



FOUR PAWS – Foundation for Animal Welfare

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Editorial



Dear readers,

FOUR PAWS was founded in Vienna thirty years ago. In 2018, we organised the International Animal Welfare Summit to mark this milestone in our organisation’s history, bringing together experts from all over the world to discuss the role that animal welfare will play in the future of our society and our environment. We are living in uncertain times, and the values we live by have a renewed relevance. We are starting to ask ourselves questions – questions about the meaning of life, about how we treat other living beings and about how we protect the most vulnerable in our society. And it’s not just philosophers and scientists who are seeking answers: many of us are now thinking about the future of our planet, our diet and our health. In the context of this shift in attitudes, the topic of animal welfare is gaining in importance.

In 2018, FOUR PAWS was once again able to help many animals in need: we worked tirelessly in twenty-two countries across the world. Last year, we completed work on two new bear sanctuaries in Vietnam and Switzerland. The first residents have already moved in and are now enjoying their new safe, spacious and species-appropriate accommodation. FOUR PAWS provided a safe space for many bears, lions, tigers and other wild animals in our sanctuaries all over the world. We also opened our new forest school for orphaned baby orang-utans in Borneo. We provided medical care and vaccinations for tens of thousands of stray dogs and cats, and most of these patients were also neutered, which will ultimately help to end the suffering of animals on our streets. We will continue to rescue animals from acute danger while also working to develop effective long-term strategies to bring an end to animal suffering once and for all. Our work is already paying

off: Germany's last remaining fur farm has now closed its doors. And in 2018, after some very lengthy negotiations and years of campaigning, Austria finally made it illegal to keep brown bears in private captivity.

FOUR PAWS raises awareness of animal mistreatment. But we also offer specific solutions. In this report, we explain how we have used the donations entrusted to us to help animals and improve animal welfare. Let’s work together to create a world in which animals get the respect and protection they deserve.

Heli Dangler

Kind regards,
Heli Dangler,
Founder and President of the FOUR PAWS Foundation

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The World of FOUR PAWS

FOUR PAWS sanctuaries and clinics

- ① Arosa Bear Sanctuary
- ② Animal and Species Protection Centre TIERART
- ③ BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach
- ④ BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr
- ⑤ BEAR SANCTUARY Mueritz
- ⑥ BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh
- ⑦ BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina
- ⑧ OWL AND BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee
- ⑨ ELEPHANTS LAKE
- ⑩ FELIDA Big Cat Centre
- ⑪ Foundation Jejak Pulang – FOUR PAWS Orang-Utan Forest School
- ⑫ LIONSROCK Sanctuary and Big Cat Clinic
- ⑬ STRAY ANIMAL CLINIC Bankya
- ⑭ STRAY ANIMAL CLINIC Zhytomyr
- ⑮ DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa
- ⑯ FOUR PAWS Animal-Assisted Therapy Centre

FOUR PAWS partners

- ⑰ Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife
- ⑱ Bear Refuge Kuterevo
- ⑲ Blue Cross of India
- ⑳ David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- ㉑ Education for Nature Vietnam
- ㉒ Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center Soc Son
- ㉓ PFOTENHILFE Lochen
- ㉔ Dog Shelter Speranta
- ㉕ Wild Animal Rescue Center, Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein
- ㉖ Zoo Poznań



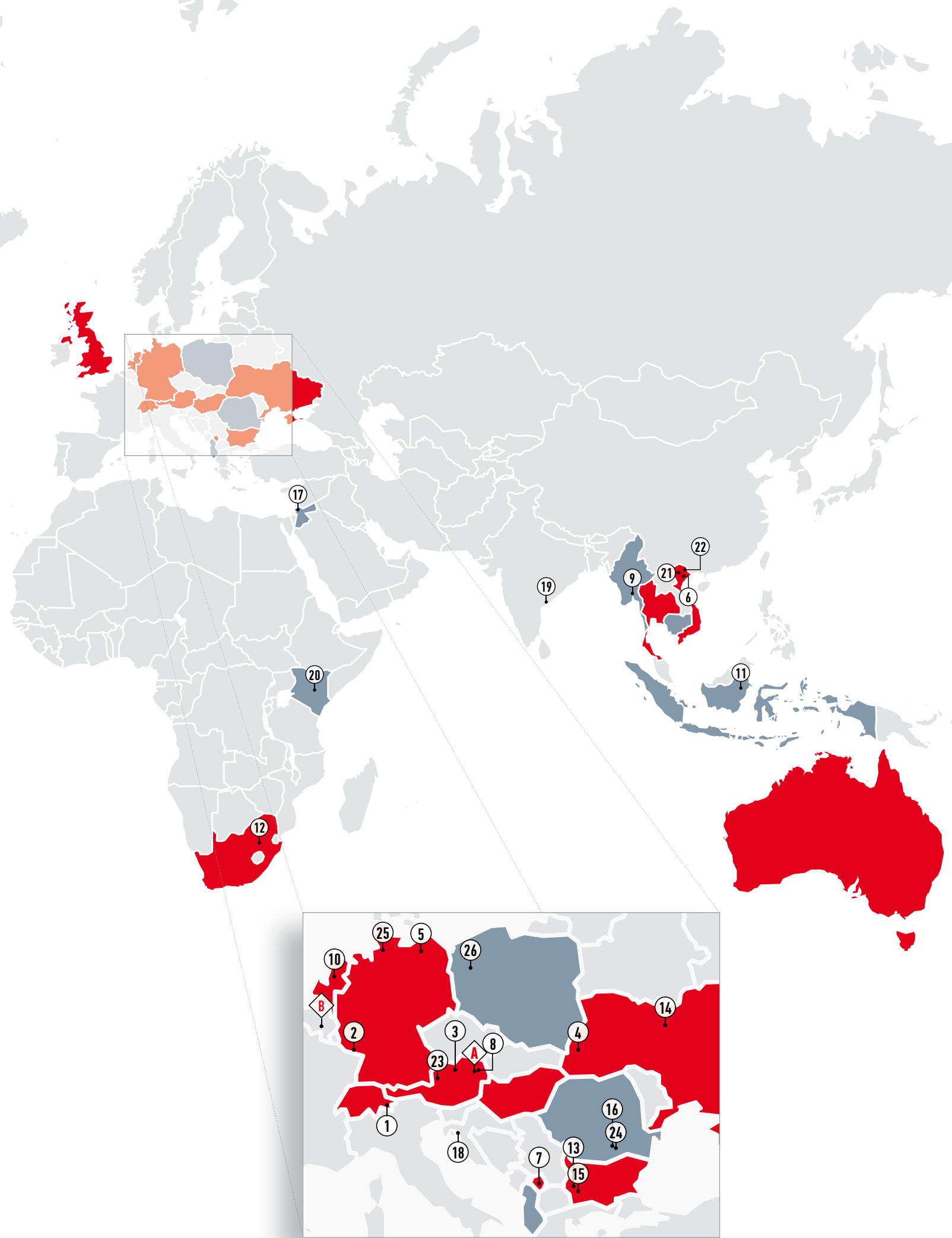
National offices, projects and operational locations

- A** **FOUR PAWS International**
Headquarters in Vienna and offices in:
- B** **Brussels (EPO – European Policy Office)**

FOUR PAWS National Offices in 2018
Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, UK, USA, Vietnam

Countries we operate in and partners in 2018
Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Myanmar, Poland, Romania

All contact details can be found on pages 52 and 53.



THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Napa the bear arrives at Arosa Bear Sanctuary



Surgery in Ukraine



Indonesia: Emergency aid after an earthquake



Helping strays in Cambodia



Campaigning in Berlin



Enjoying life at BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach



Bulgaria: Saving lion cubs



Mission Statement

14 Countries – One Objective

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

Mission Statement

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

What we do:

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

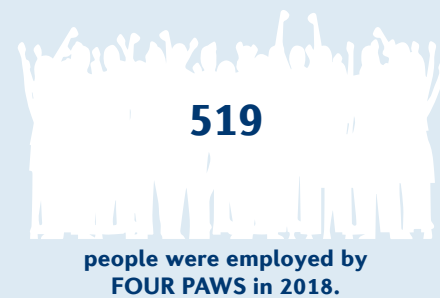
Objectives, Tasks and Expertise

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

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



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



Quality: Our Top Priority

The Highest Standards in Animal Protection

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

At our Sanctuaries

Whether it's the brown and black bears in our Bear Forests, the big cats and other wild animals at LIONSROCK, FELIDA and TIERART or the orangutans in the care of our 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. Strict safety standards and procedures are critical when working with dangerous wild animals. To protect our visitors and employees, we have been continually improving our safety standards 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 wild animal escapes and injures visitors, or if a fire breaks out on a site.

In Medical Care

FOUR PAWS provides a safe new home for animals previously owned privately, by circuses or by poorly managed zoological organisations. Even 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 are decaying or broken as a result of biting on cage bars, they have skin conditions, damaged joints, impaired kidney function and other organ damage and exhibit behavioural problems. 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 2018, veterinarians and veterinary dentists specialising in wild animal care visited our animal protection projects a total of 64 times. They examined 65 big cats and 52 bears under anaesthetic on the treatment table.

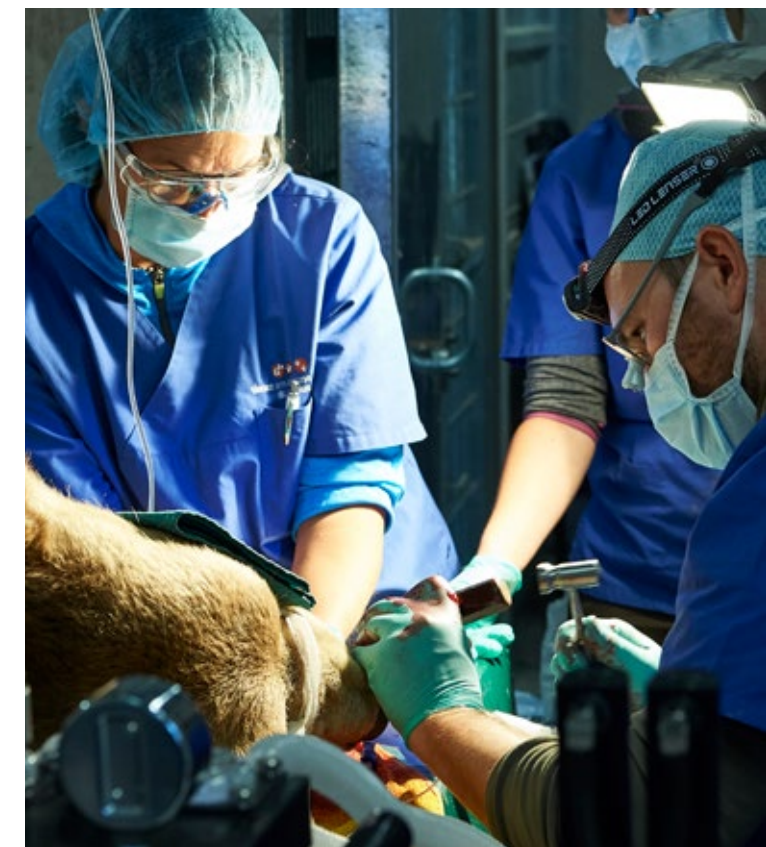
During Rescue Operations

FOUR PAWS has also developed standards for transporting animals away from non-species-appropriate conditions, including the 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 employees involved in animal care and takes their on-the-ground observations and continuous feedback into account. The results are collected in annual quality workshops and incorporated into our internal guidelines.

In All Other Animal Welfare Activities

For FOUR PAWS, quality is a top priority not only in our direct work with animals, but in all of our operations. Our controlled, regularly revised processes help our team to develop and run strategic animal welfare campaigns, to organise aid in disaster zones 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. In everything we do, our overarching aim is to use our time and our donations in the most effective way possible to help animals in need. ■



How We Work

Nationally and Internationally

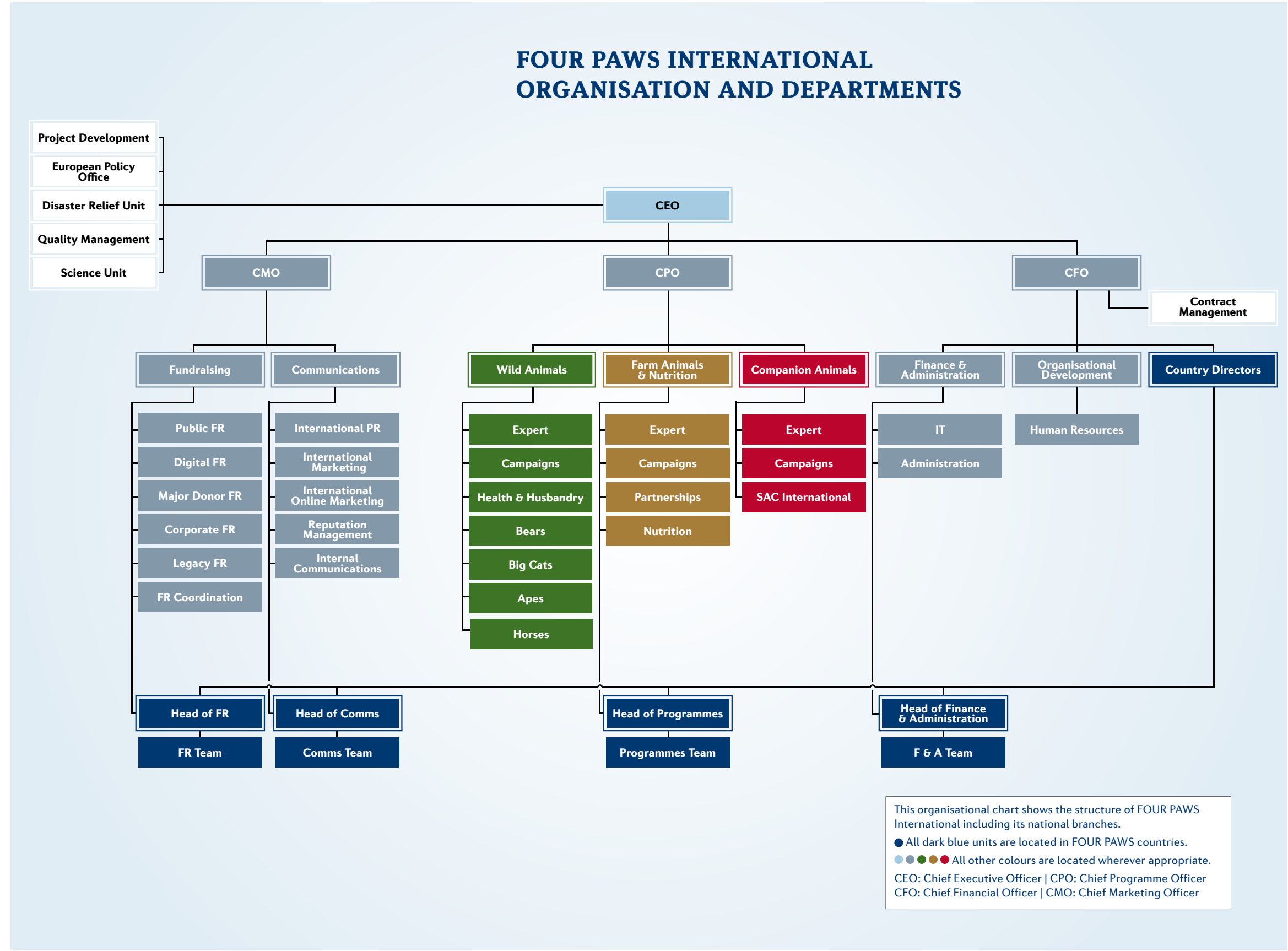
Far-reaching changes in animal welfare are only possible if there is a general consensus for change in society. Through our information and educational work, and our direct campaigns and lobbying at national and international level, we hope to bring about a change in people's awareness, for the benefit 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. Our projects on bears, big cats, stray animals, apes and horses are also supported by centres of expertise. They monitor quality standards, develop certain projects and plan new ones.

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

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



Strategy

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

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



Helping Bears

Towards a More Humane Life

Background

Many brown bears around the world are living in inhumane conditions, whether in circuses, cages or zoos. They are often kept in enclosures that are mostly featureless and far too small, which is why many bears in captivity are unable to 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 as habits such as pacing up and down, swaying their heads or self-harming. 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, even in Europe bears continue to be tortured. Whether in photo shoots with tourists, in circuses, in dog fights or as a supposed attraction in restaurants, these animals are mercilessly subjected to the whims of man. For over 20 years, FOUR PAWS has been working to help tortured and mistreated bears.

Objective

Bears living in poor conditions in Europe and Vietnam deserve a higher standard of care that is more appropriate to their needs. To provide long-term, sustainable aid to these animals, FOUR PAWS is lobbying to get a legal framework in place in the countries where we are active to enable the authorities to intervene in poor bear-keeping practices. FOUR PAWS locates suffering bears and negotiates with their owners and the authorities, advising them and trying to find ways of improving the animals' situation. Bears that have been confiscated or voluntarily surrendered are given a safe and species-appropriate home in one of the FOUR PAWS bear sanctuaries. However, FOUR PAWS only takes charge of the animals if the owners sign an agreement not to keep any more bears in future.

FOUR PAWS believes that brown bears should only be kept by licensed zoological organisations, and that these organisations

should only keep these animals if they can guarantee species-appropriate care for young and adult animals and if they have implemented a responsible care and health management system.

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

- 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.
- A higher minimum standard must be met to keep bears in captivity in general.

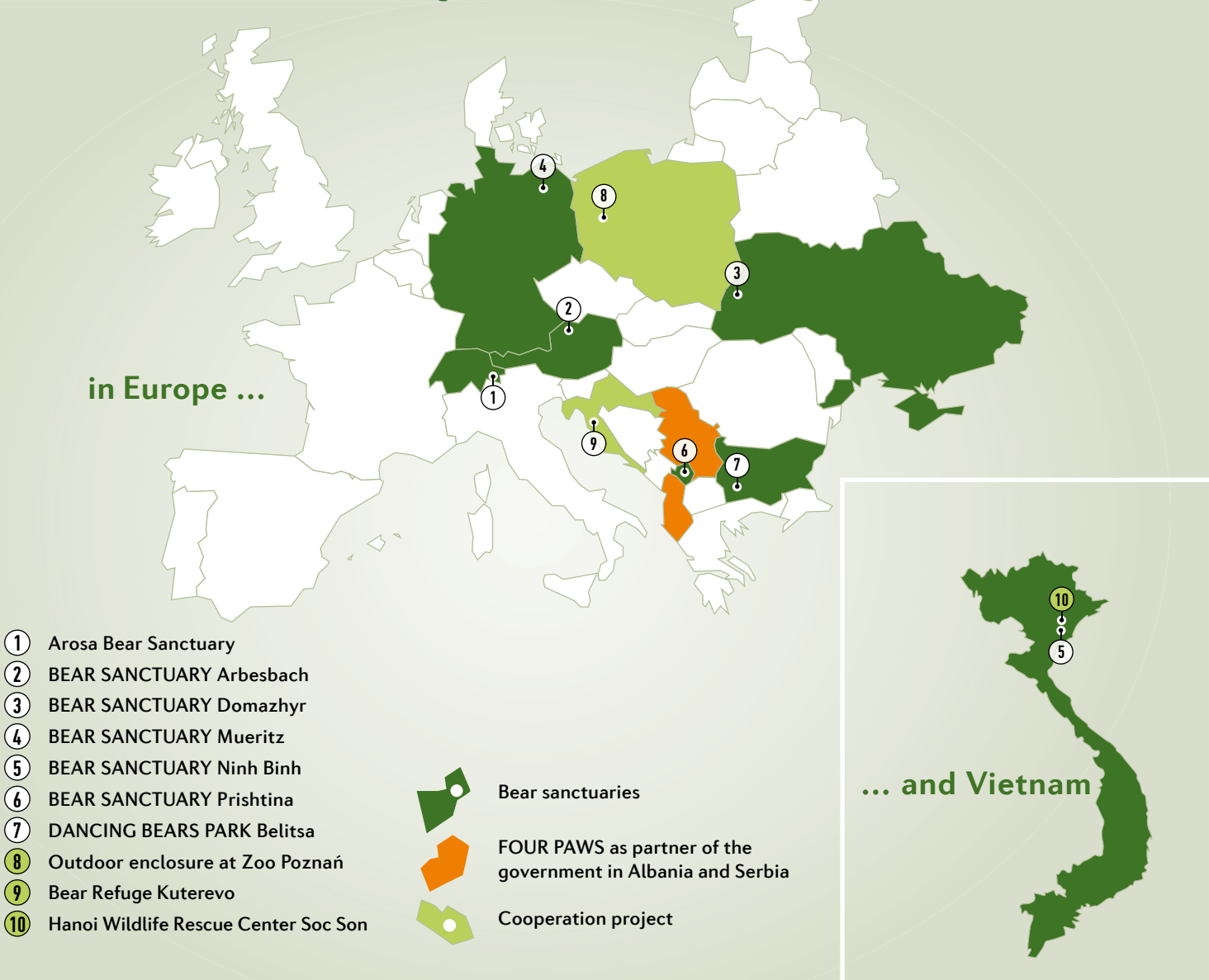
The objectives of FOUR PAWS for black bears and sun bears in Vietnam are:

- 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.

Projects

For wild animals, the habitat in which they live is extremely important. However, there are very few suitable refuges for bears that can no longer be released into the wild. That is why FOUR PAWS has established a number of bear sanctuaries. These BEAR SANCTUARIES provide bears which have been rescued from poor conditions with a protected habitat that meets their natural needs. Spacious enclosures with lots of features allow the animals to rediscover their instincts and follow their natural behaviour patterns.

FOUR PAWS BEAR PROJECTS



The bears can roam around, dig caves, swim in ponds, look for food and hibernate, and experienced animal handlers provide daily stimulation to prevent or aid in the recovery from behavioural problems. The bears are fed using puzzles and games to stimulate their brains and harness their natural capabilities. All the bears are regularly examined and treated by wild animal vets, and will have safe living conditions for the rest of their lives where they are not used for breeding.

FOUR PAWS runs five of its own bear sanctuaries and two others in co-operation with partners; we also work alongside Poznań Zoo in Poland and the Kuterevo Bear Refuge in Croatia. At both Poznań Zoo and the Kuterevo Bear Refuge, FOUR PAWS has supported the construction of outdoor bear enclosures to enable these centres to accommodate even more bears rescued from non-species-appropriate settings.



BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach

The first FOUR PAWS bear sanctuary was constructed in 1998 in Austria's wooded 'Waldviertel' region. In 2018, BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach celebrated its 20th anniversary. The centre is home to seven brown bears, rescued from circuses and poor conditions under private ownership.

BEAR SANCTUARY Mueritz

BEAR SANCTUARY Mueritz in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern opened in 2006. Covering 16 hectares, it is the largest bear sanctuary in western Europe. The 16 bears housed here in 2018 had been living in inappropriate conditions in Albania, Germany, Poland and Serbia.

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 traipse around the region with their owners, dancing for audiences in towns and tourist resorts. FOUR PAWS negotiated with the Bulgarian government to implement a ban on keeping dancing bears. The Bulgarian government provided a 12-hectare area of woodland free of charge where the animals could live in suitable conditions. Thanks to the support of many donors and in partnership with the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, FOUR PAWS founded the DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa to take in all the Bulgarian dancing bears and the



remaining few from Serbia. In 2018, the DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa housed 25 bears.

BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina

FOUR PAWS opened BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina in Kosovo in 2013 to provide all brown bears that were being kept illegally in restaurants and private mini-zoos with appropriate living conditions. Prior to its construction, the government was unable to seize the bears as there was no suitable accommodation available. BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina houses all of the previously privately-owned brown bears in Kosovo. Bears originally kept in poor conditions in Albania have also found a species-appropriate home in this sanctuary. The sanctuary celebrated its five-year anniversary in 2018 and now houses 19 bears. In summer 2018, an environmental education centre was opened to enrich the visitor and educational programme offered by the sanctuary.

BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr

The keeping of bears without an official licence has been banned for many years in Ukraine. But in spite of the law, dozens of bears were still being kept captive in appalling conditions, mostly in restaurants and hotels. Thanks to the work of FOUR PAWS, the use of bears in dog fighting was banned in Ukraine in 2015. But because hunting stations are still allowed to keep bears, the animals are still at risk of being illegally misused in fights with hunting dogs. In 2018, FOUR PAWS officially opened the BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr in western Ukraine. The sanctuary provides a home for bears that have been misused for fighting or kept for entertainment. In 2018, the site – which is spread over approximately 7.7 hectares of land – was home to ten bears housed in three spacious outdoor enclosures.

BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh

Vietnam has around 250 bear farms, which keep around 800 bears in cages. Most of these bears are black bears, which are still used

for bile farming in spite of the country's ban on the practice. FOUR PAWS and other organisations working in Vietnam are keen to put an end to the keeping of bears on these farms. Since 2017, bears that are confiscated or voluntarily surrendered in Vietnam can be re-homed in a species-appropriate setting at BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh, which was constructed by FOUR PAWS in the north-east of the country. The sanctuary currently has 3.6 hectares of land and can accommodate 44 bears rescued from bile farms. In 2018, the sanctuary was home to ten rescued black bears.

Arosa Bear Sanctuary

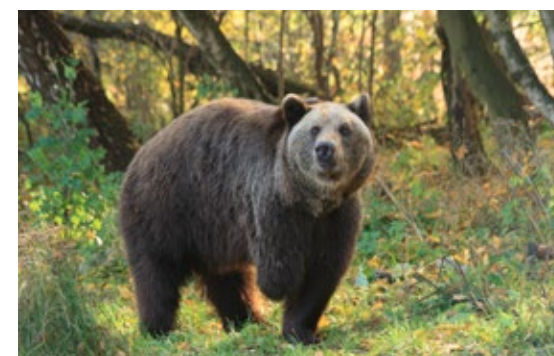
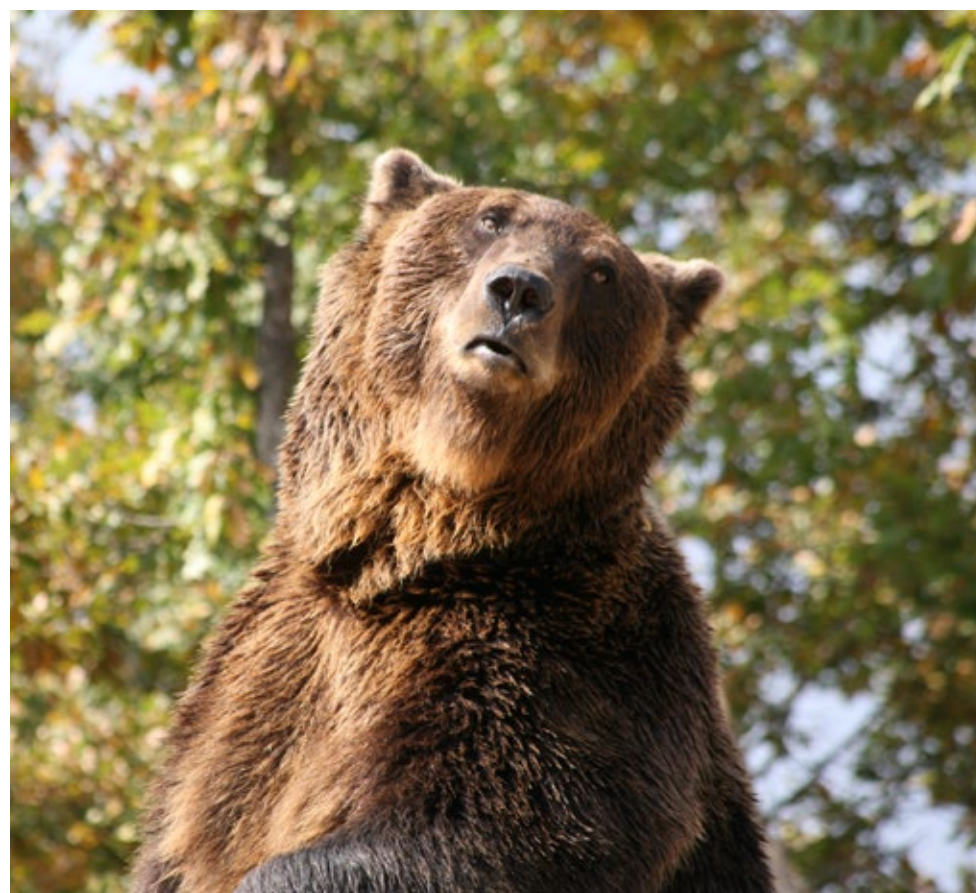
Arosa Bear Sanctuary in Switzerland opened in summer 2018, providing its first bear from Serbia with a new home. The sanctuary is located on three hectares of land at an altitude of around 2000 metres, and currently looks after five bears rescued from poor living conditions. Arosa Bear Sanctuary is a joint project between FOUR PAWS, the Arosa tourist board and the Arosa Bergbahnen cable car company. The partnership brings together animal protection with efforts to promote tourism in the region of Arosa in the canton of Graubünden.

Key Activities in 2018

BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr and Arosa Bear Sanctuary were officially opened in 2018. FOUR PAWS took care of a total of 89 bears in 2018. Three bears sadly passed away: Susi and Hanna in BEAR SANCTUARY Mueritz and Goscho in DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa. At all of our bear sanctuaries, the animals received regular health checks and all necessary medical care. 52 bears received veterinary treatment in 2018.

Over the course of 2018, a total of 226,443 people visited the bear sanctuaries to learn about the needs and mistreatment of bears, and were able to observe the animals in their natural environment. The previous year, the sanctuaries welcomed 178,526 visitors. In 2018, FOUR PAWS admitted 11 bears to our own sanctuaries and transported five others to more appropriate accommodation: in Vietnam, our expert bear team transferred seven black bears to BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh. A former Serbian circus bear was transferred to the Arosa Bear Sanctuary in Switzerland. In Ukraine, we rescued a bear that had been used in dog fighting. Since her rescue, the bear has lived at BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr. A further two bears came to Domazhyr from the former Nadiya bear centre. The Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment brought three orphaned young bears to the DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa. The bears were cared for at the park until their transfer to a Greek rehabilitation centre that specialises in helping orphaned bears. Together with 11 other wild animals, Dushi, a female brown bear, was rescued from a neglected illegal zoo and temporarily housed in Tirana Zoo. She will be brought to her new lifelong home at BEAR SANCTUARY Mueritz in 2019.

Alongside our rescue campaigns, we also continued our #saddestbears initiative in Ukraine, Vietnam and Albania. In Vietnam, we focused on bringing an end to bile bear farming. In Ukraine, our objective was to support the government in finding



a sustainable way to enforce the ban on keeping bears for fighting. In Albania, our campaigning since 2016 has enabled us and other animal welfare organisations to transfer almost all bears living in horrendous conditions in the country to a better home or to sanctuaries. FOUR PAWS has also been helping the Albanian government to implement legislation to ensure higher standards in the keeping and protection of wild animals, as well as advising the government on the construction of a rescue centre for wild animals kept in poor conditions.

In April 2018, FOUR PAWS handed over a petition with 104,331 signatures to Oxana Syroiid, Vice President of the Ukrainian parliament, providing evidence of public support for improved standards in the care and keeping of brown bears. FOUR PAWS is lobbying the Vietnamese government for greater commitment to the ban on bile farming, stricter monitoring of bear farms and a commitment to close all bear farms by 2020. These demands are supported by an online petition, which had been signed by 858,163 people by the end of 2018.

As part of the #saddestbears initiative, FOUR PAWS established contact with the Croatian authorities in 2018, with the aim of bringing an end to illegal bear keeping in the country. FOUR PAWS is keen to support Croatia in the rescue and relocation of the four bears in illegal captivity in the country. As part of these efforts, we worked together with the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture to draft a joint statement of intent, which was signed by both parties in December 2018.

Outlook for 2019

In Vietnam, the BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh will be officially opened in March and the second phase of the building project will begin. This phase will see the construction of two further outdoor enclosures and a new bear house, and will expand the sanctuary's capacity to provide accommodation for around 70 bears. We will also continue to rescue bears.

At BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr, work is set to commence in spring on two to three new enclosures, which should be completed by autumn. A female former fighting bear is set to be transferred to Domazhyr in February. This will put BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr at full capacity until the expansion work is completed in the autumn. Dushi – the brown bear rescued from an illegal zoo in Albania – will be transferred to BEAR SANCTUARY Mueritz in the spring, and two or three other bears will be re-homed at the Arosa Bear Sanctuary.

The #saddestbears initiative will focus on campaigning for further improvements to conditions for bears in captivity in Vietnam, Ukraine and south-east Europe. We will continue to rescue bears from appalling conditions and re-home them in FOUR PAWS sanctuaries or with partner projects. With the rescue of the three remaining restaurant bears in Albania, FOUR PAWS is aiming to bring an end to this sad chapter in the history of bear keeping. ■

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 for a ban on keeping big cats in private captivity. The team tracks down cases of animals kept in poor conditions and negotiates with their owners and the authorities. FOUR PAWS will only take animals into its care when the owners sign an agreement to never keep big cats again.

Objective

FOUR PAWS aims to rescue tortured big cats and 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.

Sanctuaries

Big cats that have grown up in captivity cannot be released into the wild. As there is a shortage of species-appropriate accommodation across the world, FOUR PAWS has built its own sanctuaries where mistreated lions, tigers and other big cats can live out their remaining days in an environment that provides the highest standards of care. Regular veterinary and dental examinations are provided in all sanctuaries.

LIONSROCK

FOUR PAWS opened the LIONSROCK big cat sanctuary in South Africa in 2007. The site has over 1250 hectares of savannah, rolling hills and rocky landscape for the animals to explore. In nature, big cats spend a significant proportion of their time hunting. 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 smells of meat 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. In 2018, LIONSROCK housed a hundred big cats rescued from poor conditions, including 82 lions, 15 tigers and three leopards. To raise awareness of issues surrounding animal welfare, FOUR PAWS runs an educational programme for schoolchildren in South Africa.

FELIDA

In 2013, FOUR PAWS took over the "Stichting Pantera" big cat sanctuary in Nijebekoop in the Netherlands. Since then, the sanctuary – which has now been renamed FELIDA – has been preparing animals rescued in Europe for the long journey to LIONSROCK. Severely traumatised animals receive special therapy. Big cats that are too old or weak to make the journey are able to spend the remaining years of their lives at the sanctuary, with a full programme of monitoring and medical care. In 2018, the sanctuary provided a home to four tigers and three lions.

TIERART

In Germany, FOUR PAWS is the main shareholder in the animal and species protection centre TIERART gGmbH. At the 14-hectare site in Maßweiler (in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate), FOUR PAWS

cares for rescued big cats and numerous native species. The big cat centre consists of three enclosures covering a total area of about 2,550 square metres. In 2018, the centre was home to four rescued tigers and a puma.

Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife

In the Jordanian wildlife sanctuary Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife, a cooperative project between Princess Alia Foundation and FOUR PAWS, seventeen lions and two tigers were cared for in generous enclosures in 2018. The sanctuary offers tours to educate visitors about the specific needs of big cats.

Key Activities in 2018

At LIONSROCK, FOUR PAWS has constructed spacious new enclosures for lions previously housed in smaller acclimatisation enclosures. We also completed a special medical care enclosure for chronically ill, disabled and elderly animals. This enclosure is used to provide intensive care for animals in need and to make the task of providing this care easier for staff, with features such as lower-level climbing platforms. In 2018, LIONSROCK welcomed five new arrivals: in February, the sanctuary took in two lions who had been rescued by FOUR PAWS the previous year from zoos destroyed by war in Mosul (Iraq) and Aleppo (Syria). These new additions were followed by two lions from a private keeper in South Africa in September and a lioness kept by an illegal breeder in France in October. A total of 42 big cats were treated at the LIONSROCK veterinary clinic in 2018.

We also renovated a number of enclosures at FELIDA. The revamped enclosures are now more spacious and have more climbing equipment and pools for the animals to swim. Six of the nine big cats in the sanctuary needed medical care, and two patients required the use of magnetic resonance imaging technology. In February and March, three lions arrived at FELIDA from Razgrad Zoo in Bulgaria: youngsters Masoud and Terez and four-year-old Ivan-Asen. The Bulgarian government only allowed the animals to be transferred by FOUR PAWS after a series of major public protests.

TIERART admitted a puma of just a few months old who had been rescued from private captivity. One of the tiger enclosures was enlarged and all of the big cat enclosures were joined with air locks. Two tigers received medical treatment.

Outlook

In 2019, FOUR PAWS will continue to rescue big cats from poor conditions and transfer them to sanctuaries. Our plans include the rescue of three lions from a destroyed zoo in the Gaza Strip and the transfer of a further three lions from Tirana Zoo to FELIDA. Capacity is set to be expanded at LIONSROCK. In 2019, FOUR PAWS will also be expanding the FELIDA and TIERART big cat sanctuaries to offer more accommodation for big cats in need. ■



Great Apes in Need

Forest School for Orang-Utans

Background

In Borneo and Sumatra, the habitat of the last orang-utans on our planet is shrinking at a shocking rate. Huge areas of rainforest are destroyed every day for palm oil, tropical hardwood and charcoal. Without the trees that are their food sources, the orang-utans starve. Even worse, the animals are hunted because they are thought to damage crops – up to 3000 orang-utans a year are killed by hunters. Illegal animal dealers sell the defenceless babies, whose mothers have been mercilessly targeted and killed, as pets. Held in captivity, often in cramped cages and dressed in human clothing, the species that is our nearest genetic relative is losing its identity and dignity. Bornean orang-utans are a critically endangered species.

Objective

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

Project

In 2014, the Indonesian Yayasan Jejak Pulang foundation (the 'Homecoming Foundation') was established by FOUR PAWS. Thanks to an agreement with the Indonesian government's official nature conservation authority, we have been able to roll out a rehabilitation programme for orphaned orang-utans in East Kalimantan. The FOUR PAWS forest school was officially opened in May 2018. Working in close partnership with the Indonesian forestry authorities, the local team provides new homes for threatened or confiscated baby orang-utans. In 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. Sick or exhausted animals receive veterinary care. The young orang-utans are then placed in the FOUR PAWS forest school, which is set over 100 hectares of woodland. This is where their rehabilitation begins. By observing their peers and with the patient guidance of their "surrogate mothers" (a role assigned to specially trained carers), the orang-utans learn everything they need to know to live independently in the wild: how to move among the trees, how to find food in the forest, how to build a nest to sleep in and how to communicate with other members of their own species. From the age of around eight years old, the orang-utans begin to explore the world independently. At this stage, their "surrogate mothers" take them to a safe reintroduction area in the forest. After their release, the orang-utans remain under observation and protected by FOUR PAWS.

Key Activities in 2018

During the first half of the year, FOUR PAWS took two baby orang-utans into its care. The male, Gerhana, had been confiscated by the authorities in January, at the age of around eight months, and fifteen-month-old Kartini had been transferred to the forest school in April. Including these two additions, there are now eight young orang-utans at the forest school. To provide the best possible care, FOUR PAWS has expanded its team with another nine new members of staff. A total of nineteen "surrogate mothers", three vets and two primatologists now care for the orphaned animals.

Over the past year, we have focused on building two camps, Camp Sungai and Portacamp, and all of the associated infrastructure close to the forest school. These camps provide a base for the animal carers, giving them a place to change and store their work equipment; the camps also have an energy supply and an environmentally friendly waste and sewage system. At Portacamp, FOUR PAWS has constructed platforms in the trees



to provide a spot for the young orang-utans to rest. Portacamp is designed to provide overnight accommodation for the baby orang-utans: since December 2018, Gerhana, Gonda, Kartini and Tegar – all between one and two years old – have slept here with their "surrogate mothers". In Camp Sungai, which is situated in a valley, FOUR PAWS has built sleeping enclosures for the older orang-utans, along with small huts for their night-time carers. The camp was officially opened in August 2018. This is where the young orang-utans sleep from around three years of age; currently, the camp provides a night-time base for Eska and Cantik. Amalia, who will soon turn eight years old, has already developed good skills in the forest and sleeps alone in a nest in the trees.

To increase the orang-utans' self-confidence in their ability to climb the 25-metre tropical trees, FOUR PAWS has provided climbing training for its animal care team. In February and October 2018, the "Tree Monkey Project" organisation trained some of the "surrogate mothers", using professional climbing equipment to enable them to climb safely into the treetops and move from branch to branch.

Outlook for 2019

Over the coming year, we will identify a protected reintroduction area for the first cohort of graduates from the forest school and draw up the agreements needed to use the forest for this purpose. At Camp Sungai, FOUR PAWS will erect a tree-supported chain bridge over the Saka Kanan to enable the animal care team to reach the other side of the river safely, even during the rainy season. In the quarantine area of the forest school, we plan to replace enclosures that have rusted due to their age and the climatic conditions in the area. We also have plans to purchase a plot of land to provide permanent species-appropriate accommodation for Robin, a ten-year-old orang-utan who cannot be released back into the wild due to the amount of contact he had with humans prior to his rescue. We are also building a veterinary clinic on the site so that Robin and the other orang-utans can be guaranteed the best possible medical care.

In 2019, FOUR PAWS is planning to look after up to five further orphaned orang-utans under the umbrella of the Jejak Pulang foundation. In total, the forest school can accommodate around thirty orang-utans. ■



orang-utan orphans
live in the project.



hectares of protected forest are
available to the orang-utans.

Campaign for Wild Horses and Working Animals

Improving Welfare

Background

In many countries across the world, horses and donkeys are deployed as working animals. However, many of the people who rely on these animals to earn a living don't have the financial means or knowledge needed to care for the animals appropriately, feed them properly or provide the equipment they need for their work, such as harnesses. FOUR PAWS is working to improve the living conditions of horses in Romania and Jordan.

Romania

The Danube Delta in eastern Romania is one of the biggest wetland areas in Europe and home to wild horses. A few years ago, conservationists and local authorities were afraid that the growing horse population could destroy the unique flora in the biosphere reserve of the Danube Delta. A decision was therefore taken to kill the horses. FOUR PAWS was able to stop this plan in its tracks and in return, provided assistance with birth control and veterinary care for the horse population. The programme started in autumn 2012 and has been repeated on a regular basis since.

Romania

In 2017, FOUR PAWS commenced a pilot project to improve conditions for horses in some of the poorest regions of Romania. As part of this project, 55 horses in the Roma commune of Smârdioasa were given veterinary treatment. Thirty horses were fitted with new shoes and twenty had their teeth filed, allowing them to eat pain-free.

Jordan

In Jordan, around 1350 horses and donkeys work on the streets of Petra to provide an income for their owners. Many visitors to the UNESCO world heritage site – famous for its rock-cut architecture – 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 project began, the working animals were often exposed to the unrelenting rays of the sun for hours on end, were not getting enough water or food, and many were suffering from exhaustion, lameness and colic. The loads they were forced to carry were often too heavy for their weakened bodies.

Since 2015, together with the Jordanian Princess Alia Foundation (PAF) and the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), FOUR PAWS has been operating an aid project to improve

the living and working conditions for animals in Petra. New stables have been built to provide protection and accommodation for the animals, many working animals have received veterinary care and have had their shoes replaced, and owners have received guidance on how to better recognise the needs of the animals in their care.

Objective

The FOUR PAWS horse protection project aims to expose and debunk misconceptions and prevent any further suffering of animals by raising awareness of their needs, by sharing knowledge and expertise and by working together with authorities and municipalities to improve the general welfare of working horses and donkeys.

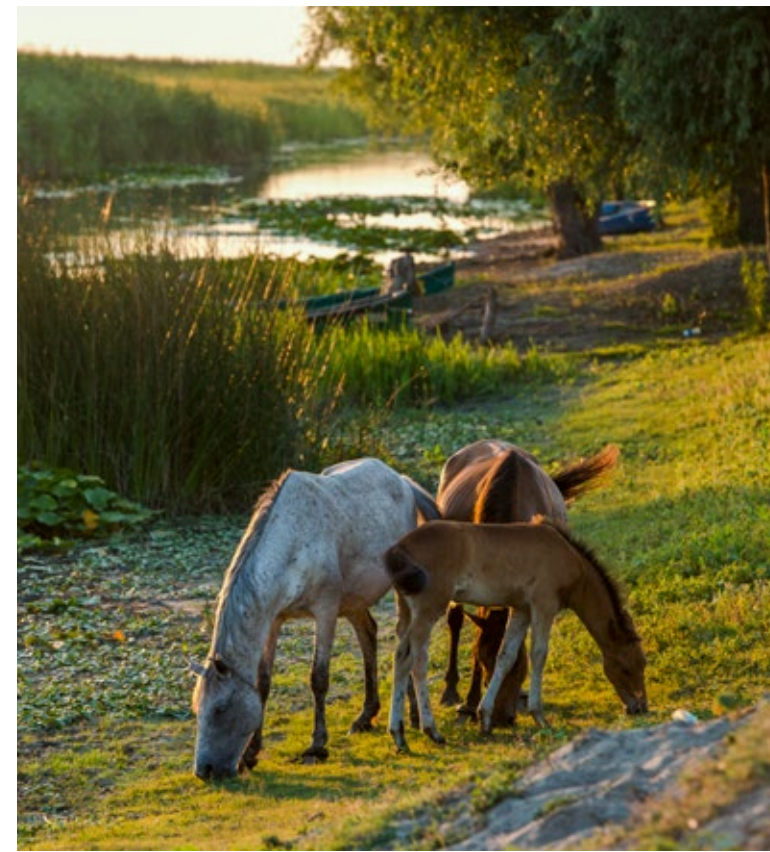
Key activities in 2018

As part of the horse protection project, FOUR PAWS works closely with two partner organisations. In 2018, we joined forces with the Animal Rescue and Care Association (ARCA) in Romania, and we have been working with the Princess Alia Foundation in Jordan for many years.

Romania

The humane birth control programme rolled out near Letea in the Danube Delta is now in its fifth season. In the programme, a number of mares are given an immunocontraceptive that acts as a fully reversible means of sterilisation. Surveys from recent years indicate that the population of wild horses in the protected Letea Forest is stable to slightly declining. The project also organises information events on animal protection and environmental conservation for the residents of the surrounding villages of Letea and Periprava. A new partnership agreement has been concluded between ARCA and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority to secure the birth control programme and to protect the wild horses for the next ten years.

In July 2018, FOUR PAWS started a protection project for working horses in the south of Romania, in partnership with ARCA. In Romania, working with horses is common practice, particularly in Roma communities. However, many people cannot afford veterinary care for their animals. In 2018, a total of 150 working horses were examined and treated in the communes of Smârdioasa, Frumoasa and Șoimuș. In addition to receiving a full health check, all of the



animals were vaccinated against parasites, many were fitted with new shoes, and some had their teeth filed. The owners of the animals were also educated in how to handle their animals properly and, where necessary, on how to correctly size and fit a harness.

Jordan

In Petra vets from the PAF examined, vaccinated and treated 200 working horses and donkeys over a series of four sessions. Many of the working animals were given new shoes. The project also managed to purchase a new ultrasound machine, which will make it easier for veterinarians to diagnose certain diseases.

Outlook

Romania

The birth control programme for the wild horses in the Danube Delta will be continued in 2019, and will begin its sixth season at the start of October 2018. Work will continue to improve the lives of many working or carriage horses in the poorest communities of Romania. As well as helping the animals directly, the project also plans to organise training courses for the owners. Research will be ongoing in 2019 to further investigate the situation of carriage and working horses in Romania.

Jordan

In Jordan, too, work is under way to improve the health of horses by educating owners, farriers and local vets. To reduce the loads that the animals have to carry, we are working on introducing lighter carriages. The project is also aiming to ensure a stable water supply along the main routes and to expand shelters to provide refuge from the heat. ■





Native Wild Animals in Danger

Wild Animal Rescue 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 German and Austrian animal shelters each year in need of urgent help. But these shelters are often unable to meet the demanding needs of wild animals because they are specialised in rescuing pets. In wild animal rescue centres, specially trained 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 rescue 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 Rescue 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, bats, 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 centre became a part of the FOUR PAWS organisation.

Animal and Species Protection Centre TIERART gGmbH (Germany)

Since 2016, FOUR PAWS has been the main shareholder in the Animal and Species Protection Centre TIERART in the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. The centre is on a 14-hectare site, making it the largest privately owned wild animal rescue centre in Germany. TIERART places a high value on providing professional animal care for native wild animals, offering species-appropriate accommodation in over 3400 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 cared for by a team of four keepers and two biologists. The most common patients at the centre are foxes, badgers, wild cats, lynxes, hares, deer, raccoons, dormice and hedgehogs. As raccoons have been classed as an invasive species in Europe since 2016, they cannot be released into the wild, so the TIERART centre now provides a permanent, species-appropriate home for 31 abandoned raccoons. It also houses four tame red foxes and two pastel foxes rescued from a fur farm who cannot be released into the wild. 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 38 sheep and three goats. The TIERART site also incorporates the FOUR PAWS big cats centre, which is currently home to four rescued tigers and a puma.

Wild Animal Rescue Centre Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein (Germany)

FOUR PAWS has been supporting the Wild Animal Rescue Centre in Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein since it was founded in 2010, donating at least €100,000 to the centre each year. As the only centre of its kind in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, the organisation has become the region’s primary rehabilitation centre 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 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 species-appropriate accommodation across 700 square metres of enclosure.

Objective

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 our moral duty and responsibility to help and care for these animals. The primary objective of the wild animal rescue 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 rescue centres also engage in media and public relations 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 rescue 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 it.

Key Activities in 2018

OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION, Haringsee
The OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee admitted a total of 2098 wild animals in 2018. Of this number, 973 have been successfully released by the end of 2018. Many of the patients required additional care from the experienced team, including 111 hedgehogs, who remained at the centre

over the winter. A further 142 wild animals originally admitted the previous year have also been successfully released back into the wild. On 31 December 2018, the centre was home to a total of 733 animals of 58 different species. Two new aviaries were built for small birds and owls.

Animal and Species Protection Centre TIERART gGmbH
In 2018, the staff at TIERART constructed a new enclosure for the pastel foxes, complete with climbing frames and hiding places, raised resting platforms and a stream. Work also commenced on new enclosures for abandoned young foxes, raccoons and red foxes. The centre rescued and released a total of 104 native wild animals last year, including wild cats, lynxes, foxes, martens, squirrels, dormice, hedgehogs, deer and hares. Fifteen raccoons were admitted to the centre as permanent residents. In 2018, TIERART also rescued thirteen sheep from cruel conditions in circuses or which had been confiscated from private owners. Over 2500 visitors, including school children and kindergartens, visited the centre for a tour.

Wild Animal Rescue Centre Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein
The Wild Animal Rescue Centre Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein rescued a total of 2073 wild animals from life-threatening situations in 2018. Following a long spell of dry weather, there was a significant rise in the number of wild animals found in a very weakened state. Over 60% of admitted patients were successfully released back into the wild. A number of other regions called on the services of the Wild Animal Rescue Centre to help accommodate exotic escapees including snakes, turtles, tortoises and lizards. 2018 also saw the construction of an outdoor tortoise enclosure and addi-

tional habitats for animals that prefer to live close to water, such as otters, beavers and wild ducks. An additional pool was built for water birds and to provide medical care to seals. Throughout the year, the Wild Animal Rescue Centre also hosted regular tours of the site, held talks in schools and organised educational nature workshops for schoolchildren and adults.

Outlook for 2019

In 2019, the wild animal centres will continue to care for as many wild animals as need our help, with the ultimate goal of releasing them back into nature.

The OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee is planning to complete a new aviary for owls and repair its existing enclosures.

TIERART is planning the construction of a large enclosure for martens and squirrels. The raccoons are also set to gain an even larger outdoor enclosure, and a rearing facility will be built for young animals. In partnership with the EU LIFE lynx project and the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, the centre is planning to build another large enclosure for abandoned young lynxes. It will also complete a brand-new puma enclosure.

FOUR PAWS is continuing its partnership with the Wild Animal Rescue Centre in Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein. The centre will build new aviaries to enable it to accommodate an even larger number of residents. It is also planning a new facility for exotic animals, with aviaries and shelters, as well as a pond for turtles. ■



wild animal rescue centres are operated or supported by FOUR PAWS.



native wild animals were admitted to the wild animal rescue centres.

Anti-Fur Campaign

Fashion without Fur



Background

Every year, about a hundred million mink, foxes, raccoons and other animals suffer and die on fur farms all over the world. They are kept in tiny wire cages 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-mutilating behaviours as a result. Their deaths are just as cruel: they are gassed, poisoned or killed by electric current – and all for the sake of an easily replaceable luxury fashion garment.

FOUR PAWS has worked to help fur animals ever since it was first founded, educating the general public, exerting consistent pressure on politicians and dealers and protesting outside fur farms. We've had some great successes: the last fur farm in Austria closed in 1998, and in 2005 the keeping of animals for their fur was banned. Germany introduced stricter laws for fur farms in 2011, a development that was also down to the work of FOUR PAWS. As a result, there was only one fur farm remaining in operation in the country in 2018. Fur farming will be outlawed in Germany by 2022.

Objective

The long-term goal is to see a Europe without fur farms and without fur in fashion. FOUR PAWS is campaigning for:

- An EU-wide ban on fur farming,
- A legal marking requirement for all fur products, with clear information on the type of animal the fur came from, its geographical origin and the conditions in which the animals were kept,
- In the long-term, a Europe-wide ban on trading and importing hides and fur products.

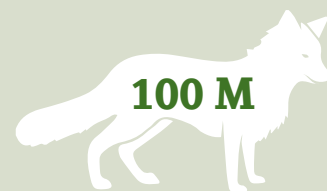
Campaigns in 2018

In Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany and South Africa, FOUR PAWS supports the Fur Free Retailer Programme. Since it was founded in 2002, this international initiative provides a way to identify individual retailers, fashion chains and designers who have made a commitment to refrain from using fur in their products. 953 companies across the world had joined the initiative by 31 December 2018. Last year, FOUR PAWS recruited 12 new companies to the programme, including the retail chain Rewe, men's fashion retailer Engbers and fashion company Walbusch. For a complete list of members, please visit www.furfreetailer.com.

As a member of the Fur Free Alliance – an international confederation of leading animal welfare and environmental conservation organisations – FOUR PAWS lobbied the Polish and Serbian parliaments to introduce national bans on fur farming in 2018. In April, the Fur Free Alliance published shocking new images from Finnish fox fur farms. As part of a joint campaign against luxury fashion label Prada, FOUR PAWS organised a protest in Vienna in September, attracting a great deal of media attention. Thanks to the continued lobbying work carried out by FOUR PAWS, the sale of fur goods has been prohibited at Vienna's markets since October 2018.

Outlook for 2019

In Germany, FOUR PAWS is set to publish the results of an investigation into fur labelling in retail in 2019. The European elections in May 2019 are an opportunity to push for more transparent fur labelling regulations at EU level. Our campaign will protest against plans to include fur animals under the umbrella of the new EU animal protection reference centre, as this move would strengthen the commercial fur animal farming industry. FOUR PAWS will also strive to drum up more interest among retailers in the international Fur Free Retailer Programme, and to educate the public on the suffering that goes on to produce fur fashion garments. ■



wild animals are killed
for their fur each year.



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

Tigers in the EU

Stopping the Exploitation of an Endangered Species for Financial Gain

Background

Although there are currently only around 3900 tigers left in the wild, over 20,000 of them are spending their lives in captivity, according to estimates from environmental conservation organisations. Studies by FOUR PAWS in the EU have shown that the legal protection afforded to big cats is wholly inadequate. In spite of the fact that trading in wild tigers is prohibited in the EU, the sale of animals born in captivity for commercial purposes is permitted. As a result, tigers are still being abused in circus shows, photoshoots and private zoos all over Europe. In some EU countries, tigers can be rented for private parties or even kept as pets. These big cats can be sold as far afield as Asia or even illegally processed as an ingredient for traditional medicine here in Europe. And it's a profitable business too: a live tiger can fetch up to 22,000 euros on the Asian black market, while 1 kilo of tiger bones sells for around 1700 euros. As there is no central EU record of the tiger trade, no-one knows how many tigers are currently in Europe and which countries they have been sold to.

Objective

FOUR PAWS is campaigning for a ban on the sale of tigers for commercial purposes within the EU and a ban on selling the animals to countries outside the EU. Tigers should only be bred by and transferred between scientifically managed zoos within the framework of official breeding programmes for species conservation purposes.



Key Activities in 2018

In June 2018, investigative work carried out by FOUR PAWS revealed an illegal tiger trading operation in the Czech Republic. After a series of police raids near Prague, which uncovered a tiger slaughtering facility, the Czech government decided to implement an immediate ban on the export of live tigers to countries outside the European Union.

In July 2018, FOUR PAWS launched the international #RuthlessTrade campaign to bring an end to the commercial tiger trade. A series of attention-grabbing campaigns helped to raise public awareness of this cruel practice. In one event, FOUR PAWS representatives posed as sales staff, promoting products purportedly made from tigers in a Hamburg shopping centre. On a fake web-shop for fictional luxury brand Ruthless at www.ruthless-shop.com, visitors who were interested in finding out more about lip care products, hand cream or wine made from tiger bones were instead confronted with information on the cruelty involved in the tiger trade. During the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London in October 2018, tiger patterns were projected onto prominent landmarks. By 31 December 2018, more than 168,000 people had signed the #RuthlessTrade campaign petition addressed to the European Council, which demands the introduction of a ban on the commercial trading of tigers bred in captivity.

Outlook for 2019

To mark the CITES Conference of the Parties in May 2019, FOUR PAWS will use research, public relations and media campaigns to exert further pressure on international stakeholders and CITES contractual parties to finally bring an end to the trade in tigers and tiger body parts.



is the price a live tiger can fetch on the Asian black market..



tigers were exported from EU countries between 1999 and 2016.



Helping Strays

Global Projects to Protect Dogs and Cats

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. In South-East Asia, rabies – an infectious disease that can be spread through animal bites – is rife. The authorities often respond to human and animal conflicts with brutality: animals 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.

Objective

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.

Helping Strays

To permanently reduce the number of stray animals roaming the streets, FOUR PAWS deploys specially trained stray teams across the world, all of whom use the Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Release method. The team catches stray dogs and cats and transports them to a FOUR PAWS clinic or mobile clinic. At the clinic, the animals are neutered under anaesthetic, vaccinated and chipped; with dogs, a marking is also applied to the ear. 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 pet 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 aid 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 aid programme. Since 2004, dog trainers from FOUR PAWS have been training rescued strays up 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 dogs benefit from a level of attention and care that they could never have dreamed of during life on the streets. The project also helps to improve the image of strays among the general population.

Key Activities in 2018

Over the past year, FOUR PAWS has neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and provided medical treatment for 72,636 stray animals. Our veterinary teams worked on four continents and in a total of 12 countries, helping animals in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam; in Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine; in Germany and Switzerland; and in Australia and South Africa.

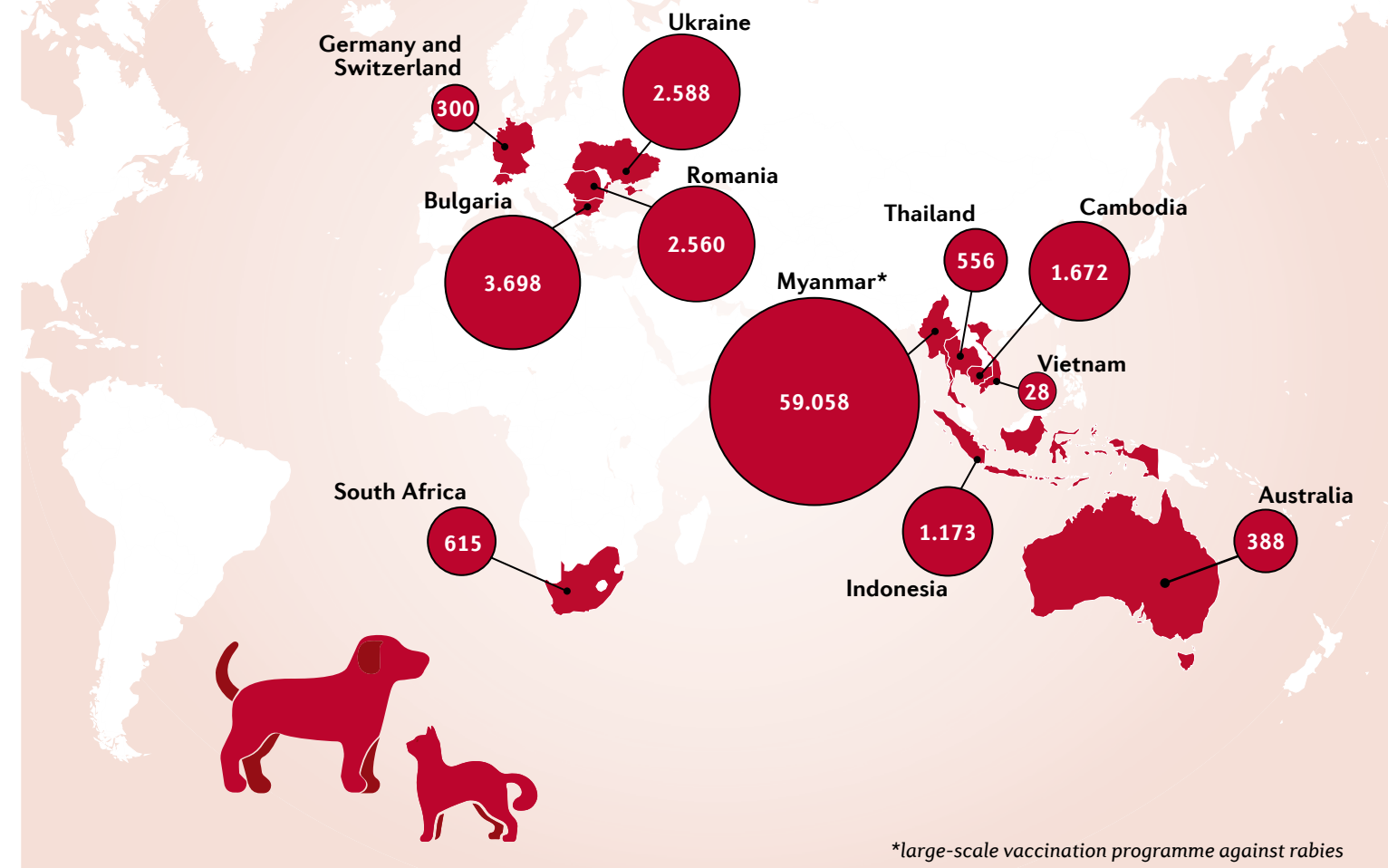
Helping Strays in South-East Asia

In 2018, FOUR PAWS partnered with local animal protection organisations in South-East Asia to launch a number of new projects to help strays in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

In East Kalimantan on the edge of the Sungai Wain Forest in Indonesia, the FOUR PAWS team worked with Pro Natura to neuter 718 stray dogs and cats and vaccinate a further 455 animals against rabies.

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in Asia, and many of its citizens do not have enough money to provide proper care for their pets. In the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, thousands of animals are abandoned at Buddhist temples every year, in the hope that they will be given food by the monks. However, the donations that the monks collect on their daily rounds are nowhere near sufficient to feed all of the animals. The strays are emaciated, with open wounds or infected eyes, and riddled with worms and other parasites. In December 2018, FOUR PAWS and local animal protection partner Animal Rescue Cambodia e. V. neutered and provided medical treatment for 1672 animals in Phnom Penh; locals

FOUR PAWS INTERNATIONAL STRAY ANIMAL CARE PROJECTS 2018



were also invited to get their pet cats and dogs neutered by the vets free of charge. In temples and schools across Phnom Penh, 240 schoolchildren and 35 monks were educated on the basic needs of animals, responsible pet ownership and the dangers of consuming dog meat.

Myanmar is home to over four million stray dogs. Rabies is widespread, and almost 1000 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. In 2018, FOUR PAWS worked closely with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) of Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI), as well as with other partner organisations and local authorities, to vaccinate a total of 59,058 dogs in 516 municipalities against rabies. The universities in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw hosted five workshops and training courses for veterinarians and veterinary medicine students. FOUR PAWS also organised a comprehensive public information campaign, which highlighted the importance of the rabies vaccination through media reports, bill boards, a

special information centre for tourists and the distribution of more than 15,000 flyers.

In Thailand, FOUR PAWS launched the “Thailand's Forgotten Dogs” project. In the Bang Saphan region south of Bangkok, the local team rescues sick, injured and mistreated animals. In addition to neutering and providing medical treatment for these animals, educating the public is a major part of the team's work.

In Vietnam, millions of stray and pet cats are captured each year for the cat meat industry. Working together with local NGOs Vietnam Cat Welfare and PAWS for Compassion, FOUR PAWS helps to educate the local people on responsible pet ownership and on how to protect their own pets. FOUR PAWS also launched sterilisation projects in Da Nang and Hoi Ang.

Helping Strays in Eastern Europe

Our teams have continued to build on their prior successes in Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

A total of 2547 animals were neutered in Bulgaria. 900 of these animals also received medical treatment, either at the strays clinic that FOUR PAWS has operated near the Bulgarian capital of Sofia since 2013, or at a mobile clinic. A further 1151 pet and stray cats were vaccinated and dewormed free of charge as part of a voucher system. The team held a number of events to educate the public on animal welfare and how to deal with strays.

The Romanian team neutered and treated around 2560 animals in the FOUR PAWS clinic in Bucharest and in mobile clinics.

In Ukraine, 2588 stray dogs and cats were treated, vaccinated and neutered; 710 of these animals were treated in the FOUR PAWS clinic in Zhytomyr.

Helping Strays in Western Europe

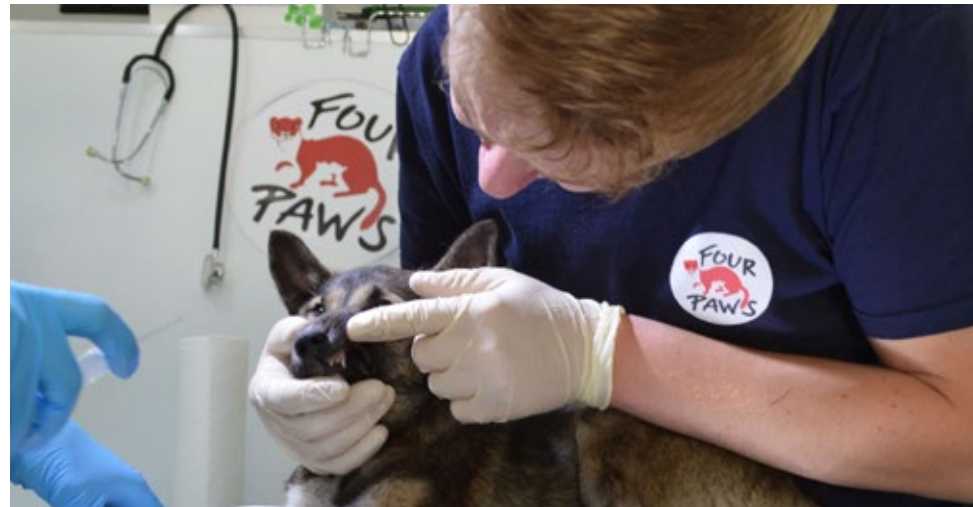
In Germany, the stray cat population is estimated at between two and three million. Since 2011, FOUR PAWS has been campaigning for the nationwide introduction of a mandatory neutering, chipping and registration requirement for pet cats allowed to roam outdoors, and the organisation regularly undertakes neutering campaigns in towns and cities across the country. In Switzerland, the cat aid team supported a number of sterilisation campaigns on farms. In Germany and Switzerland, the organisation neutered over 300 cats.

Helping Strays in Australia

In Australia, the indigenous population has virtually no access to veterinary care for its pet animals. FOUR PAWS works with the Australian organisation AMRRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities) to neuter these animals and carry out educational work locally. In 2018, 210 dogs and cats were neutered and 178 dogs received anti-parasite treatment in the Papunya region.

Helping Strays in South Africa

In the town of Mamre, south of Cape Town, FOUR PAWS worked with partner organisation African Tails to neuter and provide medical care for a total of 615 dogs and cats. Around 70 percent of the strays in the region are now neutered. The campaign was accompanied by a series of events in local schools in which the team from FOUR PAWS talked to pupils about animal welfare and how to deal with strays.



In Bulgaria, 155 free sessions were hosted for 31 children. In Ukraine, the team trained its first former strays as therapy dogs in 2018.

Outlook for 2019

In 2016, FOUR PAWS commenced a long-term scientific study to prove that the chosen approach of Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Release (CNVR) is the most humane and effective solution for stray animals. In partnership with the University of Leeds in the UK and the ISZAM zoological institute in Italy, the CNVR approach is being compared against killing campaigns and rescue centre programmes. The project will be completed in 2019.

In Germany, FOUR PAWS will continue to lobby for the nationwide introduction of mandatory sterilisation for pet cats with outdoor access. We are continuing to work with municipalities that have already introduced or are planning to introduce mandatory sterilisation. Further sterilisation campaigns are planned in Germany and Switzerland, focusing in particular on rural regions. Through our public relations and media work, we will continue to educate the public.

In Bulgaria, FOUR PAWS is aiming to neuter at least 3400 dogs and cats in Sofia and the surrounding regions; the programme is also set to be expanded to a total of six municipalities. A small number of the animals treated in the veterinary clinic in Sofia cannot be released back onto the streets, so our adoption programme aims to find new homes for these animals.

In 2019, we will be starting a pilot project in two regions in Romania: through a combined approach of public relations work and events, FOUR PAWS is working together with partner organisation Animal Society to massively reduce the number of abandoned pets in the country. In Romania and Ukraine, FOUR PAWS is aiming to neuter at least 6500 strays across a total of 15 municipalities.

We will also continue to build on our animal-assisted intervention programme in Bulgaria and Romania. In Ukraine, the team will commence sessions with its newly trained therapy dogs and start working with their first patients. FOUR PAWS' own quality standards for animal-supported intervention will be implemented in all of the countries taking part in the project, with continual monitoring of the impact of the standards on animal welfare.

In South-East Asia, FOUR PAWS will continue with its projects to help strays while also supporting the work of local NGOs. A new project with a local organisation is set to get under way in Jakarta (Indonesia). The project will help thousands of stray animals. FOUR PAWS will also continue to campaign against the cruel practice of trading in dog and cat meat, particularly in Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

In Myanmar, FOUR PAWS is aiming to vaccinate a total of a million dogs against rabies by 2030 as part of the "Myanmar National Plan for the Elimination of Rabies in Dogs". The project is due to commence in mid-2019. ■



35



72,636
stray animals were neutered
and/or given medical treatment.



12
countries were visited by the
stray animal care teams.

Animal-Assisted Intervention

Last year, the FOUR PAWS Animal-Assisted Intervention Centre in Romania provided free therapy sessions with former street dogs to 22 children with disabilities. Once a week, the dogs went along to see the sixty pensioners at the Floare Rosie home for the elderly and also paid visits to a total of 480 children at daycare facilities and schools. They also helped 120 students at the National University of Music Bucharest overcome their study stresses.



Trade in Dog and Cat Meat

36

Take Pets off the Menu

Background

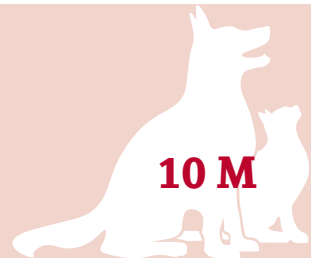
In South-East Asia, millions of cats and dogs are killed for the meat industry. Strays and beloved pets are taken from the streets and packed into cramped cages at markets. Once a buyer is found, the animals are killed in front of their caged counterparts – usually in a cruel and brutal manner.

The pet meat industry is dangerous for humans, as a significant proportion of these animals are infected with rabies; in Vietnam, for example, the infection rate is 16 per cent. This fatal disease

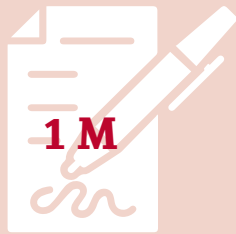
can be passed to humans through the consumption of meat from an infected animal. In Indonesia, rabies is present in 24 of 33 provinces. In Cambodia, the disease claims around 800 human lives each year.

Objective

FOUR PAWS wants to put an end to the cruel practice of trading in dog and cat meat in South-East Asia. We are focusing our campaign on Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam.



dogs and cats disappeared from the streets of South-East Asia in 2018.



people signed the petition against the dog meat trade in Indonesia.

Campaigns in 2018

Indonesia

Together with other animal rights organisations, FOUR PAWS is a member of the “Dog Meat Free Indonesia” coalition. Last year, the coalition collected a million signatures from people around the world who are opposed to dog meat trading in Indonesia. Over ninety world-renowned celebrities supported the petition. In 2018, as a result of this international pressure, the Indonesian government announced that it would introduce measures to end trade in dog meat in the country.

At more than 200 markets in Indonesia – particularly in Manado and Tomohon in North Sulawesi – thousands of dogs and cats meet a brutal end every week, murdered for their meat. Where we can, FOUR PAWS rescues these animals. In 2018, the team freed 110 dogs and cats from their cages and provided them with medical treatment.

Cambodia

In 2018, FOUR PAWS carried out comprehensive research in Cambodia and uncovered a flourishing trade in dog meat: according to estimates, over three million dogs are killed there each year. FOUR PAWS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre to bring an end to the barbaric practice of trading in dog meat. The centre, which deploys search dogs across the country to assist in tracking down landmines, is an official government authority and a powerful partner to get on board with this cause. Last year, FOUR PAWS educated Buddhist monks and schoolchildren about the dog meat industry at

a total of eight information events held in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

Vietnam

In 2018, the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi announced plans to eradicate the sale and consumption of dog meat in the city by 2021. However, cats will continue to suffer, as many still hold on to the misplaced belief that cat meat possesses healing properties, can ward off evil spirits and brings good luck to those who consume it. Over a million felines fall victim to the cat meat trade in Vietnam each year, including countless animals who started life as beloved pets. In December 2018, FOUR PAWS partnered with local animal rights organisations to launch the “Cats Matter Too” campaign. The project aims to host information events and provide neutering services and feeding stations to help the cats live a safe life.

Outlook for 2019

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 South-East Asia in 2019. Information campaigns – communicating the risk of rabies to tourists visiting markets or restaurants, for example – aim to increase the pressure on national governments. We will also continue to advise local people on how to protect their pets against theft by illegal animal catchers. In 2019, stray animal assistance teams from FOUR PAWS will carry out a systematic neutering campaign to reduce the stray population in all three countries. ■

37

Campaign Against the Illegal Puppy Trade

“Thanks, eBay!”

Background

In eastern Europe, puppies are farmed in huge numbers in appalling conditions. Separated from their mothers far too early, the innocent victims of this mass production operation are usually destined to travel to western Europe on false pet passports. Often, the dogs are sick, not immunised and rife with worms. Many of them die of dangerous infectious diseases just a few days after they have been sold to an unsuspecting new owner or suffer the lifelong consequences of a lack of early socialisation. Many of these unscrupulous mass breeders use online classified advert platforms – such as those operated around the world by eBay Inc. – to sell their pups.

Objective

In the global “Thanks, eBay!” campaign, FOUR PAWS is demanding that eBay Inc. bans the anonymous sale of animals on its various classified platforms. The anonymity of the platforms prevents the authorities from taking legal action against the perpetrators of these horrendous crimes against animals. By implementing a mandatory identity verification process for all people posting in the “Animals” category, the company would be able to effectively identify unscrupulous dealers, ban them from the platform and pass their details to the relevant authorities to pursue a conviction.

Campaigns in 2018

Last year, over 212,000 people signed our online petition at www.thanksebay.com in protest against the anonymous puppy trade on the classified platforms operated by eBay Inc. In December, FOUR PAWS passed the petition to the press officer representing the online platform. Multiple protests at the company's headquarters throughout the year also served to demonstrate to the company the plight of the animals sold in this way.



In July 2018, FOUR PAWS published a report that showed, among other things, just how widespread the sale of animals is on eBay's platforms. German politicians from all parties have publicly expressed their support for the introduction of a mandatory identification verification process.

Over the course of 2018, a series of in-depth investigations formed the basis for a number of television reports on the lucrative puppy farming industry, particularly by broadcasters in Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. FOUR PAWS worked together with RTL's Stern TV to uncover an illegal puppy dealing scheme in Königsmoos in Bavaria (Germany). As a result of the joint investigation, 134 neglected animals – some of whom were seriously ill – were seized by the police.

Outlook for 2019

As part of the “Thanks, eBay!” campaign, FOUR PAWS will continue to demand that the company implements effective measures to combat unprofessional and cruel animal breeding practices. Our ongoing investigations and public relations work will also help to raise consumer awareness of issues surrounding the purchase of a new pet.

To encourage the EU to legislate more effectively against the online trade in animals, FOUR PAWS will step up its political lobbying efforts in 2019. FOUR PAWS also plans to present a concept to political decision-makers representing a range of parties, in which the organisation proposes that online sale of dogs and cats should be limited exclusively to registered animals. ■



Campaigns for Farm Animals

For People, Animals and the Environment

NUTRITION

Background

In spite of the negative impact on our own health, animal welfare and the environment, many people still regard meat, milk and eggs as essential components of the human diet. In Europe alone, we slaughter more than 320 million pigs, sheep, goats and cows and over seven billion chickens and other poultry birds. To keep prices down while still generating a profit, the farming industry has developed systems of animal keeping that fly in the face of everything we know about animal welfare. Farm animals are intensively bred and kept in cramped pens or cages that prevent them from exhibiting natural behaviours. To enable them to survive in these kinds of systems, the animals are 'modified' by the humans who farm them; their beaks and tails are cut off and horns are burned away.

Objective

For many years, FOUR PAWS has been working to improve conditions for farm animals. The organisation campaigns against the cruellest farming practices and to improve established systems of animal husbandry. To drive change, FOUR PAWS educates the public via traditional media and social media channels, lobbies politicians and runs awareness campaigns. We also work with NGOs to promote change across Europe.

Key Activities in 2018

In 2018, FOUR PAWS started a campaign for a reduction of meat on the menu and the use of more ethically produced animal products in canteens operated by public bodies. The organisation published a report on this subject in April 2018, studying how government bodies procure animal products. The results were presented at a number of events and used as the basis for negotiations and discussions. Public institutions such as schools,

universities and hospitals purchase large volumes of animal products. Although it is legally possible to define strict procurement criteria, the company that wins the contract is usually the one that offers the lowest price. To reverse this trend, FOUR PAWS contacted schools, universities and authorities responsible for procurement in Austria, Germany, UK and Switzerland to find out more about their purchasing policies. During 2018, FOUR PAWS also campaigned to bring an end to caged farming in Europe and for better conditions for water buffalo in southern Italy.

Back in 2014, FOUR PAWS revealed the appalling conditions that water buffalo are forced to suffer in southern Italy in the production of mozzarella. The supermarket chains confronted with the results all made a commitment to demand higher standards from their suppliers in the future. In 2018, an audit was performed to follow up on these promises. Shockingly, we once again identified serious shortcomings in the conditions in which water buffalo are kept. The supermarket chains and industrial associations were informed of the results of the latest research, laying the foundations for working together to improve conditions for these animals.

In September 2018, FOUR PAWS partnered with more than 140 other organisations to launch the "End the Cage Age" European Citizens' Initiative, which aims to bring an end to the use of cages in farming. The objective of the initiative is to collect at least a million signatures in support of this cause, forcing the European Commission to put the topic on the political agenda. As one of the largest organisations involved in the campaign, FOUR PAWS has set an ambitious target for the number of signatures to be collected by September 2019.

Outlook for 2019

In 2019, FOUR PAWS will continue to work on ensuring that strict animal welfare standards are upheld by government bodies in their procurement of animal products for canteens.

We will also step up our information campaign to educate the public on how schools, universities and other public bodies procure these kinds of products. The campaign is active in four European countries and aims to assess each country's specific, often complex procurement processes to gradually implement improvements.

The campaigns and communication topics that form part of the "End the Cage Age" European Citizens' Initiative are designed to gain as many supporters and signatures as possible in favour of a ban on cages in farming. The initiative intends to send a powerful signal to the European Commission and the European Parliament.

In an effort to improve conditions for water buffalo in 2019, FOUR PAWS will submit its proposals to the Italian DOP consortium, one of the main associations of mozzarella producers.

TEXTILES

Background

Down, feathers, wool and leather are important materials in the textiles industry. But the production of these materials comes at a cost – and that cost is the suffering of animals. In the down supply chain, live feather plucking and force-feeding are commonplace. In wool production, mulesing – a process in which folds of skin are removed from the buttocks of a sheep to reduce the risk of flystrike – is a frequent occurrence. As a result of ongoing campaigning by animal welfare organisations, many companies have recognised that they need to take action against these practices. FOUR PAWS supports companies during the development of their own sustainability guidelines and is involved in drafting standards relating to down, wool and leather production. The organisation is also involved in the Dutch Agreement



on Sustainable Garments and Textiles and is a member of the associated steering committee. The agreement is a coalition of industry partners, unions, civil organisations and the Dutch government. Participation in the coalition is an important step for FOUR PAWS, as the Netherlands is the first country to take animal welfare aspects into account in clothing production. The campaigns and public relations work carried out by FOUR PAWS regularly sheds light on the mistreatment of animals whose wool, skin and down is used in the textile industry.

Key Activities in 2018

In 2018, FOUR PAWS once again campaigned for strict animal welfare criteria in the form of the Responsible Down Standard (RDS) and the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS). In Germany, the textiles association organised a shearing industry meeting, which once again served to highlight the problems in wool production and the importance of traceability standards for the entire supply chain. The Dutch textiles association provided FOUR

PAWS with detailed data on the topic and hosted a workshop on textiles of animal origin. As in previous years, the topic of down was a key focus of our campaigns in winter 2018, attracting a great deal of interest. In Austria, FOUR PAWS also collaborated with the Chamber of Labour in Upper Austria to publish a joint report on down.

Outlook

In 2019, FOUR PAWS is planning a campaign to highlight the mistreatment of animals in the wool industry and will work with producers and brands to encourage better traceability and a ban on mulesing in the supply chain. To improve the traceability of down, we will contact key manufacturers to ensure that the animal welfare standards set out in the Responsible Down Standard (RDS) are being upheld. FOUR PAWS will also continue to advise companies on how to improve their sustainability standards in the field of animal protection by setting specific targets and timelines. ■



FOUR PAWS Animal Welfare Label

“Tierschutz-kontrolliert”

Background

Billions of animals suffer from being intensively farmed, and meat consumption is increasing around the world. Current legal regulations do not go far enough to guarantee the well-being of farm animals. In 2012, FOUR PAWS introduced the “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” (German for Animal Welfare Assured) animal welfare label to improve living, transport and slaughter conditions for as many farm animals as possible. The label is divided into two levels: Silver and Gold. It is available on the German and Austrian market.

When developing the animal welfare label, FOUR PAWS worked closely with scientific experts to formulate criteria not only for the conditions in which the animals are kept, but also for their transport and slaughter. The label represents the highest standard in animal welfare and prohibits practices such as tethered enclosures for dairy cows and the castration of piglets without anaesthetic. Certified producers are audited once a year by independent, state-accredited certification bodies. These auditing organisations assess not only the conditions in which the animals are kept, but also their well-being.



Almo beef products from Schirnhöfer GmbH have been certified with the “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” animal welfare label in Germany since 2014 and are sold in Bavaria at Rewe Süd supermarkets. Since 2017 these products have also been available in food retail outlets across Austria and are stocked in all Merkur and Penny stores operated by Rewe International. In Austria, the farms where the certified meat comes from are located in the Almenland Nature Park in the state of Styria. The cows spend all summer in the pastures and meadows and are fed non-GM food. The “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” animal welfare label requires animals to be housed freely in pens when kept indoors (tethering is prohibited), and the cows have much more space in the pens than the minimum requirement prescribed by law. The animals can only be castrated if anaesthetic and pain relief is administered.

Key Activities in 2018

In 2018, 246 Almo farms were certified with the FOUR PAWS animal welfare label, and female cows were also added to the programme this year. FOUR PAWS was able to issue the first “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” label for outstanding standards in pig farming to the “Hofkultur” programme, run by company Hütthaler, which now includes 29 conventional farms. On these farms, the pigs have significantly more space than the legal minimum prescribed in regulations; they have permanent out-

door access, their tails are not cut off, and they are provided with dry straw bedding. From 2018 onwards, male piglets may only be castrated if anaesthetic and pain relief are administered. By implementing these measures, the programme qualified for a Silver “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” label. The products are stocked in all Merkur shops in Austria under the chain’s own “Fair zum Tier!” brand.

Outlook for 2019

At the beginning of 2019, FOUR PAWS will expand the certification programme to include the dairy farming company Allgäuer Hof-Milch GmbH in Bavaria. Plans are also in place to co-operate with an organic duck farm in Austria. Our long-term goal is to extend existing partnerships and to acquire new partners in Germany and Austria. If all of our planned partnerships come to fruition, over half a million animals will be kept under the conditions of the FOUR PAWS guidelines from 2019 onwards. In Austria, we are also working on incorporating the established animal welfare standard for egg-laying hens on organic and free-range farms into the “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” animal welfare label. If we achieve this, just under a million hens (980,000) will benefit from the quality guidelines. Alongside all of this work, FOUR PAWS continues to campaign for a more animal-friendly diet in which we replace animal products with plant-based alternatives. ■

Help for Animals in Crisis

International Aid

Background

Natural disasters have catastrophic consequences for both humans and animals. But while people are able to flee the danger, animals – particularly farm animals and pets – are dependent on human help. When floods or earthquakes destroy entire villages and wipe out crops, farm animals are often the only thing their owners have left. A beloved pet might be the only thing that an evacuated person has as a reminder of their old life. In poor regions of the world in particular, rescuing animals ensures that their owners still have some form of income and gives them hope for the future. This is why emergency aid for animals is an important part of humanitarian work.

Objective

FOUR PAWS steps in when animals are at acute risk, whether as a result of environmental disasters, political unrest or other emergencies. Our aim is to arrive at the location of the disaster as quickly as possible and improve the situation for the animals and people affected.

Project

Since 2004, FOUR PAWS has been actively providing help for animals in crisis. Our experienced team of vets, rescuers and disaster management staff has already been deployed to many disaster zones, including Sri Lanka (tsunamis in 2004 and 2005), India (monsoon flooding in 2007 and 2015), Zimbabwe and Kenya (drought in 2009), Pakistan (monsoon flooding in 2010 and 2011), Egypt and Libya (political unrest in 2011), the Philippines (typhoons in 2013 and 2014), Serbia (flooding disaster in 2014), Myanmar (monsoon flooding in 2015 and 2016), Puerto Rico (hurricane in 2017) and Iraq and Syria (war-related crises in 2017). The team rescues and evacuates animals from the scene of the crisis, provides veterinary treatment and vaccinations, distributes food and builds emergency

accommodation. At the disaster site, FOUR PAWS works closely with local and international aid organisations and supports emergency animal aid projects run by other organisations. All members of the rescue team are fully trained for the role.

Key Activities in 2018

Expansion of International Network

Following intensive lobbying by FOUR PAWS, UNECE (the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) now recognises the need to help animals in areas affected by natural disasters. UNECE is part of the UNISDR, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. In 2018, FOUR PAWS also campaigned successfully for the European Commission to include animals and animal protection in the EU guidelines for aid efforts during natural disasters. In December, FOUR PAWS assisted the General Director of the European Commission's Health and Food Safety department with the development of guidelines on how the state veterinary service should prepare for natural disasters in its capacity as a technical expert. Since October, FOUR PAWS has also been a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) steering committee for animals affected by environmental disasters in the Balkan states.

Emergency Aid in Indonesia

In August 2018, vast swathes of the Indonesian islands of Lombok, Gili Trawangan, Gili Air and Gili Meno were devastated by a series of earthquakes, in which over 430,000 people lost their homes. An aid team from FOUR PAWS provided food for over 500 helpless horses and cats that had been left behind. 165 of these animals required veterinary treatment. FOUR PAWS also supported the local organisation BAWA (Bali Animal Welfare Association) to help another 1200 animals affected by the earthquakes in Indonesia.



Emergency Aid in the USA

In mid-September 2018, Hurricane Florence caused massive flooding in the US states of North and South Carolina, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. FOUR PAWS rapidly organised for five tonnes of donated items and food to be distributed to animal rescues and individuals who were affected by the floods.

In October, Hurricane Michael hit the state of Florida, reaching speeds of up to 220 kilometres an hour. The tropical storm left large parts of the state submerged in water, and 375,000 people had to be evacuated. An aid team from FOUR PAWS freed pets that had been left behind locked in homes; the rescued animals

were mainly dogs, but we also freed tortoises, pigs and birds. We also distributed a total of 6000 kilograms of food.

Outlook for 2019

Disaster relief for people and animals remains a key focus of the work of FOUR PAWS. Whenever there is a disaster anywhere in the world, the emergency aid team checks whether and how they can help. In 2019, we will continue to expand our networks and partnerships to enable us to respond as quickly as possible in a crisis and to work together with local partners. FOUR PAWS is keen to collaborate with government bodies and local communities to develop effective measures for disaster prevention. ■

19,000

kilograms of animal food were distributed by the emergency aid team.

3

times the mission team helped with devastating environmental disasters.

Fundraising

Reaching People

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

Security and Transparency

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

Letters to Donors

The FOUR PAWS foundation sends information out to its donors regularly. The aim is to tell them about the work of FOUR PAWS and at the same time embed an awareness of animal welfare deeper

in their consciousness. We also ask the addressees for donations for our projects and campaigns. We often also enclose petitions or protest postcards which recipients can use to show their commitment to our ideals.

Attracting New Donors

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

Telephone Calls and Sponsorship

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



651,864

donors support FOUR PAWS
in eight countries.



18,451

sponsors support
our work in eight countries.



PR Work

Education and Information

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

Dialogue with the General Public

All the national branches of FOUR PAWS engage in professional PR work. In addition to traditional media work, the organisation also uses social media channels to enter into direct dialogue with even more interested people. In 2018 the Facebook community had a total of 139,981 fans. Over 139,981 people followed the organisation on Twitter. The Instagram account was followed by 80,215 people and the FOUR PAWS YouTube channel had 8,610 followers. About 141,068 people subscribed to the newsletter. The national websites, in four different languages, recorded an average of 12,396 visitors a month in 2018.

Impact

FOUR PAWS projects and campaigns are regularly covered by the media. In 2018, attention focused on the rescue of ten wild animals from Safari Park Zoo in Albania, which made headlines more than 900 times in 50 different countries around the world. The fate of the Albanian zoo animals was followed by high-profile news outlets such as The Daily Mail, Fox News, The Independent, El País, New York Post, The Mirror, Metro, Newsweek, France TV, Corriere Della Serra, Die Welt, RTL, Le Parisien, La República, El Confidencial, The Japan Times, London Evening Standard, Kronen Zeitung, Die Zeit, Die Süddeutsche, ZDF, La Stampa, LAD Bible, Euronews, The New Zealand Herald, ORF, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 9News, The Daily Telegraph, National Geographic, Die Presse, as well as the big international news agencies AP (Associated Press), Reuters and AFP (Agence France-Presse).

The transfer of the lions rescued from Iraq and Syria to South Africa in 2018 also generated great interest. The final journey of the two war lions, Simba and Saeed, was reported in around 2,100 articles by media from over 50 countries, such as the BBC, The Washington Post, ABC Australia and The India Times. ■



European Politics

Lobbying for Animal Welfare

The FOUR PAWS European office provides a link between FOUR PAWS national offices in Europe and the political institutions of the EU. The office 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 or EU member states, providing advice on animal welfare topics, voicing concerns and making suggestions. Through this work, the team aims to improve the legislative framework for the welfare of animals in the EU.

Key Activities in 2018

EU Agricultural Policy

Last year, the European Union started the process of reviewing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that applies to its member states. One of the main goals of FOUR PAWS at this stage of the process was to ensure that animal welfare was incorporated into the EU Commission’s proposal for the new CAP as a specific objective. The FOUR PAWS European office helped delegates in the European Parliament to incorporate a number of other change proposals that go beyond this fundamental goal to improve animal welfare. In December 2018, the FOUR PAWS European office organised a round table meeting with the Austrian EU Council Presidency and the Eurogroup for Animals to discuss the abolition of cages in egg production. Heli Dungler, the founder of FOUR PAWS, explained to EU politicians how the organisation managed to achieve a ban on the use of cages in egg production in Austria in 2009. The event was intended to showcase Austria as an example for the other EU countries, with a view to banning cages for egg-laying hens across the European Union in the future.

Online Puppy Trade

In partnership with the Austrian EU Council Presidency and the Eurogroup for Animals, FOUR PAWS organised a conference on the illegal online puppy trade in Brussels in November 2018. The participants discussed a number of topics, including the possibility of an EU-wide legal registration requirement for all breeders and sellers of cats, dogs and ferrets. This kind of regulation could help to make the EU’s largely unregulated pet trade safer.

Illegal Animal Trade in the EU

After a tiger slaughtering facility was discovered in the Czech Republic following police raids in July 2018, representatives from the FOUR PAWS European office met with the Czech authorities and CITES units from the European Commission and Belgium. Thanks to the work of FOUR PAWS and other organisations, the Czech Republic is currently revising its legislation on the private keeping of wild animals.

Outlook for 2019

In 2019, the European office will continue to play a pivotal role in the political work of FOUR PAWS. We are aiming to improve animal welfare on a national and EU level. A major focus of our work in 2019 will be ensuring that individual pets can be traced to their sellers and owners, which will help to curb the sale of sick puppies across the EU. Throughout 2019, the European office will continue its political work in parallel with the negotiations on the future CAP. We will also be supporting the “End the Cage Age” European Citizens’ Initiative, which demands a ban on the use of cages for farm animals in all EU member states. ■



specialists attended the FOUR PAWS European office’s event on the illegal puppy trade.

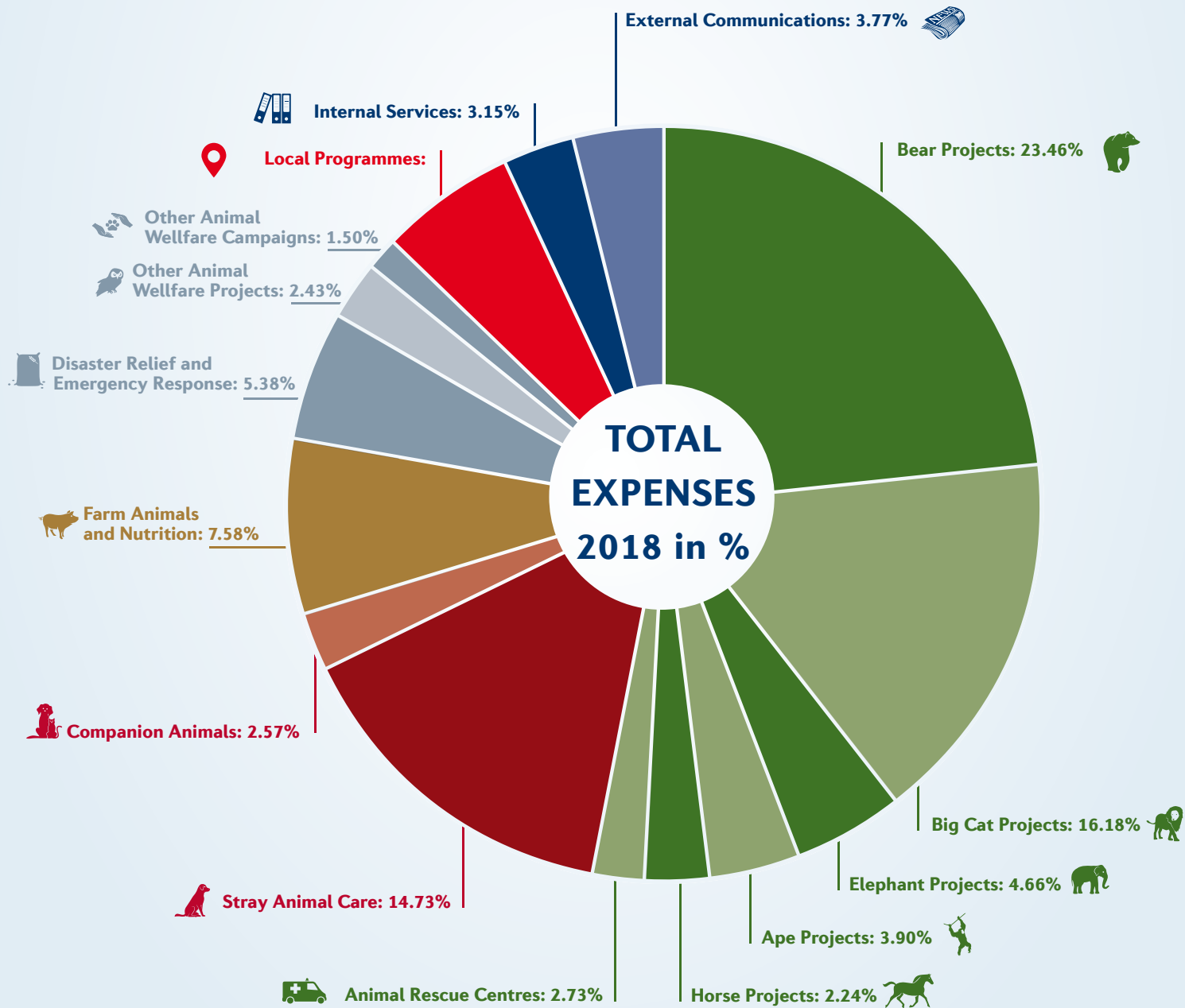
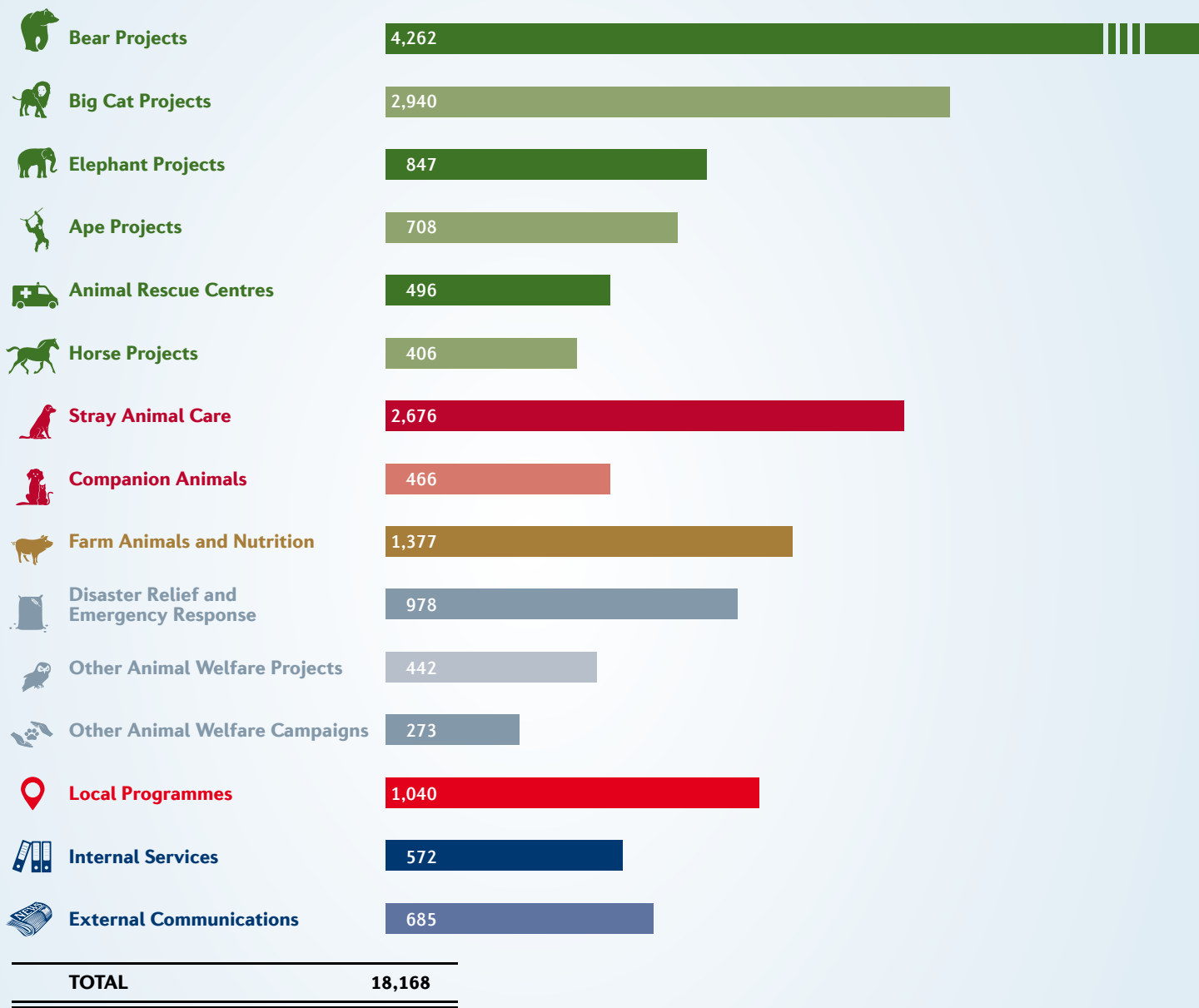


working groups of the EU Animal Welfare Platform included members of the FOUR PAWS European office.

Financial Report

For FOUR PAWS, quality is a top priority not only in our direct work with animals, but in all of our operations. Our processes help to develop and run strategic animal welfare campaigns, to organise aid in disaster zones and to conduct lobbying work effectively.

TOTAL EXPENSES 2018



Figures are in €000s (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.



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Donation Account

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