

FOUR PAWS – Foundation for Animal Welfare

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Animal Welfare.
Worldwide.



Editorial

Dear Readers,

Can you imagine seeing the world through the bars of a cage, experiencing nothing but constant pain and boredom? This is how over 300 million farm animals in the EU spend their entire lives. But thanks to the “End the Cage Age” European citizens’ initiative and the support of FOUR PAWS over the past few years, the end of this era of animal abuse is now finally in sight. By 2027, the EU will introduce a ban on the cage-rearing of farm animals. This is a huge milestone for animal welfare!

2021 also saw some major changes on a global level, thanks to the ongoing political animal welfare work carried out by FOUR PAWS. In December, the WHO member states voted to draft an international pandemic prevention agreement, which will pave the way for animal welfare to become part of the political debate on pandemics. When large numbers of animals are packed into confined spaces – like they are on fur farms or in intensive factory farming, for example – enormous suffering is inevitable. But these conditions also create the perfect breeding ground for new viruses that can be transmitted between animals and humans.

Over the past year, the coronavirus pandemic has maintained its hold on the world. In spite of lockdowns and travel restrictions, FOUR PAWS rescued twelve big cats and eleven bears, transporting them across national and continental borders to save them from a life confined to a cage. Two brown bears from Lebanon were among those rescued. FOUR PAWS helps many animals in need while raising awareness of the structural problems that lie at the heart of this cruelty. Including its new charges, FOUR PAWS cared for a total of 139 bears in 2021, 134 big cats, 12 orphaned orangutans and 4,877 native wild animals. Our teams in Europe and South-East Asia also cared for over 37,000 stray dogs and cats. In Cambodia, FOUR PAWS was able to and shut down an



infamous dog slaughterhouse that was responsible for the deaths of over a million animals.

This is just a small part of what we’ve achieved over the past year. In this annual report, you can read all about our global projects and campaigns. The FOUR PAWS vision is of a world where animals are treated with respect, empathy and understanding. We work tirelessly around the world to realise this vision. All donations entrusted to FOUR PAWS are spent with impact and transparency in mind.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of our global animal welfare work in 2021.

Yours,

Josef Pfabigan
FOUR PAWS Chief

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The World of FOUR PAWS

Offices, Projects and Countries of Operation



FOUR PAWS International

with headquarters in Vienna and a branch office in



Brussels (EPO – European Policy Office)



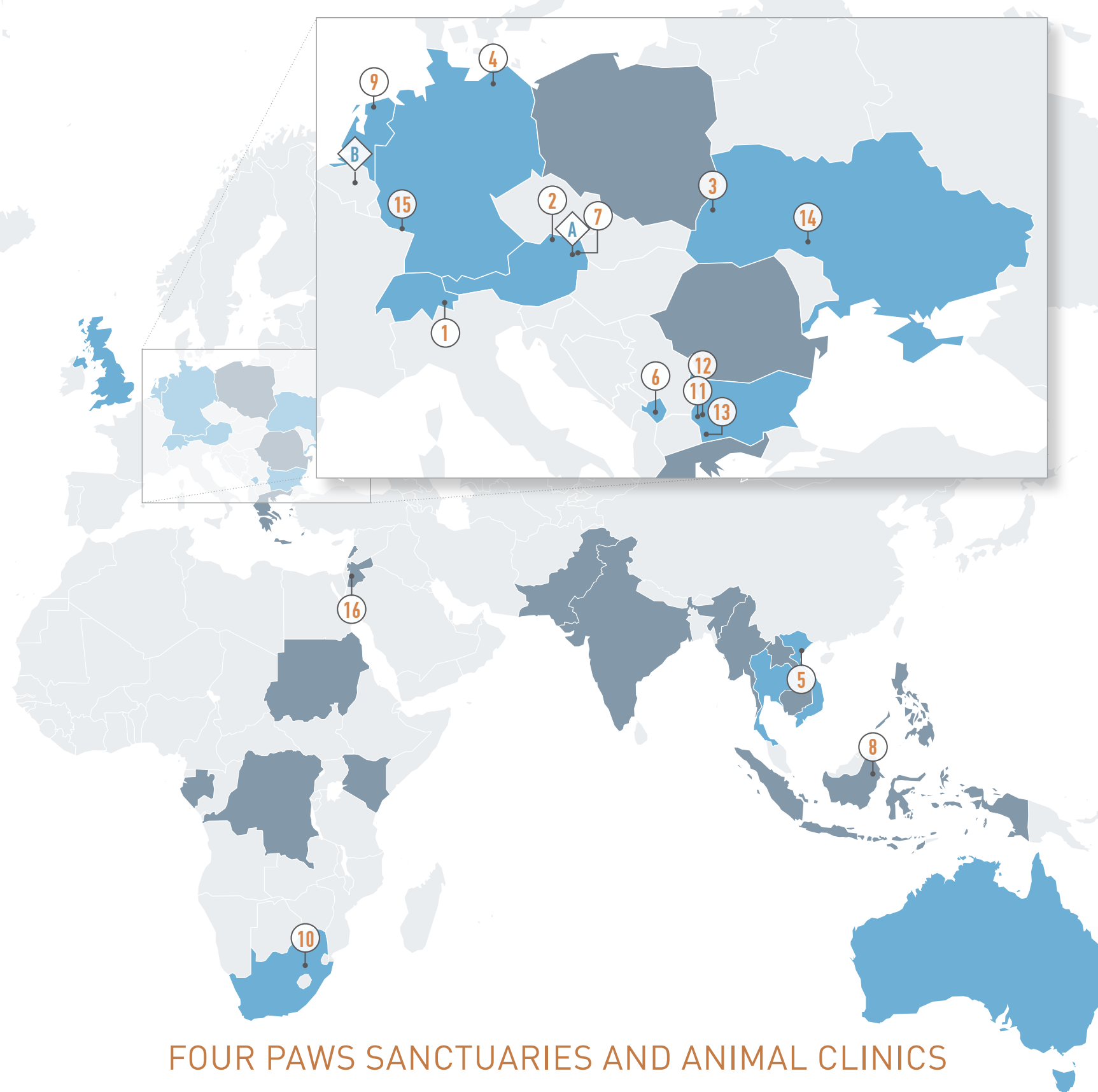
FOUR PAWS Offices 2021: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Kosovo, the Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam



Countries of operation and location of cooperation partners 2021

Cambodia, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Myanmar, Poland, Romanian, Sudan

All addresses on pages 70 and 71.



FOUR PAWS SANCTUARIES AND ANIMAL CLINICS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① Arosa Bear Sanctuary* | ⑨ FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary |
| ② BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach | ⑩ LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary |
| ③ BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr | ⑪ Stray animal clinic Bankya |
| ④ BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz | ⑫ FOUR PAWS centre for animal-assisted intervention Sofia |
| ⑤ BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh | ⑬ DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa* |
| ⑥ BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina | ⑭ FOUR PAWS centre for animal-assisted intervention Vinnytsia |
| ⑦ OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee* | ⑮ TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary |
| ⑧ ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL* | ⑯ Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife* |

* in cooperation with partners



THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Mission Statement

13 Countries – One Objective

The global 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 Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Kosovo, the Netherlands, the UK, Ukraine, Switzerland, South Africa, Thailand, 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 *the* global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them.

Objectives, Tasks and Expertise

FOUR PAWS seeks to protect animals under direct human influence, rescues animals in need worldwide and obtains legislative changes to ensure the long-term improvement of their living conditions.

Our sustainable campaigns and projects focus on companion animals, farm animals and wild animals, kept in inappropriate conditions as well as in disaster and conflict zones. We are actively committed to the humane treatment of stray dogs and cats as well as to better living conditions for companion and farm animals. We establish and operate sanctuaries worldwide, in which wild animals rescued from abusive captivity find a species-appropriate home.

We take a problem-solving approach and offers animals in distress swift and direct aid. Our aim is to achieve and establish changes in politics, society and the economy that

will benefit animals – through projects, campaigns and education. Our work is based on scientific expertise, sound research and intensive national and international lobbying.

Reveal

FOUR PAWS reveals inappropriate and life-threatening conditions for animals. FOUR PAWS exposes abuses, develops appropriate solutions and drives them forward in order to implement them in the best possible way.

Rescue

FOUR PAWS rescues animals in need worldwide that are under direct human influence, and reduces and ends the suffering of animals with continuing help and medical care.

Protect

FOUR PAWS provides a safe home for wildlife such as bears, big cats and orangutans rescued from non-species-appropriate living conditions around the world. ■



How We Work

Nationally and Internationally

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 companion animals. They monitor quality standards, develop certain projects and plan new ones.

The 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 Development Officer, in charge of the departments of IT, Contract Management & Legal Affairs, Quality Management and Organisational Development. The national FOUR PAWS branches are led by Country Directors who, with their national teams, embody the principle of ONE FOUR PAWS.

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 Board make up the international leadership team which meets regularly to align the organisation's main areas of activity.

Strategy

With the FOUR PAWS Strategy 2025, FOUR PAWS has formulated clear goals for the coming years. The focus of the work is to achieve significant improvements in the living conditions of animals under human influence: wild animals, companion animals, farm animals as well as animals affected by natural disasters or suffering from life-threatening conditions in crisis areas. FOUR PAWS seeks fundamental, system-wide changes across economic, technological and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values, to ensure that animals are treated with respect, empathy, and understanding. To achieve global impact, FOUR PAWS is active worldwide. To make this more concrete by 2025, we have defined strategic goals. For our campaigns and projects, we have geographical focal points in Europe, Central and South-Eastern Europe. Four Paws encourages and mobilises people to contribute to the improvement of animal welfare. Our supporters spread the message about animals in need, campaign on behalf of Four Paws, and make financial donations for our projects and campaigns. We work as one team to win the hearts and minds of millions. ■

Help for Bears

Giving Bears a Species-Appropriate Life

Background

Bears around the world are living in unsuitable conditions in circuses, cages and zoos. In some countries in Asia, thousands of black bears and sun bears are kept in cramped cages. Many of these animals have previously fallen victim to the cruel trade of bear bile farming, or continue to be exploited as a source of bile, which is used in traditional medicine. Sadly, bears are tortured even in Europe. Whether in photoshoots with tourists, in circuses, in dog fights or as a public attraction in restaurants, they are often kept in enclosures that are small and mostly featureless, where they cannot follow their natural patterns of behaviour such as exploring and looking for food. This in turn causes behavioural disorders in the animals, which typically present in the form of stereotypic behaviours such as pacing up and down, swaying their heads or self-mutilation. For over 20 years, FOUR PAWS has been working to help tortured and mistreated bears.

Our Aims

FOUR PAWS seeks to improve the living conditions of brown bears in captivity and end the inappropriate keeping of this species. The worst forms of captivity, such as in circuses, in restaurants or with owners who force them to fight, must be banned.

FOUR PAWS has devised the following aims for brown bears in Europe:

- The private and non-species-appropriate keeping of bears and the cruel conditions in which some bears are kept for commercial purposes must be prohibited by law.
- A ban on keeping wild animals for use in circuses must be enforced across the EU.

- National minimum standards must be established for keeping bears in animal parks and zoos that guarantee the well-being of the animals. All of these facilities must be run according to scientific principles.
- Furthermore, these animals must only be kept in zoological facilities, and only where this is strictly necessary. They must be guaranteed sufficient space, proper care, social structure and veterinary treatment in order to guarantee a high quality of life for adult breeding animals and their offspring.

In Vietnam, FOUR PAWS is working with other local organisations to end the captivity and abuse of bears on bile farms.

FOUR PAWS' objectives for black bears and sun bears in Vietnam are:

- The Vietnamese government must be held accountable for delivering on its promise to end bear farming in Vietnam.
- The Vietnamese people must be educated on the cruel practice of bear bile farming through educational campaigns.
- The FOUR PAWS bear sanctuary in the north of Vietnam, BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh, is being expanded to accommodate at least one hundred bears rescued from the bile farming industry.

Two departments at FOUR PAWS are working towards achieving these objectives: The Wild Animal Rescue & Advocacy department coordinates rescue and research activities, with a focus on bears and big cats living in captivity. At a political level, the department is also working to change the legal frameworks that are in place in the countries where it is active, in order to bring about sustainable improvements in the situations of the affected animals.

The Sustainable Sanctuaries (SuSa) department is responsible for managing the wildlife sanctuaries operated by FOUR PAWS as well as its partner projects. Their second key area of focus is education: the aim is to inform those who visit the sanctuaries about the needs of the animals and their ways of life, and to make the visitors passionate about animal welfare. To do this, the SuSa team develops suitable programmes, experiences and exhibitions.



Projects

FOUR PAWS runs five of its own BEAR SANCTUARIES and two others in co-operation with partners: the DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa together with the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, and Arosa Bear Sanctuary together with the Arosa tourist board and the Arosa Bergbahnen cable car company. FOUR PAWS also works alongside Poznań Zoo in Poland and the Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife sanctuary in Jordan. All of our bear sanctuaries provide a protected and species-appropriate home for bears that have been confiscated or voluntarily surrendered. However, FOUR PAWS only takes charge of the animals if the previous owners sign an agreement stating that they will not keep any more bears in future. In the spacious enclosures at our sanctuaries, which have lots of features replicated from nature, the animals can rediscover their instincts and follow their natural behaviour patterns, while experienced animal handlers provide daily stimulation to prevent or aid in the recovery from behavioural problems. The animals are regularly checked by a vet and treated when necessary. All bears will have safe living conditions for the rest of their lives where they are not used for breeding.

BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach

The first FOUR PAWS bear sanctuary was constructed in 1998 in Austria's wooded Waldviertel region. Since then, one developing area of animal care has been meeting the needs

of older bears, since two of the bears that call the sanctuary their home in 2021 are now at an advanced age. Despite being cut short due to a lockdown, the 2021 visitor season went well. In light of the situation with regard to the coronavirus pandemic, BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach performed more guided tours, which were received well.

BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz

BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, opened in 2006. Covering 16 hectares, it is the largest bear sanctuary in western Europe. By the end of 2021, the sanctuary was home to 14 bears. A new feed composition helped to ensure that almost all bears went into hibernation on schedule. Although the BEAR SANCTUARY was only able to open to the public again from June 2021 due to coronavirus restrictions, it welcomed around 106,000 visitors in total.



8 bear sanctuaries were operated either independently by FOUR PAWS or with partner organisations.

139 bears were cared for by FOUR PAWS around the world in 2021.

BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina

FOUR PAWS opened BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina in Kosovo in 2013 to provide brown bears that were being kept illegally in restaurants and private mini-zoos with appropriate living conditions spread over an area of 16 hectares. In addition to all brown bears once kept privately in Kosovo, this sanctuary also provides a safe home to bears rescued from poor conditions in Albania. BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina was also affected by the coronavirus pandemic, which resulted in a wide range of restrictions for visitors. Nevertheless, with over 40,000 visitors and more than 50,000 followers on social media, the BEAR SANCTUARY was still able to reach lots of people and raise awareness about the needs and behaviours of bears. Furthermore, an electric bus shuttle from the nearest main road was set up and the solar power facility was expanded.

BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr

In Ukraine, not only is bear baiting – the cruel practice of using bears as bait to train hunting dogs – now banned, it is also illegal to keep bears as an attraction at restaurants, hotels

and in private zoos that do not comply with animal welfare standards. Nevertheless, providing all of these animals with species-appropriate homes remains a challenge. It is still entirely legal for bears to be kept at hunting stations, where they are still at risk of being illegally misused in fights with hunting dogs. In 2018, FOUR PAWS opened BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr in order to give the bears kept in captivity in Ukraine a safe alternative. In 2021, seven rescued bears found a new in BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr, including the four bear cubs Andor, Jenny, Toby and Moris. The process of socialising the new bears went well and their mental and physical condition improved quickly thanks to intensive support, varied enrichment tools and a species-appropriate diet. A number of enclosures and two bear houses were newly constructed, which meant that some of the bears in familiarisation enclosures were able to be moved into a large forest enclosure. As part of the “Green Sanctuary” initiative, the sanctuary now has electric vehicles to transport the food, and the power for the BEAR SANCTUARY is provided by a solar power plant.

BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh

In Vietnam, there are around 300 bears still living on bear farms. Most of these bears are Asian black bears, which are still used for bile farming in spite of the fact that this practice is prohibited by Vietnamese law. Since 2017, bears that are confiscated or voluntarily surrendered can be re-homed in a species-appropriate setting at BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh, which was constructed by FOUR PAWS in north-east Vietnam. The sanctuary currently has approximately six hectares of land and can accommodate sixty bears rescued from bile farms. Plans are in place to gradually expand the site to offer new homes to up to a hundred bears.



BEAR PROJECTS

- 1 Arosa Bear Sanctuary (CH)
- 2 BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach (AT)
- 3 BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr (UA)
- 4 BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz (DE)
- 5 BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh (VN)
- 6 BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina (XK)
- 7 DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa (BG)
- 8 Al Ma’wa for Nature and Wildlife sanctuary (JO)
- 9 Outdoor bear enclosure at Poznań Zoo (PL)



By the end of 2021, BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh was home to a total of forty bears, with four of these being rescued over the course of 2021. The rescue of the female bear Tu Do marked the end of bears being used for bile extraction in Son La, making it the 40th province in Vietnam to end bear bile farming. The coronavirus pandemic has significantly affected life in Vietnam. As a result, much of the planned construction was not completed due to lockdown restrictions, and BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh was forced to remain closed to the public for seven months. Nevertheless, the sanctuary was still able to open the visitor centre and a treetop path in April.

DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa

In the year 2000, there were still 25 registered dancing bears in Bulgaria. Fitted with chains and a nose ring, they were kept in back gardens and made to dance for audiences in towns and tourist resorts. After negotiating with the Bulgarian government to implement a ban on keeping dancing bears, FOUR PAWS partnered with the Brigitte Bardot Foundation to establish DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa, taking in all of the Bulgarian dancing bears and the remaining few from Serbia. Since then, bears kept in other inappropriate conditions have found a new home here too.

In 2021, two of the bears had to be put to sleep. At the end of the year, DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa was home to

19 brown bears, 15 of which went into hibernation – a sign that they are doing well and can now once again follow their natural instincts, despite the trauma they have suffered in the past. Three orphaned bear cubs are being temporarily cared for and nursed back to health at the DANCING BEARS PARK until they are stable enough to be transported to a rehabilitation centre in Greece. In 2022, the bears are to be brought back to Bulgaria and released into the wild. Despite the fact that coronavirus restrictions significantly reduced the amount of time the park was able to spend open, the number of visitors that came to the DANCING BEARS PARK increased by 11 percent compared to 2020.

Arosa Bear Sanctuary

Arosa Bear Sanctuary in Switzerland opened in 2018 and is located at an altitude of around 2,000 metres. It has the capacity to look after up to five bears rescued from poor living conditions. The joint project between FOUR PAWS, the Arosa tourist board and the Arosa Bergbahnen cable car company brings together animal protection with efforts to promote tourism in the region of Arosa in the canton of Graubünden. All three of the brown bears housed here went into hibernation of the end of March. Unfortunately, the female bear Jambolina died suddenly in August while undergoing necessary dental care. Efforts to make Arosa Bear Sanctuary a popular attraction and a place to learn about the protection



of animals and nature – through the sharing of knowledge and with interesting recreational attractions – continued throughout the year.

Key Activities in 2021

The #saddestbears initiative was continued in 2021 and supported with public outreach activities to increase awareness of the plight of bears that are kept in terrible conditions. The campaign concentrates on brown bears living in captivity in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Asiatic black bears in Vietnam. In Hanoi, FOUR PAWS is joining forces with partner organisations and launching a campaign that denounces the lack of progress made in Vietnam's capital city with regard to the closing of bear farms. The accompanying petition to the government in Hanoi was signed by over 113,000 people.

In 2021, FOUR PAWS was able to rescue eleven bears and transfer them to bear sanctuaries in Ukraine and Vietnam. As a result, by the end of 2021, the total number of bears under the care of FOUR PAWS increased to 139.

In Central and Eastern Europe, FOUR PAWS uncovered the extent of illegal wildlife keeping, breeding and trade and is committed to promoting better protection for wild animals. In Ukraine, FOUR PAWS was able to introduce a change in animal

welfare law: in future, keeping and using bears, lions, tigers and other types of wild animals for certain entertainment purposes or recreational purposes will be banned.

Despite the coronavirus restrictions, the Sustainable Sanctuaries department still conducted seven out of ten planned quality standard workshops in the bear sanctuaries. Throughout the year, the workshops were complemented by support for the animal care teams with regard to concepts for animal training and the layout of enclosures. This support was provided online.

In addition, in the sanctuaries, a total of 55 veterinary check-ups were carried out and 76 bears were examined and treated.

Research Activities to Benefit Bears

In order to assess the well-being of wild animals living under human care in the FOUR PAWS sanctuaries, scientifically sound observations are essential. In recent years, the Science and Research department at FOUR PAWS developed the BearWell protocol, in order to be able to assess the emotional and physical well-being (e.g. the nutritional status or pathological changes) of the bears through the use of precisely defined monitoring. Based on the findings, suitable, specific measures to improve the well-being of each bear can be taken as required.

In 2021, a study about the development of a method contained within the BearWell protocol was published in the Applied Animal Behaviour Science journal. This method provides a framework to assess the emotional state of the animals. The study also examined the influence of the seasons and the individual characteristics of the animals on the results.

In 2022, a systematic behaviour observation and recording of physical parameters will be incorporated into the training programme for the animal keepers and is set to become a part of the routine monitoring of animal welfare. The aim of this project is to provide bears living under the care of humans with the best possible living conditions.

Outlook for 2022

The #saddestbears campaign is also planned to be continued in 2022, in order to rescue as many bears as possible from poor living conditions and transfer them to FOUR PAWS bear sanctuaries. In addition, FOUR PAWS will continue to work towards changing the legal framework in a way that provides better protection for wild animals living in captivity. The campaign focuses on Albania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, North Macedonia, Russia and Ukraine.

In the European Union, FOUR PAWS aims to help ensure that countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania correctly and fully implement the requirements set out in the EU Directive on the keeping of wild animals in zoos.

The SuSa department will finalise its education concept (SuSa Education Concept) and define the concept's strategic priorities with regard to the education of visitors and raising awareness of animal protection topics for the next five years (2022 to 2027).

In Vietnam, FOUR PAWS will continue its Hanoi campaign and prepare for the rescue of more Asiatic black bears. The aim is for the animals to be housed in BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh, provided that the pandemic does not prevent this. The sanctuary is making the necessary

preparation to house up to ten bears. Furthermore, the construction works in the BEAR SANCTUARY are scheduled to be completed.

In BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach, renovation and expansion work is currently under way to set up two new bear enclosures, amongst other improvements. Contacts with the Czech Republic, which were established in 2021, should be strengthened, in order to further explore the situation in this country.

In BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr, the expansion work to allow the sanctuary to house two more bears has been completed.

Another bear from North Macedonia is set to move into DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa in 2022.

In BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina, the old fuel-powered cars have been replaced with hybrid or electric vehicles and there are plans to plant around one hundred new trees.

At BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz, the layout of the enclosures is set to change slightly. The aim for these changes is to make it possible to house more bears. Besides this, the sanctuary will be focusing on environmental education.

Arosa Bear Sanctuary is planning to take on more bears. ■



Big Cat Rescues

New Homes for Animals

Rescued from Poor Conditions

Background

Around the world, big cats suffer unnecessary cruelty in private ownership. They perform unnatural tricks in circuses, are left to waste away in poorly managed zoos, or are bred for commercial purposes on industrial-scale farms. Young animals are subjected to human stroking and touching or are used as photographic props to generate income for their owners. Many of them end up with private owners in an environment that is completely inappropriate for their species. Most big cats spend their lives confined behind bars, with an inadequate diet and suffering from disease and unnatural behavioural problems. In the worst cases, the animals are killed and used in traditional Asian medicine or shot as a trophy by amateur hunters who are wealthy enough to pay for this 'privilege'. FOUR PAWS has been campaigning for years to end the unsuitable keeping of big cats in captivity.

Our Aims

FOUR PAWS aims to gradually reduce the number of animals being kept in unacceptable conditions in private captivity. In the longer term, our objective is to bring an end to the non-species-appropriate keeping of big cats across Europe. In South Africa, FOUR PAWS is working hard to campaign against the canned hunting of lions.

In order to achieve these goals, research and strategies are needed alongside political lobbying and publicity campaigns. FOUR PAWS will also intervene whenever it learns of specific cases of big cats suffering in poor and inappropriate living conditions, doing all it can to rescue these animals.

Sanctuaries

Big cats that have grown up in captivity cannot be released into the wild. Where big cats are seized or surrendered voluntarily, they will be rehomed wherever possible at the sanctuaries operated by FOUR PAWS alone or in cooperation with partner organisations, where mistreated lions, tigers and other big cats can live out their remaining days in an environment that provides the highest possible standards of care. FOUR PAWS will only admit big cats to one of these sanctuaries if the owners of the animal sign a contract to never keep big cats again. The sanctuaries run a range of programmes and exhibitions to inform those who visit the sanctuaries about the needs of the animals and their ways of life, and to make the visitors passionate about animal welfare.

In spite of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, FOUR PAWS provided veterinary check-ups and treatment when necessary for a total of seventy big cats in 2021. Quality standards workshops were held in all our sanctuaries and the teams on site were provided with ongoing online support on animal training and enclosure design.

LIONSROCK

FOUR PAWS opened the LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary in South Africa in 2007. The site has over 1,250 hectares of savannah, rolling hills and rocky landscape for the animals to explore. In nature, big cats spend a larger proportion of their time hunting and defending their territory than rescued animals. As the cats are fed a diet of meat at the rescue centre, the care team provides regular enrichment activities as an alternative outlet for the energy and brainpower that the animals would usually expend on finding their next meal. For example, they fill boxes or sacks with straw that has a



particular odour or freeze chunks of meat in ice. These activities help to prevent boredom, frustration and the resulting behavioural problems that are so typical of animals kept in captivity. The big cats cared for in this protective environment can gradually overcome the stereotypical behaviours they have acquired and the trauma they have suffered in their previous lives.

The majority of the inhabitants of LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary were rescued in the first few years after the sanctuary opened in 2007, and these animals are now between 15 and 20 years old, which is a long life for big cats. A total of seven big cats died in 2021. However, four big cats were also rescued and rehomed from a private park in South Africa. The pandemic limited the sanctuary to day visitors only, but the option of overnight stays will be offered again in the future. Construction work was needed to repair flood damage; the sanctuary also completed two new lion shelters and enclosures and renovated seven lion shelters to satisfy the FOUR PAWS quality standard. At the end of the year, LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary was home to 73 lions, 20 tigers, 3 leopards and a cheetah, a hyena and a caracal.

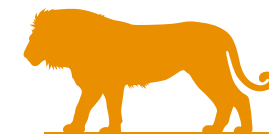
FELIDA

In 2013, FOUR PAWS took over a big cat rescue centre housing 26 animals in the Dutch village of Nijebekoop. The centre, which has now been renamed FELIDA, specialises in

caring for big cats with special needs. For example, the centre provides special therapy for severely traumatised animals rescued from war zones – for the rest of their lives if they need it. Other animals, once physically fit enough, are prepared for their long journey to LIONSROCK. In 2021, a tiger from Ukraine and seven lions from Romania were rehomed at the centre, bringing the FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary centre total to eight lions and two tigers by the end of the year. The centre is not normally open to the public, but a limited number of VIP visitor days were organised in the summer.

TIERART

FOUR PAWS is the main shareholder of the TIERART gGmbH Wild Animal Sanctuary in Maßweiler (Rhineland-Palatinate), Germany. With 14 hectares of land at its disposal, the sanctuary is the largest wild animal sanctuary in Germany. At the sanctuary, FOUR PAWS provides care for a number of wild animal species and big and small cats rescued from



4 sanctuaries for big cats are operated either independently by FOUR PAWS or with partners.

134 big cats were cared for by FOUR PAWS in 2020.

circuses or private captivity. The big cat centre consists of three enclosures covering a total area of about 2,800 square metres. Subject to the health status and age of the animals, FOUR PAWS aims to eventually rehome inhabitants at LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary. Where this is not possible, life-long, species-appropriate accommodation is provided at TIERART.

In 2021, TIERART was home to four tigers, three of whom were rescued from circuses, where they were being kept in poor conditions. One female tiger was rescued from illegal private captivity. Puma Tikam and serval Kiano moved into brand-new enclosures. In spite of the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, just under 1,700 visitors toured the centre between June and November.

AL MA'WA FOR NATURE AND WILDLIFE

In Jordan, FOUR PAWS has been working with the Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife sanctuary for many years. As of the end of 2019, the sanctuary – which was founded by the Princess Alia Foundation in partnership with FOUR PAWS – At the end of 2021, a total of 24 big cats were in the care of Al Ma'wa: 22 lions and 2 tigers. In 2021, construction work was undertaken to enlarge the existing enclosures and build new enclosures.



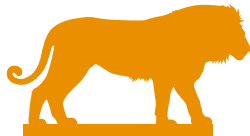
Key Activities in 2021

At the end of 2021, 134 big cats were in the care of FOUR PAWS. Over the course of the year, twelve big cats were rescued and rehomed at LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary and FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary. The largest rescue effort involved seven lions that were being kept in the owner's backyard in Romania.

In June, FOUR PAWS returned to Sudan to check on two lions that had been discovered starving in the Al-Qurashi zoo in Khartoum in 2020, triggering an emergency rescue operation. The lions are now living in a new sanctuary operated by Sudan Animal Rescue. While their condition is now stable, the animals will require special treatment and monitoring for the rest of their lives. FOUR PAWS, Sudan Animal Rescue and the Sudanese wild animal authorities all agreed that the best solution for the animals would be to rehome them in a species-appropriate location, and the search for the right home is under way. The rescue was also an opportunity to provide training to the Sudan Animal Rescue team.

In Central and Eastern Europe, FOUR PAWS uncovered the extent of illegal wildlife keeping, breeding and trade. In Albania, FOUR PAWS is committed to promoting better protection for wild animals and the enforcement of regulations. In northern Macedonia, the organisation expanded its network of contacts to rescue and protect bears – and potentially also big cats – from illegal private captivity. The changes to animal welfare laws in Ukraine – which were implemented in part thanks to campaigning by FOUR PAWS – have made it illegal to keep lions and tigers for certain entertainment or recreational purposes. Slovakia announced a ban on the private keeping of all big cats, and the UK is planning to outlaw the import of hunting trophies from 7,000 species.

2021 also saw the continuation of the #RuthlessTrade campaign against the tiger trade. The EU Commission responded positively to a letter from FOUR PAWS demanding a ban on the commercial sale of tigers, which was signed by 105 non-governmental organisations in the Species Survival Network (SSN). 42 members



103 lions



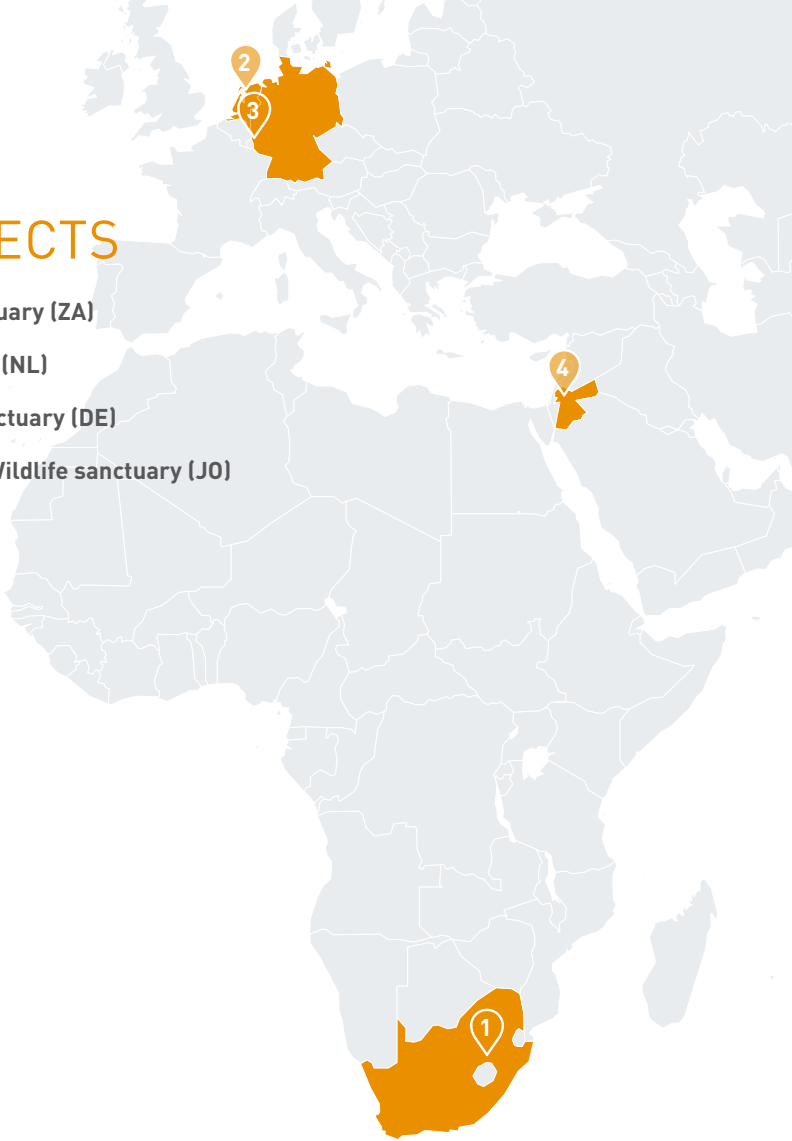
28 tigers



3 leopards

BIG CAT PROJECTS

- 1 LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary (ZA)
- 2 FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary (NL)
- 3 TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary (DE)
- 4 Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife sanctuary (JO)



of the European Parliament also committed to supporting a ban. FOUR PAWS also worked on guidelines for future legislation on tigers in the EU.

The guidelines recommend that the EU member states only permit the import, export and sale of tigers bred in captivity, as well as any parts or derivatives from such tigers, within the EU in exceptional circumstances. FOUR PAWS also contributed recommendations for ending the tiger trade to the discussion surrounding the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030; these recommendations were incorporated into the strategy.

In 2021, as part of the #BreakTheViciousCycle campaign, FOUR PAWS published a report on the plight of captive big cats in South Africa, where lions and tigers are systematically bred for use in the entertainment and tourism industries. After a few years, when the exploited animals are no longer useful, many of them become canned hunting targets; others are slaughtered so that their body parts can be sold as 'medicine' or trophies. Some end up being sold to zoos and amusement parks. When we discovered that South Africa is home to three times more lions living in captivity than in the wild, the South African government announced plans to end the multimillion-dollar captive lion industry.

Outlook for 2022

In spring 2022, a group of five young lions will be relocated from FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary to LIONSROCK Big Cat

Sanctuary to spend the rest of their lives enjoying the heat of the African sun. Four tigers that have been held captive in a cramped wagon in Argentina for 15 years will also be freed and rehomed at LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary. Construction work will be undertaken at both FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary and LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary to build new enclosures, upgrade existing enclosures to meet the latest quality standards and to improve infrastructure. LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary will also launch a pilot to trial its new visiting arrangements.

TIERART will focus on public outreach and education. The site will hold exhibitions and talks to share information on FOUR PAWS campaigns, and the "Animals in war" exhibition will be expanded. TIERART is also planning a programme of construction work, which will enable it to provide even more species-appropriate accommodation for its animals and create capacity for new residents. A new education concept for visitors to all sanctuaries will also be finalised. ■



Great Apes in Need

Protection, Rehabilitation, Reintroduction

Background

In Africa and Asia, the wild populations of gorillas and orangutans are shrinking drastically. There are only around 316,000 gorillas left in the wild, which means that the population of western lowland gorillas has shrunk by more than 70 percent since the 1980s. There are around 55,000 orangutans left in Borneo, which equates to an 80 percent reduction since 1950. There are many reasons for this, from commercial and illegal logging to agriculture and mining, all of which are taking ever greater areas of habitat away from these primates. In Western and Central Africa, the apes are also persecuted as a result of the demand for bushmeat. In Indonesia, huge areas of rainforest are destroyed each year by burning in order to make space for more palm oil plantations. Meanwhile, the babies of both ape species continue to be targeted by the illegal animal trade.

Our Aims

Orangutans and gorillas are at risk of extinction. FOUR PAWS is committed to campaigning for the protection and preservation of these species. The organisation has been active in Borneo since 2007, actively working to rescue and rehabilitate orangutans and establish the very highest standards for individual care, veterinary treatment and the successful reintroduction of these apes into the wild. Since 2019, FOUR PAWS has helped to protect western lowland gorillas in Africa through its partnership with a rehabilitation centre in Gabon.

Projects

Asia

In 2014, the Indonesian Yayasan Jejak Pulang foundation (the "Homecoming Foundation") was established with the help of FOUR PAWS.

Thanks to an agreement with the Indonesian government's official nature conservation authority, FOUR PAWS and Jejak Pulang have been able to roll out a rehabilitation programme for orphaned orangutans in Borneo. The ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL run by FOUR PAWS in East Kalimantan was opened in 2018. Working in close partnership with the Indonesian forestry authorities, the local team provides new homes for endangered or confiscated baby orangutans. Over the course of a year-long rehabilitation process, the young apes are individually prepared for a life of freedom back in the wild.

New fosterlings are taken to the quarantine station as soon as they arrive, and remain there for a period of two months while they receive medical and psychological care. The orangutans are then prepared for release back into the rainforest in three stages: kindergarten, the forest school and the forest academy. Care and daily routines are constantly adjusted based on the age and individual developmental level of each animal, so that new skills can be encouraged and developing needs taken into consideration. By observing their peers and with the patient guidance of their 'surrogate mothers' (a role assigned to specially trained carers), the orangutans at the ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL, an area of woodland covering 100 hectares, learn everything they need to know to live independently in the wild: how to move high among the treetops, how to find food in the forest, how to

12 orangutan orphans were looked after at the FOREST SCHOOL by FOUR PAWS in 2021.

34 people worked at the FOREST SCHOOL.



build a nest to sleep in and how to communicate with other members of their own species. When the orangutans reach an age of around eight years old, they are ready to enter the reintroduction programme. They are moved to a protected jungle region, where they continue to be observed and guarded by FOUR PAWS.

Africa

All gorilla species are at risk of extinction. In order to protect the population of western lowland gorillas living wild in the Fernan-Vaz region of south-western Gabon, FOUR PAWS has been working in partnership with the Fernan-Vaz Gorilla Project since 2019. The organisation campaigns to protect the habitat of these primates, as well as rescuing gorillas from the bushmeat trade and rehabilitating them so that they can be returned to the wild to live in protected habitats.

An island in the Nkomi Lagoon is home to nine gorillas that are ready for reintroduction into the wild. Living as two social groups, the gorillas can experience the freedom of the wild without direct contact with humans. Once a protected reintroduction zone has been agreed with the Gabonese government and finance has been secured, the first group will be transported to the pre-release area, where they can gradually acclimatise to their new environment. When

the gorillas are settled, they will be released. In their new habitat, the primates will benefit from ongoing protection and remote monitoring of their health and welfare.

Key Activities in 2021

ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL

In 2021, a total of twelve orangutan orphans between one and twelve years of age were cared for by FOUR PAWS and Jejak Pulang in Borneo. Eleven of them attended the FOREST SCHOOL. In January, four new arrivals from 2020 left the quarantine station to join the FOREST SCHOOL. The young animals that were already in attendance continued their training. Four older orangutan orphans moved on to the level 2 programme at the FOREST SCHOOL. They are now roaming the site independently and have started to spend their nights sleeping in nests in the forest. The three oldest orangutans move freely around the FOREST SCHOOL area and have acquired most of the skills they need for a life in the wild.

This year, 29 male and female ‘surrogate mothers’, two vets and three primatologists cared for the orphaned animals, including Dr Signe Preuschoft, who founded the project and manages the site. A strict set of measures successfully protected both the animals and the team from Covid-19.

A second bridge was completed in December, enabling the orangutans and their ‘surrogate mothers’ to cross the river running through the site safely even when water levels are high.

In June, the Indonesian government approved the use of a protected rainforest zone for the reintroduction of orangutan orphans into the wild. The zone is located on the upper course of the Mahakam river in the province of Kalimantan. The protected jungle provides countless sources of food and the perfect environmental conditions for orangutans to thrive. This government decision is key to the successful reintroduction of these animals into the wild.

GREAT APES PROJECTS



1 ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL (ID)

2 Fernan-Vaz Gorilla Project (GA)



9 gorillas



12 orangutans

Gorillas

With the support of FOUR PAWS, the Fernan-Vaz Gorilla Project was able to continue to look after nine gorillas that are ready for their reintroduction into the wild. Two female gorillas that joined the project in 2020 received intensive medical care to help them overcome parasite-related skin infections. To prepare them for integration into a group, the team worked on strengthening the social bond between the young animals.

necessary to establish special security measures around the reintroduction zone so that the orangutans remain protected after their release. The first release is planned for the end of 2022.

In Samboja, construction work commenced on a new head office for the Jejak Pulang foundation. The office will also house a clinic and a new spacious and species-appropriate outdoor enclosure for orangutan Robin, who will remain at the centre for the rest of his life because of his history.

Outlook for 2022

As the Indonesian government has now finally designated a state-approved protected forest zone for reintroducing rehabilitated orangutans into the wild, one of the main tasks on the agenda for 2022 will be preparing the area for the first two orangutans to move in. The team will start by setting up a local centre in the rainforest. In order to ensure peaceful relations among neighbours, the nearby communities and logging companies operating in the region will need to be brought on board with concessions. The continued destruction of the rainforest and the encroachment of humans on the habitat of primates will make it

FOUR PAWS is also planning to look after further orphaned orangutans under the umbrella of the Jejak Pulang foundation in 2022. In total, the ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL can accommodate around thirty orangutans. ■





Horse Protection

Working Animals and Wild Populations

Background

In many regions across the world, horses are deployed as working animals. However, their owners often lack the financial resources and basic knowledge required to properly care for the animals and provide appropriate food, equipment and medical treatment in an emergency. In Romania and Jordan, FOUR PAWS has established aid projects to improve the living conditions of these animals. As part of its horse protection efforts, FOUR PAWS works with two partner organisations: in 2018, we joined forces with the Animal Rescue and Care Association in Romania, and we have been working with the Princess Alia Foundation in Jordan since 2015.

On the other side of the coin, the overpopulation of wild horses in Europe and Australia is threatening protected flora and fauna. In some regions, these horses are shot to reduce their numbers and protect nature. In Romania, FOUR PAWS has demonstrated that there are more animal-friendly and sustainable ways to reduce horse populations.

Romania: Wild Horses

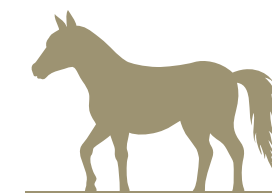
The Danube Delta in eastern Romania is one of the largest deltas in Europe. A few years ago, conservationists and local authorities were afraid that the growing horse population could destroy the unique flora in the biosphere reserve, and as a solution planned to cull the horses. FOUR PAWS was able to prevent this at the last minute. As an alternative, it has been providing birth control and veterinary care since 2012. In order to guarantee long-term protection of the wild horse population living in the Danube Delta biosphere reserve, the project reins will be handed over to the responsible local authority.

Romania: Working Horses

Since 2017, FOUR PAWS has been working to improve the lives and health of working horses in some of the poorest regions of Romania. Over the past few years, veterinary treatment has been provided for a total of 457 horses in the Roma community of Smârdioasa and the surrounding villages. Almost all of these horses were fitted with new shoes. In order to ensure long-term improvements to the situation, the owners were advised about the needs of their working horses and taught how to care for them properly.

Jordan

In Jordan, more than a thousand horses and donkeys work on the streets of Petra to provide an income for their owners and their families. Many visitors to the UNESCO world heritage site like to explore the city in a carriage pulled by a horse or donkey, or on horseback. These creatures are forced to live and work in very challenging conditions: when the FOUR PAWS project began back in 2015, the working animals were often exposed to the unrelenting rays of the sun for hours on end, and many were suffering from exhaustion, lameness and colic. Together with the Jordanian Princess Alia Foundation and the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), FOUR PAWS has been operating an aid project to significantly improve living and working conditions



500 or so wild horses live in the Danube Delta.

200 working horses were provided with veterinary care in Jordan in 2021.

for animals in Petra. New stables have been built to provide protection and accommodation for the animals, and around a thousand working animals have received medical treatment. Blacksmiths and owners have also been provided with training.

Our Aims

In the Romanian community of Smârdioasa and the cultural site of Petra in Jordan, FOUR PAWS is working to increase awareness of the needs of horses and to drive long-term, sustainable improvement in the living and working conditions of animals. In Petra, a target has been set to halve the use of working horses by 2025.



The wild horses living in the Danube Delta need long-term protection and must be integrated into the overall concept for the biosphere reserve. To ensure ongoing protection for these wild horses, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority will eventually assume responsibility for financing the project and for the birth control programme.

Key Activities in 2021

Romania

The humane birth control programme for the wild horses in the Danube Delta was continued. Between February and April, the team from the Animal Rescue and Care Association (ARCA) conducted three operations, using the humane soft-catch method to round up over 100 horses; the immunocontraceptive PZP was administered to 58 mares. At the end of 2021, ARCA was given the go-ahead to import SpayVac, an immuno-contraceptive that remains active for longer. The contraceptive was delivered to Romania at the start of 2022 and will prevent pregnancy for three years instead of the one-year protection provided by the previous contraceptive.

Horse welfare visits to the Roma communities continued. In September, 45 horses received a comprehensive health check and new shoes. We also started developing a long-term community engagement programme which aims to raise awareness of the needs and protection of working animals among those responsible in the community and in the local population.

HORSE PROJECTS

- 1 Wild horses in the Danube Delta (RO)
- 2 Working horses in Smârdioasa (RO)
- 3 Working horses and donkeys in Petra (JO)

Jordan

FOUR PAWS and the Princess Alia Foundation continued to successfully campaign for better health and living conditions for working horses. Seven field operations were carried out in Petra, with veterinary care and treatment being provided to more than 200 horses. In summer, the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA) decided that the traditional coaches used to transport tourists around the rocky city would be replaced with environmentally friendly solar-powered electric vehicles. This move significantly reduced the burden on working animals, who had been transporting holidaymakers in heavy carriages for decades. The decision to protect these animals is testament to the efficacy of the years of campaigning by FOUR PAWS and the Princess Alia Foundation in Jordan.

Outlook for 2022

Romania: Wild Horses

The birth control programme for the wild horses in the Danube Delta will be continued. In the second half of the year, the long-acting immunocontraceptive SpayVac will be

administered to a small initial group of mares to review its efficacy. The horses will also be recounted from the air.

Romania: Working Horses

FOUR PAWS will continue to work with its partner, the Animal Rescue and Care Association, to improve conditions for working and transport horses in the poorest Roma communities in southern Romania. In addition to aid operations for medical treatment, the community engagement programme will boost engagement with horse protection in the communities.

Jordan

FOUR PAWS and the Princess Alia Foundation will continue to provide veterinary treatment to working animals. Five to seven field operations are planned for the horse clinic in Petra, during which the animals will be examined and given new shoes if required. There are also plans to hold workshops for vets, blacksmiths and owners. In partnership with the PDTRA tourism authority, FOUR PAWS will continue to work on concepts to improve working and living conditions for the horses.

Native Wild Animals in Danger

Wild Animal Centres Save Lives

Background

Every day, native wild animals are harmed by the products of human civilisation: high-voltage cables, window panes, barbed wire, litter, polluted water and road traffic can all be a death sentence for wildlife. Tens of thousands of injured and orphaned wild animals are brought into Austrian and German rescue centres each year in need of urgent help. But these shelters are often unable to meet the demanding needs of wild animals because they specialise in rescuing the species of animals that we keep as companion animals. In wild animal centres, wildlife keepers and vets help wild animals in need. The animals are nursed and looked after appropriately and given the care they need to make a full return to health; they are then released back into the wild as soon as they are able to survive independently. The work of wild animal centres plays a critical role not only in the individual lives of the animals it saves, but also in the conservation of native wildlife species.

Wild Animal Centres

OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee (Austria)

The OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee was founded in 1975 as a sanctuary and rescue centre for injured and orphaned wild birds. The centre cares primarily for owls and birds of prey, but also helps other wild birds, hares, hedgehogs, otters, squirrels, turtles and other small wild animals across its 12,000-square metre site, employing a dedicated team of staff headed up by scientific director Dr Hans Frey. If a wild bird is too severely injured to be considered for release, the centre offers species-appropriate

accommodation in its high-specification aviaries. Some of the animals are given a new 'job' as surrogate parents for injured or orphaned young birds.

The OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee is the only rescue centre in Austria which houses surrogate parents for young birds of virtually all native owl and bird of prey species. The surrogacy model prevents birds developing inappropriate attachments to humans, which is an inherent risk of hand rearing. FOUR PAWS first began supporting the OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee in 2010, and in 2016, the organisation became a part of FOUR PAWS.

TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary (Germany)

Since 2016, FOUR PAWS has been the main shareholder in the TIERART gGmbH Wild Animal Sanctuary in the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. With 14 hectares of land at its disposal, the sanctuary is the largest privately operated wild animal sanctuary in Germany. TIERART places a high value on providing professional animal care for native wild animals, offering species-specific accommodation across over 3,400 square metres of individually designed enclosures for a wide range of wild animal species. While being nursed back to health for release, the abandoned, sick or injured animals are looked after by a team of five animal carers and two biologists. The most common patients at the centre are foxes, badgers, beech and pine martens, polecats, wild cats, lynxes, hares, deer, raccoons, dormice and hedgehogs. TIERART also provides a permanent home to various exotic big and small cats rescued from poor conditions (see page 21).



As raccoons have been classed as an invasive species in Europe since 2016, they cannot be released into the wild, so the TIERART sanctuary now provides a permanent, species-appropriate home for 33 abandoned raccoons. The centre is also a permanent home for five tame red foxes, two pastel foxes and two silver foxes rescued from private captivity.

In 2017, working in partnership with the EU LIFE lynx project, TIERART opened a rescue centre for lynxes. The centre takes in and cares for injured or abandoned lynxes from the repopulation programme before releasing them into the Palatinate Forest. TIERART also looks after farm animals that have been seized or left behind. The centre currently houses 31 sheep and six goats.



Wild Animal and Species Protection Centre (Germany)

FOUR PAWS supports the wild animal and species protection centre located 30 kilometres north-west of Hamburg, providing funding of at least 100,000 euros each year since the centre was founded in 2010. As the only site of its kind in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, the rescue centre has since become the region's primary rehabilitation facility for native wild animals.

The team provides wild animals in need with care that is species-appropriate and as close to nature as possible, enabling them to make a full return to fitness for life in the wild. In some instances, very severely injured wild animals, exotic animals and farm animals that have been found abandoned or seized are transferred to partner centres and other recognised animal rescue organisations. The



33 orphaned raccoons are permanent residents at TIERART.

111 hedgehogs overwintered at the OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee in 2021.



Key activities in 2021

OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee

Many of the wild animals require additional care from the experienced team, including 111 hedgehogs, who remained at the centre over the winter. A further 196 wild animals originally admitted the previous year were also successfully released back into the wild. The three large training and pre-release aviaries were renovated, and a large aviary was built for ravens. A pair of black vultures moved in alongside the

wild animal centre also raises abandoned raccoon kits; unfortunately, these animals will not be able to be released back into the wild, so the centre provides permanent, species-appropriate accommodation across 700 square metres of enclosure.

Our Aims

Around 80% of the wild animals brought into rescue centres or wild animal centres have found themselves in difficulty for reasons attributable to human civilisation. FOUR PAWS therefore believes it is its moral duty and responsibility to help and care for these animals. The primary objective of the wild animal centres is to rescue, provide professional care for and then successfully release and reintegrate native wild animals into the natural environment. Working together with FOUR PAWS, the wild animal centres also engage in media and public outreach campaigns to help educate the public on how to deal with wild animals in the correct manner. Every year, the staff at the wild animal centres receive thousands of enquiries about how to handle wild animals that have made their way into houses and gardens, and how to deal with nests and young birds. The centres work hard to prevent the well-meaning public from misinterpreting completely natural situations and intervening unnecessarily. Wild animals found seemingly abandoned and without a parent may not necessarily require our help. Usually, the mother is very close by looking for food, and regularly returns to her offspring to feed them.

ravens. The centre also built an enclosure for wild rabbits and an aviary for marsh harriers.

The OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee admitted a total of 2,097 wild animals in 2021. 876 of the animals cared for at the station have already been successfully released into the wild.

TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary

Over the past year, TIERART has cared for and raised more than 280 injured and orphaned native wild animals. The majority of these animals were released back into the wild, including countless wild birds, 36 wild cats, dozens of fixes, badgers, beech and pine martens, polecats, weasels and 168 smaller mammals, including hedgehogs, dormice, hares and mice. All of these animals were cared for and given the necessary medical treatment; over 70 percent of them have already been released back into the wild.

The station completed work on spacious new enclosures for puma Tikam and serval Kiano, and erected new enclosures for wild cats. The sheep and goat barn was also renovated. In partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature, HIT Umwelt und Naturschutz Stiftungs-GmbH and the Ministry for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility in Rhineland-Palatinate, the second rescue centre for orphaned lynxes was expanded. The enclosures for Europe's largest endangered feline predator now offer an additional 1,400 square metres of space for up to six young lynxes.



In spite of the visiting restrictions imposed during the coronavirus pandemic, the TIERART team created new learning content and delivered comprehensive educational programmes across all age groups. Between June and November, 1,679 people visited the station and its exhibitions on the tiger trade, animals in the circus and the history of animals in war. The centre also fielded hundreds of emergency calls from across Germany, with the team giving advice and instructions over the phone so that many more wild animals could be helped.

Wild Animal and Species Protection Centre

Over the course of 2021, the rescue centre admitted and cared for over 2,500 animals in need. Over half of the animals cared for were released back into the wild following their successful rehabilitation. A number of local authorities called on the services of the centre to help accommodate rescued animals and exotic escapees including snakes, turtles, tortoises, snowy owls and a kangaroo. A terrarium was built to house the snakes, providing more spacious accommodation for these exotic long-term residents. In the outdoor area, the centre constructed another enclosure for foxes and badgers, as well as an enclosure to permanently house American mink, which probably came from fur farms. In partnership with FOUR PAWS, the centre started to create an educational nature trail that teaches children about various animal welfare topics, such as fur farming. A seminar room on the top floor of the centre building was expanded to host presentations and educational events. However, the

tour and education programme was very limited in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Outlook for 2022

In 2022, the wild animal centres will continue to care for all wild animals in need, with the ultimate goal of releasing them back into nature.

At the TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary, improving and enlarging enclosures for native wild animals and exotic big and small cats will remain at the top of the agenda this year. This work will gradually expand the sanctuary's capacity while also improving safety and quality standards. TIERART will also continue to expand its public outreach and education efforts with new exhibitions and learning content.

At the OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee, existing enclosures are in need of repair. The station is also building a room dedicated to caring for young animals, as well as renovating the patient treatment room.

FOUR PAWS will continue its partnership with the Wild Animal and Species Protection Centre. To meet the needs of the ever-growing number of animals in its care, the centre is planning to construct an extension to the side building to create additional rooms and storage space. The final stages of work on the educational nature trail will also be completed. ■

Campaigns for Wild Animals

Breeding and Commercial Sale of Big Cats

Background

Although there are currently only around 3,900 tigers left in the wild, the number of tigers living out their lives in captivity is much higher – NGOs put the estimate at around 20,000. However, it is impossible to say how many are actually being kept in captivity in Europe and throughout the world, because the regulations surrounding keeping endangered big cats are inadequate. Although the trade of wild tigers is banned, tigers born in captivity and their body parts may be sold. All over Europe, animals are bred for commercial purposes, such as circuses, shows, photoshoots or exporting. In some EU countries, tigers can be rented for private parties or are even kept as companion animals. These big cats can be sold as far afield as Asia or even illegally killed here in Europe so that their bodies can be turned into questionable 'traditional medicines'. And it's a profitable business too: a tiger bred in Europe can fetch up to 22,000 euros on the Asian black market, while one kilo of tiger bones sells for around 1,700 euros. Most EU member states have no central register; official documents can be falsified with ease and some young animals are never registered in the first place.

In South Africa, a similarly profitable industry has been built around the suffering of captive big cats. Here, the focus is on the breeding of lions, with females forced to give birth to litter after litter while living in conditions that are totally inappropriate for their species. The young animals are taken from their mothers far too early to start generating income in the tourism industry – by posing for selfies or accompanying paying visitors on 'walks'. Mature lions often end up as canned targets for hunters who pay for the privilege of shooting

them. Even after death, the lions still bring in money for their owners: they are sold on as hunting trophies, as a material for luxury jewellery or ingredients for traditional 'medicine'.

Our Aims

FOUR PAWS is demanding an EU-wide ban on the commercial trade in tigers, their body parts and goods produced from tiger body parts, as well as a ban on exports to third countries. Breeding should only be permitted for strictly regulated conservation breeding programmes. Live tigers should only be transferred between zoos that have signed up to this programme and between animal sanctuaries that do not breed from rescued animals.

In South Africa, FOUR PAWS is campaigning for a ban on private breeding and the commercial sale of all big cats.

Key Activities in 2021

FOUR PAWS continued its #RuthlessTrade campaign to bring an end to the tiger trade in Europe. FOUR PAWS sent a letter – signed by 105 other animal and species protection NGOs – to the EU Commission, demanding a ban on the commercial trade in endangered species and their body parts, particularly tigers. 42 members of the European Parliament committed to supporting the initiative, and the Commission responded positively. FOUR PAWS also successfully helped a number of EU member states to draft regulations on the tiger trade. The European Parliament report on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 incorporates content from these draft regulations and now



subsequent live discussion were streamed by 300 people. To coincide with the start of the second series of "Tiger King" on Netflix, FOUR PAWS published material to highlight the extent of the animal abuse taking place in private zoos and asked the public not to support these supposedly 'harmless' attractions.

Outlook for 2022

FOUR PAWS is taking 2022's Chinese Year of the Tiger as an opportunity to further highlight the plight of big cats in captivity.

demands an end to all forms of commercial tiger trading, rather than just banning illegal activity.

To raise public awareness of the plight of captive big cats in South Africa, FOUR PAWS launched the #EndTheViciousCycle campaign. The campaign got underway with a comprehensive report on the exploitation of lions, tigers and other big cats in South Africa. When the report showed that the number of lions living in captivity in the country is three times higher than the number living in the wild, the government announced plans to end the multimillion-dollar captive lion industry.

The work of FOUR PAWS was also a great success in the media: new investigative film material published by FOUR PAWS highlighted the extent of the commercial tiger breeding taking place in South Africa. FOUR PAWS is mentioned twice in "Not a Pet", a five-part documentary about the illegal trade in wild animals, including tigers. The series – created by investigate journalist network Oxpeckers – is available to watch on the streaming platform Waterbear. At the end of August, FOUR PAWS hosted an online showing of the film "Tiger Mafia" by Karl Ammann. The showing and

The #RuthlessTrade campaign in the EU and the #EndTheViciousCycle campaign in South Africa will continue this year. In South Africa, FOUR PAWS will support the government as it drafts new animal welfare legislation that will bring an end to the commercial breeding of big cats and outlaw the sale of these animals and their bodies.

In November, a conference will take place on the Washington Convention (CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). FOUR PAWS will use this event as an opportunity to lobby for the existing regulations to be tightened up to ensure that the exploitation of big cats is confined to history. ■



1,700 euros is the price for 1 kg of tiger bones on the black market.

20,000 tigers are estimated to be living in captivity.

Fur Farming Campaign

Fashion without Fur

Background

Every year, millions of mink, foxes, raccoons and other animals suffer and die on fur farms all over the world. They are kept in tiny wire cages, where the mesh floors injure their sensitive paws and faeces and urine build up underneath. The animals live in a state of constant stress, with many suffering behavioural problems or developing self-mutilation behaviours as a result. Their deaths are just as cruel: they are gassed, poisoned or killed by electric current. Wild-caught animals don't have it any better, either: it can take days of brutal suffering for trapped animals to die.



The coronavirus pandemic was a stark reminder that fur farming also entails considerable health risks to humans and animals: SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, spread rapidly on mink farms, where it was then transmitted back to humans. Millions of animals had to be culled prematurely.

For decades, FOUR PAWS has worked to help fur animals, educating the general public, exerting consistent pressure on politicians and businesses and protesting outside fur farms. Thanks to these efforts, the last fur farm in Austria closed in 1998, and Germany's last remaining facility closed in March 2019. Many other European countries have also banned this cruel industry, and ever-more citizens across Europe and the USA are rejecting the practice of killing animals for their fur. This shift in consumer attitude is reflected in the rapidly rising number of fashion companies opting to keep their fashion fur-free



– which in turn is reducing the value of the fur industry. The Covid-19 outbreaks on mink farms also accelerated the economic and financial decline of European fur farming. The number of active fur farms in the EU fell from 4,350 in 2018 to 759 in 2020. On a global level, the number of animals killed for their fur worldwide has dropped from around one hundred million (2018) to around sixty million (2020). The figures for 2021 are expected to show a further decline.

Our Aims

Our long-term goal is an EU-wide ban on fur farms and an end to the trade in fur products. In order to gradually eradicate fur from the world of fashion, FOUR PAWS wants to increase the number of fashion brands opting to keep their clothes fur-free.

Campaigns in 2021

Once again in 2021, massive outbreaks of coronavirus were seen on mink farms. FOUR PAWS used this worrying development as an occasion to increase its lobbying and public outreach work at the EU level and national level and to work towards ending fur farming. Thanks to these efforts, during the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting, twelve member states of the European Commission demanded the end of fur farming in the EU, including Germany and Austria. In light of this wide support, it is the responsibility of the European Commission to develop a plan to end fur farming in Europe.

In January, the German-based mail order company Madeleine officially confirmed that they will no longer sell real fur from the 2021/2022 winter season. This represents the successful conclusion of a campaign by FOUR PAWS. Together with 68,000 supporters from all over the world, FOUR PAWS called upon the company to stop selling fur for several months. In order to encourage the brand Sportalm Kitzbühl to step away from the cruel business of fur farming, FOUR PAWS is taking a campaign that was initially started in Austria and spreading it around the world. New footage from their suppliers in Finland shows once and for all that the company's main argument, which is that the fur comes from "sustainable" and "certified" farms, holds no water.

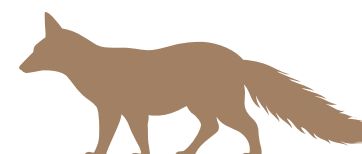
The FOUR PAWS foundation also had success as the official representative of the international Fur Free Retailer programme (www.furfreeretailer.com). The programme certifies retailers, fashion companies and designers who have entered into a binding agreement to refrain from using or selling real fur. Across the world, over 1,500 companies have already signed up to the initiative. In 2021, FOUR PAWS was able to recruit 22 new companies to sign up to the programme, including Adidas, Breuninger and well-known German stores, such as Alsterhaus or KaDeWe.

Together with the international Fur Free Alliance, FOUR PAWS was also active at a global level. In a petition presented to world leaders ahead of the G20 summit, the animal welfare organisations and 880,000 supporters around the world called for the heads of state and government of the G20 countries to bring an end to fur farming.

In Switzerland, FOUR PAWS welcomed the decision of the National Council to vote in favour of a ban on the import of fur products produced through cruel practice towards animals and is now calling on the Council of States to follow in the footsteps of the National Council. If such a ban were to be introduced, this would be an important international signal for the protection of animals and for global health.

Outlook for 2022

In light of the serious issues concerning animal welfare and the risk of disease on fur farms, we will continue to campaign vigorously for a ban on the keeping of fur animals in the EU. FOUR PAWS will also continue to raise public awareness of the suffering inherent in fur fashion, as well as encouraging yet more fashion companies to turn away from fur. ■



21 European countries have banned fur farming or have implemented legislation to limit its operation.

449 mink farms in the EU were affected by Covid-19.

The Dog and Cat Meat Trade

Stolen and Slaughtered for Food

Background

Estimates suggest that over 30 million dogs and cats are killed for the meat industry in South-East Asia every year. Dealers capture strays and beloved pets and cram them into tiny cages, before transporting them without food and water, sometimes on journeys lasting multiple days and across distances of hundreds of miles. The destination on these journeys of suffering is usually a market or a slaughterhouse, where the animals are brutally killed. The trade in dog and

cat meat is not only a huge animal welfare issue, but also poses a major risk to public health: the industry provides the perfect vehicle for dangerous pathogens like rabies to spread, as well as fuelling the development of deadly viruses.

Our Aims

FOUR PAWS wants to end the dog and cat meat trade in Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam by the year 2030. By

then, the governments of these countries must implement legislation, or revise existing regulations, to prevent dogs and cats from being captured and slaughtered and to outlaw the consumption of their meat.

Campaigns in 2021

Over the past year, FOUR PAWS has focused its efforts on convincing the national governments in Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam to engage in the fight against the dog and cat meat trade. By the end of the year, FOUR PAWS had collected more than 1.5 million signatures in support of a ban on the dog and cat meat trade, including more than 250,000 signatures from South-East Asia. FOUR PAWS was also able to close down a large dog slaughterhouse in Cambodia.

In February, FOUR PAWS published a report to raise awareness of the dog and cat meat trade and the associated health risks among the public. Entitled “The dog and cat meat trade: A global health risk”, the report was translated into five languages. The FOUR PAWS national offices contacted tourism companies and associations to obtain their support for the campaign. A total of 26 companies signed up, and the UK and US embassies in Vietnam also expressed their support. In December, the campaign was discussed at a meeting of the Companion Animal Working Group in the European Parliament. At the meeting, FOUR PAWS spoke about the industry in South-East Asia. The delegates concluded that action needed to be taken against the dog and cat meat trade. In South-East Asia, FOUR PAWS is part of animal protection coalitions that conduct covert investigations, lobby governments and raise awareness among the general public, including the DMFI (Dog Meat Free Indonesia) and ACPA (Asia Canine Protection Alliance).

Indonesia

The region of Sukoharjo announced an official, permanent ban on the sale and consumption of dog meat and intercepted a delivery truck containing 53 dogs as part of the country’s first major police raid of an illegal dog meat slaughterhouse. In Kulon Progo, the police were able to intercept a truck containing 78 dogs destined for the slaughterhouse, thanks to the ongoing lobbying work of the DMFI coalition. The dealers were sentenced to ten months in prison and required to pay a

fine of 10,000 US dollars. The provincial capital of Semarang also announced that it would implement regulations to explicitly ban the sale of dog meat in the city.

Cambodia

In February, the Ministry of Agriculture in the province of Siem Reap seized 61 dogs. The animals were on their way to the slaughterhouse, tied up in sacks and crammed into a truck with their muzzles bound. FOUR PAWS supported the authorities with research in advance of the operation and provided veterinary care and accommodation for the rescued animals. In March, FOUR PAWS closed a dog slaughterhouse in the town of Skun and rescued the surviving 16 dogs from their cages. The slaughterhouse was responsible for the deaths of over a million animals.

Outlook for 2022

Working in partnership with local authorities and government bodies, FOUR PAWS will continue to campaign for a ban on the trade in dog and cat meat in Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam. Through partnerships with the tourism industry and travel agents, we are aiming to increase the pressure on governments to bring an end to this industry. FOUR PAWS will also contact the embassies of the three south-east Asian countries in Europe, conduct further investigations, close slaughterhouses and rescue animals. Public information campaigns in South-East Asia will also aim to get more local people on board with the fight against the cruel dog and cat meat trade. We are aiming to get around 1.8 million signatures on our global petition at www.vier-pfoten.de/hundekatzenfleisch by the end of 2022. In Vietnam, FOUR PAWS will work with the authorities in Hoi An to ensure that the city is free of dog and cat meat by 2023 at the latest. ■



30 m. dogs and cats are killed for food in South-East Asia each year.

1.5 m. signatures were collected by the end of 2021 in support of a ban on the dog and cat meat trade.



Stray Animal Care

Global Projects for Cats and Dogs

Background

Stray animals can be found in virtually all areas of the world that have been populated by humans. In urban areas, in poorer countries in particular, street dogs and cats have simply become part of the city landscape. The animals – who may have been abandoned by their former owners or born into a life on the streets – have a tough existence, suffering from hunger, untreated injuries, sickness and parasites. Every day is a struggle to survive, and many animals lose the fight at a young age. Strays breed quickly, so the population is continually rising. Time and time again, these animals are involved in conflicts with humans, other animals or road traffic. The eastern European authorities often respond with brutality: dogs are beaten to death, gassed or poisoned. This is not only cruel, but also entirely pointless, doing nothing to reduce the size of the population in the long term. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has confirmed that the only way to permanently resolve the street animal problem is through a systematic programme of sterilisation.

Our Aims

FOUR PAWS wants to ease the suffering of stray dogs and cats across the world and reduce the stray animal population in a sustainable and humane way. We also aim to convey the message that these animals are living beings who deserve respect, and educate pet owners on their responsibilities.

Stray Animal Care

To permanently reduce the number of stray animals roaming the streets, FOUR PAWS deploys specially trained teams across the world, all of whom use the Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Return method. The teams catch stray dogs and cats and transport them to a FOUR PAWS clinic or

mobile clinic. At the clinic, the animals are neutered under anaesthetic, vaccinated and chipped.

Injured animals or strays infested with parasites are given the appropriate treatment. Finally, they are released back into the area in which they were found. To build awareness of the responsibilities involved in companion animal ownership among local citizens, the sterilisation programmes are run in conjunction with information campaigns to educate the public. FOUR PAWS also trains local vets so that they can continue the project themselves. The FOUR PAWS stray animal care programme only operates in cities and municipalities that have entered into a contractual agreement not to kill strays.

Animal-Assisted Intervention

The “Animal-assisted intervention” project is a special component of the FOUR PAWS international stray animal care programme. Since 2004, FOUR PAWS has been training up rescued strays to become therapy dogs. After starting in Romania, the project was expanded to Bulgaria in 2016 and Ukraine in 2018. People living with psychological conditions or physical disabilities often find it easier to establish a connection with dogs than with other people. Working with animals helps them to regain their confidence and start to enjoy life again. In turn, the



10 countries across the world received help from the stray aid teams in 2021.

37,572 strays received treatment.

dogs benefit from a level of attention and care that they could never have dreamed of during life on the streets. These projects also help to improve the image of strays among the general population.

Key Activities in 2021

Over the past year, FOUR PAWS has neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and provided medical treatment for 37,572 stray animals. The strayaid teams worked in a total of ten countries: Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Bulgaria,

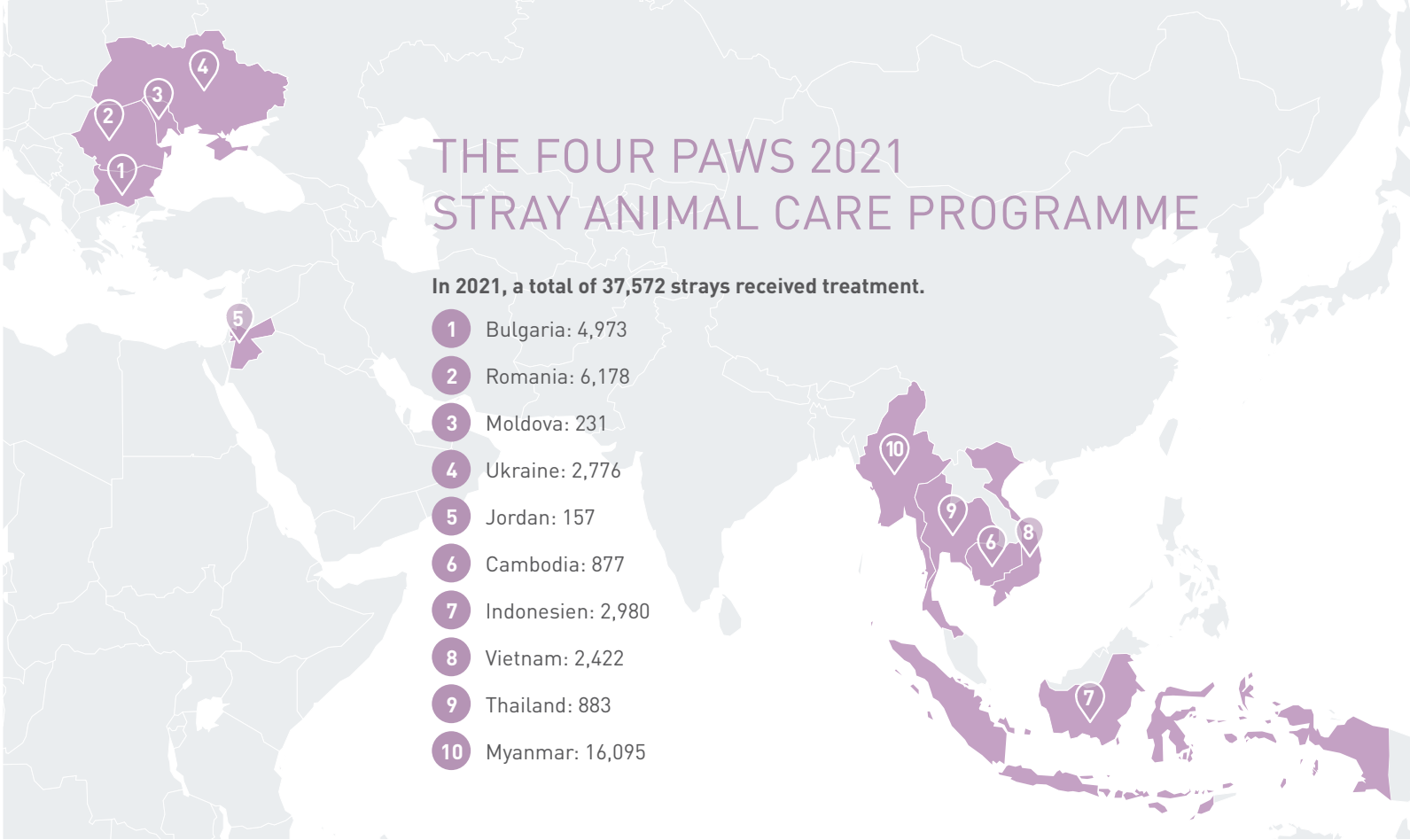
Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and Jordan. Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the collapse of the tourism industry, the situation for stray animals has taken a dramatic turn for the worse in many parts of the world. Animals that would normally eat from the rubbish left behind by tourists in bins or that relied on scraps put out by animal lovers are now going hungry. Since early 2020, FOUR PAWS has been running a global food programme to combat this problem. With regular deliveries of food, FOUR PAWS saved over 45,000 stray animals from death by starvation in Eastern Europe and South-East Asia in 2021.



Stray Animal Care in Asia

In Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, FOUR PAWS worked with local animal welfare organisations to save the lives of countless animals in need. In 2021, a total of 25,525 dogs and cats were treated and neutered by our clinical teams in these four countries. In Myanmar, 16,095 animals were vaccinated against rabies.

Indonesia: FOUR PAWS is active on the islands of Bali, Borneo and Java. On Bali, FOUR PAWS works with Bali Animal Welfare to run the “Dharma” programme. The programme involves vaccinations against rabies, free neutering of companion animals and strays and an animal health clinic. In the Indonesian part of Borneo and in Java, the Indonesian capital on the island of Java, the FOUR PAWS team works with partner organisation Pro Natura to help stray cats and dogs. In 2021, a total of 2,980 strays across the three Indonesian islands were neutered, dewormed and given vaccines. In the wake of the devastating earthquake on Bali at the end of October, FOUR PAWS and the Bali Animal Welfare Association fed hundreds of dogs and cats in the affected communities.



Cambodia: In Cambodia, dogs and cats are often abandoned at Buddhist temples or pagodas, in the hope that the impoverished monks and nuns will take care of them – but they don’t have the resources to do so. To help these animals, FOUR PAWS runs the “Saving Pagoda Animals” programme. In 2021, the programme provided more than 1,300 meals and medical treatments. Between January and June, a joint stray aid project with Animal Rescue Cambodia neutered, vaccinated and provided medical treatment for 877 strays. A new FOUR PAWS adoption centre in the provincial capital Siem Reap arranged new homes for animals rescued from the dog and cat meat trade.

Myanmar: Myanmar is home to over four million stray dogs. Rabies is widespread, and almost a thousand people a year die from this fatal disease. The brutal mass killings of strays that have taken place in the past have not helped to solve the problem. Since 2018, FOUR PAWS has been running a major vaccination drive against rabies in close partnership with Myanmar’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI). After a long hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, a further 16,095 dogs and cats in 139 villages were vaccinated against rabies in January 2021, bringing the total number of vaccinated strays to 296,707.

Since the start of the project, FOUR PAWS has trained more than 400 local vets and volunteers to administer the vaccines and has worked in over 2,000 villages. In the wake of the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, FOUR PAWS made the difficult decision to withdraw from the country in June in order to protect its employees. MOALI will continue to run the vaccination campaign.

Thailand: FOUR PAWS looks after strays in Thailand in partnership with the “Thailand’s Forgotten Dogs” aid programme. In 2021, the local team worked with Lanta Animal Welfare to care for 883 injured, sick or hungry dogs in the province of Trang. In addition to neutering and providing medical treatment for these animals, educating public service vets and the public is a major part of the team’s work.

Vietnam: FOUR PAWS runs the “Cats Matter Too” programme in partnership with local organisations Vietnam Cat Welfare and PAWS for Compassion. In 2021, 2,422 stray and companion animals were neutered and vaccinated for free.

Jordan: FOUR PAWS has launched a new project to improve conditions for stray animals in Jordan. The first 157 dogs



were neutered in autumn 2021 in partnership with the Princess Alia Foundation.

Stray Animal Care in Europe

In Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine, FOUR PAWS runs in-patient veterinary clinics for strays, which treated street animals on a daily basis in 2021. From March to November, the teams also took our mobile animal clinics out on the road. In 2021, our clinical teams in Eastern Europe neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and treated a total of 14,158 dogs and cats. 4,973 of these animals were in Bulgaria, with a further 231 in Moldova, 2,776 in Ukraine and 6,178 in Romania.

Bulgaria: In the town of Pernik, FOUR PAWS offered free neutering services for cats and dogs with low-income owners. This prevented hundreds of unwanted litters. New projects were also launched in the capital city of Sofia specifically to help stray cats.

Republic of Moldova: In the capital city of Chişinău, FOUR PAWS supported local animal welfare organisations with an emergency mission and neutered 231 animals as part of an international operation.

Romania: In the city of Galaţi, FOUR PAWS worked with partner organisation Animal Society on a project designed to sustainably reduce the number of stray animals on the streets. By the end of last year, 70 percent of the strays in the city had been neutered. The city shelter was able to boost its adoption rate by 22 percent thanks to advice from FOUR PAWS. 2,300 strays were neutered as part of a new project in the port city of Constanţa in Romania. FOUR PAWS also supported the Speranta shelter in the capital city of Bucharest, which houses almost 600 former stray dogs.

Ukraine: In August 2021, after years of lobbying by FOUR PAWS and other animal welfare organisations, Ukraine

finally approved new animal welfare legislation that outlaws the killing of strays as a method of population control. The collaborative project with the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv was continued: back in 2020, thanks to the work of FOUR PAWS, the city replaced its previous mass culling approach to population control with a humane programme. FOUR PAWS also continued the “Shelter Adoption Programme”, which helps the state-owned shelter in Vinnytsia to find new homes for dogs and cats who are difficult to place.

Animal-Assisted Intervention

At the three FOUR PAWS therapy centres in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine, a total of 2,253 children, students and elderly people attended 617 free events, visits and therapy sessions with former stray dogs last year. The centres also hosted activities focused on responsible pet ownership in an effort to change public attitudes towards stray animals. We also founded the Centre for Animal Welfare Education in Romania and the Academy for Children – Ambassadors for Animal Welfare in Bulgaria to continue this work. Ten strays were part of the project last year.

Outlook for 2021

Asia

FOUR PAWS will continue to expand its programme of assistance for stray animals and build on its partnerships with local communities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. A new project will be launched in India to help injured and sick strays. In 2022, we are aiming to treat and neuter at least 10,000 dogs and cats across the South-East Asia region. We will also be continuing our public awareness work and campaigns against the dog and cat meat trade.

Europe

In Eastern Europe, FOUR PAWS will focus on the implementation of sustainable projects, helping local people to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to work independently in the future. This means that our partner districts have committed to making active, long-term improvements to the living conditions of stray dogs and cats in their regions. With initial support from FOUR PAWS, they are rolling out measures such as adoption campaigns, training for police and vets, lessons in schools and, of course, systematic sterilisation and vaccination programmes. In 2022, FOUR PAWS will also neuter and provide medical care to thousands of stray animals in Eastern Europe. ■



The Illegal Puppy -Trade

Creating Transparency

Background

In Eastern Europe, millions of puppies are farmed in huge numbers in appalling conditions every year. Separated from their mothers far too early in life, they are sold anonymously via the internet, with fake vaccination records to dupe buyers; often, the puppies are seriously ill, traumatised, unvaccinated, and riddled with parasites. Many dogs die just days after purchase, and some don't even make it through their long journey to their destination country. The sellers operate on anonymous internet advertising platforms, which usually enables them to evade responsibility. Over the past three years, FOUR PAWS has been working with companion animal experts and industry representatives to develop a model solution that would make online sales of dogs and cats fully traceable within the EU. We also partnered with EuroPetNet, an umbrella organisation for pet registration databases across Europe. Together, we developed PetSAFE: a technological solution for internet advertising platforms that enables users to verify sellers and check the details of the animal for sale.

Our Aims

In an international campaign against the illegal puppy trade, FOUR PAWS is lobbying for regulatory changes at national and European level to provide better protection for companion animals during breeding, keeping and trading. The key objective is to ensure that everyone involved in the breeding and sale of a puppy is traceable, especially in the case of online transactions. As transactions generally involve parties from a number of countries, regulations surrounding the identification and registration of companion animals must be standardised across the EU.

Key Activities in 2021

At the EU Level

In 2021, FOUR PAWS welcomed the introduction and ongoing development of a number of key pieces of legislation to combat the illegal puppy trade in Europe. In April, after years of lobbying by FOUR PAWS, the EU Animal Health Law finally came into effect. The law sets out registration requirements for all persons involved in the breeding, sale and transport of dogs and cats. In June, the illegal puppy trade was officially recognised as organised crime as part of the "EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021–2025". Lithuania introduced mandatory identification and registration for all dogs and cats, and France now requires checks to be performed on the registration status of all dogs sold online under the new French animal welfare law. In the Netherlands, dogs may only be sold if they are chipped, registered and in possession of an EU Pet Passport. Bulgaria, Denmark, Austria, Spain and the UK introduced further legislative procedures to regulate the puppy trade.

Throughout the year, FOUR PAWS engaged with representatives of the European Commission to garner support for the introduction of the model solution to trace online transactions across the EU. FOUR PAWS also conducted research into the illegal puppy trade in a number of countries.

At the National Level

In Bulgaria, Germany, the UK, Ireland, Austria and Switzerland, FOUR PAWS held talks with politicians at the federal and national level. FOUR PAWS urged the countries to pass national laws that would enable only clearly verified persons to sell animals online. The teams also presented the traceability model solution to a range of classified ad platforms and operators of databases for companion animal microchips in Europe.



In Bulgaria, FOUR PAWS encouraged the public to respond to a public consultation on the country's new veterinary regulations. FOUR PAWS is demanding an end to the illegal puppy trade and stricter regulation of dog breeding in Bulgaria.

In January, FOUR PAWS was invited to a round table discussion in Germany with Minister of Agriculture Klöckner, to discuss the problem of and potential solutions to the illegal trade of animals on the internet. In June, FOUR PAWS once again drew attention to the animal welfare issues in the illegal puppy trade by presenting a petition signed by over 110,000 people to the German Ministry of Agriculture. The coalition agreement presented by the new Federal Government in November includes mandatory identity checks for people selling companion animals online, and requires all dogs to be identified and registered.

In the UK, FOUR PAWS investigated the extent and nature of online puppy sales in the country for the first time, focusing on international sales and breaches of the new ban on the sale of puppies to third parties.

In Ireland, the online puppy trade was made safer through the introduction of the PetSAFE system from EuroPetNet.

Outlook for 2022

In 2022, FOUR PAWS will continue its programme of intensive research, lobbying and public outreach work to campaign for restrictions on the online trading of animals, to ensure that only registered companion animals can be sold by verified traders. In the EU member states, FOUR PAWS will make a strong case for the robust implementation of the EU Animal Health Regulation in national law. FOUR PAWS will also exert its influence during the revision of the draft Digital Services Act and will discuss the matter with members of the European Parliament. In 2022, FOUR PAWS will also launch a new public information campaign targeted specifically at people looking to buy a puppy. ■



2.4 m. puppies are advertised for sale online each year.

1.5 b. euros in annual profit is thought to be generated by dealers each year.



Farm Animals and Food

For People, Animals and the Environment

Background

The number of farm animals in Europe far exceeds the number of humans residing on the continent. And yet most people are completely unaware of this fact because intensive animal farming – which strives for maximum productivity at the lowest cost, without any regard for animal welfare – keeps these animals out of public view. Bred for maximum yield, many of them never see daylight, and there is no way for them to practise natural behaviours. To enable producers to keep animals in cramped stalls and cages, they are ‘adapted’ to suit our human system of food production: their beaks and tails are cut off and horns are burned away. Most animals slaughtered for their meat suffer a period of prolonged torture before their death: for hours or days at a time, they are forced into cramped trucks for transport to the slaughterhouse. With barely any rest, food or water, they suffer unimaginable stress. The animals’ situation becomes particularly dire if their journey involves transport to a non-EU country. Most of these transport operations fail to satisfy even the most basic animal welfare laws.

Our Aims

For many years, FOUR PAWS has been working towards better conditions for farm animals. The organisation campaigns against the cruellest farming practices and works to improve established systems of animal husbandry. We also aim to reduce the number of farm animals being kept and to limit animal transport.

In the EU, journey times should not exceed eight hours for hooved animals and four hours for rabbits and poultry. Bans must be introduced to prevent the transport of living animals to non-EU countries, outlaw long-distance transport and prohibit the transport of animals that are too young to have been fully weaned.

FOUR PAWS also believes that it is important for us to eat less meat and consume lower quantities of animal products in general – and to ensure that those we do eat come from high-welfare sources. To drive change, FOUR PAWS educates the public via traditional media and social media channels, lobbies politicians and runs awareness campaigns to hold the food and textile industries to account. Via our global branches and in partnership with other NGOs, we are aiming to improve the situation across Europe.

Animal Transport

Background

Each year, more than 1.5 billion poultry birds and 49 million live cows, pigs, sheep, goats and horses are transported within the EU and to non-EU countries. Violations of animal welfare obligations happen every day. The EU regulations on live animal transport are far from adequate, and will finally be revised over the next few years – thanks, in part, to the intensive campaigning work by various animal welfare organisations. The issue has been on the agenda at FOUR PAWS for years, and the organisation believes that the revision of EU Regulation (EC) 1/2005 is an opportunity to bring an end to the cruel practice of live animal transport once and for all.

Key Activities in 2021

Throughout the year, FOUR PAWS has focused on raising awareness of the abuse of animal welfare regulations that takes place when live animals are transported. When two cargo ships carrying over 2,600 cows from the EU found themselves stuck in the Mediterranean Sea for months

and prohibited from approaching any port, FOUR PAWS protested at the Spanish port of Cartagena – the ship’s original destination – and drew global attention to the suffering of the animals. We also made sure that animal transport remained on the political agenda, both at a national and EU level.

FOUR PAWS acted as an advisor to the EU Committee of inquiry on animal transport (ANIT), hosted high-level panel discussions and organised meetings with European members of parliament.

In December, ANIT published a report on the violations taking place and the need to improve animal transport in the EU. The members incorporated a number of the primary demands of FOUR PAWS into their recommendations: namely to reduce

transport times for rabbits and poultry to a maximum of four hours and to transport meat rather than live animals.

Outlook for 2022

FOUR PAWS will keep exerting pressure at the national and EU level, as well as working to ensure that the new EU regulation on the transport of live animals offers the most comprehensive possible protection to the animals and bans transport to non-EU countries. We will continue to expose animal welfare violations and cruel practices. FOUR PAWS will also focus on raising awareness of the practice of calf fattening, with the aim of achieving a ban on the transport of animals that have not been weaned. We will also demand that individual EU countries make improvements to their live animal transport practices.



Sheep in Romania

At the end of November 2019, a cargo ship loaded with 14,000 sheep on their way to the slaughterhouse capsized just off the coast of Romania. The Animal Rescue and Care Association (ARCA), a partner organisation of FOUR PAWS, was able to save 254 animals from drowning in the disaster. Due to the severity of the animals’ injuries and their poor health, only 180 of the rescued animals survived.

Following negotiations with the authorities, FOUR PAWS and ARCA took custody of the rescued animals and arranged temporary accommodation. In 2021, the sheep were given a permanent new home on leased land in Floresti, Romania, where they have access to a number of wooded areas and meadows that are full of lush greenery virtually all year round.



End the Cage Age

Background

In intensive farming, female pigs are confined for months on end to crates so small they cannot even turn around. Most egg-laying hens and rabbits farmed for meat know nothing but a cage for the whole of their short lives. Calves are separated from their mothers to be housed in individual crates that are not much larger than their young bodies. These farming systems harm the animals and severely restrict their natural behaviour.

In order to end the cage confinement of farm animals across Europe, FOUR PAWS partnered with more than 175 organisations in 2018 to launch the European citizens’ initiative “End the Cage Age”. These initiatives require the support of at least one million citizens before the European Commission will put the issue on its agenda. In October 2020, 1.4 million signatures were handed over to the EU Commission, meaning that the number of people supporting the “End the Cage Age” initiative was significantly higher than the minimum requirement.

Key Activities in 2021

In April, the initiative was presented to the European Parliament, where it gained the overwhelming support of the representatives. In June 2021, the European Commission agreed to revise the current EU law. By 2023, it aims to propose draft legislation outlawing the cage-rearing of farm animals. This ban will then enter into force by 2027. This applies not only to egg-laying hens and rabbits bred for food, but also to the keeping of sows in so-called ‘farrowing crates’ or calves in igloos. A ban on the production of foie gras is also on the table. This is a huge win for the welfare of 300 million animals who spend their lives suffering in cages in the EU.

Outlook for 2022

FOUR PAWS will give public updates on the development of this process, alongside continuing to make the case for the end of caged farming in the EU at the political level.

Atlas Challenge

The FOUR PAWS Atlas-Challenge, which was founded in 2020, aims to encourage the food industry to take responsibility for animal welfare and climate protection. Companies are being asked to reduce their range of meat and fish products and to expand their lines of plant-based foods and new alternatives to meat and fish. We also want them to incorporate the reduction of animal-based products into their corporate responsibility guidelines and to advocate for animal-friendly and eco-friendly foods. The results are collated in rankings that show how well the major players in each sector of the food industry are doing. In 2020, the Atlas Challenge investigated and evaluated leading online delivery services – focusing on their sustainability strategies, product portfolios, advertising and other forms of engagement with animal-free options – and published rankings based on the results.

Key Activities in 2021

This year, the Atlas Challenge focused on 43 fast-food chains in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the UK. Two of the household names – Dean & David and Domino's Pizza – committed to reducing the amount of meat on their menu. The report summarising the results of the international ranking was published in English and in German. Hot on the heels of the first report, we conducted a second international ranking: this time, eleven leading fast-food chains were evaluated in their home countries and in the other countries where they have the largest presence, based on how committed they are to reducing meat and promoting plant-based alternatives and how well they incorporate this objective into their sustainability strategy.

Outlook for 2022

As the next step, FOUR PAWS will ask food retailers in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the UK to step up and take responsibility for protecting animals and our environment and encourage them to incorporate reducing their meat-based ranges into their objectives.

THE ATLAS CHALLENGE

on Fast-Food Chains

A business benchmark on the strategies towards animal and climate friendly nutrition







Animal Welfare for the Climate and Environment

Diet as a Lever for Change

Animal agriculture is responsible for 17 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions, making it one of the largest contributors to climate change. In part, this is because ruminants like cows produce gases such as methane when they digest their food. But an even more significant factor is that the vast majority of agricultural land is used to grow animal feed – usually with large amounts of synthetic chemical fertilisers and pesticides, the production of which also harms the environment.

As the global appetite for meat and other animal products grows, so too does the amount of space needed to support

this demand. Vast swathes of rainforest and other types of land are being cleared on a daily basis, destroying the habitats that wildlife relies on. The closer humans and animals get, the higher the risk of zoonotic diseases – diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

Industrial-scale animal agriculture causes a host of other problems too: antibiotic resistance is on the rise due to the widespread use of antibiotics in animals. The industry also consumes an enormous amount of water even though the world is suffering the impact of water shortages and droughts – while simultaneously polluting drinking water with slurry.

To get a handle on these issues and tackle climate change, we need to drastically reduce our consumption of animal products globally. Meat, dairy products and eggs shouldn't be cheap, mass-produced everyday food items; they should be something we eat only rarely, and a plant-based diet must become the norm. Only when demand for animal products is significantly reduced can we bring an end to the suffering of millions of animals trapped in the cruel cycle of intensive livestock farming.

Background

Both the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme have now acknowledged the link between our diets and protecting the planet. Under the presidency of Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission has announced the Green Deal, which aims to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050. The Farm-to-Fork-Strategy, which aims to transform our food systems, will be an important building block. But on both a global and European level, there is still enormous divergence between ambitious rhetoric and concrete political action. From its European office in Brussels, FOUR PAWS is lobbying the relevant political decision-makers to take action to reduce animal agriculture. We are also carrying out political and public outreach work to highlight the link between industrial animal agriculture and protecting our climate and environment. FOUR PAWS promotes a plant-based diet and provides specific advice and tips to help people make the switch.

Key activities in 2021

In 2021, FOUR PAWS participated in the Farm-to-Fork Conference and successfully campaigned for the EU Code of Conduct for the food industry to incorporate animal welfare as one of its central sustainability components.

The FOUR PAWS team viewed the European Parliament's reports on biodiversity and the Farm-to-Fork Strategy as an opportunity to highlight the need to reduce the number of farmed animals and move towards a plant-based diet.

At the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26), FOUR PAWS presented a talk on industrial farming and the associated climate and pandemic-related risks in the WHO Health Pavilion.

Another important milestone was our work with the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, which resulted in the topic of animal welfare being included in the report on the status of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

The FOUR PAWS team also strengthened its partnerships with key players such as the Club of Rome, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Other key achievements included research on the environment, climate and diet. This work was used as the basis for lobbying and provided material for an in-depth documentary on intensive livestock farming and the climate crisis. Just a few days before the global World Health Summit in Berlin, FOUR PAWS published the concerning results of a recent study on pandemic prevention. In the report, 29 researchers warn the public that the link between animal welfare and pandemics like Covid-19 is being significantly underestimated – and that this will continue to have dramatic effects on human health.

Outlook for 2022

FOUR PAWS will lobby the countries that have signed up to the Paris Agreement to ensure that the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) include concrete objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal farming.

In advance of the climate conference in Egypt in November 2022, FOUR PAWS will ramp up its lobbying to ensure that key decision-makers understand the link between animal welfare, a reduction in farming, a plant-based diet and protecting the environment.

The documentary on intensive livestock farming and the climate crisis will be released and FOUR PAWS will launch an associated campaign.

Research Project “COWLEARNING”

Improving animal welfare, ensuring access to a healthy diet and limiting climate change are enormous challenges for our society. In the interdisciplinary research project “COWLEARNING”, a team of scientists from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna and the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna

is collaborating with research partners from industry and society to develop potential solutions for a sustainable supply of beef and milk in Austria. FOUR PAWS is joining the project to represent animal interests and to create a more

animal-friendly and sustainable future for the just under two million cows in Austria.

The project – which officially starts on 24 May 2022 – will run for five years and will be financed by the “Connecting Minds” programme operated by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Through a participatory approach, the project aims to identify and promote new ways to make milk and meat production more animal-friendly, environmentally friendly and socially sustainable.



Textiles

Background

Down, feathers and wool are important materials in the textiles industry. However, unfortunately the production of these materials often comes at a cost – and that cost is the suffering of animals. In some cases, feathers are still torn from the bodies of geese while they are alive (in a practice known as live feather plucking). Feathers may also be sourced from companies that cruelly fatten up geese beyond all natural limits to produce liver pate. In wool production, mulesing is a common practice: without any anaesthetic, large sections of skin are removed from a merino lamb’s buttocks to prevent flystrike. This cruel practice is known as mulesing; it is only

used in Australia, where 70 per cent of the wool used in clothing is produced. The most recent representative survey by FOUR PAWS showed that mulesing is one of the least well-known animal welfare issues. The campaigns and public outreach work carried out by FOUR PAWS regularly shed light on the mistreatment of animals whose wool, skin and down is used in the textile industry. These campaigns place textile companies under direct and indirect pressure to eradicate animal suffering in their supply chains. Ever-more companies are stepping up to the plate and rejecting materials that are obtained using practices that inflict suffering on animals.



FOUR PAWS also helps companies develop their animal welfare guidelines and is involved in the development of standards for the down, wool and leather industries, including the Responsible Down Standard (RDS) and the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS). FOUR PAWS also contributed to the Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textiles as a member of the associated steering committee. The coalition was made up of industry partners, unions, civil organisations and the Dutch government. With support from FOUR PAWS, the agreement has published expert information on the animal suffering involved in the production of wool, down, fur, silk and leather.

Our Aims

FOUR PAWS aims to raise public awareness of the cruelty to animals taking place in the textiles industry. We are aiming for:

- Consumers to opt for ethical and sustainable products when buying clothes and other textiles, and to choose non-animal alternatives and materials made without animal suffering
- Textile companies to guarantee full traceability in their supply chains to eradicate the use of mulesing, live plucking, force-feeding of geese and similar practices in the production of their materials, while also striving to achieve the highest possible standards of animal welfare and reducing the number of animal products in their range
- The fashion industry to switch to certified mulesing-free wool and for the Australian wool industry to end the practice of mulesing.

Key Activities in 2021

The “Wool with a Butt” campaign continued in 2021. The campaign is targeted at the textile industry and aims to convince companies and brands to commit to using only mulesing-free wool. This year, FOUR PAWS was able to get nine global fashion companies on board, with renowned brands including Calvin Klein, S.Oliver and Puma signing up to use animal-friendly wool in their products. 35 other

companies agreed to countersign an open letter to the Australian wool industry asking it to end the practice of mulesing, and fifty new entries were added to the “Brands against mulesing” list.

To further accelerate the shift towards animal-friendly fashion, FOUR PAWS launched the international “Wear it Kind” programme, which is aimed at all purchasers, sellers and manufacturers of textiles and provides specific actions that each of these groups can take to combat mulesing. Companies that speak out against mulesing or the use of real fur are supported as they make the transition to animal-friendly products. As part of the programme, FOUR PAWS advises and supports countless fashion companies, and a number of these brands – including Breuninger and Reformation – have already agreed to improve their standards of animal protection more generally.

To promote animal-friendly fashion, FOUR PAWS published a handy guide to shopping for textiles of animal origin, which provides an overview of the various materials available as well as tips for ethical sourcing.

Outlook for 2022

In the coming year, the “Wear it Kind” programme is aiming to get thirty more companies to commit to making animal welfare a higher priority in their company guidelines. FOUR PAWS will publish a report that compares the animal welfare aspects of the commonly used textile certifications and that contains further research on the negative sides of materials of animal origin.

The “Wool with a Butt” campaign is set to continue: we plan to further raise awareness of mulesing with shocking new film material and to turn up the pressure on companies to eradicate mulesing from their supply chains. Our aim is to add a further fifty companies to our “Brands against mulesing” list. Merino wool is often used in functional and sports clothing, and large sports companies in particular are in an excellent position to exert pressure on the wool industry to finally turn its back on mulesing. With this in mind, we are asking Nike to commit to exclusively sourcing mulesing-free wool for its products. ■

Pandemics and Animal Welfare

Global Prevention Measures

Background

With large numbers of stressed and sick animals crammed into small spaces, incredibly unhygienic conditions and – in the very worst cases – many different species all housed together, it's little wonder that intensive livestock farming provides the perfect breeding ground for new diseases. These kinds of conditions are the norm on intensive livestock farms, fur farms and at live animal markets. However, new infectious diseases are developing as a direct result of the unregulated trade in wild animals and because of human activity such as deforestation forcing animals out of their established habitats so that we can use the land. When these diseases are transmissible between animals and

humans, they are referred to as zoonotic. Each new zoonotic disease could pose a significant risk to humanity. This is why improving animal welfare is such an important part of the puzzle when it comes to reducing the risk of future pandemics.

Our Aims

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, FOUR PAWS has been lobbying important international institutions such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), as well as campaigning on a national level. Our aim is to ensure that animal welfare is incorporated into the political debate around pandemics and to do everything we can to prevent future pandemics. FOUR PAWS is asking the institutions to employ the interdisciplinary “One Health” approach – which has animal welfare as one of its central aspects – to fight future pandemics. As part of its “Pandemics and animal welfare” campaign, FOUR PAWS is demanding an end to intensive livestock farming, a transition to sustainable agriculture and a ban

on the commercial sale of wild animals, the dog and cat meat trade and fur farms.

Campaigns in 2021

Pandemic agreement

FOUR PAWS achieved a major success in December 2021: the WHO member states voted in favour of the creation of an international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The fact that preparedness is explicitly included as part of the agreement paves the way for animal welfare to become part of the political debate on pandemics. FOUR PAWS and more than twenty other animal welfare and health organisations worked hard to achieve this result.

“One Health” concept

In December 2021, FOUR PAWS was pleased to see another milestone reached when a group of high-ranking independent experts appointed by the WHO, OIE, FAO and UNEP redefined the term “health”. The new “One Health” concept acknowledges that the health and well-being of people, companion animals, farm animals, wild animals, plants and the wider environment, including the ecosystems, are closely interlinked and interdependent.

Networks

The “How can we prevent the next pandemic?” study commissioned by FOUR PAWS, alongside the organisation's extensive lobbying activities – including at the World Health Summit in Berlin in October 2021 – positioned FOUR PAWS as an expert in the pandemic debate. This position allowed the organisation to establish links with international specialists from the worlds of politics, virology, human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, climate research, economics, law and social sciences.

Fur Farms

In June 2021, following lobbying by FOUR PAWS and other organisations, twelve member states demanded a ban on fur farms in the EU Council of Agricultural Ministers. The European Commission must now examine options for implementing a permanent ban on fur farms in the EU for animal welfare, ethical and public health reasons.

Intensive Livestock Farming

The vast majority of zoonotic diseases originate from intensive livestock farming. In November 2021, during the Africa Animal Welfare Conference in the Ghanaian city of Accra, FOUR PAWS organised a joint webinar with the FAO to discuss how species-appropriate agriculture systems could help to improve food security. FOUR PAWS also worked with scientific experts to produce a set of guidelines on reducing the use of antibiotics by improving animal welfare in agriculture. The new EU regulations on the use of antibiotics on farms was the basis for the guidelines, which were published in January 2022.

Dog and Cat Meat

At the virtual “One Welfare” conference in September 2021, FOUR PAWS presented the dog and cat meat trade as a key example of a high-risk practice that could lead to the development of new pathogens and ultimately to further pandemics.

Outlook for 2022

In 2022, FOUR PAWS will continue to work hard at a national and international level to get the topic of animal welfare firmly on the global political agenda. One of the most important objectives is to ensure that the link between animal welfare and human well-being is incorporated into the international pandemic agreement being drafted by the WHO member states so that future pandemics can be prevented. FOUR PAWS will also continue the “Pandemics and animal welfare” campaign to bring an end to fur farming, intensive livestock farming and the commercial wild animal trade in the EU and to ban the dog and cat meat trade in South-East Asia. ■



1 WHO pandemic agreement will be implemented in an effort to prevent the emergence of new diseases.

75 percent of all new infectious diseases are zoonotic.



Emergency Aid for Animals in Conflict Zones

International Campaigns

Background

Across the world, war and political unrest force millions of people to flee their home countries and threaten the lives of countless animals. Bombs fall on wildlife parks, wiping out many of their inhabitants; the surviving animals are often left to fend for themselves in their damaged enclosures for months on end. They don't get the medical treatment or food that they need, and these starving wild animals sometimes face no choice but to kill and eat one another.

Our Aims

FOUR PAWS helps animals that are at risk from war or political instability. The aim is to relieve the animals' acute suffering as quickly as possible. We consult with the relevant authorities to ensure that as many animals as possible are brought to the safety of sanctuaries. In addition to rescuing and identifying permanent, sustainable solutions for animals in need, the team's operations also have an impact on legislation. Last year, the rescue of Kaavan, the "world's loneliest elephant", from the zoo in Islamabad was the precursor to a milestone decision on animal welfare in Pakistan: in September 2021, the Islamabad High Court banned the import of further elephants into the country.

The Project

The highly qualified FOUR PAWS rescue team has been active around the world for thirty years. In its emergency

operations, the team leverages all the tools at its disposal to obtain the required visas for operations in unstable regions. Until then, FOUR PAWS supports local organisations and volunteers on the ground, helping them to care for the animals.

A rescue mission in a war zone or crisis region takes months of planning. The missions themselves are challenging, because the situation on the ground can change from hour to hour; political authority can also pass between different parties constantly. FOUR PAWS works closely with the government, the responsible politicians, authorities and volunteers. Our team members – who are all specially trained for operations in war zones and crisis regions – have decades of experience in veterinary medicine, rescue missions and crisis management.

Key Activities in 2021

Sudan

For decades, Sudan has been blighted by ongoing unrest and political power struggles. The region is suffering shortages of food and medical care for both humans and animals. In 2020, FOUR PAWS saved the lives of starving lions and numerous other suffering wild animals in a zoo in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. The big cats now live in an animal rescue centre run by Sudan Animal Rescue. In June 2021, a veterinary team from FOUR PAWS examined the lions in the centre



and concluded that the animals will need lifelong medical care. FOUR PAWS, Sudan Animal Rescue and the Sudanese wild animal authorities all agreed that the lions would be rehomed in a more species-appropriate location in 2022.

Lebanon

Help for companion animals: In August 2020, the Lebanese capital of Beirut was shaken by a violent explosion that devastated entire districts of the city. FOUR PAWS initiated an emergency mission in order to help the companion animals affected by the disaster. In February 2021, FOUR PAWS carried out the final phase of the aid mission: together with volunteers on the ground, FOUR PAWS distributed 10 tonnes of food and other essentials to animal rescues in Beirut and stray animals.

Bear rescue: For a number of years, a private zoo in southern Lebanon had found itself struggling to obtain the financial and medical resources needed to care for two of its bears due to political instability in the country. The wild animals were kept confined to cramped, filthy cages with nothing to alleviate their boredom, suffering from malnourishment and extreme stress. In July, FOUR PAWS and partner organisation Animals Lebanon collaborated to arrange for the bears to be transferred to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado, a species-appropriate sanctuary in the USA.

Pakistan

At the request of the Supreme Court in Sindh, a veterinary team from FOUR PAWS travelled to Pakistan in November to

examine four African elephants at Karachi Zoo and Karachi Safari Park. In November, the team presented its results to the court: the elephants required immediate medical treatment for their dental issues, and a regime of daily foot care needed to be implemented with urgency.

All four elephants showed signs of behavioural issues caused by years of captivity in inappropriate conditions. FOUR PAWS recommended that all four elephants be housed together in one enclosure at Karachi Safari Park; the enclosure requires renovation for this purpose. The animals are the last remaining elephants in captivity in Pakistan.

Outlook for 2022

The responsible FOUR PAWS team is being renamed as "Reveal & Rescue Response". The team will continue to monitor the situation around the world and will work with the FOUR PAWS Board whenever there is a crisis to determine whether and how we can help. The safety of our teams is always our top priority.

In 2022, FOUR PAWS will expand the radius of its operations to help animals in need in Latin America for the first time ever. In Argentina, the team is planning the rescue of four tigers who are currently being housed in unused train carriages. The organisation will also arrange for the Sudanese lions to be rehomed, and will follow up on the court ruling relating to the elephants in Pakistan. ■

European Politics

Lobbying for Animal Welfare

The FOUR PAWS European Policy Office provides a link between the FOUR PAWS national offices in Europe and the political institutions of the EU. The team monitors the latest developments in European politics, develops lobbying strategies and organises meetings and conferences with representatives from the EU Commission, the EU Parliament and EU member states. The aim of this work is to ensure that animal welfare is enshrined in EU law and to improve animal welfare in the EU member states.

Background

European policies such as the Green Deal and the associated Farm to Fork Strategy, along with the EU biodiversity strategy, offer numerous starting points for improving not just climate protection and sustainable food production, but also animal welfare in Europe. In 2021, the European Commission decided to conduct a fitness check on EU animal welfare legislation. The revision of the legislation is due to be completed by the last quarter of 2023.

Key Activities in 2021

Following the announcement of the fitness checks on EU animal welfare legislation, the European FOUR PAWS office embarked on a programme of extensive lobbying. Thanks to these efforts, 2021 saw many of our suggestions for more animal-friendly legislation incorporated into EU regulations relating, either directly or indirectly, to animal welfare.

The Tiger Trade in the EU

The FOUR PAWS European office helped the EU member states to draft guidelines for the tiger trade. The guidelines aim to restrict or ban the commercial sale of tigers in EU member states. The team's efforts paid off: the European Parliament incorporated the guidelines into its initiative

report on the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. The EU Commission must now end the commercial trade in endangered species – in particular tigers – and their body parts.

EU Agricultural Policy

In July, the members of the European Parliament voted in favour of a resolution on the European citizen's initiative "End the Cage Age". The initiative collected 1.4 million signatures from EU citizens and received full backing from FOUR PAWS. The European Commission has now announced its intention to present proposed legislation to ban or phase out caged farming from 2027 by the end of 2023, as part of the revision of EU animal welfare law.

Live Animal Transport

In February, the European FOUR PAWS office organised a conference on the topic of live animal transport. Participants included a delegation of members of the European Parliament who are working on an inquiry into suspected breaches of EU animal transport regulations and the associated procedures inside and outside the EU (as part of ANIT). The delegation also met with the Bulgarian FOUR PAWS team in September as part of an official campaign. Finally, in November, FOUR PAWS participated in protests against the cruel practice of long-distance animal transport outside various European institutions.

EU Agricultural Policy

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has an enormous impact on the structure of the agricultural economy and the well-being of billions of farm animals. The new CAP provides member states with better financing options for animal welfare. In 2021, the European FOUR PAWS office ramped up its lobbying work to ensure that the member states use these financing options in their national strategy plans.

The Illegal Puppy Trade

In 2021, the European office also campaigned to ensure that the governments of EU member states implement regulations to make the process of selling companion animals online more transparent and responsible. One of the major successes of the lobbying work was getting the illegal pet trade recognised as a form of organised crime in the EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021–2025. The European office also worked with an EU Platform on Animal Welfare subgroup for the pet trade, which presented recommendations for a mandatory, standardised marking and registration process to the European Commission.

Animal Welfare and Pandemics

In the wake of the Covid-19 outbreaks on European fur farms in 2021, the European FOUR PAWS office joined forces with other interest groups to campaign for an end to fur farming across the EU. Following this campaign, twelve member states asked the European Commission to take appropriate action to end fur farming in Europe.

Outlook for 2022

Over the next year, the European FOUR PAWS office will continue to use the fitness check on EU animal welfare legislation as an opportunity to discuss its positions on various animal welfare topics and to improve legal protection for animals across the European Union. ■





Quality: Our Top Priority

The Highest Standards of Animal Protection

FOUR PAWS has introduced a global quality management system to define what quality means to us, to ensure that we deliver the highest standards of quality, and to continually improve the quality of our centres and all of our animal welfare activities. The system focuses on learning, effectiveness and efficiency.

Our Sanctuaries

Whether it's the brown and black bears in our BEAR SANCTUARIES, the big cats and other wild animals at LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary, FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary and TIERART or the apes in the care of our ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL, all of the animals looked after by FOUR PAWS receive the best possible care. As part of our quality

management system, we have defined detailed guidelines and standards covering topics such as the size and design of enclosures, veterinary care and species-appropriate feeding. Our "Wild animal care and medicine" department performs regular internal audits to check compliance with the system.

Safety is critical when working with dangerous wild animals. To protect our teams and our visitors, we have been continually improving our safety regulations since the first FOUR PAWS sanctuary opened in 1998. In our annual training, we conduct simulations of emergency scenarios so that all of our employees know exactly what action to take if a safety fence is damaged by a storm, if a fire breaks out on a site, or if a wild animal escapes and injures visitors. The emergency and evacuation plans in place at our sanctuaries

are also regularly reviewed by external safety and emergency management experts and revised as required.

Medical Care

FOUR PAWS provides new homes for animals that have been kept in inappropriate conditions. After their rescue, many wild animals continue to suffer the consequences of their inadequate or inappropriate diet and the poor conditions in which they were kept. Their teeth may have broken off from years of chewing on the metal bars of cages; they might be suffering from skin or joint problems, damage to the kidneys or other organs, or show signs of behavioural issues. Months or years after rescue, some animals still spend hours performing the same ritualistic, monotonous sequences of movement as they did in their previous caged existence. In 2021, veterinarians specialising in wild animal care visited FOUR PAWS animal protection projects a total of 89 times. They examined 146 animals, made up of 70 big cats and 76 bears, under anaesthetic on the treatment table.

Our Rescues

FOUR PAWS has also developed standards for transporting animals away from non-species-appropriate conditions,

which cover aspects such as veterinary examinations before and after transfer and the size and material of the crates in which the animals travel. FOUR PAWS provides regular training for all animal care teams and uses their day-to-day observations and feedback to inform decisions. The results are collected continually and in annual quality workshops and incorporated into our internal guidelines and standards. In 2021, we held 13 on-site workshops and sanctuary teams received training in online courses.

Our Other Animal Welfare Activities

For FOUR PAWS, quality is a top priority not only in its direct work with animals, but in all of its operations. Our controlled, regularly revised processes help our teams to develop and run strategic animal welfare campaigns, to organise aid operations and to conduct lobbying work effectively. FOUR PAWS also strives for maximum effectiveness and efficiency in all of its management, communication, fundraising, finance and administrative activities – from expenses claim templates right up to the annual planning process. This ensures that its working time and the donations it receives are put to the best possible use to help animals in need. ■

Fundraising

Reaching People

FOUR PAWS receives incredible support for its vital work from individual donors, with some corporate and institutional donors. Voluntary contributions from 956,304 donors globally enable the organisation to deliver on its mission to protect animals under direct human influence.

FOUR PAWS financial independence allows the organisation to make decisions that will provide the best future for animals, free from political affiliation. To maximise reach and impact, the FOUR PAWS team fundraises in a global network of nine national offices, and FOUR PAWS International team fundraise in countries without a national office.

FOUR PAWS global fundraising development goals seeks to achieve sustainable growth through traditional channels and by identifying new channels and income source. The organisation's expansion strategy also includes entering new markets.

Growing the FOUR PAWS Family

FOUR PAWS uses different fundraising channels to increase awareness and support for its charitable work. The



organisation uses letters, telephone, and digital methods to attract new donors globally.

All regional offices and the international team adhere to the core principles of ethical fundraising.

Sponsorship and Regular Giving

Sponsorship and regular gifts enable donors to spread the monetary impact of their support across the year and help FOUR PAWS deliver on its mission to reveal suffering, rescue animals in need and protect them. Guaranteed income allows the organisation to plan for long term solutions and invest in critical projects.

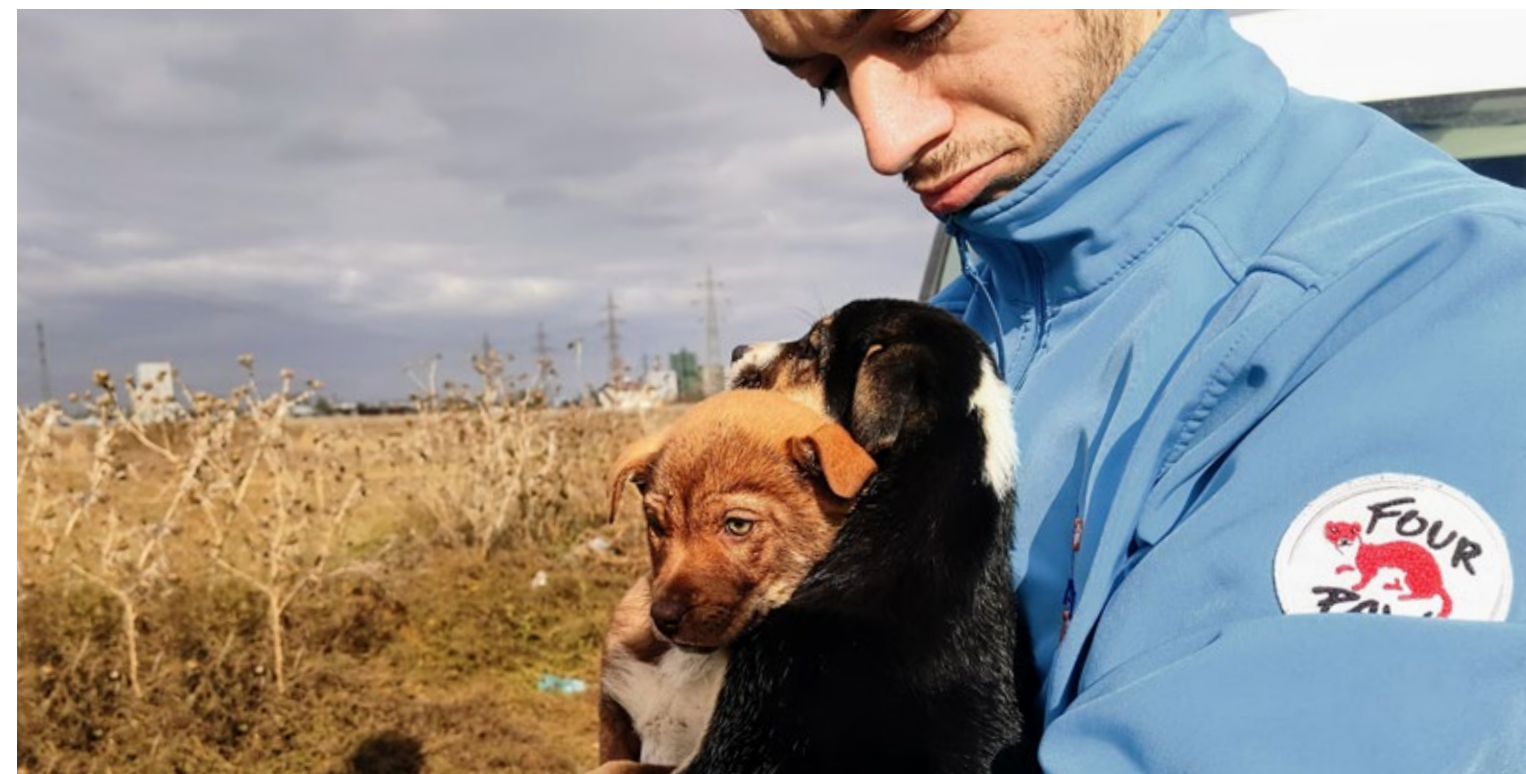
Dialogue with Donors

For FOUR PAWS, interacting and communicating with donors is central to their fundraising efforts. They engage with donors through their preferred mode of communication.

Telephone, emails, and mailings are the most effective channels for recognising donors' vital contributions and providing opportunities to donate. At events, in-person and virtual, donors can meet the team and learn more about FOUR PAWS' long-term work with animals.

Data Protection

The information donors share with FOUR PAWS is treated with respect and used in line with their instructions. All regional offices comply with their national data privacy regulations. FOUR PAWS holds the Donation Seal of Quality in Austria, the organisation is a member of the German Donations Council, and in the UK, FOUR PAWS is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. ■



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

Through its social media channels, FOUR PAWS reached a total of more than 1.9 million people worldwide. In 2021 the Facebook communities had a total of 1.3 million fans. The Instagram accounts were followed by 489,310 people, the Twitter accounts by 66,688, and the FOUR PAWS YouTube channels had 43,979 followers. The international and national websites together recorded an average number of 397,239 visitors a month in 2021.

Impact

The work of FOUR PAWS regularly features in national and international media reports. The study "How to prevent the next pandemic?", the announcement by the Vietnamese city of Hoi An to ban dog and cat meat within the city limits and the various rescues of bears and big cats by the FOUR PAWS team received particularly wide global attention.

The events were reported on by large media outlets with a huge public reach, including CBS, CNN and ZDF, The Guardian, Washington Post and The Independent, as well as international news agencies AFP, Associated Press and Reuters. In total, more than 12,331 articles about FOUR PAWS appeared in the media worldwide in 2021. ■

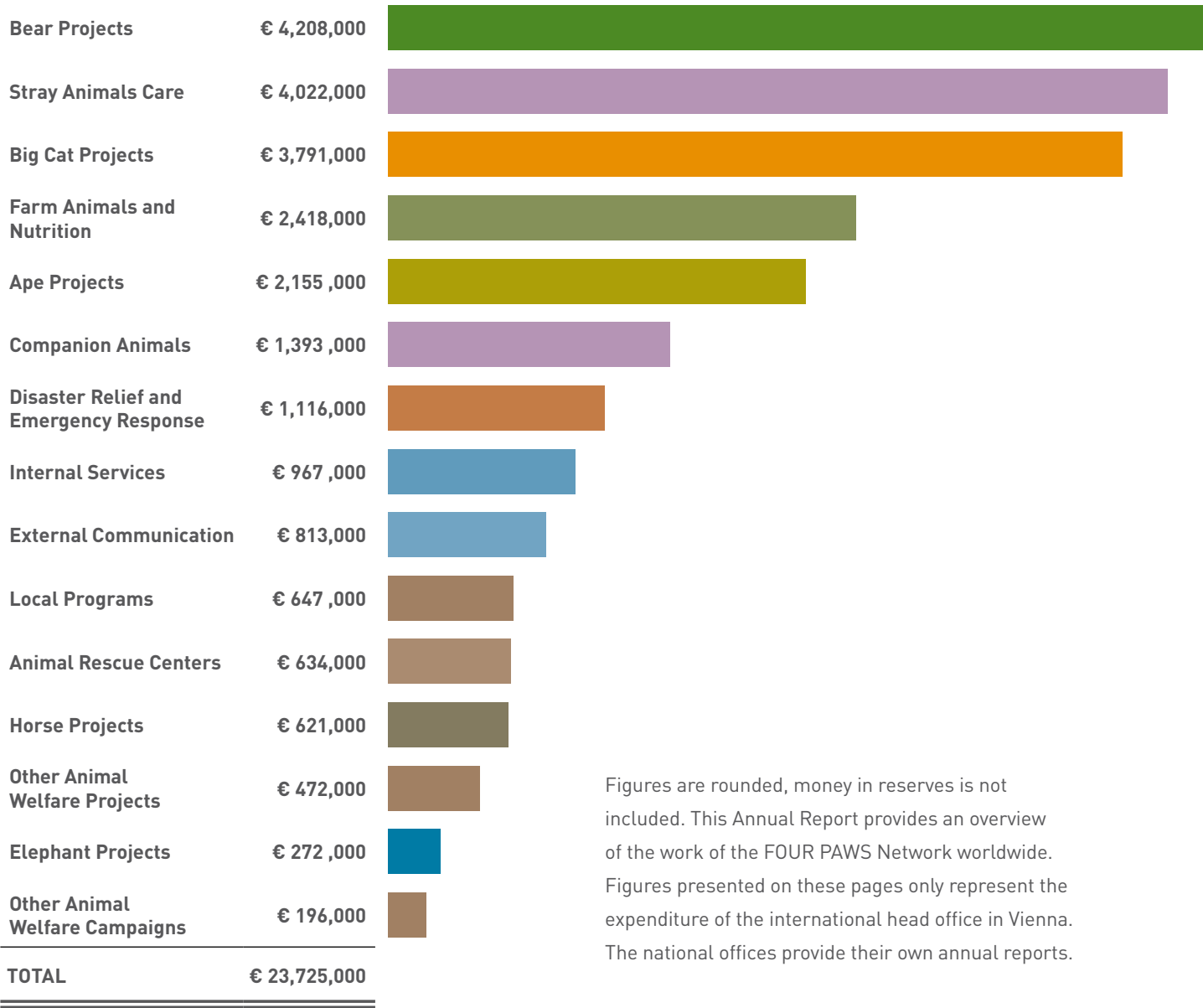
1.3 m. fans followed the FOUR PAWS Facebook communities in 2021.

12,331 articles about FOUR PAWS appeared in the media worldwide in 2021.



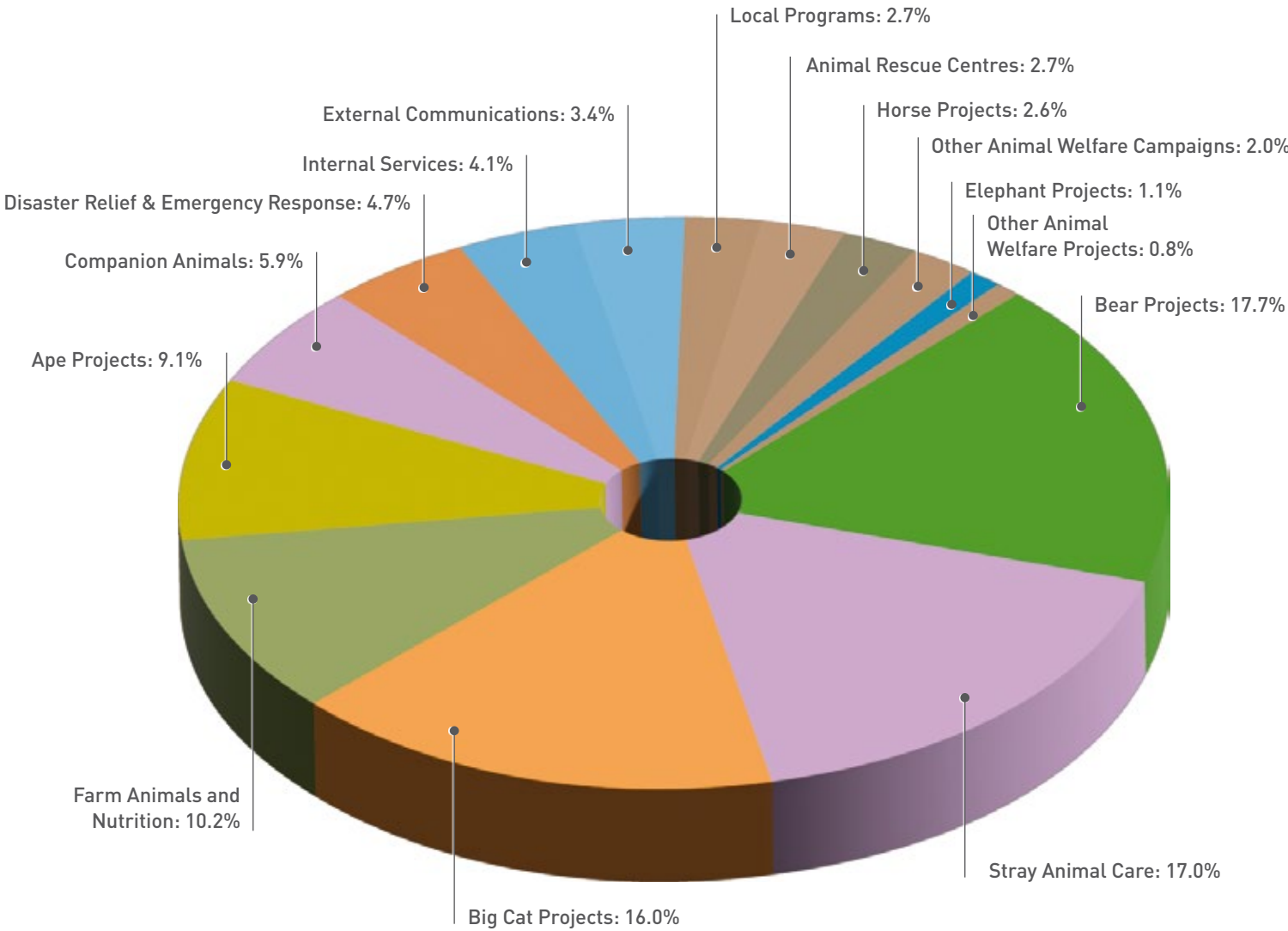
Financial Report

Total Expenses in 2021



Figures are rounded, money in reserves is not included. This Annual Report provides an overview of the work of the FOUR PAWS Network worldwide. Figures presented on these pages only represent the expenditure of the international head office in Vienna. The national offices provide their own annual reports.

Total Expenses in 2021 in %



FOUR PAWS is *the* global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them.



Animal Welfare.
Worldwide.

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If you would like to learn more about the work of FOUR PAWS or would like to support us, please contact us by phone: +43 1 545 50 20 0 or by e-mail: office@four-paws.org

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