufacturers to exclude down from farms where live plucking and force feeding take place. We persuaded more fashion companies not to use animal fur in the future, and 236 businesses in the Almenland Nature Park were certified with our quality seal for high standards in animal welfare.*

*Heli Dungler,  
Founder and President of the FOUR PAWS Foundation*

**FOUR PAWS** 2017 Annual Report

# FOUR PAWS

National offices, projects  
and operational locations



**FOUR PAWS International**  
Headquarters in Vienna and offices in:

**Brussels (EPO – European Policy Office)**



**FOUR PAWS National Offices in 2017**

Austria, Australia, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary,  
Netherlands, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland,  
UK, USA, Vietnam



**Countries we operate in and partners in 2017**

Albania, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Montenegro,  
Myanmar, Puerto Rico, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam

## FOUR PAWS sanctuaries and clinics

- ① Arosa Bear Sanctuary
- ② Animal and Species Protection Centre TIERART
- ③ BÄRENWALD Arbesbach
- ④ BÄRENWALD Domazhyr
- ⑤ BÄRENWALD Müritz
- ⑥ BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh
- ⑦ BÄRENWALD Prishtina
- ⑧ Big Cat Centre FELIDA
- ⑨ Dogs for People
- ⑩ LIONSROCK Sanctuary and Big Cat Clinic
- ⑪ Owl and Birds of Prey Rescue Station Haringsee
- ⑫ Stray Animal Clinic Bankya
- ⑬ Stray Animal Clinic Zhytomyr
- ⑭ TANZBÄRENPAK Belitsa

## FOUR PAWS partners

- ⑮ Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife
- ⑯ Bear Shelter Kuterevo
- ⑰ Blue Cross of India
- ⑱ David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- ⑲ Education for Nature Vietnam
- ⑳ FOUR PAWS Forest School for Orangutans
- ㉑ Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center Soc Son
- ㉒ PFOTENHILFE Lochen
- ㉓ Wild Animal Rescue Station Hamburg
- ㉔ Zoo Poznań







# THE YEAR IN PICTURES



BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh: first bile bears rescued in Vietnam



Zoo animals rescued from war-torn Mosul



Gerhana and Gonda in the Baby House



Bulgaria: lions released from terrible conditions



Former fighting bears enjoy life at the new BÄRENWALD Domazhyr



International help for stray animals



Down campaign is successful



# Mission Statement

12 Countries – One Objective



The international animal welfare organisation FOUR PAWS was founded in Vienna in 1988. That is where the headquarters of the umbrella organisation “VIER PFOTEN International – gemeinnützige Privatstiftung” is located. FOUR PAWS also has national branches in Germany, the UK, Austria, Switzerland, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Romania, Hungary, South Africa, Australia the USA and Vietnam. In addition, there is an office for European policy in Brussels.

## Mission Statement

The FOUR PAWS vision is of a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding. Our mission: FOUR PAWS is a strong, global and independent voice for animals under direct human control.

What we do:

- We offer sustainable solutions for animals in need.
- We touch people’s hearts and change consumer behaviour.
- We drive legal change.
- We build powerful partnerships.

## Objectives, Tasks and Expertise

The role of FOUR PAWS is gradually to improve the living conditions of animals under direct human control. We set ourselves definite objectives and try to achieve these by the strategic use of campaigns and educational work. We also make specific recommendations for long-term improvements in legislation.

Our national and international aid projects provide fast and direct assistance for animals in need. Wherever necessary, we create a habitat that is appropriate for the needs of the animals, for example our BÄRENWÄLDER forests or the LIONSROCK big cat refuge in South Africa.

The purpose of our campaigns and educational work is to inform the general public about animal suffering and bring about long-term improvements – enshrined in legislation – for farm animals, domestic pets and wild animals in captivity. In relation to farm animals, we work mainly to ensure that they are kept in species-appropriate conditions conducive to their well-being. We also support a ban on farming animals for fur in Europe, strict limitations on keeping wild animals in private captivity and a ban on wild animals in circuses. ■

# Our Guiding Principle

Highest Standards in Quality

FOUR PAWS has implemented an integrated quality management system to define, secure and improve quality in all our activities, projects and campaigns. Our main focus is on learning, effectiveness and efficiency.

## In our Sanctuaries

At Four Paws we believe that all the animals in our sanctuaries, wildlife rehabilitation centres and clinics deserve the best standard of care available. Thus, as a focal point within our quality management system, we have established a detailed framework of policies, standards and guidelines on how to care for the animals in our facilities. Our standards cover enclosure design, health care, hygiene, nutrition and enrichment, as well as many other topics. Strict safety and security standards and procedures are a must when working with dangerous wild animals, for the safety of our staff, our visitors, and the animals themselves. We have had safety and security standards in place ever since the opening of our first sanctuary in Arbesbach (Austria) in 1998, which we have continuously improved by implementing annual safety training and onsite evaluations by external safety experts.

## During our Rescues

Similar standards have been developed for transporting the animals from their previous, often abusive, situations to a better life in our sanctuaries. Among others, we have specified standards for travel crates, veterinary procedures before and after relocation, and necessary documentation.

Our animal care and transport standards are constantly revised. We pride ourselves on providing our animal keepers with regular training and we value their daily observations and ongoing feedback. These findings are collected during annual quality workshops held at each sanctuary and then incorporated into our internal guidelines.

In addition to this, the animals in our care benefit from the support of our Science Unit, as well as from the input of external experts. We also network with other sanctuaries and animal welfare organisations.

## In all our Activities

Our promise to carry out our activities to the highest possible standard is not limited only to our direct work with animals, but is a guiding principle throughout FOUR PAWS.

We have therefore established a framework of controlled and regularly revised processes that help us to be as effective and efficient as possible when running our animal welfare campaigns, working on disaster relief and rapid response missions, or lobbying for improved farm animal welfare, as well as in our management, communication, fundraising, finance and other administrative activities. This ensures we can achieve the best results for animals in need as well as maximising the impact of funds donated by our supporters. ■



# How We Work

## Internationally and Nationally

Far-reaching changes in animal welfare are only possible if there is a general consensus for change in society. Through our information and educational work, and our direct campaigns and lobbying at national and international level, we hope to bring about a change in people's awareness, for the benefit of animals. Our work is solution-focused, scientifically based and carried out in close cooperation with experts. We highlight abuses and show that their root causes are commercial, political and social. We work with partners in industry, science and research to develop constructive proposals for solutions which we put into practice as examples of how best to implement future animal welfare measures.

### Structure

FOUR PAWS is organised internationally so that its work can be carried out as efficiently and effectively as possible, and this applies also to its financial and human resources. Led by the Chief Programme Officer, the work in all countries can be divided into that relating to wild animals, farm animals and pets. Our projects on bears, big cats, stray animals, apes and horses are also supported by centres of expertise. They monitor quality standards, develop certain projects and plan new ones.

The Executive Board meets in Vienna and is responsible for all strategic tasks. In addition to the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Programme Officer, it also includes the Chief Marketing Officer, who is in charge of the Communication and Fundraising departments, and the Chief Financial Officer, in charge of the departments of Finance, Administration and Organisational Development. The national FOUR PAWS branches are led by Country Directors who, with their national teams, embody the FOUR PAWS principle of "local empowerment".

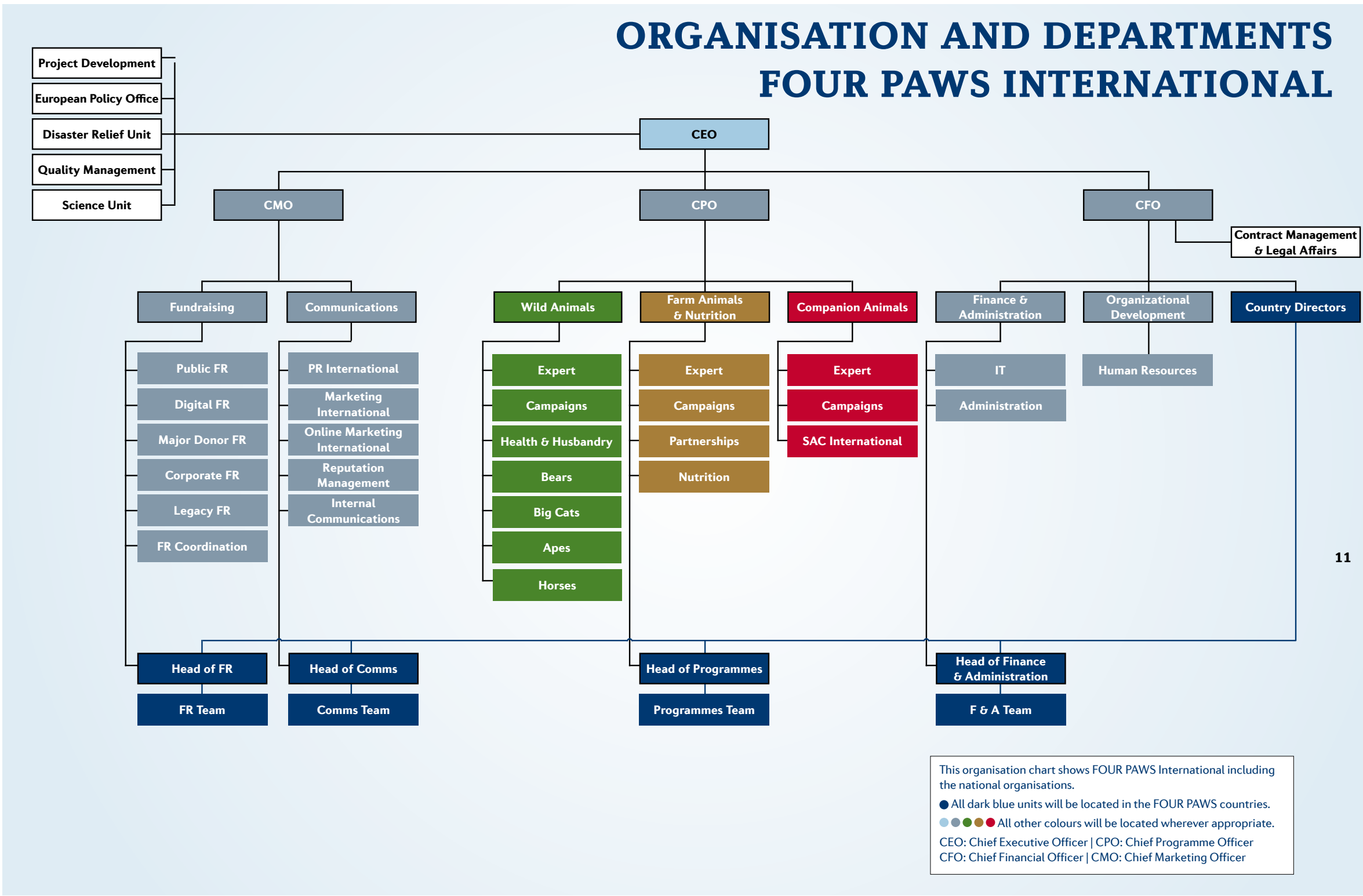
The development of FOUR PAWS has shown that maintaining a careful balance between the interests of the individual countries and those of FOUR PAWS International is an important factor for success. Since 2012, FOUR PAWS has been operating according to a matrix which, to a great extent, allows for joint line management by International Directors and Country Directors. These two groups and the Executive Board make up the international leadership team which meets regularly to compare notes on the organisation's main areas of activity.

### Strategy

FOUR PAWS has set out its clear strategic principles in the LONG TERM DIRECTIONS 2025 policy document. This consists of 11 binding principles which it hopes to have achieved by 2025. They include quality standards and campaign guidelines, define the criteria for meaningful partnerships and establish the principles

for international cooperation. They also explicitly document the local autonomy of the national branches so that they can engage closely with regional concerns and work on those. In addition, they give precise guidelines for management, staffing policies and efficient fundraising. ■

# ORGANISATION AND DEPARTMENTS FOUR PAWS INTERNATIONAL







# Helping Bears

## Towards a More Humane Life

### Background

Whether in a circus, a cage, or a zoo, many brown bears around the world are living in inhumane conditions. Often they are kept in enclosures that are far too small and are virtually featureless. That is why many bears in captivity are not able to follow natural behaviour patterns in exploring and looking for food. This often causes behavioural disorders in the animals, revealed in stereotypical habits such as pacing up and down, swaying their heads or self-mutilation. In some Asian countries, thousands of black bears and sun bears live in cramped cages; many have been or still are used regularly for the extraction of bile which is then sold as medication. Even in Europe, bears unfortunately still experience real torture: in photoshoots with tourists, in dogfights or as a supposed attraction in restaurants. The animals are mercilessly subjected to the whims of man. FOUR PAWS has been working to help tortured and mistreated bears for over 20 years.

### Objective

The aim is to enable bears that are suffering in poor living conditions in Europe and Vietnam to lead a better life that is more species-appropriate. To help the animals in the long-term, FOUR PAWS initially establishes the right legal framework in countries where it works, on the basis of which it can then campaign against the keeping of bears in inhumane conditions. FOUR PAWS locates suffering bears and negotiates with their owners and the authorities, advising them and trying to find ways of improving the animals' situation. Bears that are confiscated or handed over voluntarily find a safe and appropriate place to live at the FOUR PAWS bear sanctuaries. However, FOUR PAWS only takes charge of the animals if the owners sign an agreement not to keep any more bears in future.

FOUR PAWS believes that brown bears should only be kept by licensed zoos and even then only if they can guarantee that

young and adult animals will be kept in appropriate conditions where their care and medical treatment are managed responsibly. The welfare of the bears should not be made secondary to other objectives such as species conservation or the idea that animals in captivity are still able to pursue their instinct to reproduce and rear young.

The objectives of FOUR PAWS in relation to brown bears in Europe can be summarised as follows:

- to have the private and inhumane keeping of bears, and the sometimes cruel keeping of bears for commercial purposes, banned by law,
- to bring about an EU-wide ban on keeping wild animals in any circus,
- to introduce higher minimum standards for keeping bears in captivity.

The objectives of FOUR PAWS in relation to bears in Vietnam can be summarised as follows:

- to ensure that the Vietnamese government implement the decision they took in 2005, and reaffirmed in 2017, to close down all the bear farms in the country,
- to make the Vietnamese population more aware of the bile bear problem through education and information work,
- to establish a FOUR PAWS bear sanctuary in North Vietnam for at least 100 former bile bears and open it to the public.

### Projects

For wild animals, the habitat in which they live is extremely important. For bears that can no longer be released into the wild, there are very few suitable refuges. That is why FOUR PAWS has established a number of bear sanctuaries – the so-called BÄREN-WÄLDER. They provide bears rescued from poor conditions with a protected habitat that meets their natural needs. Here, in spacious enclosures with lots of features, the animals can rediscover their instincts and follow their natural behaviour patterns.



The bears can roam around, dig caves, swim in ponds, look for food and hibernate. Experienced keepers provide daily stimulation to cure the animals of their behavioural disorders. For example, they occupy them with food games that boost their intelligence and agility. They are regularly examined and treated by wild animal vets. All the bears will have safe living conditions for the rest of their lives. They are not used for breeding.

FOUR PAWS runs six of its own bear sanctuaries and cooperates with partners such as the Poznań Zoo in Poland and the Soc Son State Wildlife Rescue Centre in Vietnam.

**BÄRENWALD Arbesbach**

FOUR PAWS established its first bear sanctuary in the Waldviertel region of Austria in 1998. Seven brown bears from circuses and from bad conditions in private ownership live here.

**BÄRENWALD Müritz**

BÄRENWALD Müritz in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern opened in 2006. Covering 16 hectares, it is the largest bear sanctuary in western Europe. The 18 bears housed there in 2017 had been living in inappropriate conditions in Germany and Poland.

**TANZBÄRENPARK Belitsa**

In Bulgaria there were still 25 registered dancing bears in the year 2000. Fitted with chains and a nose ring, they were kept in back gardens and made to traipse around the region with their owners, dancing for audiences in the towns and tourist centres. FOUR PAWS negotiated with the Bulgarian government to implement a ban on keeping dancing bears. The Bulgarian government provided a 12-hectare area of woodland free of charge where the animals could live in suitable conditions. Thanks to the support of many donors and in partnership with the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, FOUR PAWS built the TANZBÄRENPARK Belitsa and took in all the Bulgarian dancing bears and the last few from Serbia. In 2017, 26 bears were being looked after at the TANZBÄRENPARK Belitsa.

**BÄRENWALD Prishtina**

FOUR PAWS opened BÄRENWALD Prishtina in Kosovo in 2013 to provide brown bears that were being kept illegally in restaurants and private mini-zoos with appropriate living conditions. Before that, the government was unable to confiscate the animals be-

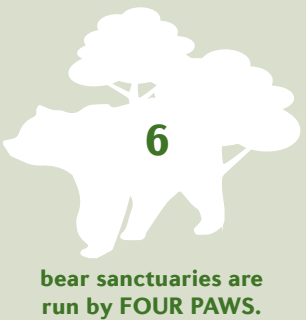
cause there was no suitable accommodation for them. In BÄRENWALD Prishtina all the privately owned brown bears in Kosovo and three from Albania have found appropriate homes. In 2017 there were 19 bears living there.

**BÄRENWALD Domazhyr**

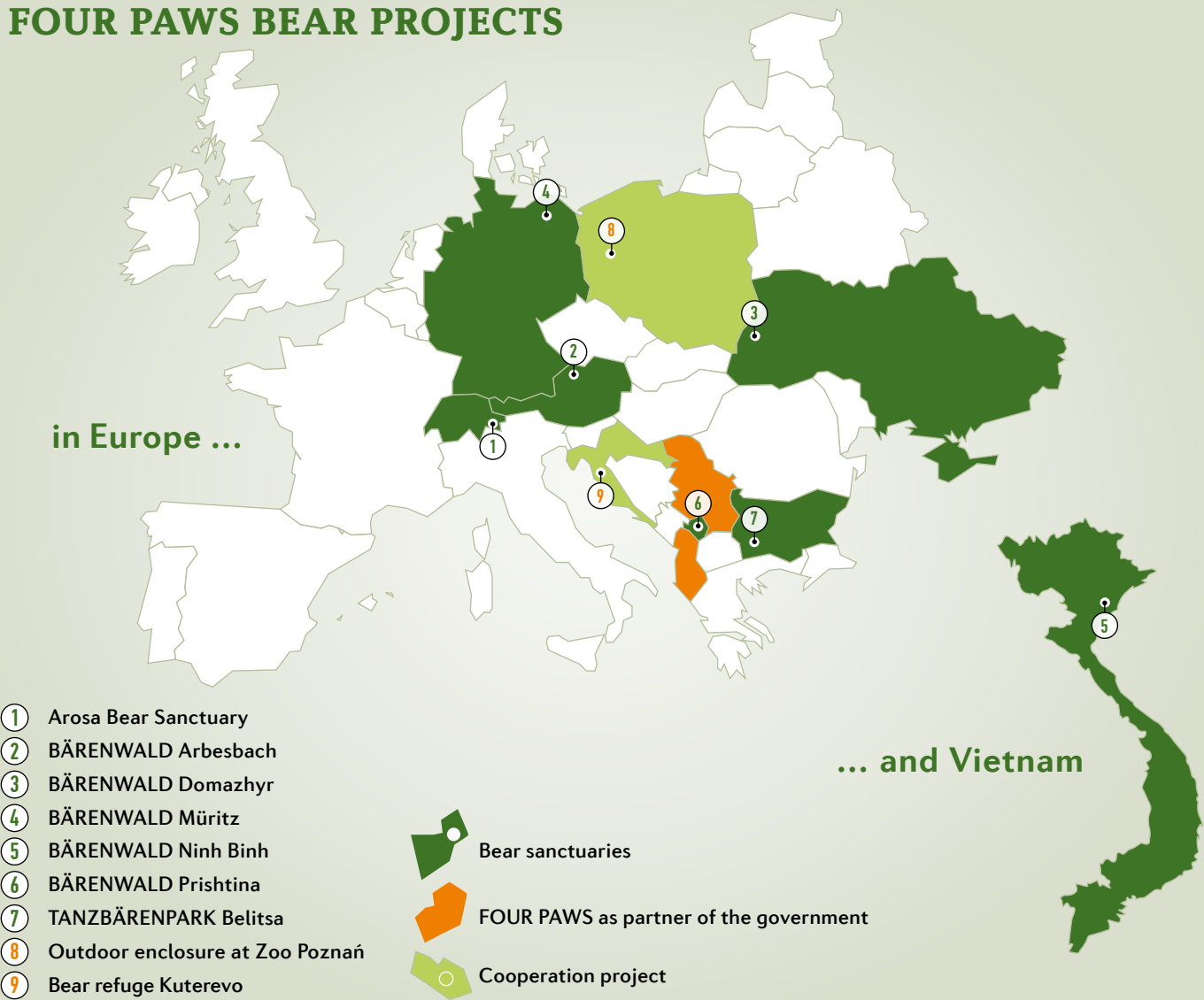
In Ukraine, the keeping of bears without an official licence has been banned for years yet there are still dozens of bears vegetating in terrible conditions, mainly at restaurants and hotels. Thanks to the work of FOUR PAWS, using bears in dogfights has been illegal in Ukraine since 2015. Nevertheless, bears are still at risk of being used illegally in the training of hunting dogs, because hunting organisations are still allowed to keep bears. In 2017, FOUR PAWS set up a new bear sanctuary in the West of Ukraine called BÄRENWALD Domazhyr. This is mainly intended to accommodate bears that have previously been used in the training of hunting dogs or were kept for entertainment purposes. The first stage of construction was successfully completed in October 2017. On the approximately 7.7-hectare site, there are two large outdoor enclosures, a bear house with an adjacent familiarisation enclosure and visitor facilities. FOUR PAWS managed to rescue five bears in 2017 and take them to BÄRENWALD Domazhyr. Since FOUR PAWS does not have the capacity to run two bear sanctuaries in Ukraine simultaneously, BÄRENSTATION Nadiya, which was founded by FOUR PAWS in 2012, has been handed over to the local NGO SaveWild Fund. All five of the bears that were rescued by FOUR PAWS and have been living there will gradually be transferred to BÄRENWALD Domazhyr by the summer of 2018. Two of the bears, Bodia and Nastia, arrived at BÄRENWALD Domazhyr at the end of 2017. That meant there were seven bears living there at the end of 2017.

**BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh**

In Vietnam there are about 1,300 bears living on around 400 bear farms. They are mainly Asian black bears, some of which are still being abused for bile production, despite this being banned. FOUR PAWS and other organisations working in Vietnam would like to put an end to the keeping of bears on bear farms. In order to provide appropriate accommodation for bears that have been confiscated or voluntarily handed over in Vietnam, FOUR PAWS set up the bear sanctuary BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh in the north-east of the country in 2017. The sanctuary currently has room for 44 bile bears.



**FOUR PAWS BEAR PROJECTS**



**Key Activities in 2017**

At the end of 2017 there were 83 bears living at the six FOUR PAWS bear sanctuaries. Four bears died last year: Soggi at BÄRENWALD Müritz, Liese at BÄRENWALD Arbesbach and Vela and Elena at TANZBÄRENPARK Belitsa.

At all the bear sanctuaries, the animals are given regular health checks and receive medical treatment if necessary. At the sanctuaries, 178,526 visitors in 2017 learned about the fate and needs of the bears and were able to observe them in their natural environment.

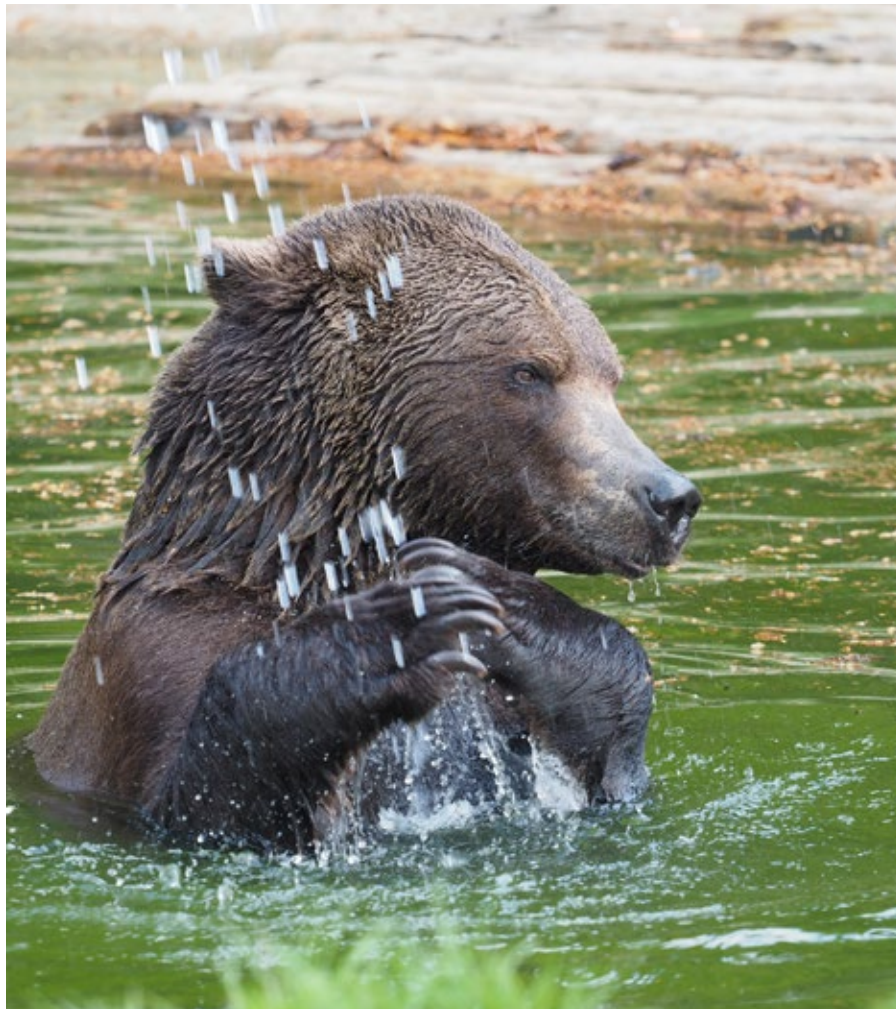
In 2017 the expert bear team at FOUR PAWS rescued a total of eight bears. Three of the animals came from bile bear farms in Vietnam and were taken to BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh; the other five

were rescued in Ukraine and taken to BÄRENWALD Domazhyr. FOUR PAWS also took five bears from Albania and Serbia into its sanctuaries: one female bear from Albania and two former Serbian circus bears were taken to BÄRENWALD Müritz. Two other Albanian bears were taken to TANZBÄRENPARK Belitsa.

The FOUR PAWS bear teams also helped with a number of other operations to transport bears to wildlife sanctuaries abroad, for example transferring two orphaned young bears from Montenegro to the ARCTUROS animal rescue centre in Greece and looking after two starving bears which had been kept at a hotel in north-west Albania before transferring them to the zoo in Tirana.

In 2017 FOUR PAWS transferred more than 20 bears into species-appropriate accommodation or helped with their transportation.





In Albania, in addition to the rescue operations, FOUR PAWS also continued its campaign against the keeping of bears in illegal and cruel conditions. The aim is to work with the Albanian Ministry of the Environment to bring bear-keeping in Albania to an end. This would require a legal ban on all private bear ownership in the country, better implementation of existing protection legislation and a state-run bear rescue centre. FOUR PAWS has said it is willing to support the Ministry of the Environment with advice and technical expertise. At last, in November, the petition that FOUR PAWS launched in August 2016 was handed over to the new Albanian Minister for Tourism and the Environment, Blendi Klosi: a total of 424,691 people have so far signed to express their support for a ban on private bear ownership in Albania.

In May the new visitor centre at BÄRENWALD Müritz in Germany opened and the sanctuary celebrated its 10th anniversary. In June a female bear from Albania joined the residents there. In December she was followed by two former circus bears from Serbia; they

were taken to Germany from their temporary accommodation at Belgrade zoo. They have found a permanent home at BÄRENWALD.

In Kosovo, building work began in the spring on a new visitor and environmental education centre at BÄRENWALD Prishtina. The building should be finished by early summer 2018.

In Vietnam FOUR PAWS is cooperating with the state animal rescue centre, the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center Soc Son (HWRC) and arranged for a vet to examine eight bears there in 2017. By the end of October 2017, large parts of the first stage of construction at BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh were complete. Four large open-air enclosures have been created, each accommodating ten or fourteen animals, along with two bear houses with indoor stables for the bears, a quarantine and veterinary centre, a feeding kitchen and an administration block. Already in November 2017 FOUR PAWS was able to rescue the first three bile bears and take them to BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh.



In Switzerland, FOUR PAWS is setting up its first bear sanctuary in the country in partnership with Arosa local council and the Arosa Tourist Office. Building work on BÄRENLAND Arosa began in autumn 2017; the bear sanctuary is due to open in summer 2018. Covering an area of 3 hectares, it will provide a new home for up to five bears from southern and south-west Europe.

### Outlook

During the coming year, the two new bear sanctuaries – BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh and the Arosa Bear Sanctuary – will open to visitors. The new visitor centre at BÄRENWALD Prishtina will also be officially opened.

In spring 2018 at BÄRENWALD Domazhyr, work will begin on the construction of another big bear enclosure so that more bears can be rescued and accommodated.

In Vietnam, FOUR PAWS will continue to rescue bile bears and transfer them to BÄRENWALD Ninh Binh. Construction work on a visitor and education centre will begin in the spring. Preparations will also be made for the second phase of building at BÄRENWALD. BÄRENWALD Arbesbach will celebrate its 20th anniversary in May this year. BÄRENWALD Arbesbach and FOUR PAWS' international bear projects will also be the focus of celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of FOUR PAWS Austria.

In Albania FOUR PAWS will continue to work with the Albanian Ministry for the Environment and the Tourist Office to improve the legislation on protecting bears. FOUR PAWS will also help the Albanian government in an advisory capacity with construction of a state-owned bear refuge.

From summer 2018 the first bears will start to move into the Arosa Bear Sanctuary. This partnership project will be set up and operated in accordance with the FOUR PAWS quality standards on keeping brown bears. It will have room for up to five bears. ■



# Helping Big Cats

## New Homes for Animals from Poor Conditions

### Background

Big cats are suffering all around the world: in circuses, in badly managed, poverty-stricken zoos – often operating unlicensed, on big cat farms which rear the animals and deal in them, and in other forms of private ownership. Many of the animals live in very confined spaces, are inadequately fed or ill or suffer from behavioural disorders because they are not able to satisfy their natural needs. Often, big cats are abandoned or, as is the case in South Africa, released for hunting in return for money.

FOUR PAWS has been campaigning for years for a ban on the private ownership of big cats. The team tracks down cases of animals held in bad conditions and negotiates with their owners and the authorities to bring about some improvement for the animals. Often, the authorities and public service vets approach FOUR PAWS if they hear about cases of irresponsible ownership. Only if the owners sign a contract committing themselves not to keep big cats in future does FOUR PAWS take charge of the animals.

### Objective

FOUR PAWS has set itself the goal of protecting tortured big cats from further suffering and gradually reducing the number of animals kept in unacceptable conditions. The long-term aim is to put an end to the keeping of big cats in inhumane conditions in Europe. Another objective is to prohibit canned hunting in South Africa, for which big cats are reared, exploited and ultimately killed.

### Big cat sanctuaries

Since there is a worldwide shortage of appropriate accommodation for big cats, FOUR PAWS has now set up three centres of its own where big cats that have been kept in poor conditions can find a suitable home that meets the highest animal welfare standards – for the rest of their lives. At all of these centres, the animals are regularly checked by a vet and treated when necessary.

### LIONSROCK

FOUR PAWS opened the LIONSROCK Park in South Africa in 2007. It covers an area of more than 1,250 hectares. Because the terrain here includes savannah, hills and rocks, this habitat is perfect for big cats. They live in social groups in spacious enclosures. Because the animals are kept in near-natural conditions, and deliberate measures are taken to occupy them, they can gradually overcome their behavioural disorders and traumas. 98 big cats rescued from poor conditions were living at LIONSROCK in 2017: 79 lions, 16 tigers and three leopards. There is an animal clinic on site so that the animals can be treated on the spot. To raise awareness of animal welfare, FOUR PAWS has introduced an education programme locally. School groups regularly visit the sanctuary to learn about big cats and come to love and respect the animals.

### FELIDA

In October 2013, FOUR PAWS took over the “Stichting Pantera” big cat refuge in the Netherlands. Under its new name, the FELIDA big cat sanctuary, it serves mainly as a transit station for big cats being transported to LIONSROCK. Big cats that are unable to embark on a long journey because of their age or their physical condition are allowed to see out their days at FELIDA. In 2017 there were six tigers living there.

### TIERART

In Germany, FOUR PAWS is the main shareholder in the animal and species protection centre TIERART gGmbH. On a 14-hectare site in Massweiler, Rhineland-Palatinate, FOUR PAWS looks after rescued big cats and cares for numerous local wild animals that have been taken in because they are injured, sick or orphaned, until they are ready to be released back into the wild again. The big cat centre consists of three enclosures covering a total area of about 2,550 square metres. In 2017 there were four tigers living there.



### Key Activities in 2017

At LIONSROCK work began on the construction of more lion enclosures; repairs were also carried out on existing enclosures. A total of 30 out of the 98 big cats received medical treatment in 2017; four of them had to be taken to a clinic in Pretoria for intensive care. Two tigers that FOUR PAWS rescued from a zoo that has been ravaged by war close to the Syrian city of Aleppo have found a new home at FELIDA. We have also been searching for a new site for the centre (FELIDA 2.0), which would give the big cats more space. In Jordan, FOUR PAWS has been working for many years with the Al Ma'wa Centre for Nature and Wildlife, which opened a second site in 2017 called the Al Ma'wa Wildlife Reserve. Here, seven lions and two tigers are being looked after humanely in spacious enclosures.

In order to establish an international animal welfare database for big cats, in 2015 FOUR PAWS started to analyse the legal situation in European countries with regard to the regulations on private ownership of big cats and the rules on welfare for zoos and wild

animals kept in circuses. Countries are assessed as green (good), yellow (poor) or red (very poor) accordingly.

### Outlook

In 2018 FOUR PAWS will rescue big cats from poor conditions where necessary and transfer them to one of its centres.

New enclosures are to be constructed at LIONSROCK for some lions that have been living in familiarisation enclosures until now. Other enclosures require significant repair work and some construction work is needed on the infrastructure. During the animals' regular appointments with the vet, special attention will be paid to their dental health. Furthermore, the education and training programme will be expanded to include an online platform with teaching materials about animal welfare. Annual workshops will be held at LIONSROCK, FELIDA and TIERART to review quality standards. ■





# Great Apes in Need

## Rescue Centre and Reintroduction Project

### Background

In Borneo and Sumatra, the habitat of the last orangutans on our planet is shrinking at a shocking rate. Huge areas of rainforest are destroyed every day for palm oil, tropical hardwood and charcoal. Without the trees that are their food sources, the orangutans starve. They are also hunted because they are regarded as crop thieves, or they are killed for a bounty paid by the palm oil industry. Illegal animal dealers sell the defenceless babies as pets. In captivity, our closest relatives lose their identity and dignity.

### Objective

FOUR PAWS has been working in Borneo for many years to protect, rescue and rehabilitate orangutans. The organisation sets the highest standards for individual animal welfare, veterinary care and successful reintroduction of the apes into the wild. The aim is to give the rescued orangutans their freedom and their own identity back.

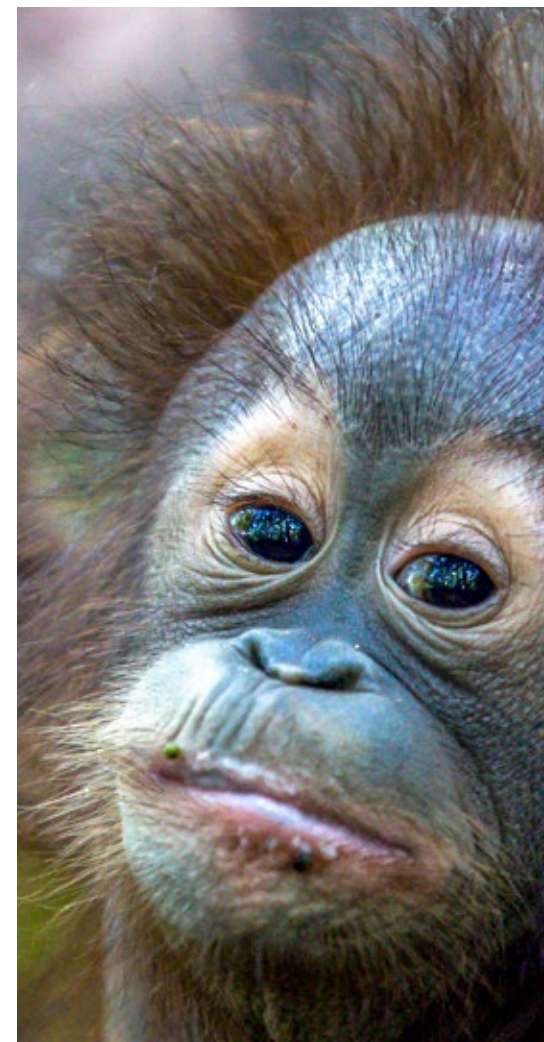
### Project

In 2014, an Indonesian foundation called Yayasan Jejak Pulang (the Homecoming Foundation) was set up with the help of FOUR PAWS. After nearly two years of preparation, in April 2017 the contract was finally signed that allowed the proposed rehabilitation scheme for young orphaned orangutans to be launched in eastern Kalimantan. The Jejak Pulang team works closely with, and is helped by, the Indonesian Forestry Ministry to rescue orphaned orangutans that are at risk or that have been confiscated. In a rehabilitation process that takes years, a team of keepers prepares each of these animals individually for a life of freedom.

New fosterlings are taken to the quarantine station as soon as they arrive. They spend about two months there. Sick and exhausted young orangutans are given medical care and nursed back to health. Once their health has stabilised and they are physically fit enough, the orangutans are taken to an area of woodland covering 100 hectares, the location of the FOUR PAWS forest school for orangutans. This is where their rehabilitation begins. Depending on their age, they attend the nursery or the forest school and from now on they are made ready for a life in freedom. By following the example of their classmates, and with the patient help of their surrogate mothers and keepers, they learn everything an orangutan needs to know to live independently in the wild. At their own pace, they practise moving around in the trees, socialise with their fellow orangutans and become used to looking for food in the forest. When they reach eight to twelve years old, and want to explore the world independently as young orangutans, they and their keepers are taken to the remote, protected reintroduction area. There, together with their “penjaga”, or guardian, they can explore their new home and begin their life of freedom, as soon as each individual is ready for it. Even after being reintroduced to the wild, they continue to be observed and protected by a team of rangers.

### Key Activities in 2017

The cooperation contract between Jejak Pulang and the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry was signed in April. That enabled us to take orangutans that had been confiscated by the Ministry into our care. The land and infrastructure for the quarantine station and forest school, as well as office space, were made available by a local authority (Balitek KSDA Samboja). The first rescue cam-



paign was launched as early as the beginning of April. Working in partnership with the relevant authority (BKSDA Samarinda), we took charge of three confiscated orangutans: Robin (aged eight), Amalia (aged six) and Eska (aged four). In July we received another call for help, and a baby orangutan just eight months old, from the nearby province of Tenggara, moved into the rescue centre. The FOUR PAWS community named him Gonda. Three-year-old Cantik and one-year-old Tegar followed at the end of August and in early September. This means that we are now looking after six young orangutans. With all these orphans having been taken in, the local team has also grown rapidly. By the end of the year, the team consisted of 15 animal keepers and surrogate mothers, a biologist, two vets and two primate experts. In the interest of quality assurance, during the year the local team attended various training courses on botany, English, use of the computer (how to process observation data on the PC) and blowpipe training.

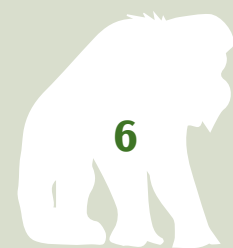
Because constructing the necessary infrastructure for the forest school is taking a little time, the fosterlings from 2017 are still mainly in the quarantine station. A partnership with a security

company enabled the animal keepers to spend a few hours a day in the forest with the orphan orangutans from as early as October.

### Outlook

In the coming year, the main focus will be on completing the infrastructure around the forest school. Three containers will serve as storage space, staff accommodation and offices. A power supply, drainage and waste management facilities also still need to be provided. The most sustainable methods possible are being used. Sleeping pods, a facility for the night watchman and a drawbridge are also being constructed to facilitate work at the forest school. There are even plans for a nursery in a tree-house for the baby orangutans. The contracts covering the use of the reintroduction area are also due to be completed during the coming year.

FOUR PAWS would like to look after up to ten more orangutans at the Jejak Pulang Foundation, so the team will continue to be enlarged too. In addition to keepers and surrogate mothers, another vet and more administrative personnel will also be required. ■



orangutan orphans  
live in the project.



hectares of protected forest are  
available to orangutans.



# Fur Farming Campaign

## Fashion Without Fur

### Background

Every year, about a hundred million mink, foxes, raccoons and other animals suffer and die on fur farms all over the world. They are kept in tiny wire cages. The mesh floors injure their sensitive paws, and faeces and urine build up under the cages. The animals live in a state of permanent stress; many of them have behavioural disorders or even self-mutilate. Their deaths are equally cruel: they are gassed, poisoned or killed by electric current – and all just for the sake of fashion.

FOUR PAWS has worked to help fur animals ever since it was first founded, telling the general public about the animal suffering behind fur products, exerting consistent pressure on politicians and dealers and protesting outside fur farms. And with some success: the last fur farm in Austria closed in 1998, and in 2005 the keeping of animals for their fur was banned. However, there is no ban on dealing in, or importing, fur products. Fur, particularly in the form of accessories such as pompoms and collars, is regrettably still very popular in Austria. In Germany, quite strict regulations on fur farms have been in force since December 2011, but these are being ignored by the remaining farmers. However, an end to fur farms is in sight: a new law came into force in September. Under that, all farms must close by 2022 that do not meet the welfare standards regulating such things as the availability of water, opportunities to climb and bigger enclosures. These requirements make breeding mink commercially unviable. Whereas in 2011 there were still dozens of fur farms, in 2017 there were fewer than ten.

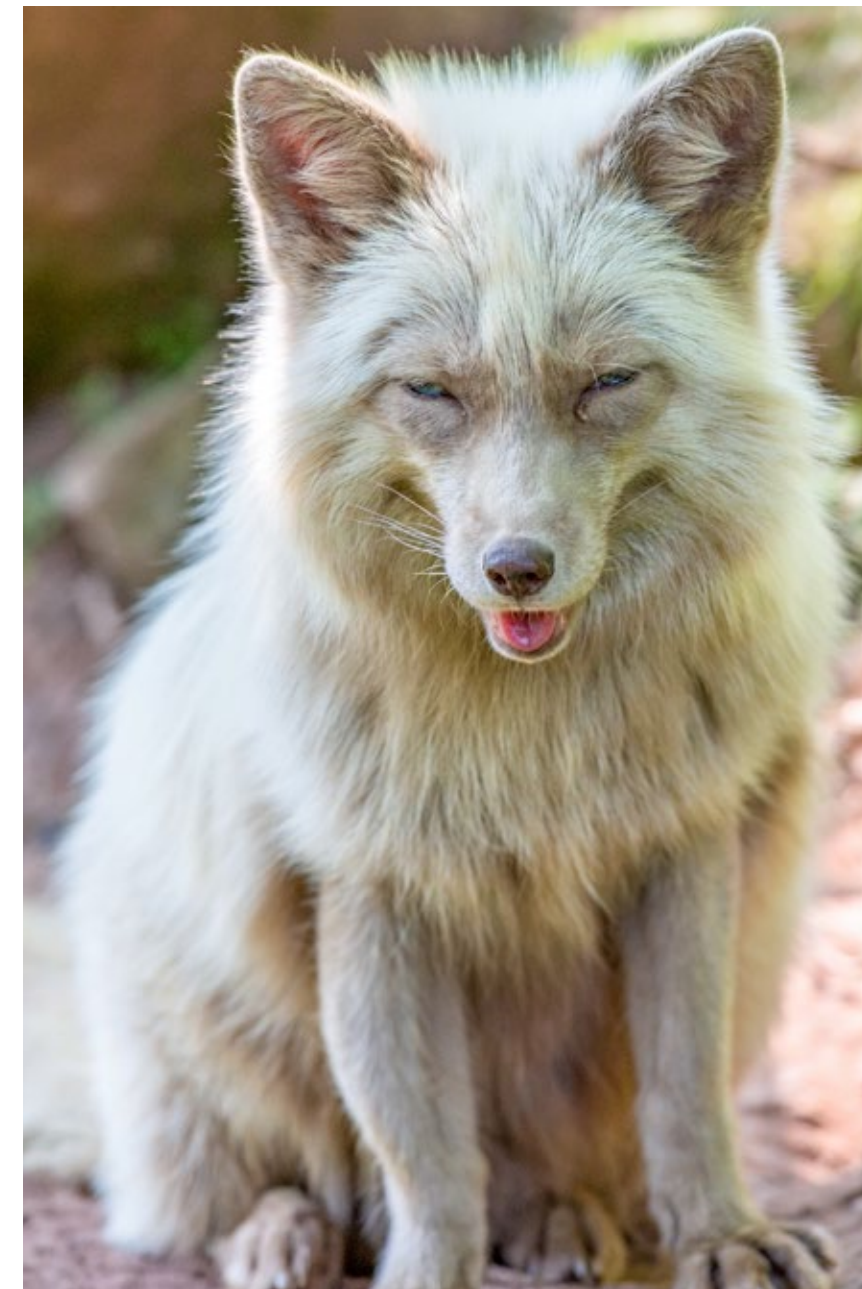
### Objective

FOUR PAWS hopes gradually to reduce demand for the sale of fur products. The long-term goal is to see a Europe without fur farms and without fur in fashion. FOUR PAWS supports a ban on keeping animals for fur, a legal obligation to label all fur products – clearly indicating the animal species, geographical origin and welfare conditions of the animals – and, in the long term, a Europe-wide ban on importing and retailing all furs and fur products.

### Campaigns in 2017

In Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, South Africa and Australia, FOUR PAWS supports the Fur Free Retailer programme (FFR). This international initiative identifies those retailers, fashion companies and designers which have committed to not using fur.

In September 2017, the luxury label Yoox Net-A-Porter was welcomed as the 750th textile company to sign up to the FFR since it was founded in 2002. Over 800 companies around the world have now joined. In 2017 FOUR PAWS persuaded ten more companies to join the programme, including the international textile discounter KIK and the designer Marcel Ostertag. Some big fashion empires also joined the programme in 2017, such as Gucci, Michael Kors, Jimmy Choo and the whole VF Corporation (including the brands North Face, Napapijri and Timberland), see [www.furfreeretailer.com](http://www.furfreeretailer.com)



FOUR PAWS is an active member of the Fur Free Alliance (FFA), an international alliance of leading animal welfare and environmental protection organisations. In autumn 2017 the FFA presented a report to the European Parliament proving that compliance with the EU Textile Labelling Act is extremely poor in relation to real fur. The correct labelling was missing from 68 per cent of the fur products from ten European countries that were inspected. This applied particularly to the low-price sector.

In 2017, FOUR PAWS examined the labelling situation in shops and at Christmas markets in Germany and Austria. Here again the majority of the garments assessed were incorrectly labelled. Apparently neither the inspection authorities nor the retailers ensure that consumers can rely on the inadequate labelling regulations. FOUR PAWS is calling on the Austrian and German governments to work at EU level to introduce transparent and user-friendly labelling at last.

In November, FOUR PAWS also launched an international online campaign appealing for consumers to commit to a fur-free winter by promising not to buy products from real fur brands such as Canada Goose. More than 67,000 animal welfare supporters have already joined in the campaign.

### Outlook for 2018

To counteract the global fur trend, FOUR PAWS hopes to persuade more fashion companies, especially in Europe, Australia and South Africa, to join the international Fur Free Retailer programme, and to keep telling the general public about the suffering behind fur fashion. Only when retailers and consumers stop using fur can the suffering of fur animals be stopped. Our work on transparent fur labelling will also be continued with a view to bringing forward a regulation on this at EU level. ■



**fur animals suffer in cramped cages worldwide.**



**companies have joined the Fur Free Retailer programme.**





# Campaign for Wild Horses and Working Animals

Improving Well-being

## Background

### Romania

The Danube Delta in north-east Romania is one of the biggest wetland areas in Europe and home to wild horses. A few years ago, nature conservationists and the local authorities were afraid that the growing horse population could destroy the unique flora in the biosphere reserve of the Danube Delta. A decision was therefore taken to kill the horses.

FOUR PAWS was able to prevent this cruel and drastic measure from going ahead. An agreement was reached with the relevant authorities that FOUR PAWS would limit the horse population by using birth control; in return the horses would be allowed to continue living in the Danube Delta. The birth control programme began in autumn 2013. A successful partnership with the biosphere reserve authorities means that FOUR PAWS is now able to sterilise and treat the horses even in a very strictly protected area of the reserve.

### Jordan

The Jordanian “City of Stone” of Petra is a magnet for tourists. Many visitors explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site in carriages or on horses or donkeys. In this way, about 1350 horses and donkeys earn their owners a living in this desert town. However, the animals

live and work in poor welfare conditions. Some are exposed to the baking sun for hours on end. There is little shade and the animals are not given regular drinks or sufficient food. Many suffer from exhaustion, lameness or colic. Their burdens are often too heavy for their thin bodies.

With the Jordanian Princess Alia Foundation and the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), in 2015 FOUR PAWS launched an aid project to permanently improve the living and working conditions for animals in Petra, the City of Stone. New stables were built to improve the infrastructure for the animals, and these opened in spring 2016. They provide the animals with shelter, water and somewhere to feed. FOUR PAWS vets have treated many of the beasts of burden in Petra. Owners have been taught about their horses’ needs on special training courses.

## Objective

The aims of the FOUR PAWS horse welfare campaign are to expose the abuse and protect the animals from further suffering, in addition to raising awareness of their needs and working with the authorities and local communities to improve the horses’ general well-being.



## Key Activities in 2017

### Romania

The non-intrusive birth control programme in Letea continued in 2017. 83 mares were reversibly sterilised using immuno-contraceptives. At a headcount, the horse population in the spring was 314 animals. This means that the number of horses has fallen considerably compared with previous years, thanks to the birth control programme. Also, in August a pilot project began with the aim of improving the lives of horses in some of the poorest communities in Romania. In the Roma village of Smârdioasa, FOUR PAWS provided medical care for 55 horses. Thirty animals were fitted with new horseshoes and twenty horses had their teeth rasped to enable them to eat better.

### Jordan

A checkpoint has been set up by the entrance to the clinic. Here local vets examine all the horses working in the park every day, and decide whether they are fit enough or are unable to work. In the course of the year, four old carriages were replaced by new, lighter ones which are much better for the horses’ health.

## Outlook

### Romania

The birth control programme for the wild horses in the Danube Delta will be continued in 2018. It will begin its sixth season at the start of October. Work will continue to improve the lives of many working or carriage horses in the poorest communities of Romania. Not only are the animals to be helped but there are also plans for training courses for the owners. Further research will be carried out in Romania on the situation of working horses and carriage horses there.

### Jordan

Here, too, the health of horses will be improved by training for owners, blacksmiths and local vets. Preventive services will ensure that the animals suffer less colic and their hooves are in better condition. Old carriages are to be replaced with lighter ones and the water supply and accommodation for the animals are to be improved. ■





# Help for Stray Animals

## International Stray Animal Care Project

### Background

Almost anywhere where people live, pets are abandoned. Especially in urban areas of poorer countries, stray cats and dogs are a regular sight on the streets. Often starving, the animals are injured, ill and suffering from parasites. Stray animals breed quickly and in an uncontrolled way and can also become a health risk for humans. Unfortunately, the authorities in many countries still respond to the problem with brutal killing campaigns. The animals are beaten to death, gassed or poisoned. That is not only cruel but also completely pointless. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has confirmed that a systematic programme of neutering is currently the only known way of reducing the population of strays permanently and, above all, humanely.

### Objective

FOUR PAWS aims to reduce the suffering of stray animals and cut down their population permanently and humanely. It also hopes to improve the image of animals and make animal owners more aware of their responsibilities.

### Programme

The FOUR PAWS Stray Animal Care (SAC) programme was carried out in nine countries in 2017. The main focus of the worldwide operation is the neutering of stray animals. FOUR PAWS deploys the “catch-neuter-release” (CNR) method: dogs and cats are caught by trained control officers as carefully as possible, medically examined in a permanent or mobile clinic and then, under anaesthetic, neutered, vaccinated, chipped and fitted with an ear marking. If required, they receive medical treatment, for example if they are injured or are infested with parasites. Only when the animals have recovered from the operation are they released back to the place where they were found.

In order to reduce the number of stray animals in the long term and make local people, especially schoolchildren, more aware of their responsibility towards pets, the neutering campaigns are

accompanied by information and education events. Local vets are also trained by FOUR PAWS to continue with the project. The SAC teams, consisting of experienced vets, animal control and animal welfare officers, outreach managers and education experts, work only in cities and communities that have signed an agreement to stop killing stray animals.

### Animal-assisted Therapy

One special part of the international campaign to help stray animals is the “Dogs for People” project. Since 2004, FOUR PAWS has been training rescued stray animals to become therapeutic or rescue dogs, initially in Romania, and since then also in other countries. The dogs are successfully used in animal-assisted therapy.

Often people - especially children with disabilities and the elderly - who have mental health problems or are physically impaired find it easier to relate to dogs than to humans, because the animals treat them without prejudice. Being with the animals improves these people’s self-confidence and can give them a new zest for life. The dogs themselves experience a level of attention and affection that they never enjoyed in their lives as strays. Animal-assisted therapy enriches the lives of children, young people and old people who have special needs, while at the same time improving the way the population views stray dogs.

### Key Activities in 2017

In 2017, FOUR PAWS neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and provided medical treatment for 10,372 stray animals. The vets and animal welfare workers in the SAC teams worked in nine countries: Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Germany, Thailand, Indonesia, South Africa and Jordan.

The teams continued their successful work in many towns and communities in Bulgaria and Romania. A total of 3,454 animals were neutered and given medical treatment in Bulgaria. 1,896 of these were at the clinic for stray animals that FOUR PAWS has been



running in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, since 2013. Furthermore, 71 stray animals were successfully re-homed. The team organised several events to tell the general public about animal welfare and how they are dealing with stray animals. A campaign offering vouchers for free medical treatment for cats proved particularly successful: people brought 1,388 animals to the clinics to be vaccinated and dewormed. A total of 2,241 animals were neutered and given medical treatment in Romania.

In Ukraine a permanent animal clinic was opened in Zhytomyr in 2017. The main focus here is on preventing the spread of rabies: 2,649 animals were treated, vaccinated and neutered. The Ukrainian SAC team also travelled to Jordan to treat a further 106 animals there, in Aqaba.

In one town in Germany, compulsory neutering for stray cats was introduced with the help of FOUR PAWS. In Switzerland, the campaign to neuter farm cats continued and 93 cats were neutered. After the stray cats project in Vienna was successfully completed at the end of 2016, the main focus in Austria in 2017 was on PR work to explain the need for neutering. FOUR PAWS was supported by the designer Niki Osl.

In Indonesia a number of neutering campaigns were carried out in support of the Forest School project in eastern Kalimantan in Borneo, with the aim of reducing the risk of rabies. At the same time the local population were given information about rabies. In Thailand, on the island of Koh Chang, 451 animals were neutered, chipped and given medical treatment, with the help of local Thai vets.

In Australia the indigenous population has hardly any access to veterinary care for their pets. FOUR PAWS works with the Australian NGO AMRRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities) to neuter the animals and carry out educational work locally.

In Cape Town in South Africa, FOUR PAWS worked with partner organisations to neuter and provide medical treatment to a total of 1,015 dogs and cats. The campaign was accompanied by information events about animal welfare and care.

To encourage people to show greater acceptance of stray animals, during 2017 an international strategy for the “Dogs for People” project was developed. The aim is to expand the animal-assisted therapy programme. In Romania, where the scheme is now firmly established, disabled children continued to take part in free therapy sessions with former stray animals at the treatment centre in Bucharest. The dogs were also taken on regular visits to elderly people at the “Floare Rosie” care home. In addition, a “No Stress” programme was introduced: dogs are to be used at universities and businesses to help students and employees cope with stress.

The project has now also been launched in Bulgaria. The first therapy sessions for disabled children have taken place after consultation with their parents, and FOUR PAWS has signed partnership agreements with two children’s homes for disadvantaged children.

## Outlook

In order to put its neutering activities on a scientific footing and stack up more arguments against the mass killing of stray animals that can be put forward in discussions with local authorities, FOUR PAWS has launched a long-term research project (project to model the sustainability of CNR). In a partnership with Leeds University in the UK and the zoological institute ISZAM in Italy, researchers will compare different methods of managing the dog population. In connection with this, data on the stray dog populations in various regions of Ukraine, and in Bulgaria and Italy will be gathered during 2018. The final results from the project should be available in 2020.

In Germany and Switzerland, activities continue to concentrate on cats. In Germany, FOUR PAWS is supporting municipalities which have taken the step of introducing compulsory neutering, by doing public information work and neutering the animals. In Switzerland, farmers continue to be approached about neutering farm cats – the target is 150 animals.

In Bulgaria, FOUR PAWS aims to neuter 1,200 dogs and 1,000 cats in Sofia and the surrounding area, and it is hoped that the scheme can be extended to other towns. FOUR PAWS is currently in negotiations with the Sofia local authority to ensure that animals treated



at the veterinary clinic find safe accommodation afterwards. The mobile animal clinic needs to be replaced.

FOUR PAWS is to launch a stray animal care programme in South-East Asia and provide financial assistance to local NGOs to enable thousands of stray animals in countries in this region to receive medical treatment. In Indonesia, dogs continue to be neutered and treated in the eastern Kalimantan region, to reduce the risk of rabies.

In Australia, a five-day veterinary programme was carried out in a remote area during which stray animals were treated for parasites and neutered.

In South Africa, the main focus continues to be on education work. An official text book about animal welfare is due to be published

in the middle of 2018 and this will provide teachers and officials with the information that they need. In addition, about 70 per cent of the population of stray animals in the town of Mamre should have been neutered by the end of 2018.

Work on animal-assisted therapy will continue to expand, with the addition of a new project in Ukraine. Special quality standards are being developed in relation to this, and the effect of animal welfare measures will be regularly monitored.

In Romania, animal-assisted therapy for children and the visits to old people’s homes will continue. There are also plans to extend the partnership with the Romanian Pathfinder movement. The Bulgarian project is to be extended. Negotiations are also due to take place with the authorities about finding a permanent site for the therapy sessions. ■



**10,372**  
stray animals were neutered  
and given medical treatment.



**9**  
countries were  
visited by aid teams.



# Campaign Against the Illegal Puppy Trade

“Thanks eBay!”

## Background

Huge numbers of puppies are bred in Eastern Europe for the Western European market. Dogs there give birth to one litter after another in terrible conditions. The puppies are separated from their mothers far too early, taken to Western Europe illegally and sold to unwitting families. Often they are ill or not immunised and have false papers. Many suffer throughout their lives from behavioural issues due to inadequate early-age socialisation, or they die of dangerous infectious diseases after just a few days.

The Internet is a popular forum for trading in animals. In particular, puppies from Eastern Europe are often offered for sale on classified ad sites such as those operated worldwide by eBay Inc. One big problem is that the sellers are anonymous. Criminal dealers can pursue their unscrupulous business online unhindered, at the expense of the animals, and without having to fear any consequences.

## Objective

With our new campaign, “Thanks eBay!”, FOUR PAWS will protect animal and the human victims of illegal puppy traders – the ‘Puppy Mafia’. eBay Inc. operates several classified ad sites worldwide used regularly by the Puppy Mafia. FOUR PAWS has repeatedly asked the company to take the necessary measures to put a stop to the anonymous trade in animals once and for all. With compulsory seller identity verification, dubious and criminal dealers could be more effectively verified, reported to the authorities, or excluded from using the platform.

## Campaigns in 2017

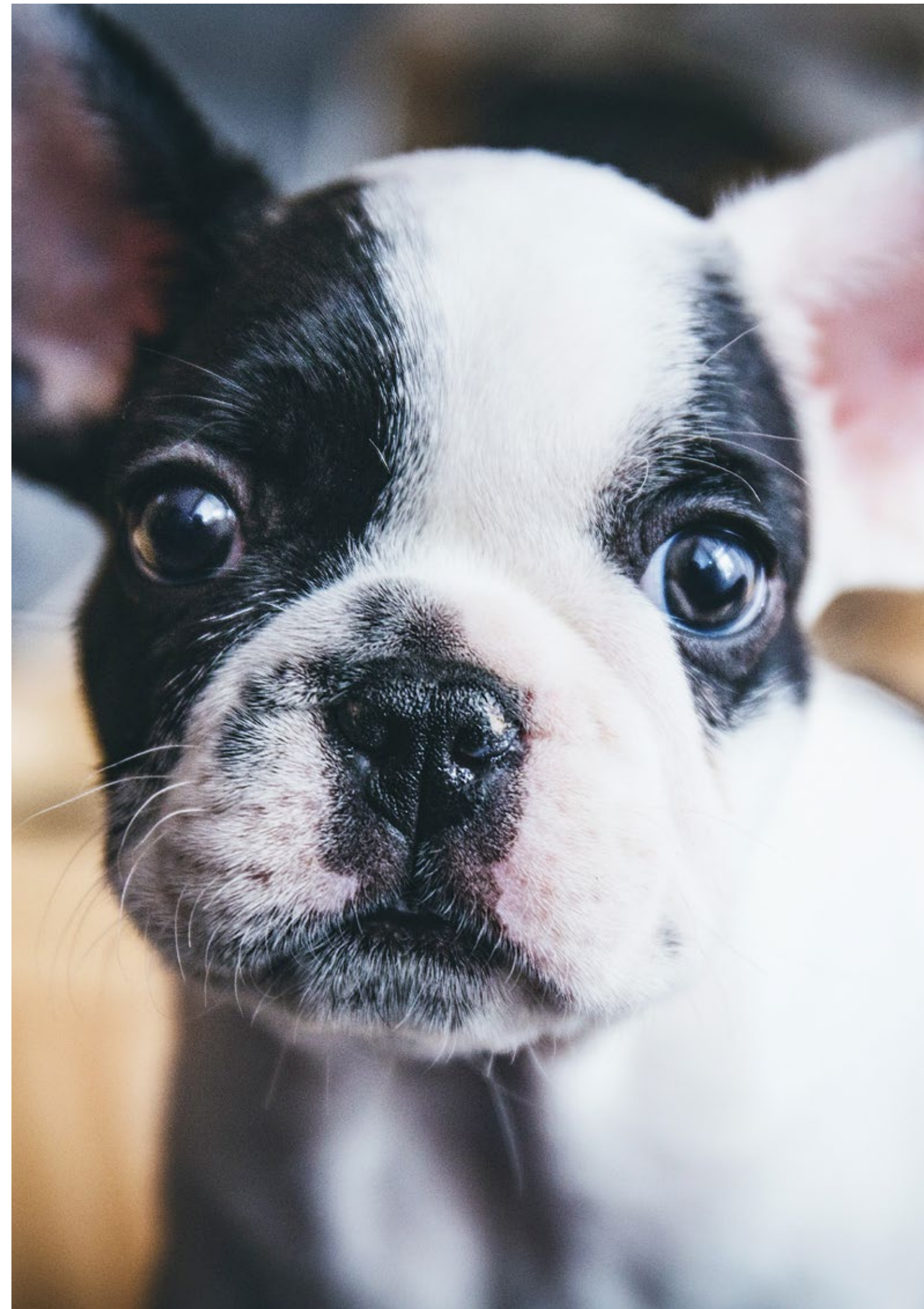
As part of its “Pet Deception” campaigns in 2016 and 2017, FOUR PAWS conducted detailed talks with international and national

classified ad sites such as Schibsted, OLX, eBay Kleinanzeigen in Germany and Gumtree in the United Kingdom. Among other recommendations, the companies were asked to introduce compulsory identity verification for sellers. In 2017 the international “Pet Deception” campaign was optimised and relaunched to focus on eBay Inc., under the name “Thanks eBay!”. As part of the campaign, Andreas K., a former puppy dealer, talked for the first time about the criminal dealings of the Puppy Mafia. The campaign began with extensive research by FOUR PAWS and Stern TV which revealed the horrific conditions at puppy farms and the unscrupulous trade in puppies.

Following further research, FOUR PAWS was able to expose more cases of illegal puppy trading in 2017, including on eBay Kleinanzeigen in Germany, and to work with the relevant authorities to expose criminal dealers. Publicising these cases was very useful public information work. Investigative research into the illegal puppy trade was also carried out in the United Kingdom, and, with the UK newspaper The Sun, FOUR PAWS exposed a notorious Hungarian puppy market.

## Outlook for 2018

Unfortunately, eBay Inc. and its classified ad sites do not yet accept responsibility, and they continue to offer fraudsters and unscrupulous puppy dealers a platform to conduct their trade. FOUR PAWS will therefore continue the “Thanks eBay!” campaign at an international level. With targeted campaigns, it will hold the company accountable and demand that eBay takes action. Furthermore, FOUR PAWS will continue its research and publicity work to fight against the illegal trade in puppies, to expose the Puppy Mafia, and to increase awareness on the part of consumers when they buy a pet. ■





# Animal-friendly Food

For Humans, Animals and the Environment

## Background

Forecasts suggest that global demand for meat will double by the year 2050. Especially in developing and emerging countries, the need for animal products is increasing massively. The high level of consumption of meat and animal-based food products has enormous worldwide implications for animals, the environment and human health. Most of this food comes from animals raised on conventional farms. It is estimated that 65 billion farmed animals are killed every year to produce food. To generate as much meat and other animal produce as possible in the shortest possible time, the animals have to adapt to intensive farming systems and are unable to satisfy their natural needs. In industrialised nations, there can be a huge distance between people and the animals that are kept far away on farms operating intensive livestock keeping methods. From the schnitzel or the bratwurst in the supermarket, you can no longer identify the animal that was killed to produce it. It is the social norm to eat animals and their products. Most people disregard the suffering that this entails for the animals.

## Key Activities in 2017

Since April, FOUR PAWS has been publishing a monthly nutrition newsletter about the 3R principle, focusing primarily on 'Replace'. Readers are given information about animal-friendly eating and the animal welfare problems caused by intensive farming. It is intended to encourage them to use plant-based food more frequently. The newsletter comes out in German and English in five different countries.

During 2017, additional informative texts were produced for the national websites, along with an information flyer about animal protection and diet as well as a calendar showing seasonal fruit and vegetables. Two videos have been produced, and infographics explaining the 3R principle. To try to change social attitudes towards farm animals, social media channels have been used, in particular, to show that farm animals are intelligent beings with emotions and highly developed social behaviours. Here, FOUR PAWS is working in partnership with a farm in Austria. Focus areas have also included meat alternatives and laboratory meat.

## Objective

FOUR PAWS has been concerned about this issue for a long time and wants to encourage people to adapt their eating habits in the light of this knowledge, and gradually start to eat a more animal-friendly diet. FOUR PAWS suggests following the 3R principle: Reduce – reduce your consumption of meat and animal products; Refine – choose high-quality products that take account of animal welfare; Replace – replace animal-based products with plant-based alternatives.

## Outlook for 2018

FOUR PAWS will continue to promote animal-friendly food, in order to reduce the number of farmed animals and minimise animal suffering. For 2018 there are three main focus areas: changing perceptions of farmed animals, promoting animal-friendly eating and supporting innovations in the food industry. More partnerships with other farms have already been agreed. An awareness campaign is intended to draw attention to animals' capabilities. It is intended that the nutrition newsletter will be published regularly. FOUR PAWS will also continue to monitor the food industry's development of plant-based alternatives to meat and laboratory produced meat (clean meat). ■



# Transport Campaign

“Stop the Trucks“

## Background and Objective

Every year, over 1 billion animals are transported through the European Union and into third-party countries. Every day, there are 3.6 million live animals on the roads in Germany alone. The applicable EU transport guidelines do not protect the animals. Under the law, cattle can be transported for up to 29 hours with one hour's break, pigs for up to 24 hours with no break and poultry for up to 12 hours with no food or water, in cramped lorries. Any animals which are weak, old, sick or injured suffer particularly badly in poor transport conditions. Some even die along the way. Breaches of animal welfare regulations such as overcrowding or lack of food and water are virtually never punished because only 1% of the transport vehicles are inspected on the roads. FOUR PAWS has been working for a long time to reduce journey times and improve transport conditions.

## Key Activities in 2017

Together with the Eurogroup for Animals, the European umbrella organisation for animal welfare, FOUR PAWS and other organisations started an international campaign called “Stop the Trucks”. It aims to fight against long-distance animal transportation within the EU. FOUR PAWS is also asking the EU Commission to revise the EU regulations on the transport of live animals, with the aim of reducing the long-distance transportation of animals and stopping it all together in the long-term. In September, a petition against long-distance animal transportation with over 1 million signatures was presented to the relevant EU Commissioner, Vytenis Andriukaitis.

## Outlook for 2018

FOUR PAWS will continue to campaign to have the EU regulations on the transport of live animals reviewed. ■

## MEAT CONSUMPTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Global **MEAT CONSUMPTION** contributes significantly to **CLIMATE CHANGE**.



About **ONE THIRD** of agricultural land is used solely to **PRODUCE ANIMAL FOOD**.



The production of **1 KILOGRAM OF BEEF** consumes **15,000 LITRES OF WATER**.



**RAINFOREST** is cleared for **GRAZING AREAS** and **FARMLAND**.



# Down Campaign

“40 Lives“

## Background and Objective

The down in clothing and bedding comes from geese or ducks. Most of these feathers come from China, Hungary and Poland. Unfortunately, live plucking of birds for down is still common practice: during their, in any case, short lives, geese are plucked two to four times by hand while they are still alive, and are often seriously injured in the process. Breeding birds, which are only slaughtered after a few years, may even undergo this fate up to 16 times. Dead geese and ducks are also plucked, but they often come from farms which force-feed their birds. For force-feeding, the geese or ducks are usually kept in narrow cages. A tube is forced down their throat in order to push as much as 800 grams of feed into their stomachs using compressed air. During this torture, birds are regularly injured or even suffocated to death.

For a number of years, FOUR PAWS has been campaigning against these inhumane practices in animal-keeping and it is regarded as a serious negotiating partner, especially by outdoor clothing companies and bedding manufacturers. FOUR PAWS works with

the manufacturers on constructive improvements for the birds and was part of the steering committee for what are currently the main down and feather standards for the outdoor industry, the RDS (Responsible Down Standard) and the TDS (Global Traceable Down Standard). The aim is to ensure traceability for the down all along the delivery chain so that live plucking and force-feeding can be reliably excluded from it, and to improve animal welfare even more.

## Key Activities in 2017

Most of the down ends up in bedding. Sometimes 40 geese and ducks may be tortured, plucked or force-fed to produce a single down duvet. That is why, in 2016, FOUR PAWS appealed to the public with its “40 Lives” campaign ([www.40lives.org](http://www.40lives.org)) and demanded that the bedding industry at last took responsibility for the welfare of the birds. The international campaign continued in 2017 in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and came to a successful conclusion.



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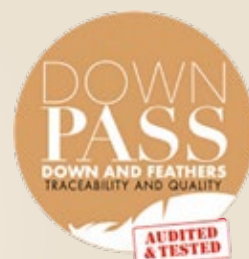
## DOWN QUALITY SEAL



**The strictest standards currently in force relating to animal welfare and the traceability of down are:** the Responsible Down Standard (RDS) and the Global Traceable Down Standard (TDS). Under these standards, strict inspections are carried out at the level of individual farms to prevent live plucking and force feeding. FOUR PAWS helped to develop both standards.



**The Downpass is the most well-known standard specifically for the bedding industry.** In the past, it was very weak: until the start of 2017, it did not exclude down from farms where birds were force fed, nor were independent inspections of the fattening and breeding farms mandatory. We persuaded the European down and feather industry to introduce stricter criteria in this regard, in the form of the new Downpass 2017. But a note of caution: there is still room for improvement in some respects. However, the most important measures have now been put in place.



FOUR PAWS succeeded in persuading a total of 23 retailers in the European bedding industry to ensure traceability along the whole supply chain and so eliminate live plucking and force-feeding from it. Since these companies obtain their down from around the world, the campaign was able to put an end to widespread animal suffering on an international scale. Only the retailer Karstadt was not willing to ask its suppliers to trace the origins of the down they used in order to eliminate animal torture. Consequently, and by public demand, FOUR PAWS awarded Karstadt its “Blood Feather” prize. The website [40lives.org](http://40lives.org) will continue to report on the successes of this campaign and on further developments from the bedding industry, manufacturers and retailers. In 2017 the Eurogroup for Animals presented

the “Campaign4Animals” award to the international “40 Lives” campaign in Brussels.

## Outlook

FOUR PAWS will continue to work to improve the welfare of geese and ducks.

The Responsible Down Standard is currently being reviewed. FOUR PAWS is part of the review committee and is demanding further improvements. These apply particularly to general living conditions, slaughtering and inspections at businesses supplying the parent birds for certified goose fattening farms. ■





# FOUR PAWS Quality Seal

"Inspected Animal Welfare"

## Background

Billions of animals suffer from being intensively farmed and meat consumption is increasing around the world. Current legal regulations are by no means sufficient to guarantee the well-being of farm animals. In 2012 FOUR PAWS introduced the “Inspected animal welfare” quality seal to improve the conditions in which as many farm animals as possible live and are transported and slaughtered. There are two levels, Silver and Gold. Both guarantee compliance with binding guidelines on how animals are kept, transported and slaughtered. Businesses are subject to strict annual inspections by independent bodies. The inspectors assess not only the conditions in which the animals are kept, but also their well-being. Almo beef products from Schirnhofer GmbH have been certified in Germany since 2014 and are sold in Bavaria at Rewe Süd supermarkets. From 2012 to 2017, poultry products under the FairMast brand, made by Frikifrisch GmbH, were also labelled and sold with the quality seal on the German market. After four years, on 1 August 2017, FOUR PAWS ended its licensing agreement for the FairMast brand with the producer Frikifrisch GmbH. The background to this was that the “Inspected animal welfare” guidelines on keeping chickens for fattening had been modified to comply with the latest findings, and new criteria had been introduced which led to the farms being excluded, following an inspection.

## Key Activities in 2017

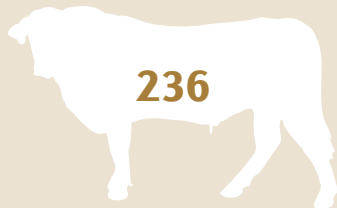
In 2017, FOUR PAWS launched the quality seal on the Austrian market. It stands for the highest animal welfare standards in Austria and does not allow, for example, the tethering of dairy cows or the



castration of piglets without anaesthetic. The traditional Styrian company Schirnhofer is a licence-holder here, too. Since 2017, at least five meat products from Almo Almoachsen (pasture-raised beef cattle) have been available at all Merkur and Penny branches owned by Rewe International in Austria. In 2017, 236 Almo farmers who keep their beef cattle on alpine pasture or fields throughout the summer took part in the scheme. The animals are given non-genetically modified feed and no preventive antibiotics. The cattle have more space in the cowsheds, may only be castrated under anaesthetic with subsequent pain relief and they keep their horns.

## Outlook for 2018

FOUR PAWS will continue its partnerships and plans to extend the certification to dairy cattle and fattening pigs. The long-term goal is to extend the existing partnerships and acquire new partners in Germany and Austria. FOUR PAWS also promotes an animal-friendly diet, with animal products being increasingly replaced by plant-based alternatives. ■



236

farms in the Almenland  
Nature Park are certified.



5

ALMO products are available  
in retail stores.



# Emergency and Disaster Relief

## International Campaigns

### Background

Natural disasters affect both people and animals and their fates are often closely linked. When floods destroy whole villages and wipe out the harvest, keeping a farm animal is often the only way that people can survive, especially in the poorer regions of the world. When hunger and epidemics threaten, and people and animals are traumatised, rescue teams sometimes cannot evacuate them fast enough because people do not want to leave a beloved animal behind. In crisis situations, what is needed above all is rapid assistance for people and animals. Rescuing animals often secures people's livelihoods and also gives them hope and comfort. That is why emergency aid for animals is an important part of humanitarian work.

### Objective

FOUR PAWS steps in when animals are at risk – whether that is as a result of natural disasters, political unrest or other emergencies. The aim is to relieve animals' suffering and improve their situation.

### Project

FOUR PAWS has been providing active disaster relief for animals for the last twelve years and has worked in many disaster areas, for example in Sri Lanka (tsunami 2004/2005), India (monsoon flooding 2007, 2015), Kenya (drought 2009), Pakistan (monsoon flooding 2010/2011), Egypt and Libya (political unrest 2011), Philippines (typhoon 2013/2014), Serbia (flood disaster 2014), Myanmar (monsoon flooding 2015, 2016). The teams that are deployed include vets, rescue workers and disaster managers: they rescue and evacuate animals, treat and vaccinate them, distribute food and build emergency stables. On the ground, FOUR PAWS works closely with local and international aid organisations and shares its own expertise with everyone concerned.

In addition to its active disaster assistance, FOUR PAWS also supports emergency animal aid projects run by other organisations such as the Indian animal welfare organisation, Blue Cross of India. Since 2002, FOUR PAWS has also been financing the mobile animal clinic run by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya. The clinic provides immediate aid in the Tsavo National Park in the south of the country, where elephants and other wild animals are at risk from poachers.

### Key Activities in 2017

#### Iraq

Two aid teams went to the war-torn city of Mosul but both operations could only be carried out with the strictest safety precautions. When the team arrived in Mosul in February, only one female bear and a lion had survived the war at the Montazah Al-Morour zoo. They were given urgently needed medical assistance, and the team also organised food and other supplies for the animals over the coming months. During the second operation, after waiting for days at a checkpoint, the FOUR PAWS team finally managed to evacuate the animals from the war zone. The lion and the bear were transferred to the Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife animal sanctuary in Jordan.

#### Syria

In July a FOUR PAWS team set out for Aleppo, another city destroyed by war, to help the surviving zoo animals there. This operation proved to be FOUR PAWS' most difficult rescue mission so far. It took the international team a month to evacuate from the war zone all thirteen zoo animals which had survived the inferno there. There were five lions, two tigers, two Asian black bears, two hyenas and two dogs. First, they were given emergency medical assistance in Turkey. Once all the logistical hurdles had been overcome, and all the permits for the animals were in place, FOUR PAWS was also able to take these animals to Jordan, to the safety of the Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife animal sanctuary.

#### Myanmar

On 14 September 2017, FOUR PAWS and the government of Myanmar signed a Letter of Agreement on an anti-rabies programme, and a Memorandum of Understanding on the construction of an elephant rescue centre. The emergency aid team also reached agreement with the government of Myanmar on providing quick and effective support for people and animals in the event of disasters, and preparing the population as well as possible for extreme situations.

#### Thailand

In cooperation with the Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, a team of international experts from FOUR PAWS carried out veterinary training for four state vets at



the Khao Son and Khao Prathap Chang animal centres. The training included how to handle the latest equipment, and various talks by wild animal specialists. As part of the training, 21 wild animals were treated and essential operations were carried out.

#### Puerto Rico

After two devastating hurricanes hit the Caribbean in quick succession, FOUR PAWS workers travelled to Puerto Rico in mid-October. They organised a delivery of two tonnes of cat and dog food from the USA and distributed it to six local aid organisations. That provided food for about 1,400 animals for two weeks.

#### Cooperation with the Swiss Fire Brigade Federation

In partnership with the Swiss Fire Brigade Federation, FOUR PAWS has launched an initiative on rescuing pets in the event of a fire. Information cards on front doors and in people's wallets will tell fire fighters whether there are pets in the home that need rescuing, and of what kind. FOUR PAWS and the Swiss Fire Brigade Federation also worked on a programme for sharing expertise and carrying out joint training on animal rescue and disaster support.

### Outlook for 2018

In Myanmar there are plans for an extensive rabies vaccination campaign for stray dogs in 2018. Work is also due to begin on construction of a rescue centre for former working elephants. In the former capital Yangon, the living conditions of the white elephants are to be improved by building a new enclosure.

Emergency and disaster relief for people and animals remains a key focus for the work of FOUR PAWS and it will be further expanded. Whenever there is a disaster anywhere in the world, the emergency aid team checks with the organisers whether and how they can help. FOUR PAWS is continuously expanding its networks and partnerships in order to be able to respond as quickly as possible and work with local partners in the event of a disaster. Another priority area for the emergency aid teams is to work with governments and local communities to minimise risk when disasters occur.

The partnerships with the Blue Cross of India, the Swiss Fire Brigade Federation, the Bulgarian Red Cross and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya will all continue. ■



# Fundraising

## Reaching People

Charitable work for society, people or animals can have no impact without adequate funding. The work of the FOUR PAWS foundation is funded mainly by donations. That allows the organisation to be independent in its decision-making and free from party political or commercial interests. To ensure a reliable flow of funds, FOUR PAWS uses different fundraising methods in the five European countries where it operates and also in the USA, Australia and South Africa. In addition to this, it receives income from bequests and interest earnings.

### Security and Transparency

Handling donations responsibly is one of the fundamental principles of FOUR PAWS. In Austria, FOUR PAWS holds the Donations Seal of Quality, while in Germany the foundation is a member of the German Donations Council (Deutscher Spendenrat). FOUR PAWS is therefore fully committed to its guidelines and to the principles of openness, truth, clarity and credibility in its communications, and to handling donations transparently and prudently.

### Letters to Donors

The FOUR PAWS foundation sends information out to its donors regularly. The aim is to tell them about the work of FOUR PAWS and at the same time embed an awareness of animal welfare deeper in their consciousness. We also ask the addressees for donations

for our projects and campaigns. We often also enclose petitions or protest postcards which recipients can use to show their commitment to our ideals.

### Attracting New Donors

To compensate for the natural fluctuation in the number of donors and attract new resources, FOUR PAWS tries to attract new donors. We send letters to addresses that are freely and publicly available. In some countries, new donors are also acquired by face-to-face fundraising.

### Telephone Calls and Sponsorship

FOUR PAWS has taken responsibility for hundreds of animals, not least with its projects to help bears and big cats. They all have to be fed and looked after for years – in accordance with their needs and the organisation's high standards. Regular donations make it easier to plan for and fund this long-term commitment. For that reason, we phone FOUR PAWS donors and ask them to make regular donations. Sponsorship also helps secure our long-term work. That is why donors can make regular payments and in this way become sponsors for bears, lions, stray dogs or orangutans. ■



**649,528**

donors support FOUR PAWS  
in eight countries.



**17,855**

sponsors support  
our work in eight countries.



# PR Work

## Education and Information

Charitable organisations need publicity to tell people about their projects and campaigns and stir them to take action. Education and information work is also an important objective of the FOUR PAWS foundation. The aim is to embed the notion of animal welfare more deeply in society, in order to bring about improvements for the animals that live in the care of humans, and ensure that they become firmly established.

### Dialogue with the General Public

All the national branches of FOUR PAWS engage in professional PR work. In addition to traditional media work, the organisation also uses social media channels to enter into direct dialogue with even more interested people. In 2017 the Facebook community had a total of 87,482 fans. Over 3,253 people followed the organisation on Twitter. The Instagram account was followed by 39,853 people and the FOUR PAWS YouTube channel had 6,693 followers. About

202,660 people subscribed to the newsletter. The national websites, in five different languages, recorded an average of 10,841 visitors a month in 2017.

### Impact

FOUR PAWS projects and campaigns are regularly covered by the media. For example, our rescues of bears from Vietnam and Ukraine attracted considerable international interest, as did the evacuations of zoo animals from Iraq and Syria. Our two rescue missions in these war zones were covered by over 700 international media outlets in more than 40 countries, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, ABC, FOX, BBC, CNN, RTL, Die Welt, FAZ, Spiegel, The Telegraph, The Guardian, The Independent, The Age, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, National Geographic, Al Jazeera as well as the three biggest international news agencies AP (Associated Press), Reuters and AFP (Agence France-Presse). ■

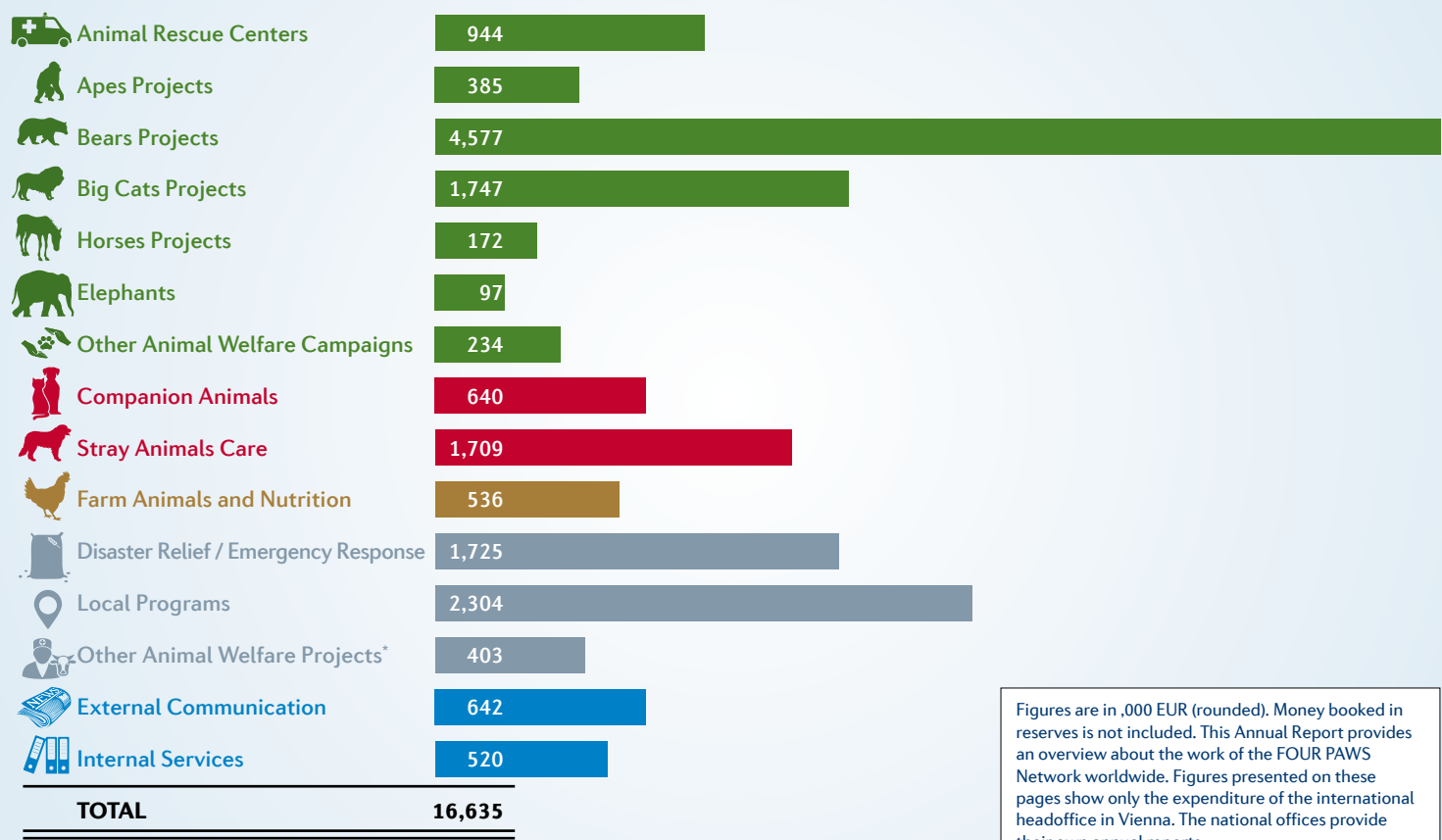


# Financial Report

“**FOUR PAWS is a strong, global and independent voice for animals under direct human control. The FOUR PAWS vision is of a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding.**”

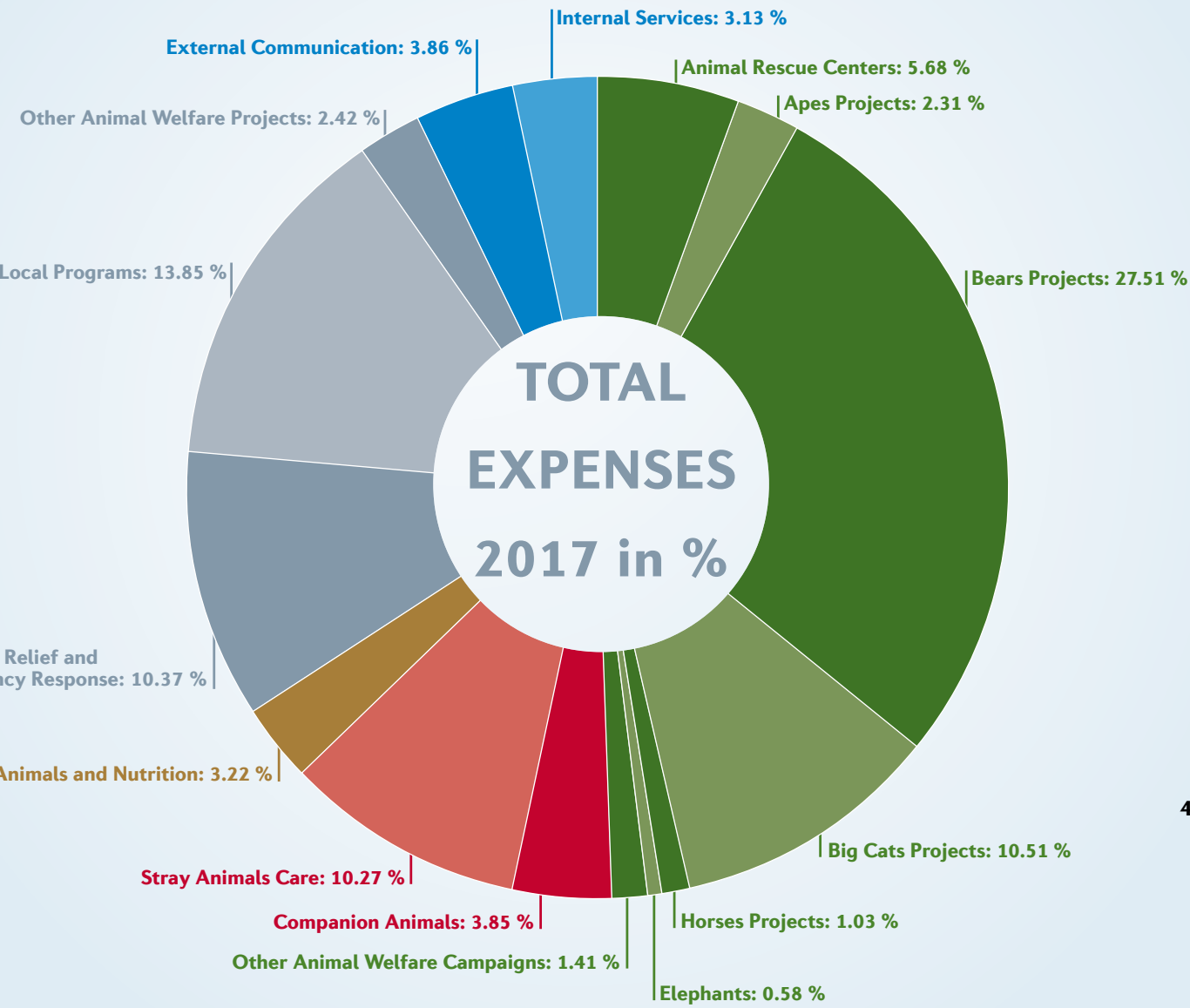
42

## TOTAL EXPENSES 2017



Figures are in ,000 EUR (rounded). Money booked in reserves is not included. This Annual Report provides an overview about the work of the FOUR PAWS Network worldwide. Figures presented on these pages show only the expenditure of the international headoffice in Vienna. The national offices provide their own annual reports.

\* Mobile Vet Kenya and Asian Hub



“**FOUR PAWS is fully committed to its guidelines and to the principles of openness, truth, clarity and credibility in its communications, and to handling donations transparently and prudently.**”



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 [youtube.com/fourpawsinternational](https://youtube.com/fourpawsinternational)  
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**Deutscher  
Spendenrat e.V.**  
Die gute Tat im Blick

