



FOUR PAWS – Foundation for Animal Welfare

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**



# Editorial



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## Dear readers,

2019 was an important year for agricultural animal welfare, with over 170 organisations across Europe campaigning for an EU-wide ban on keeping farm animals in cages. FOUR PAWS was one of the driving forces behind this movement, collecting around a third of the signatures required for the “End the Cage Age” European citizens’ initiative, totalling 350,000 supporters. In winter this year, we will see how seriously the EU Commission is taking this legal initiative and how it plans to put the end of the cage age on the political agenda. FOUR PAWS will continue to turn up the pressure, lobbying politicians to protect the health and wellbeing of farm animals in Europe.

Across the world, FOUR PAWS works to ensure that humans treat farm animals, wild animals and pets with the respect and empathy they deserve, taking into account the specific needs of each individual and species. In 2019, we were active in 22 countries and were able to help many animals in need. Our stray animal project teams, for example, treated over 21,000 homeless animals, and FOUR PAWS staff care for over 110 bears and 130 big cats each day. Dr Amir Khalil and his veterinary team were deployed to crisis zones, including the war-torn Gaza Strip, where they were able to save 47 animals from an abandoned zoo. In South-East Asia, FOUR PAWS has continued to build on its programme of aid for strays and has achieved its first major successes in our fight against the dog and cat meat trade.

Our annual report shows how we are using the donations you entrust to us to make a real difference to the lives of animals. I hope it will also give you a comprehensive insight into our work.

Over the past year, a great many people have contributed to the success of our campaigns and projects. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude.

Yours,

Josef Pfabigan  
FOUR PAWS Chief Executive Officer

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# The world of FOUR PAWS

## FOUR PAWS sanctuaries and clinics

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

## 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



### FOUR PAWS International

Headquarters in Vienna and offices in:



### Brussels (EPO – European Policy Office)



### FOUR PAWS National Offices 2019

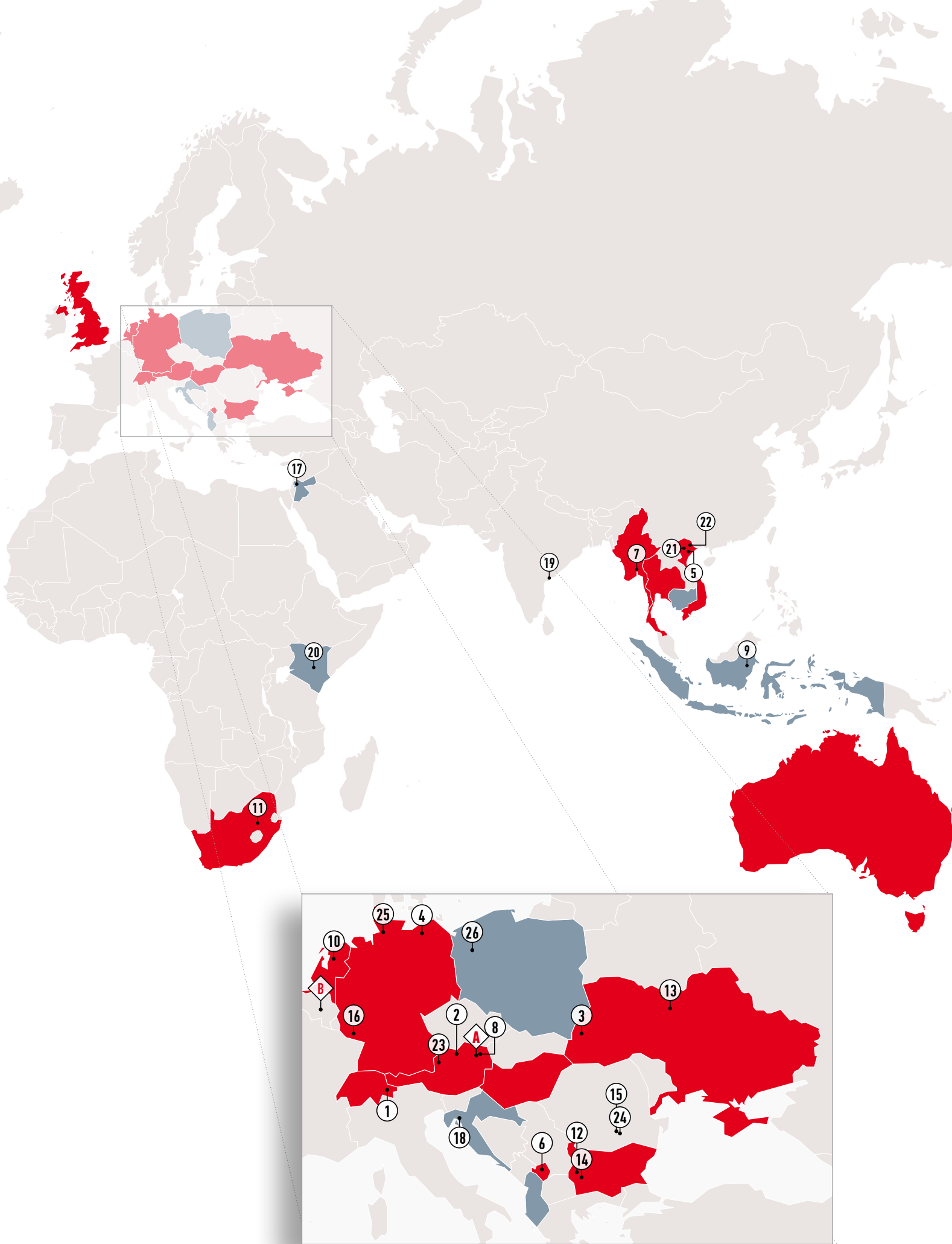
Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, Myanmar, Netherland, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, UK, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam



### Countries we operate in and partners in 2019

Albania, Cambodia, Croatia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Myanmar, Poland

All contact details can be found on pages 60 and 61.





# THE YEAR IN PICTURES







# Mission Statement

## 15 Countries – One Objective

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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 Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, Myanmar, the Netherlands, the UK, Ukraine, Switzerland, South Africa, Australia, Thailand, Vietnam and the USA. In addition, there is an office for European policy in Brussels.

### Mission Statement

The FOUR PAWS vision is of a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding. Our mission: FOUR PAWS is the global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them.

- 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 strive 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, companion animals 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. ■

# 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 want 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,

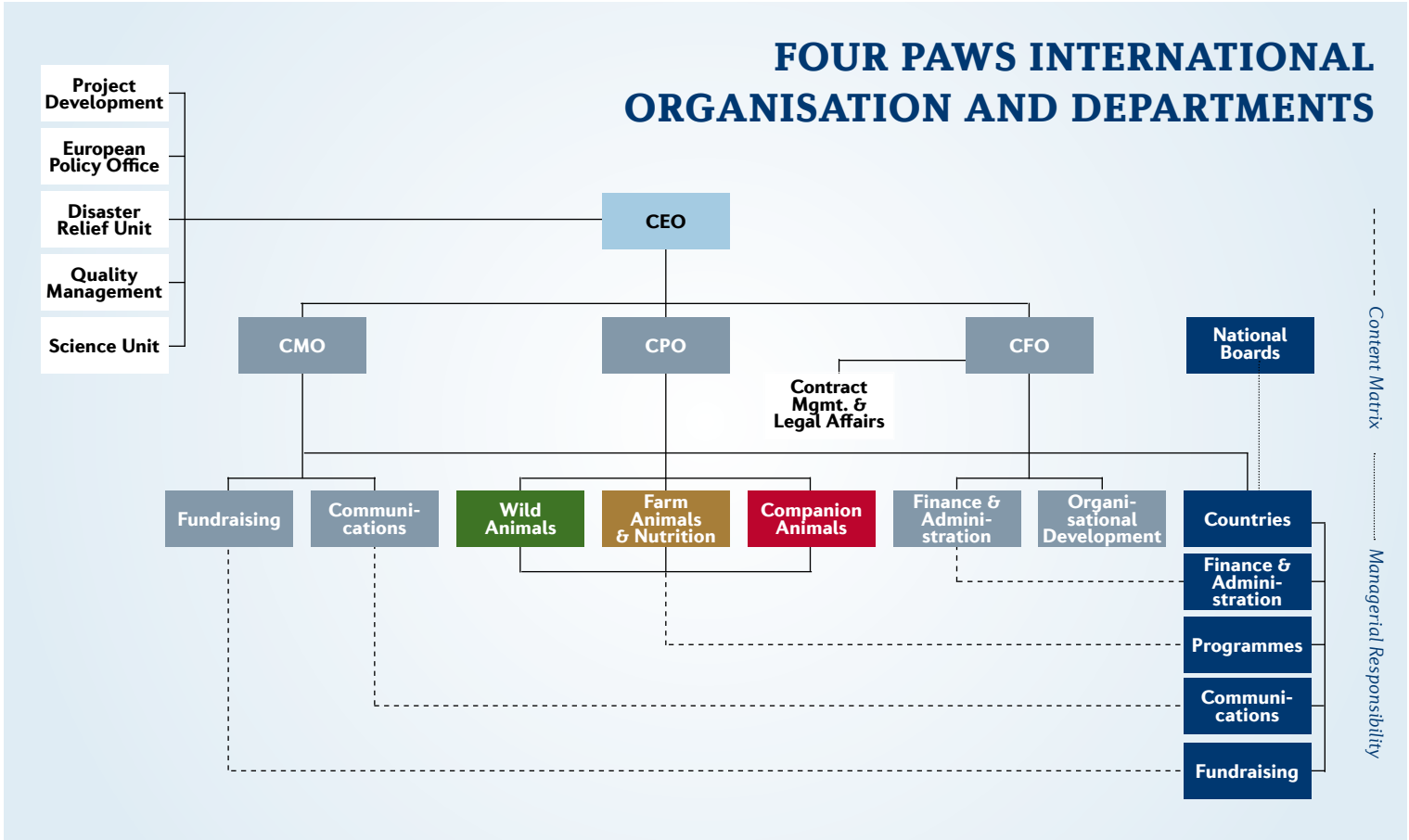
and the Chief Financial Officer, in charge of the departments of Finance, Administration and Organisational Development. The national FOUR PAWS branches are led by Directors in Countries who, with their national teams, embody the FOUR PAWS principle of “local empowerment”.

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 Department Directors and Directors in Countries. 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

In the FOUR PAWS Strategy 2020-2025, FOUR PAWS sets out the clear strategic principles that will guide our work over the coming years. The key vision behind all of these principles is to make a significant positive impact on the lives of animals affected by human activity across the globe. We need to reach a worldwide audience to encourage people to change their behaviour. To achieve the best protection for animals with the greatest possible efficiency, FOUR PAWS will continue to develop as an organisation, adapting our strategy to the ever-changing conditions in which we operate. ■

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# Help for bears

## Giving bears a species-appropriate life

### Background

Brown bears around the world are living in inhumane conditions in circuses, cages and zoos. They are often kept in enclosures that are small and featureless, 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, bears are tortured even in Europe. 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.

### Our aims

Bears living in poor conditions deserve a higher standard of care that is more appropriate to their needs. To provide long-term, sustainable aid to animals in Europe and Vietnam, FOUR PAWS is lobbying to get legal frameworks 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 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 bear sanctuaries operated by FOUR PAWS or one of its partner projects. 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 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 welfare of the bears should be the number one priority, over and above the purpose for which the animals are being kept and any desire to breed from them.

FOUR PAWS’ objectives for 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.

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

- The Vietnamese government must be held accountable for delivering on its promise to end bear farming in Vietnam.
- The Vietnamese people must be educated on the cruel practice of bear bile farming through educational campaigns.
- The FOUR PAWS bear sanctuary in the north of Vietnam, the 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 provide bears which have been rescued from poor conditions with a protected habitat that meets their natural needs. In spacious enclosures with lots of features replicated from nature, the animals can rediscover their instincts and follow their natural behaviour patterns. The bears can roam around, dig caves, swim



in ponds, look for food and hibernate, while experienced animal handlers provide daily stimulation to prevent or aid in the recovery from behavioural problems. The bears are fed using enrichment tools 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, the Kuterevo bear refuge in Croatia and the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Centre Soc Son in Vietnam. 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**

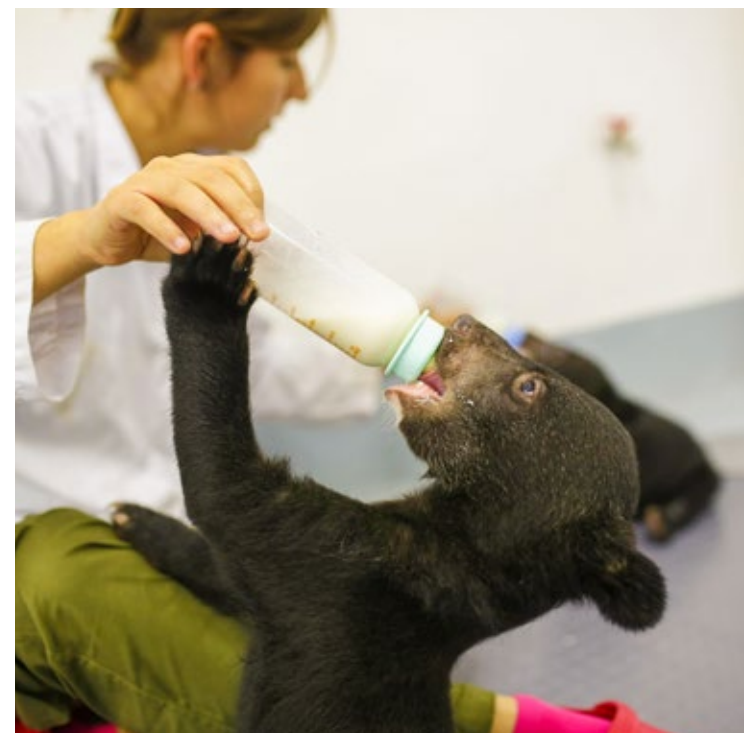
The first FOUR PAWS bear sanctuary was constructed in 1998 in Austria's wooded Waldviertel region. At the end of 2019, following the death of female bear Miri, BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach was home to six brown bears rescued from circuses and poor conditions in private ownership.

#### **BEAR SANCTUARY Müritzz**

BEAR SANCTUARY Müritzz in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, opened in 2006. Covering 16 hectares, it is the largest bear sanctuary in western Europe. The bears housed here had been living in inappropriate conditions in Albania, Germany, Poland and Serbia. Male bear Lothar passed away in 2019. Albanian bears Rocco and Dushi joined BEAR SANCTUARY Müritzz, taking the total number of brown bear inhabitants to seventeen by the end of 2019.

#### **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. Bears Nasko, Gabriela, Misho and Mariana died in 2019. Female bear Suzana – rescued from an illegal zoo in Croatia – and male bear Vesko from Sofia Zoo in Bulgaria joined the park. By the end of the year, DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa was home to 23 bears.

#### **BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina**

FOUR PAWS opened BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina in Kosovo in 2013 to provide appropriate living conditions for brown bears that had been kept illegally in restaurants and private mini-zoos.

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 housed a total of twenty bears in 2019. In summer 2019, young bear Andri – who was discovered as an orphan and transferred to FOUR PAWS by the Kosovan authorities – joined the forest.

#### **BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr**

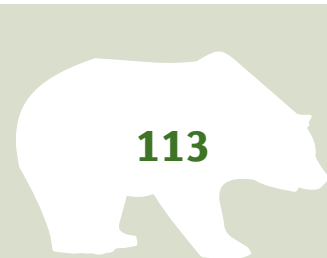
The keeping of bears without an official licence has been banned for many years in Ukraine. But in spite of the law, dozens of bears were still being kept captive in appalling conditions, mostly in restaurants and hotels. Thanks to the work of FOUR PAWS, the use of bears in dog fighting was banned in 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 2019, female bear Julia was transferred to the forest from the former Nadiya Bear Sanctuary. It also became home to former fighting bears Laska and Misha, as well as Lelya and Dasha, who were rescued from private ownership. At the end of the year, the site – which is currently spread over approximately 11 hectares of land – was home to fifteen bears housed in three spacious outdoor enclosures, and there are current plans to expand the sanctuary even further.

#### **BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh**

In Vietnam, there are around 450 bears still living on bear farms. Most of these bears are Asian black bears, which are still used for bile farming in spite of the fact that this practice is prohibited by Vietnamese law. FOUR PAWS and other organisations working in Vietnam want 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 approximately six hectares of land and can accommodate sixty bears rescued from bile farms. Plans are in place to gradually expand the site to offer new homes to around a hundred bears. In 2019, the sanctuary was home to 29 rescued bears.

#### **Arosa Bear Sanctuary**

Arosa Bear Sanctuary, Switzerland, which opened in 2018, 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. In 2019, bears Amelia and Meimo were transferred to the sanctuary and were successfully introduced to and socialised with the current resident, Napa.



bears were cared for by FOUR PAWS around the world.



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





## Key activities in 2019

The focus of FOUR PAWS' work in 2019 was the #saddestbears campaign, which aimed to highlight the plight of the many brown bears kept in captivity in Europe and their black bear counterparts in Vietnam. A key part of this campaign was a programme of public awareness and environmental education work to draw attention to the needs of these fascinating and demanding wild animals. FOUR PAWS has also been lobbying for progress on improvements to the law in relation to bears kept in human captivity. In countries such as Croatia and Ukraine, FOUR PAWS has worked to support the introduction of a ban on private bear-keeping. The campaign also aimed to bring an end to the “saddest” cases of poor bear-keeping and to transfer the animals to bear sanctuaries operated by FOUR PAWS or one of its partner projects. The geographical focus of the campaign was on Vietnam, Ukraine, South-East Europe and France. The #saddestbears initiative achieved some key successes at all levels. In Albania, bear poachers will now be pursued more diligently and be subject to more severe punishments for their crimes, while




the Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment signed a declaration of intent to build a bear sanctuary and wild animal rescue centre near the capital city of Tirana. FOUR PAWS provided the country's Minister for the Environment with a feasibility study for this project and will continue to monitor and support the process. In Croatia, FOUR PAWS reached an agreement with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy to bring an end to illegal bear-keeping. In July, bears Suzana and Bruno were rescued from captivity in illegal zoos. Unfortunately, there are still three animals stuck in illegal captivity because the Ministry has, since the rescue of Suzana and Bruno, ceased all efforts to deliver on its declaration of intent, in spite of pressure from FOUR PAWS.

France was another focal point of the FOUR PAWS #saddestbears campaign for bears in need. In November 2019, FOUR PAWS and French organisations Fondation Brigitte Bardot and AVES France submitted a petition with 170,000 signatures to delegates of the French National Assembly demanding a ban on bear shows.

## FOUR PAWS BEAR PROJECTS

in Europe ...

- ① Arosa Bear Sanctuary
- ② BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach
- ③ BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr
- ④ BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz
- ⑤ BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh
- ⑥ BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina
- ⑦ DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa
- ⑧ Poznań Zoo outdoor bear enclosure
- ⑨ Kuterevo bear refuge
- ⑩ Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Centre Soc Son

-  Bear sanctuaries
-  FOUR PAWS working as a government partner in Albania and Serbia
-  Collaborative projects

... and in Vietnam

Unfortunately, French circuses, festivals and markets continue to exploit bears as a source of entertainment for tourists and locals. The #saddestbears campaign allowed 32 bears in Vietnam, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Albania and Croatia to make a fresh start in life: following their rescue, they have been transferred to bear sanctuaries operated by FOUR PAWS or one of its partner projects. Another three bears who had been previously rescued from poor living conditions were also resettled in lifelong homes at one of the bear sanctuaries. Unexpectedly, the BEAR SANCTUARIES Ninh Binh and Prishtina welcomed three new young orphans into their groups. With the support of FOUR PAWS, three young Bulgarian bears were also released into the wild. After their rescue, the bears were cared for at an orphan rescue centre in Greece and prepared for a life in the wild.

Nine bears passed away in the sanctuaries in 2019, most of whom had reached old age. At the end of 2019, a total of 113 bears were in the care of FOUR PAWS.

## Outlook for 2020

FOUR PAWS plans to continue the #saddestbears campaign in 2020. In Vietnam and Ukraine, more bears will be rescued as part of this campaign. In Croatia, FOUR PAWS will lobby the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy to deliver on its promise to end illegal bear-keeping. The Albanian government will also receive support to help the country realise its plans for a bear sanctuary, and FOUR PAWS will work with the relevant political bodies in Ukraine to bring an end to the cruel practice of keeping bears at hunting stations. FOUR PAWS will continue its work to outlaw bear shows in France. The internal reorganisation of the FOUR PAWS wild animal team represents an important change: as part of the restructuring of the department, the bear and big cat teams will be merged to form a single unit known as “Wild Animals Rescue & Advocacy”. This change will enable FOUR PAWS to co-ordinate and pool its rescue and research activities in the most effective way. ■





# Big cat rescues

## New homes for animals freed 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 sale 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’.

For many years, FOUR PAWS has been working to bring an end to inappropriate conditions for big cats by campaigning for better legal protection in the relevant countries and by rescuing animals from captivity in particularly poor conditions. FOUR PAWS will only admit big cats to one of its own sanctuaries if the owners of the animal sign a contract to never keep big cats again.

### Our aims

FOUR PAWS aims to rescue abused 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 possible standards of care. Regular veterinary and dental examinations are provided at all our 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 has a particular odour or freeze chunks of meat in ice. These activities help to prevent boredom, frustration and the resulting behavioural problems that are so typical of animals kept in captivity. The big cats cared for in this protective environment can gradually overcome the stereotypical behaviours they have acquired and the trauma they have suffered in their previous lives. A total of 102 big cats rescued from poor conditions were living at LIONSROCK at the end of 2019, including 82 lions, seventeen 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 a big cat rescue centre housing 26 animals in the Dutch village of Nijebekoop. The centre, which has now been renamed FELIDA, specialises in caring for big cats with special needs. For example, the centre provides special therapy for severely traumatised animals rescued from war zones – for the rest of their lives if they need it – and with a full programme of monitoring and medical care. Once the animals are physically fit enough, they are prepared for their long journey to LIONSROCK. At the end of 2019, FELIDA was home to five lions and a tiger.

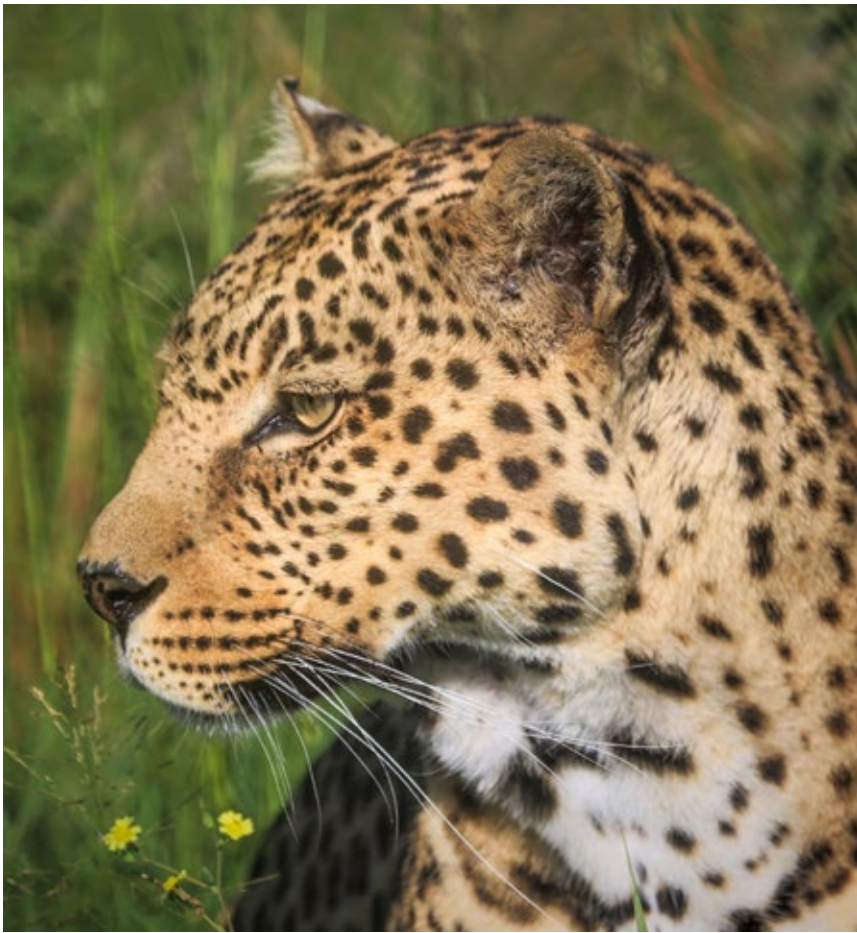
#### TIERART

FOUR PAWS is the main shareholder in the animal and species protection centre TIERART gGmbH in Germany. At the 14-hectare site in Maßweiler in the Rhineland-Palatinate region, FOUR PAWS provides care for a number of species, including big and small cats rescued from circuses or private captivity. The big cat centre consists of three enclosures covering a total area of about 2,800 square metres. Once the animals are fit enough, FOUR PAWS organises their transfer to LIONSROCK, where they can live out the rest of their lives in peace. At the end of 2019, TIERART was home to two rescued tigers and a puma.

#### Al Ma’wa for Nature and Wildlife

In Jordan, FOUR PAWS has been working with the Al Ma’wa for Nature and Wildlife sanctuary for many years. As of the end of 2019, the sanctuary – which was founded by the Princess Alia Foundation in partnership with FOUR PAWS – was home to a total of 23 lions, two tigers and four bears, all housed in spacious enclosures. The sanctuary offers tours to educate visitors about the specific needs of the rescued big cats.





### Key activities in 2019

At LIONSROCK, FOUR PAWS constructed a new lion enclosure and renovated four existing enclosures in line with the latest quality standards. For older big cats over the age of fifteen, FOUR PAWS built special enclosures designed to help the animals find their way around and to facilitate effective care by the team. Over the past year, LIONSROCK has welcomed seven new residents: a tiger from FELIDA in the Netherlands, two lions from the abandoned Rafah Zoo in the Gaza Strip, two tigers from the German animal and species protection centre TIERART and two lions from a breeding facility in South Africa. A total of 53 big cats were treated at the LIONSROCK veterinary clinic in 2019. Two big cats were transferred to a clinic in Pretoria for further treatment.

2019 saw the renovation of additional facilities at FELIDA to provide more space and enrichment for the animals. Over the course of the year, six big cats received veterinary treatment. In March, a tiger was prepared for its onward journey to LIONSROCK, and

in May, three lions from Albania were brought to their new home at the FELIDA big cat sanctuary.

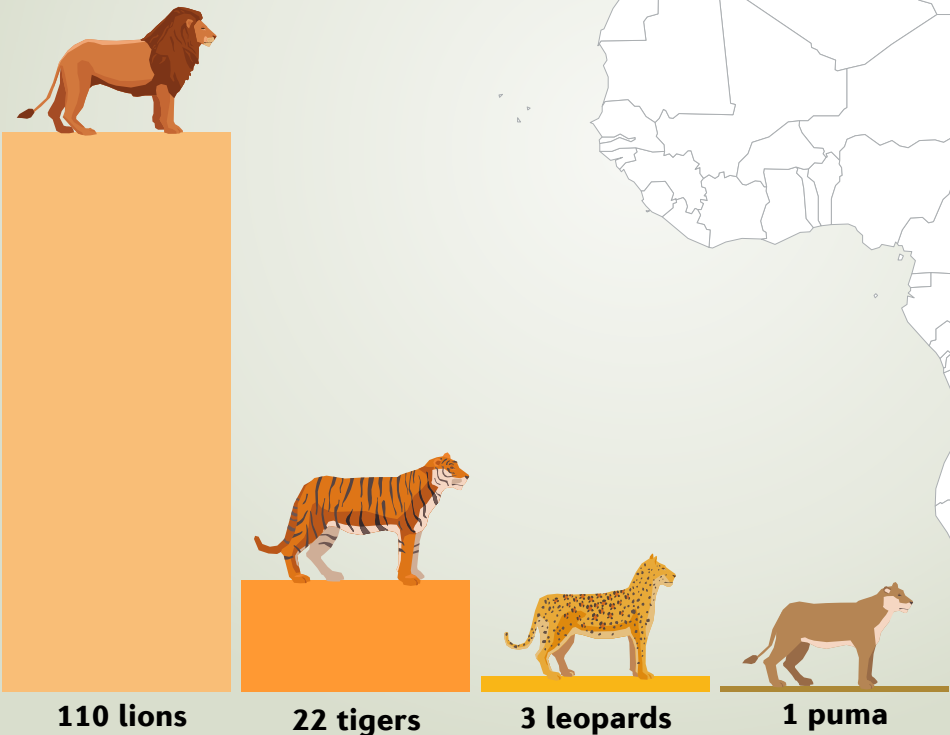
In February 2019, the animal and species protection centre TIER-ART took in a young puma rescued from illegal private captivity. In October, two tigers began their journey to LIONSROCK. A team of Danish dentists also fitted a crown to a broken tooth in another female tiger.

### Outlook for 2020

Over the next year, FOUR PAWS will continue to rescue lions, tigers and other big cats from poor conditions, providing these animals with happier and more appropriate homes in our sanctuaries. The 136 big cats under the care of FOUR PAWS will receive species-appropriate care and veterinary treatment. As many of the animals are approaching old age, providing appropriate care for senior big cats is a core focus of our animal care work.

## FOUR PAWS BIG CAT PROJECTS

- ① LIONSROCK Park and big cats clinic (SA):  
82 lions, 17 tigers, 3 leopards
- ② FELIDA big cat sanctuary (NL):  
5 lions, 1 tiger
- ③ TIERART wild animal sanctuary (GER):  
2 tigers, 1 puma
- ④ Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife (JOR):  
23 lions, 2 tigers



Animals that FOUR PAWS has rescued from traumatic conditions in war and crisis areas will receive special therapy. In 2020, FOUR PAWS is also planning to set up a database containing information on the big cats living in captivity in Europe.

The animal and species protection centre TIERART will host an exhibition on the topics of “Wild animals in circuses” and “Animals in war”. Visitors will be able to use interactive stations to learn more about the suffering that animals endure behind the scenes in circuses and in military environments. A new 800 square metre puma enclosure is in the pipeline, along with a new 1,500 square metre enclosure for orphaned lynx who are being prepared for a return to the wild. At LIONSROCK, nineteen chronically ill big cats receive a veterinary examination every month. Older enlo-

tures will be renovated and restructured to give the animals more space and to ensure that FOUR PAWS' high standards of quality are met. A number of enclosures will also be set up for animals with special needs.

At FELIDA, one of the outdoor enclosures will be renovated and restructured with climbing platforms and equipment for play and enrichment. A car port will be constructed for the big cat ambulance. Due to growth issues, lions Masoud and Terez will require examinations at a specialist veterinary clinic offering MRI scanning technology. In 2020, FOUR PAWS will finance the construction of an additional lion enclosure at Al Ma'wa, enabling the organisation to rescue even more animals from a life of suffering. ■





# Orang-utans in need

## Rescue centre and reintroduction project

### Background

Bornean orang-utans are a critically endangered species. Their habitat is shrinking at an alarming rate as 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. To add to their plight, up to 3,000 orang-utans are murdered on plantations every year by hunters who see them as a threat to their crops. Illegal animal dealers sell the defenceless babies as pets. Held in captivity, often in cramped cages and dressed in human clothing, the species that is our nearest genetic relative is deprived of its identity and dignity.

### Our aims

Since 2007, FOUR PAWS has been working in Borneo 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.

### The project

In 2014, the Indonesian Yayasan Jejak Pulang foundation (the 'Homecoming Foundation') was established with the help of FOUR PAWS. Thanks to an agreement with the Indonesian government's official nature conservation authority, FOUR PAWS and Jejak Pulang have been able to roll out a rehabilitation programme for orphaned orang-utans in East Kalimantan. The FOUR PAWS forest school was officially opened in 2018. Working in close partnership with the Indonesian forestry authorities, the local team provides new homes for endangered or confiscated baby orang-utans. Over the course of a year-long rehabilitation process, the young apes are individually prepared for a life of freedom back in the wild. New fosterlings are taken to the quarantine station as soon as they arrive and remain there for a period of two months. Any 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, they are taken 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 2019

#### Orang-utan forest school

Over the past year, eight orang-utans were cared for in the forest school and quarantine station. To provide the best possible conditions, FOUR PAWS has expanded its team with another two new members of staff. A total of 21 "surrogate mothers", two vets, a behavioural biologist and two primatologists now care for the orphaned animals.

In addition to caring for the orang-utan orphans, the expansion and improvement of the infrastructure in the forest school was a key focus during 2019. In February, work was completed on a suspension bridge, allowing the team and the orang-utans to safely cross the Saka Kanan river even if water levels are high. New platforms allow the surrogate mothers to spend the entire day in the trees with the orang-utan babies. A path connects the new platforms to the "Portacamp", where the youngest residents sleep each night. In 2019, all of the cages in the quarantine station were renovated. All employees of the Indonesian FOUR PAWS team received training appropriate for their role, covering topics such as the learning behaviours of wild orang-utans, recording rehabilitation-related



behavioural data, positive reinforcement training, first aid, preventing snake bites and climbing for beginners and advanced learners. Thanks to the loving care and skill of the experienced team, all orang-utan orphans made good progress in terms of learning and development. The oldest three pupils are now increasingly spending their nights in nests they have built themselves in the trees – a key milestone in their journey back to the wild.

At the start of the year, orang-utan Robin was diagnosed with a tumour; an operation to remove the tumour was completed successfully.

#### Protection project for gorillas in Gabon

Gorillas are the largest apes on the planet, and all of their subspecies are at risk of extinction. The western lowland gorilla, which inhabits the jungles of central Africa, is at particularly high risk from illegal bushmeat hunters and poachers who steal baby gorillas to sell them on as pets. The natural habitat of the western lowland gorilla is also being steadily destroyed by the mineral industry and the construction of mines. To protect the wild population of gorillas in the Fernan-Vaz region of Gabon, FOUR PAWS provided financial funding to the Fernan-Vaz Gorilla Project in 2019. This support from FOUR PAWS enabled the project to expand the re-

habilitation centre used to raise orphaned gorillas and prepare them for reintroduction into the wild.

### Outlook for 2020

Over the past year, FOUR PAWS has continued working to identify a location for the reintroduction of the orang-utan orphans into the wild. Ecological, social and topographical data has been collected and a formal application will be submitted to the relevant authorities at the start of 2020. To date, interactions with the local population have been promising. Various authorities have indicated that there is no reason why the protection zone where FOUR PAWS hopes to reintroduce the orang-utans on completion of their education cannot be expanded. However, FOUR PAWS will be required to ensure that the area is adequately protected; we will do so via the Jejak Pulang foundation and by employing security staff. In 2020, FOUR PAWS is planning to look after further orphaned orang-utans under the umbrella of the Jejak Pulang foundation. In total, the forest school can accommodate around thirty orang-utans.

The protection project for gorillas in Gabon will continue to receive funding until at least 2023. ■

8  
orang-utan orphans were  
cared for in the project.

26  
people worked in the  
forest school team.





# Help for horses

## Improved living and working conditions

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### Background

In many countries across the world, horses are deployed as working animals. However, their owners often lack the financial resources and basic knowledge required to properly care for the animals and provide appropriate food, equipment and medical treatment in an emergency. In Romania and Jordan, FOUR PAWS has established aid projects to improve the living conditions of these horses.

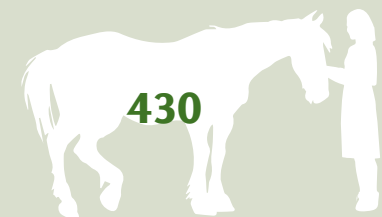
#### Romania: Working horses

In 2017, FOUR PAWS commenced a pilot project to help working horses in some of the poorest regions of Romania. Since then, veterinary treatment has been provided for a total of 430 horses

in the Roma community of Smârdioasa and the surrounding villages. 400 horses were fitted with new shoes and 100 had their teeth filed, allowing them to eat pain-free.

#### Romania: Wild horses

The Danube Delta in eastern Romania is one of the largest deltas in Europe. A few years ago, conservationists and local authorities were afraid that the growing horse population could destroy the unique flora in the biosphere reserve, and as a solution planned to cull the horses. Just in time, 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 has been repeated at regular intervals since 2012.



working horses received medical treatment in Romania.



working horses and donkeys were vaccinated against parasites in Jordan.

### Jordan

In Jordan, around 1,350 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 FOUR PAWS project began back in 2015, the working animals were often exposed to the unrelenting rays of the sun for hours on end, and many were suffering from exhaustion, lameness and colic. Together with the Jordanian Princess Alia Foundation and the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority, 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, and many working animals have received veterinary care and have had their shoes replaced.

### Our aims

A top priority for FOUR PAWS is to clarify misunderstandings and prevent any further suffering to animals. To raise awareness of the needs of horses and donkeys and to ensure that these needs remain in focus in the long term, FOUR PAWS works closely with authorities and communities to improve the wellbeing of these working animals. As part of its horse protection work, FOUR PAWS co-operates with two partner organisations: in 2018, we joined forces with the Animal Rescue and Care Association in Romania, and we have been working with the Princess Alia Foundation in Jordan since 2015.

### Key activities in 2019

#### Romania: Working horses

In 2019, FOUR PAWS continued the aid project for working horses in the south of the country, in partnership with the Romanian Animal Rescue and Care Association. From June to August and in October, a total of 200 animals were examined and treated in the communities of Smârdioasa, Piatra Olt and Frumoasa. In addition to carrying out health checks, the veterinarians vaccinated all of the horses against parasites, and many were fitted with new shoes. The owners of the working horses were given detailed advice on how to care for their animals.

In September, FOUR PAWS supported the organisation Save the Horses Romania, which rescued forty horses over the course of the year. Vets from the Animal Rescue and Care Association treated the animals at the organisation's sanctuary in Bucharest, and twenty horses were sterilised.

#### Romania: Wild horses

The humane birth control programme rolled out near Letea in the Danube Delta is now in its sixth season. The mares were given a contraceptive that will make them infertile for a year. In April, FOUR PAWS carried out its annual counting exercise from the air, showing that with a total of 440 wild horses, the population is stable to slightly declining.

In May, FOUR PAWS held information events on animal and environmental protection in the local villages, and offered residents veterinary assistance free of charge. Nine studs were sterilised as part of this campaign.

In 2019, FOUR PAWS also collaborated with Austrian influencer Helga Olga Luise Meier (<https://TravellingVet.Blog>), bringing a famous supporter on board with the Letea project for the first time.

### Jordan

In the city of Petra, more than one hundred working horses and donkeys were examined and vaccinated against parasites over the course of last year. Where necessary, the animals were also given further medical treatment: vets from the Princess Alia Foundation and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (J.U.S.T.) tended to wounds, treated cases of colic and lameness and performed fertility tests on mares. Many of the horses were fitted with new shoes.

In December, the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA) invited FOUR PAWS and the Princess Alia Foundation to a meeting to discuss working horses in Petra. At this meeting, the PDTRA announced that, from January 2020, it would gradually be replacing all horse-drawn carts with electric vehicles. This is a major milestone in animal welfare in the country, and is testament to the many years of commitment and hard work put in by FOUR PAWS and the Princess Alia Foundation. It will spur on all of the organisations involved to achieve even more for these animals.

### Outlook

#### Romania: Wild horses

The birth control programme for the wild horses in the Danube Delta will be continued in 2020. Up to 150 mares will be given a new immunocontraceptive that will make them infertile for three years. Meanwhile, FOUR PAWS is putting long-term plans in place to hand over primary responsibility for the project to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority to ensure lasting protection for wild horses in the country.

#### Romania: Working horses

From June to September 2020, FOUR PAWS will continue to work with the Romanian Animal Rescue and Care Association to improve conditions for working and transport horses in the poorest Roma communities in Romania. In addition to further aid projects in Smârdioasa, Frumoasa, Soimu and Piatra Olt, the organisation is also planning educational events in schools.

### Jordan

In Jordan, too, FOUR PAWS is aiming to further improve conditions for the country's hard-working horses in 2020. Vets from FOUR PAWS and the Princess Alia Foundation will once again examine and treat working horses over the course of the year. There are also plans to provide proper care advice to even more animal owners and to train local blacksmiths and vets. ■

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# Native wild animals in danger

## Wild animal centres save lives

### Background

Every day, native wild animals are harmed by the products of human civilisation: high-voltage cables, window panes, barbed wire, litter, polluted water and road traffic can all be a death sentence for wildlife. Tens of thousands of injured and orphaned wild animals are brought into German and Austrian shelters each year in need of urgent help. But these shelters are often unable to meet the demanding needs of wild animals because they specialise in pets. In wild animal 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 centres plays a critical role not only in the individual lives of the animals it saves, but also in the conservation of native wildlife species.

### Wild animal centres

#### **OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee (Austria)**

The OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee was founded in 1975 as a sanctuary and rescue centre for injured and orphaned wild birds. The centre cares primarily for owls and birds of prey, but also helps other wild birds, hares, hedgehogs, otters, bats, turtles and other small wild animals across its 1.2-hectare 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 gGmbH in the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. With 14 hectares of land at its disposal, the centre is the largest privately operated wild

animal sanctuary in Germany. TIERART places a high value on providing professional animal care for native wild animals, offering species-appropriate accommodation in over 3.4 hectares of individually designed enclosures for a wide range of wild animal species. While being nursed back to health for release, the abandoned, sick or injured animals are looked after by a team of five animal carers and two biologists. The most common patients at the centre are foxes, badgers, 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 33 abandoned raccoons. The centre is also a permanent home for five tame red foxes and a silver fox rescued from private captivity. In 2017, working in partnership with the EU LIFE lynx project, TIERART opened a rescue centre for lynxes. The centre takes in and cares for injured or abandoned lynxes from the repopulation programme before releasing them into the Palatinate Forest. TIERART also looks after farm animals that have been seized or left behind. The centre is currently home to over forty sheep and goats.

#### **Wildtier- und Artenschutzzentrum gGmbH (Germany)**

FOUR PAWS supports the wild animal and species protection centre located 30 kilometres north-east of Hamburg, providing funding of at least 100,000 euros each year since the centre was founded in 2010. As the only site of its kind in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, the centre has become the region's primary rehabilitation facility for native wild animals. The team provides wild animals in need with care that is species-appropriate and as close to nature as possible, enabling them to make a full return to fitness for life in the wild. In some instances, very severely injured wild animals, exotic animals and farm animals that have been found abandoned or seized are transferred to partner centres and other recognised animal rescue organisations. The 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.

### Our aims

Around 80 percent 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





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

### Key activities in 2019

#### OWL AND BIRD OF PREY CENTRE, Haringsee

The Owl and Bird of Prey Centre in Haringsee admitted a total of 1,851 wild animals in 2019, including 409 hedgehogs. Of the

animals taken into its care, 1,574 have already been successfully released into the wild. Many of the wild animals require additional care from the experienced team, including 141 hedgehogs, who will remain at the centre over the winter. A further 167 wild animals originally admitted the previous year were also successfully released back into the wild. A large owl aviary and a pigeon aviary were constructed, and an escape-proof fence was erected around the otter pond.

#### TIERART gGmbH Animal and Species Sanctuary

In 2019, TIERART employees constructed new enclosures for young foxes, martens and squirrels, and commenced work on a new raccoon station. During the year, the TIERART team were called to over 280 rescue attempts. They also received hundreds of emergency calls from across Germany, and provided information, behavioural guidance and care instructions to help the animals and the people who discovered them. The centre rescued and successfully released a total of 132 native wild animals last year, including wild cats, lynxes, foxes, martens, squirrels, dormice, hedgehogs, deer and hares. Due to a lack of space, the centre was only able to accept three new raccoons as permanent residents in 2019. In 2019,

TIERART also rescued six sheep from cruel conditions in circuses or which had been confiscated from private owners. Over 3,500 visitors, including a number of schools and kindergartens, visited the centre for a tour.

#### Wildtier- und Artenschutzzentrum gGmbH

The wild animal centre rescued a total of 2,257 wild animals from life-threatening situations in 2019. Around 60 percent of the animals admitted were successfully released back into the wild. A number of local authorities from other regions called on the services of the centre to help accommodate exotic escapees including snakes, turtles, tortoises and lizards. 2019 saw the construction of a special enclosure with a hut for these residents. Two severely mistreated domestic pigs were also given a new, species-appropriate home at the wild animal centre in 2019. During the past year, the centre has commenced construction work on two aviaries for birds of prey and owls; the aviaries are scheduled for completion in 2020. Throughout the year, the wild animal centre continued to organise regular guided tours for the public and held educational nature-related events for kindergarteners, school children, youth groups and adults.

#### Otter campaign

In Austria, otters benefit from strict protection under the law. However, in November 2019, new regulations came into force in Lower Austria and Carinthia allowing hunters to shoot up to fifty otters a year. In November, hot on the heels of the new law, WWF Austria and FOUR PAWS launched a petition at [www.wwf.at/de/fischotter-petition](http://www.wwf.at/de/fischotter-petition) to reverse the controversial shooting law. Media campaigns were organised to inform the public.

### Outlook for 2020

In 2020, the wild animal centres will continue to care for all wild animals in need, with the ultimate goal of releasing them back into nature.

At the OWL AND BIRD OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee, existing enclosures are in need of repair. The centre is aiming to complete another large aviary to accommodate even more animals.

TIERART will work with the Ministry of the Environment, the WWF and the Foundation for Nature and the Environment to build a new enclosure for orphaned lynxes. The young lynxes will then have access to over 1,500 square metres of space. The wild cat enclosures will be replaced, and the new raccoon station is due to be opened in the spring.

FOUR PAWS will continue its partnership with the wild animal and species protection centre. To meet the needs of the ever-growing number of animals in its care, the centre is planning to construct new enclosures and aviaries for owls and birds of prey, small mammals and songbirds, as well as a new facility for patients requiring more intensive care. A seminar room and green classroom will also be built, enabling the centre to expand its educational programme.

In 2020, FOUR PAWS will continue its work to end otter hunting in Austria, using media and public information campaigns to collect even more signatures for the ongoing petition. ■

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native wild animals were admitted to the wild animal centres.



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





### Campaigns in 2019

In Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany and South Africa, FOUR PAWS supports the Fur Free Retailer Programme ([furfreeretailer.com](http://furfreeretailer.com)). The programme certifies retailers, fashion companies and designers who have entered into a binding agreement to refrain from using or selling real fur. Across the world, over a thousand companies have already signed up to the initiative. Over the past year, FOUR PAWS was able to recruit thirteen new companies to the programme, including international fashion label Marc Cain. As a member of the Fur Free Alliance (FFA), an international coalition of leading animal and environmental protection organisations, FOUR PAWS supported a campaign against real fur at luxury label Prada. As a result, the global Prada Group agreed to remove fur from all its collections from March 2020. As an FFA member, FOUR PAWS also successfully lobbied the Serbian parliament for a ban on fur farming. The new law came into force in January 2019.

In Germany, Austria and Australia, FOUR PAWS worked independently and with other organisations to investigate fur labelling practices in retail and at markets. In Germany, 78 percent of the

samples did not satisfy the requirements of the EU Textile Regulation; in Austria, labelling was non-compliant on 100 percent of the market stalls checked. In Australia, laboratory analyses carried out on behalf of FOUR PAWS found real fur DNA in fashion items that were labelled as fur-free.

### Outlook for 2020

In January, in partnership with other organisations, FOUR PAWS organised a panel discussion in the European Parliament to present a new report published by the international Fur Free Alliance. The report highlighted significant shortcomings in the new certification programme for the fur industry (WelFur). In 2020, 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. In Australia, Germany and Austria, further research will be conducted into the labelling requirements for real fur products; in Bulgaria, FOUR PAWS will campaign and lobby for a national ban on fur farming. ■

## Fur farming campaign

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### Fashion without fur



#### Background

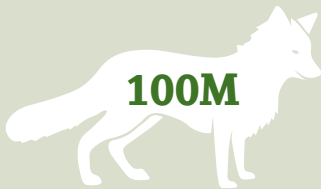
Every year, about a hundred million mink, foxes, raccoons and other animals suffer and die on fur farms all over the world. They are kept in tiny wire cages, where the mesh floors injure their sensitive paws and faeces and urine build up underneath. The animals live in a state of constant stress, with many suffering behavioural problems or developing self-mutilation 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.

Since its founding, FOUR PAWS has worked to help fur animals, 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 Germany's last remaining facility closed in March 2019.

#### Our aims

The long-term goal is to see a Europe without fur farms and without fur in fashion. To achieve this vision, FOUR PAWS is campaigning for an EU-wide ban on keeping animals for fur, a legal obligation to label all fur products – clearly indicating the species, geographical origin and welfare conditions of the animals – and, in the long term, a Europe-wide ban on the import and sale of all furs and fur products.



wild animals are killed for their fur each year.



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





# The tiger trade in the EU

30

## A ruthless business

### Background

Although there are currently only around 3,900 tigers left in the wild, over 20,000 are living out 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, the sale of animals born in captivity for commercial purposes is permitted. Across Europe, tigers are still being bred and then abused as performers in circuses or used as props for photoshoots. 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 killed so that their bodies can be turned into questionable 'medicines' 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 one kilo of tiger bones sells for around 1,700 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.

### Our aims

FOUR PAWS is demanding an EU-wide ban on the commercial trade in tigers, their body parts and goods produced from tiger body

parts, as well as a ban on exports from the EU to third countries. Tigers should only be bred by scientifically managed zoos within the framework of an official breeding programme for species conservation purposes. Live tigers should only be transferred between zoos that have signed up to this programme and between animal sanctuaries that do not breed from rescued animals.

### Key activities in 2019

In early 2019, FOUR PAWS published its comprehensive "Protect Our Tigers" report on the legal and illegal tiger trade in the EU, and sent copies to the relevant authorities in all EU member states. As a result, multiple countries acknowledged that the tiger trade in the EU is problematic. Representatives from the Czech Republic and Malta met with FOUR PAWS on multiple occasions. At the end of the year, the European Commission finally announced that it would review its measures against the uncontrolled trade. In the lead-up to the CITES CoP18 species protection conference held in Geneva in May 2019, FOUR PAWS confronted international stakeholders and parties who had signed up to the CITES agreement, presenting them with its research into the tiger trade in the EU, with the aim of ending the trade in tigers and their body parts once and for all. This demand was supported by public informa-

tion work and lobbying. At CoP18, FOUR PAWS also organised an additional event on the topic of "The tiger trade in the EU", providing an opportunity to explain the issue to a global audience. In October, FOUR PAWS exposed a Lithuanian dealer ring involved in the illegal tiger trade. On the site of a private zoo, baby tigers were being kept in wooden crates and sold at just a few months old for around 6,000 euros each. The required documents were being forged on demand. This discovery, along with far-reaching campaigns in Hamburg and in London, generated a large amount of media interest. By 31 December 2019, more than 205,000 people had signed the petition at [www.vier-pfoten.de/tigerhandel](http://www.vier-pfoten.de/tigerhandel).

### Outlook for 2020

FOUR PAWS will step up its research into the illegal tiger trade in the EU and expand its investigations to other member states. A second report with up-to-date figures on tigers in private captivity in Europe will be published in March. FOUR PAWS will continue to lobby the EU member states and is planning an event in the European Parliament. We will also support a Swiss production company making a television documentary entitled "The Tiger Mafia". From summer 2020, FOUR PAWS plans to use the film in its public information work. ■

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products containing ingredients obtained from tiger body parts were seized in the EU between 1999 and 2017.



is the selling price of a tiger on the Asian black market.





# Protection for elephants

## ELEPHANTS LAKE – Asian elephant sanctuary

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### Background

There are fewer than 2,000 Asian elephants still living in the wild in Myanmar. Elephant herds in the South-East Asian country have been decimated by poaching, the destruction and fragmentation of their habitat and through conflict with humans. A significantly higher number of elephants – around 5,000 – are spending their lives in captivity. Around 2,900 of these elephants are working animals owned by Myanmar Timber Enterprise, a government-owned organisation. For decades, these animals were forced to drag heavy tree trunks through the jungle, until the teak industry was abandoned in 2016 as a result of stricter environmental conservation laws and bans on wood exports. Since then, most of the elephants have been “unemployed” and are at risk of being sold to companies in the tourism industry in neighbouring countries.

### The project

In 2017, the government of Myanmar signed a memorandum of understanding drawn up by FOUR PAWS. The shared goal of both parties is to identify a long-term, sustainable solution for the former working elephants and their “oozies” (the Burmese term for elephant carers or mahouts). The ELEPHANTS LAKE sanctuary offers a new home to former working elephants, enabling them to live out the rest of their lives in a natural, species-appropriate environment free of chains. The sanctuary provides a permanent home for elephants who cannot be released into the wild, and provides temporary accommodation for those who can be released after rehabilitation. It also takes in and cares for orphaned baby elephants and injured wild elephants. FOUR PAWS is planning to construct an elephant hospital with a mobile clinic at the site.

The sanctuary site is adjacent to a huge lake, on land made available by the forestry commission of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The state-owned Myanmar Timber Enterprise will transfer its former working elephants to the care of FOUR PAWS.

Experienced wild animal vets and former oozies will be trained to provide the highest standards of care for the elephants. Step by step, the animals at ELEPHANTS LAKE gradually learn to follow their instincts. The aim of the rehabilitation process is to release the elephants into newly merged herds in the nearby North Tsar Ma Yi forest reserve.

### Key activities in 2019

Last July, FOUR PAWS welcomed its first resident at ELEPHANTS LAKE: 53-year-old female elephant Kyaw Nu, who had spent most of her life working in the tough conditions of a timber warehouse. At ELEPHANTS LAKE, she may be able to act as a matriarch for a small group of elephants. Kyaw Nu was closely followed later in July by two young orphaned forest elephants: Khin Myint Win (aged four) and Min Kauk Ya (aged five). Due to their young age, neither of the pair had been trained for working roles.

In November, Moe Hnin Phyu (aged 17) and Moe Thaw Tar (estimated to be between 20 and 25 years of age) joined the group from Yangon Zoo, where they had been kept in a concrete enclosure for over ten years.

On their arrival at ELEPHANTS LAKE, all of the elephants were examined by a team of vets. Generally, the new residents were found to be in a good state of health. Moe Hnin Phyu and Moe Thaw Tar are still receiving regular treatment for foot damage they have suffered as a result of spending years standing on concrete.

All five elephants at ELEPHANTS LAKE were initially placed in temporary enclosures. In 2019, FOUR PAWS completed a facility to accommodate baby elephants requiring care. The elephants’ own specially constructed larder was fully stocked with rice, salt, sugar cane, bananas and vegetables. FOUR PAWS also provided temporary accommodation for the elephant carers on the project site. ■







# 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.

## Our aims

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

## 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 teams catch stray dogs and cats and transport them to a FOUR PAWS clinic or mobile clinic. At the clinic, the animals are neutered under anaesthetic, vaccinated and chipped; 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 up rescued strays to become therapy dogs. After starting in Romania, the project was expanded to Bulgaria in 2016 and Ukraine in 2018. People living with psychological conditions or physical disabilities often find it easier to establish a connection with dogs than with other people. Working with animals helps them to regain their confidence and start to enjoy life again. In turn, the dogs benefit from a level of attention and care that they could never have dreamed of during life on the streets. These projects also help to improve the image of strays among the general population.

## Key activities in 2019

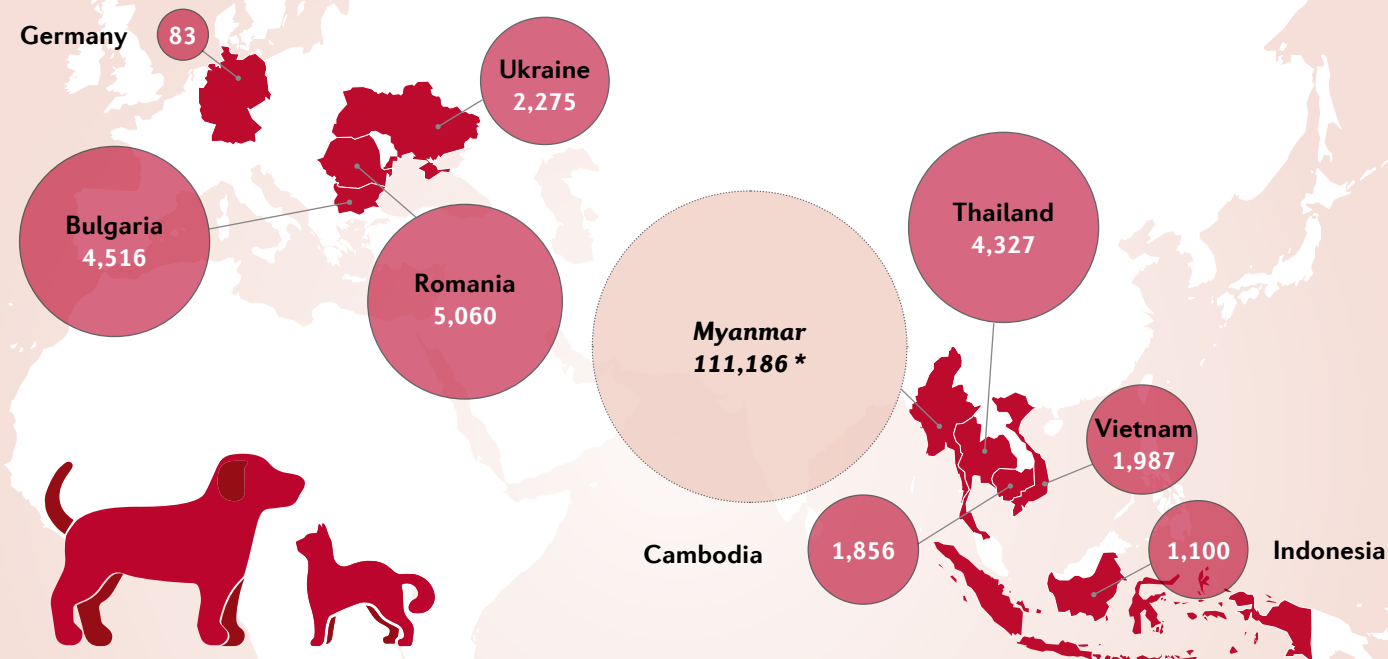
Over the past year, FOUR PAWS has neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and provided medical treatment for 21,204 stray animals. The stray aid teams worked in a total of nine countries: Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and Germany.

### Helping strays in South-East Asia

In Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam, FOUR PAWS worked with local animal welfare organisations to save the lives of countless animals in need. In 2019, the teams treated 9,270 dogs and cats in these countries, many of which were neutered at the same time. The teams also provided training for vets and ran campaigns to raise awareness. During a major rabies vaccination



## THE FOUR PAWS 2019 STRAY AID PROGRAMME



Across the world, the teams from FOUR PAWS treated 21,204 dogs and cats.

\* In Myanmar, 111,186 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies.

drive in Myanmar, 111,186 dogs and cats were vaccinated against this deadly virus.

In Vietnam, more than a million pet and stray cats fall victim to the meat trade each year. To help protect these animals, FOUR PAWS partnered with local organisations Vietnam Cat Welfare and PAWS for Compassion in 2019 to found the "Cats Matter Too" programme. By offering free neutering, vaccinations and information on safe pet-keeping practices, as well as executing targeted rescues, the teams were able to save many cats from the meat industry in the cities of Da Nang and Hoi An. They also treated a total of 1,987 cats, most of whom were neutered as part of their treatment. Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in Asia, and there is virtually no provision for veterinary care; many people are not financially able to care for their pets. As a result, dogs and cats are often abandoned at Buddhist temples or pagodas, in the hope that the impoverished monks will take care of them – but unfortunately, this is not usually what happens. To help these animals, FOUR PAWS launched the "Saving Pagoda Animals" programme.

Working together with Buddhist monks and nuns, we rescued and cared for a total of 1,856 dogs and cats abandoned at 32 pagodas during 2019. In co-operation with the Royal University of Agriculture in Phnom Penh, we also supported the training of three young Cambodian vets, enabling them to learn how to neuter and care for stray animals.

In Thailand, FOUR PAWS looks after strays in partnership with the "Thailand's Forgotten Dogs" aid programme. In 2019, the local team cared for 4,327 injured, sick and needy dogs and cats in Bang Saphan. In addition to neutering and providing medical treatment for these animals, educating the public is a major part of the team's work.

On the Indonesian island of Bali, FOUR PAWS worked with various partners from the healthcare sector to found the Dharma programme. The aim of this programme is to improve the wellbeing of people and dogs in the communities of eastern Bali. The Karangasem Regency community is one of the poorest on the island



and, in addition to a flourishing dog meat trade, it has the highest number of reported rabies cases in humans. The program aims to reduce the risk of rabies in humans and in dogs in Bali through the implementation of various measures, including vaccinations against rabies, free neutering of pets and strays and the establishment of an animal health clinic. We also worked with partner organisation Jakarta Animal Aid Network to develop the first ever complete animal protection education platform in the Indonesian language. In the Indonesian region of Borneo, the FOUR PAWS team joined forces with Pro Natura to neuter 430 stray cats and dogs in quarterly sterilisation campaigns. We also administered preventive vaccinations and worming treatments to more than 1,100 stray animals, helping to protect threatened native wild species against diseases that could further decimate their populations.

Myanmar is home to over four million stray dogs. Rabies is widespread, and almost a thousand people a year die from this fatal disease. The brutal mass killings of strays that have taken place in the past have not helped to solve the problem. Since 2018, FOUR PAWS has been working on a major rabies vaccination campaign in close partnership with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) and partner organisations and authorities in the country. Within three years, the project will have vaccinated a million dogs and cats against rabies. By supporting these efforts, FOUR PAWS is helping Myanmar to achieve its goal of completely eradicating rabies in the country by 2030. An additional 173 local vaccination assistants from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the MOALI have been trained to ensure the suc-

cess of the programme. From June to the end of the year, 111,186 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies in Myanmar. Through events, media reports and poster campaigns, FOUR PAWS also worked to raise awareness among decision-makers and the wider public of the need for a sustainable rabies prevention programme.

### Helping strays in Eastern Europe

In Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine, FOUR PAWS runs in-patient veterinary clinics for strays, which treat street animals every day. From March to November, the teams also took our mobile animal clinics out on the road. In these three countries, thirty further local authorities committed to a humane treatment policy for their stray animal populations; with the support of FOUR PAWS, these communities were able to treat and neuter their strays. In 2019, a total of 11,851 dogs and cats were neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and treated by our clinical teams in eastern Europe. 4,516 of these animals were in Bulgaria, with a further 2,275 in Ukraine and 5,060 in Romania.

In addition to neutering, the FOUR PAWS teams also rescue dogs and cats that are injured or sick. Most of our patients have been victims of road accidents, but some have been shot at or deliberately harmed by people. During their stays in our clinics, we give these animals the love, care and attention they need to recover, with treatment often lasting many months. Once they are back to full health, they are rehomed with responsible new owners. In Romania, FOUR PAWS also supports the Speranta shelter, which houses almost 600 former stray dogs who are now waiting for their new families.



21,204

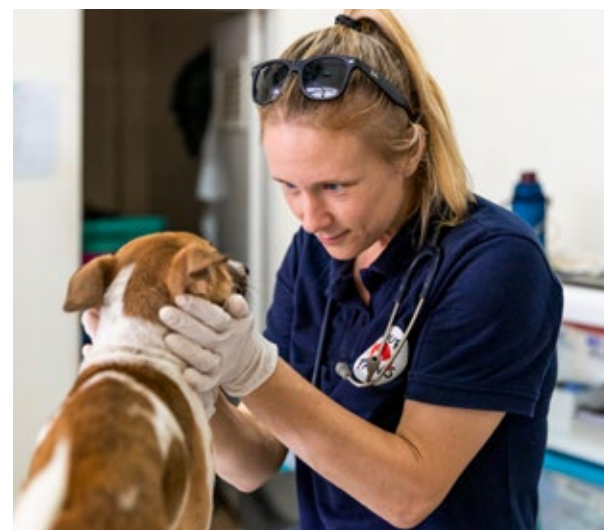
strays received treatment.



9

countries across the world received help from the stray aid teams.





In the Ukrainian district of Zhytomyr, FOUR PAWS has successfully completed a pilot project that aimed to reduce the stray population. Within the space of three years, 2,000 stray dogs were neutered under the scheme. With the help of FOUR PAWS, the district became the first in Ukraine to establish its own clinic dedicated to the care of stray animals and is now running the facility independently. In the Romanian city of Galați, 2019 saw the start of a new FOUR PAWS project to support local initiatives for the humane and responsible treatment of animals living on the streets. Here, too, the aim is to create a sustainable framework that will enable the local community to reduce the stray dog population and improve the quality of life of street animals in the long term. For a project to be effective, it must be based on scientific data. With this in mind, a stray dog count was carried out in Galați. In December 2019, we found that there were approximately 2,360 animals living on the streets of the city.

#### Helping strays in Germany

In Germany, the stray cat population is estimated to be between two and three million. Since 2011, FOUR PAWS has been campaigning for the nationwide introduction of a mandatory sterilisation, chipping and registration requirement for pet cats allowed to roam outdoors, and the organisation regularly undertakes neu-

tering campaigns in towns and cities across the country. In 2019, FOUR PAWS focused on the stray cat population in one province in the state of Lower Saxony, conducting a survey of farm cats and launching an awareness campaign in the media to further raise the profile of the plight of these animals among politicians and the wider population. We ran a number of sterilisation campaigns, most of which took place in Lower Saxony. As a result, 83 cats were neutered, chipped and treated.

#### Animal-assisted intervention

Last year, the FOUR PAWS therapy centre in Romania provided free therapy sessions with former street dogs to ten children with disabilities across a total of 210 individual sessions. In Bucharest, the dogs went along to see the 70 pensioners at the Floare Rosie home for the elderly once a week. Along with their handlers, the dogs were able to provide 380 students and 191 employees with support for stress management, and also carried out visits to 120 school children. In Bulgaria, 222 free sessions were hosted for 34 children, while in Ukraine, the team has trained up two more strays to become therapy dogs, held talks about the project at events and organised 65 free therapy sessions for children with disabilities.

#### Outlook for 2020

To further improve the difficult situation faced by strays in South-East Asia, FOUR PAWS will continue to expand its work with stray animals and its partnerships with local organisations. In 2020, we are aiming to treat and neuter at least 12,000 dogs and cats across the region. We will also be continuing our public awareness work and campaigns against the dog and cat meat trade. The “Cats Matter Too” project in Vietnam will be expanded so that pet owners, local hotels and companies can get better access to veterinary services. In Cambodia, we are increasing the number of pagodas we work with from 32 to 40, enabling us to help around 400 more strays. In Indonesia, we are working with partner organisation Jakarta Animal Aid Network to get the first digital animal welfare platform online, which aims to raise awareness of the stray animal problem among the general public, teachers and the Indonesian Ministry of Education. In Bali, FOUR PAWS is opening the “Dharma Vet Care” veterinary clinic, which will provide comprehensive medical care and sterilisation services for animals. In Borneo, we are planning to neuter at least 300 stray animals. In Myanmar, 2020 will see us achieve around 30 percent of our planned objective of vaccinating a million animals against rabies.

In Eastern Europe, FOUR PAWS will focus on the implementation of sustainable projects, helping local people to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to work independently in the future. Our partner districts have committed to making active, long-term improvements to the living conditions of stray dogs and cats in their regions. With initial support from FOUR PAWS, they are rolling out measures such as adoption campaigns, training for police and vets, lessons in schools to raise awareness among future generations and, of course, systematic sterilisation and vaccination programmes. In 2020, FOUR PAWS will also neuter and provide medical care to over 12,000 stray animals in Eastern Europe. In the Romanian city of Galați, we will be carrying out a recount of the stray population to evaluate the success of the CNVR method we have rolled out.

In 2020, FOUR PAWS will continue its efforts in Germany to lobby for the nationwide introduction of mandatory sterilisation for outdoor-roaming pet cats. We will support municipalities that have already introduced or are planning to introduce mandatory sterilisation. Through our events, public relations and media work, we will continue to educate the public. ■



# The dog and cat meat trade

## Stolen and slaughtered for food

### Background

Estimates suggest that over 30 million dogs and cats are killed for the meat industry in South-East Asia every year. Dealers capture strays and beloved pets and cram them into tiny cages, then transport them without food and water, sometimes on journeys lasting multiple days and across distances of hundreds of miles. The destination on these journeys of suffering is usually a market, a slaughterhouse or a restaurant, where the animals are brutally killed. In spite of the obvious pain inflicted on the animals themselves, the dog and cat meat trade is much more than just an animal welfare issue – it also poses a significant risk to public health. The long-distance transportation, slaughter and consumption of dogs and cats, without any knowledge of their health status, means that dangerous pathogens can easily spread. Perhaps the most deadly of these pathogens is the rabies virus, which is the virus transmitted most frequently from dogs to people. In many South-East Asian countries, the trade in dog and cat meat is permitted to thrive unhindered, and dog and cat meat are openly advertised for purchase.

### Our aims

FOUR PAWS wants to end the dog and cat meat trade in Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia by the year 2030. Until this is achieved, FOUR PAWS will continue to lobby the governments of these countries to recognise the risks involved in the dog and cat meat trade and to draft and implement laws to prohibit the slaughter, sale and consumption of dogs and cats.

### Campaigns in 2019

In 2019, international FOUR PAWS campaigning focused on raising public awareness of the suffering of the millions of stolen pets

that fall victim to this cruel trade each year, and to the plight of the owners who have lost their beloved pets in this way. Over the course of the year, FOUR PAWS collected over 400,000 signatures in support of a ban on the dog and cat meat trade. In Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia, we also carried out comprehensive research and studies to gain a more accurate understanding of the current situation. During its investigations into slaughterhouses, FOUR PAWS rescued a number of dogs and cats from their cruel fate, and ensured that they received veterinary treatment before being rehomed with loving owners. FOUR PAWS was also able to close down a dog slaughterhouse and held discussions with government representatives, with the aim of moving closer to finally bringing an end to the trade in dog and cat meat.

#### Cambodia

FOUR PAWS comprehensively investigated the dog meat trade in Cambodia and conducted a representative survey of dog meat consumers across the country. Since 2018, FOUR PAWS has been working closely with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, an influential government organisation, and Animal Rescue Cambodia, an important local animal welfare organisation. Through an initial government meeting held jointly with these partners, we were able to bring seventy government representatives up to date on the current situation in the dog meat trade. The overwhelming majority of the government attendees said that they were prepared to help bring an end to the trade in dog and cat meat. In meetings, we lobbied other government bodies and the local government of Siem Reap to consistently pursue this same goal. A public media information campaign and posters on tuk-tuks in Phnom Penh further emphasised our cause.

In October, we successfully closed down a dog slaughterhouse in the province of Takeo by convincing the owner to switch to



rice and vegetable farming, and supporting his transition to this new business model. Before its closure, the slaughterhouse was responsible for the deaths of around 2,000 dogs a year. The owner signed a written agreement stating that he would never again work in or otherwise support the dog and cat meat trade. All of the dogs on 'death row' in the slaughterhouse were rescued and received veterinary treatment before being put up for adoption.

#### Vietnam

In Vietnam, up to five million dogs and over a million cats are killed each year for food, including countless pets. The cat meat trade is even more poorly documented than the trade in dog meat, so FOUR PAWS made this sector a particular focus of its research in Vietnam. In Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, we conducted a consumer survey on the consumption of dog and cat meat. We also launched a public information campaign in Hanoi, displaying poster advertisements on 95 taxis. Our work was supported by local animal welfare organisations Paws for Compassion and Vietnam Cat Welfare.

#### Indonesia

FOUR PAWS is a member of the Dog Meat Free Indonesia (DMFI) coalition, which actively engages in undercover operations, government lobbying and public awareness work. In April 2019, a

large-scale investigation on the island of Java showed that 13,700 dogs are caught or stolen on the island every single month. Via slaughterhouses in Surakarta, they end up on the plates of diners in one of the city's 82 restaurants specialising in dog meat dishes. The local government in Karanganyar responded positively to the DMFI's calls for action. State officials publicly condemned the dog meat trade and helped the restaurant owners to identify different ways to make their living. This campaign drew high levels of media attention across the country and motivated promises of action and declarations of intent from other local authorities, who promised to take harsher action against the dog meat trade in the future.

### Outlook for 2020

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 Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia. By strengthening our partnerships with the tourism industry and travel agents, we are aiming to increase the pressure on governments to take action. FOUR PAWS will also continue to conduct investigations, close down slaughterhouses and rescue animals, while raising awareness of the cruel dog and cat meat trade in South-East Asia and internationally. The results of our in-depth research from 2019 will be published in early 2020. ■

**30M**  
dogs and cats are killed for food  
in Asia each year.

**400,000**  
people have signed the petition against the  
trade in dog and cat meat.





# The illegal puppy trade

Creating transparency and holding puppy farmers to account

## Background

In eastern Europe, millions of puppies are farmed in huge numbers in appalling conditions every year. Separated from their mothers far too early in life, they are sold anonymously via the internet, with fake papers to dupe buyers in western Europe; often, the puppies are seriously ill, not vaccinated and riddled with worms. Many dogs die from dangerous infectious diseases just days after purchase, and some don't even make it through their long journey across Europe. Many more still endure a lifetime of suffering from behavioural problems that develop as a result of their traumatic early life experiences. The new owners – who have no idea of their dog's true history – often run up huge bills for veterinary treatment with no way of recouping any of the costs from the sellers, who operate on anonymous internet advertising platforms to evade responsi-

bility. Each year, around 2.4 million puppies are offered for sale online. The dealers are thought to rake in around 1.5 billion euros in annual profits.

## Our aims

In an international campaign against the illegal puppy trade, FOUR PAWS is lobbying for regulatory changes at national and European level to provide better protection for animals during breeding and sale. The key objective of the campaign is to ensure that everyone involved in the breeding and sale of a puppy is traceable – from the owner to the seller and right back to the breeder. This is the only way to ensure that breeders are held to account if it is found that a dog comes from a puppy farm, was illegally imported or is suffering from illness.

**2.4M**  
puppies are advertised for sale  
online each year.

**€1.5B**  
in annual profit is thought  
to be generated by dealers each year.

## Key activities in 2019

In 2019, to coincide with the EU's new Animal Health Law, FOUR PAWS developed a model solution for full traceability in online dog and cat sales within the EU. The EU Regulation requires all companies and collection points to register on a database. The FOUR PAWS solution extends beyond companies and collection points to cover all parties involved in the online sale of dogs and cats, regardless of whether they are acting in a commercial or private capacity. This approach would bring an end to anonymity in online transactions. Under our model, all dogs in the EU would be microchipped by a vet and registered in the relevant national animal database. The owner's personal information would also be entered and verified. To advertise the animal for sale at a later date, it must have been chipped and registered and the identity of the owner must have been verified. As this approach would enable authorities to pursue illegal dealers, it would become unprofitable to sell diseased animals born into the cruel conditions of puppy farms in eastern Europe.

To promote the implementation of this solution in the EU member states, FOUR PAWS has published a detailed report explaining how the model works.

## National activities

FOUR PAWS has presented its model for ending the illegal puppy trade at meetings and events in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany and Ukraine. We also held meetings with key national stakeholders in Bulgaria and Switzerland.

In October 2019, FOUR PAWS submitted complaints against three Austrian platforms (tiere.at, kleinanzeigen.at and bazos.at). These

platforms had hosted adverts for animals for sale from private sellers, in breach of the 2017 Austrian Animal Welfare Act.

In Germany, FOUR PAWS protested at last year's eBay seller conference in Cologne, participated in an expert panel on the puppy trade in the Federal Parliament, and held numerous meetings with local and national politicians. We also engaged with relevant online platforms and launched a new petition for the safe online sale of dogs and cats at vier-pfoten.de/welpenhandel. In the Netherlands, FOUR PAWS conducted research into the illegal puppy trade. Our findings proved that the classified ad site Marktplaats, which is owned by eBay Inc., is still being used to sell sick and traumatised animals on a huge scale. Some of these puppies come from breeding farms in eastern Europe. In 2019, FOUR PAWS also supported the criminal prosecution of a puppy dealer in Slovakia who had sold hundreds of sick puppies to unsuspecting consumers in Germany via eBay.

## Outlook for 2020

In 2020, FOUR PAWS will continue its work to end the illegal puppy trade and the anonymous online sale of animals. As part of this work, FOUR PAWS will offer online advertising portals an opportunity to sign up to its model to bring an end to illegal puppy trading on their platforms. We will also compile a new report on the puppy trade in the EU to highlight the enormous scale of the problem. We will continue our intensive research, lobbying and public awareness work against the illegal trade in puppies and kittens to raise awareness of the option of rescue centre adoptions and responsible pet purchasing among prospective pet owners. ■



# Campaigns for farm animals

For people, animals and the environment

## NUTRITION

### Background

The number of farm animals in Europe far exceeds the number of humans residing on the continent. And yet most of us are completely unaware of this fact, because intensive animal farming – which strives for maximum productivity at the lowest cost, without any regard for animal welfare – keeps these animals out of public view. Bred for maximum yield, many of them never see daylight, and there is no way for them to practise natural behaviours. To enable producers to keep animals in cramped stalls and cages, they are ‘adapted’ to suit our human system of food production: their beaks and tails are cut off and horns are burned away.

### Our aims

For many years, FOUR PAWS has been working towards better conditions for farm animals. We campaign against the cruellest farming practices and work to improve established systems of animal husbandry. FOUR PAWS also believes that it is important for us to eat less meat and consume lower quantities of animal products in general. To drive change, FOUR PAWS educates the public via traditional media and social media channels, lobbies politicians and runs awareness campaigns to hold the food and textile industries to account. Via our global branches and in partnership with other NGOs, we are aiming to improve the situation across Europe.

### Key activities in 2019

People who reduce their consumption of animal products are actively helping to counteract climate change, because animal agriculture is a major contributor to the emission of the greenhouse gases that damage our environment. As canteens in workplaces and universities are used on a daily basis by thousands of people, FOUR PAWS is campaigning for these organisations to place greater emphasis on animal welfare when purchasing animal products. We are also asking them to reduce the number of meat-based meals on the menu. As part of this campaign, we surveyed thirty canteens at Austrian universities for information on their vegetarian and vegan options, then published the results. Students were invited to get involved with the campaign. FOUR PAWS also highlighted the link between diet and animal welfare in university canteens by running public awareness campaigns, supporting the Fridays for Future demonstrations and engaging in targeted lobbying. Also in Austria, FOUR PAWS joined the climate alliance as a supporting organisation of the ‘Klimavolksbegehren’

climate change initiative, called on the public to support the initiative, and highlighted the links between climate protection and animal welfare.

Most animals slaughtered for their meat suffer a period of prolonged torture before their death: for hours or days at a time, they are forced into cramped trucks for transport to the slaughterhouse. With barely any rest, food or water, they suffer unimaginable stress. The animals’ situation becomes particularly dire if their journey involves transport to a non-EU country. In 2019, a German government vet refused, for the first time on record, to approve a planned animal transport from Germany to Uzbekistan – a journey of 5,000 kilometres. The sinking of a ship – together with its cargo of 14,000 sheep – just off the coast of Romania also featured prominently in the headlines. FOUR PAWS assisted in the rescue of the surviving sheep from the wreck and the subsequent care of the animals. We used both of these incidents as opportunities to once again highlight the issues surrounding live animal transport and to demand an EU-wide ban on the transport of live animals to non-EU countries.

We also turned our attention to the unacceptable conditions suffered by animals used in the production of buffalo mozzarella. Investigations in southern Italy once again showed that conditions for the buffalo have still not improved in many cases. FOUR PAWS contacted supermarket chains in Austria, Germany and Switzerland to ask them to do more to ensure the welfare of the animals in their supply chains.

### Outlook for 2020

In 2020, FOUR PAWS will meet with the Italian DOP consortium, of which most buffalo mozzarella producers are members, to discuss improvements to the industry’s animal husbandry practices. We will also continue to engage with supermarkets so that, in the future, high-end products like buffalo mozzarella are produced with correspondingly high standards of animal welfare. In 2020, FOUR PAWS will place further emphasis on the suffering involved in live animal transport and campaign for a ban on the long-distance transport of animals. Animal transportation – much of which is taking place illegally – must stop. The EU regulation on the protection of animals during transport requires an urgent overhaul, and must ban any journey of longer than eight hours or involving animals that are too young to have been fully weaned. We will also continue to campaign for a greater awareness of animal welfare issues in canteens, to raise awareness of the link between climate change and animal welfare, and to support the climate change initiative.



## END THE CAGE AGE

### Background

In intensive farming, female pigs spend months of their lives confined to cramped crates. Many egg-laying hens and rabbits have never felt soil or grass beneath their feet, having spent their entire lives enclosed in wire cages. Calves are separated from their mothers just days after birth, to be housed in individual crates that are not much larger than their young bodies. With no space to turn, flap their wings or even walk around, caged animals are hugely restricted in their opportunity to exhibit natural behaviours.

To bring an end to this cruel state of affairs, over 175 organisations have joined forces – for the first time in history – to launch the European citizens’ initiative ‘End the Cage Age’. Their goal is to collect a million signatures in support of a ban on cages in animal agriculture, which will force the issue onto the European Commission’s agenda.

### Key activities in 2019

By the end of the signature phase on 11 September 2019, the petition had been signed by around 1.65 million citizens from across Europe. FOUR PAWS alone was able to obtain the support of 350,000 people, 200,000 of whom found the petition through our German-language online channels. This figure far exceeded the number of signatures obtained by other organisations. In Austria, the declarations of support – in the form of the signed petition for the ‘End the Cage Age’ European citizens’ initiative – was passed to the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In October 2019, the alliance celebrated the success of the petition in Brussels, together with representatives from the European Parliament and citizens, proving that increasing numbers of people support a better life for animals in agriculture.

### Outlook for 2020

The signatures on the European citizens’ initiative petition are currently being verified before being passed to the European Commission during the German Council presidency. The Council will then have six months to put the topic on its agenda. Throughout this period, FOUR PAWS will maintain pressure on the EU through public awareness work and lobbying.



## MEAT PRODUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Background

To limit the rise in global temperature and prevent some of the irreversible damage to our planet's climate system associated with this rise, we need to drastically reduce our CO2 emissions across the world. The agricultural sector has, up to now, managed to largely escape the attention of any political measures to reduce global warming. But the farming of animals on an intensive scale – fuelled by a society that consumes huge amounts of meat and other animal products – is responsible for 14.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. 77 percent of the world's farmland is used exclusively for animal agriculture and to grow feed to sustain farmed animals – one of the main factors driving the destruction of the rainforests. To prevent a climate crisis and to end the suffering of millions of animals, we need to take urgent action to reduce the scale of intensive farming.

### Key activities in 2019

Against the backdrop of the devastating fires in the Amazon rainforest, FOUR PAWS launched the #IndustryTakeAction petition to call on the food industry to use its influence on consumers and food production to prevent these kinds of catastrophes from occurring in the future and to help animals suffering as a consequence of intensive farming. With the Atlas Challenge, FOUR PAWS is calling on food manufacturers to gradually reduce their range of

meat products and to replace them with plant-based alternatives that don't inflict suffering on animals. FOUR PAWS is starting the process with an investigation into the world's leading online food delivery services, comparing their sustainability strategies to discover whether the companies have specific measures in place to reduce meat consumption and to promote plant-based alternatives to protect animals and the environment. We also published a video that sheds harsh light on the negative impact of meat production.

In December 2019, FOUR PAWS attended the World Climate Conference in Madrid for the first time to lobby for change in the agricultural and food sectors, for the benefit of our planet and the animals we share it with. In a letter to national delegations and negotiators, we highlighted the link between animal agriculture and the climate crisis. With the "Meat Is Heat" petition, FOUR PAWS campaigned to move the issue to the top of the political agenda.

### Outlook for 2020

FOUR PAWS will target additional stakeholders with the Atlas Challenge, extending its reach to more food companies, supermarkets, fast-food chains and meat producers. As part of this process, we will contact leading companies in these sectors and conduct surveys to gather data. We will then publish the results of the Atlas Challenge and draw up rankings of the companies involved.

## TEXTILES

### Background

Down, feathers, wool and leather are important materials in the textiles industry. However, unfortunately the production of these materials often comes at a cost – and that cost is the suffering of animals. In some cases, feathers are still torn from the bodies of ducks and geese while they are alive (in a practice known as live feather plucking), or they may be sourced from companies that cruelly fatten up geese beyond all natural limits to produce liver pate. In wool production, mulesing is a common practice: without any anaesthetic, large sections of skin are removed from the area around a lamb's tail to prevent flystrike. 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 helps companies develop their sustainability guidelines and is involved in the development of standards for the down, wool and leather industries, including the Responsible Down Standard (RDS) and the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS). FOUR PAWS 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 into account in clothing production. With support from FOUR PAWS, the agreement has published expert information on the animal suffering involved in the production of wool, down, fur, silk and leather. The campaigns and public relations work carried out by FOUR PAWS regularly shed light on the mistreatment of animals whose wool, skin and down is used in the textile industry.

### Key activities in 2019

For many years, FOUR PAWS has been campaigning for stricter animal protection standards in the Responsible Down Standard (RDS), which allows textile companies to have their down products certified as "responsibly manufactured". In 2019, there were plans to adapt the criteria of the RDS to allow French duck-fattening companies to debeak their animals. FOUR PAWS protested against this change and, thanks to our intensive lobbying work, we were able to prevent this modification to the guidelines.

As part of our work against mulesing, FOUR PAWS worked together with the consumer protection authority in Upper Austria to send out surveys to Austrian dealers of products containing merino wool. The survey included questions on the origins of the wool and whether the company had implemented any measures to rule out the cruel practice of mulesing taking place in its supply chain. The results of the survey will be published in 2020. Some companies indicated back in 2019 that they were keen to improve the traceability of their wool, transition to standards like the RWS, implement comprehensive animal welfare policies or refrain from the use of merino wool entirely in the future. Multiple TV reports and an interview in the German magazine "Der Spiegel" also had a huge reach and generated significant public interest. The Spiegel



article was picked up by a major Australian sheep website, which highlighted the issue to the Australian public and gave FOUR PAWS an opportunity to profile itself as an authority on the issue. The two largest Australian retail chains – Target and Kmart – publicly announced that they would only sell mulesing-free wool products from now on, making a major step in the right direction and sending a strong signal to Australian sheep farmers.

### Outlook for 2020

To encourage even more textile brands to eliminate mulesing from their supply chains completely, FOUR PAWS will continue to seek out dialogue with the textile industry. We are planning a campaign to further raise public awareness, and will also publish a list of the one hundred textile companies that have already implemented measures to eliminate mulesing. During the second stage of the campaign, we will publish a graphic comparing 45 of these brands in terms of their promise to only offer mulesing-free products and their commitment to opposing the practice. The graphic aims to clearly show who supports a world without these cruel practices and how committed they are to eliminating it. ■





# 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 seal is divided into two levels: Silver and Gold.

When developing the quality seal, 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 wellbeing.

## Key activities in 2019

In January 2019, Allgäuer Hofmilch joined the ranks of the companies certified to the “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” standard. The company’s milk, cheese and yoghurt products are primarily sold in southern Germany, including at supermarket chain Rewe Süd. The seal guarantees better living conditions for around 400 dairy cows and their offspring.

Since April, pig products from Hütthaler have been certified to Silver “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” standard. In August, Austrian su-

permarket chain Spar was awarded “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” status for its own-brand free-range eggs, improving the lives of 340,000 egg-laying hens. Since October, eggs produced by Wanderhuhn GmbH have been labelled with the Gold standard seal, which is awarded in recognition of the best possible care for the hens and ethical rearing practices for male chicks. The products are available at Spar and Merkur in Austria and Käfer in Germany. The “Natur Pur” products from organic duck company Eiermacher GmbH were also certified, and are now available in Spar stores across Austria.

Styrian company Schirnhofner has held the “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” seal since 2017, and sells products from Almo alpine oxen that are stocked at Rewe International AG, Merkur and Penny. The small-scale agriculture of the Almo farmers guarantees better animal welfare while also promoting sustainable farming, making a significant contribution to improving the ecological balance of neighbouring regions in Styria, Lower Austria and Carinthia. In 2019, the stall standards for Almo farmers and the checklists used by inspectors were revised.

## Outlook for 2020

In 2020, too, FOUR PAWS will continue to engage with other potential partners for the “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” seal, so that – in the absence of an adequate statutory framework – as many agricultural animals as possible can benefit from higher standards of animal welfare.

We will expand our partnership with Allgäuer Hofmilch so that other supplying dairies can be certified to the Silver “Tierschutz-kontrolliert” standard. We also hope to award the “Gold” standard to any companies with an exemplary record. ■







# Aid following natural and environmental disasters

## International campaigns

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### Background

Natural and environmental 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 help. When floods or earthquakes destroy entire villages and wipe out crops, working animals are often the only thing their owners have left. 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.

### Our aims

FOUR PAWS helps animals affected by natural and environmental disasters. 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.

### The project

Since 2004, FOUR PAWS has been actively providing help for animals in crisis. Our experienced team of vets, rescues and disaster management experts has already assisted animals in many disaster zones, including Sri Lanka (following tsunamis in 2004 and 2005), Zimbabwe and Kenya (during the 2009 droughts), India, Pakistan and Myanmar (after monsoon flooding in 2007, 2010, 2011, 2015 and 2016), the Philippines (following typhoons in 2013 and 2014), Serbia and the USA (after floods in 2014 and 2018), Puerto Rico (after the 2017 hurricane), Italy and Indonesia (following earthquakes in 2017 and 2018). 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 2019

### Expansion of international networks

Over the past year, the disaster relief team established working relationships with a number of new partners. In the Philippines, FOUR PAWS will now work together with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) to provide emergency aid; in Italy, we have partnered with animal protection organisation Lega anti vivisezione (LAV).

### EU DRIVER+ project

In August 2019, FOUR PAWS participated in the DRIVER+ project and the IRONORE2019 exercise. The DRIVER+ project was established to test modern technologies for crisis management in the event of a disaster. Real-time images shot from the air, for example, are immensely helpful when assessing the situation in a disaster zone, enabling organisations to plan the deployment of resources more effectively. The application was tested as part of a major exercise in Eisenerz, Austria; the exercise involved over a thousand participants and was organised by the Red Cross. The project is funded by the European Commission.

### Disaster Relief Mission in India

On 3 May 2019, cyclone Fani hit vast swathes of the Indian district of Puri on the Bay of Bengal. Heavy rainfall and wind speeds of up to 240 kilometres an hour destroyed the coastal region, and the cyclone claimed many human lives. Homes, farms, roads, water supplies and electricity lines were decimated by the storm. Countless animals also lost their lives. Together with partner organisation Blue Cross of India, vets from FOUR PAWS cared for the few surviving farm animals and pets in the affected region. In eight villages, a total of 342 cows, dogs and cats were saved. The farm animals in particular had suffered severe injuries from collapsed stables and falling trees. 231 animals received medical treatment, and 395 were vaccinated. FOUR PAWS also provided food for over 250 animals.

## Outlook for 2020

Disaster relief for people and animals remains a key focus of FOUR PAWS' work. Whenever there is a disaster anywhere in the world, the emergency aid team checks whether and how they can help. In 2020, 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. In 2020, we are also planning an overhaul of our training programme for volunteers and aiming to train new volunteers. ■

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# Help for animals in war zones

## International campaigns

### Background

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

### Our aims

FOUR PAWS helps animals that are at risk from war or political unrest. The aim is to relieve the animals' acute suffering as quickly as possible and to improve conditions in zoos. We consult with the relevant authorities to ensure that as many animals as possible are brought to the safety of sanctuaries.

### The project

The FOUR PAWS rescue team works to obtain travel visas to permit entry to regions where conflict is ongoing or that are otherwise unstable. Until then, FOUR PAWS supports volunteers on the ground, helping them to provide food for the animals. A rescue mission in a war zone or crisis region takes months of planning. The missions themselves are challenging, because the situation on the ground can change from hour to hour; political authority can also pass between different parties constantly. The specially trained FOUR PAWS war zone team is comprised of vets, animal carers and rescuers. As soon as they are able to travel to an affected region, these teams work around the clock to treat animals in need – animals who are invariably starving and sometimes severely injured.

FOUR PAWS works closely with the government, local politicians, authorities and volunteers in the region, offering its expertise to any party that needs it.



The FOUR PAWS rescue team assisted during the periods of political unrest in Egypt and Libya in 2011, in the Gaza Strip between 2014 and 2017, and in Iraq and Syria in 2017.

### Key activities in 2019

#### Gaza

The Middle East conflict continues to erupt in the Gaza Strip. As a result of the decades of conflict it has already suffered, the region is lacking in food and medicine for both humans and animals. Many zoos have been destroyed by bombs. In April 2019, FOUR PAWS rescued a total of 47 animals, including five lions, from an abandoned private zoo in the city of Rafa in the Gaza Strip.

Months of preparation were required to obtain visas and overcome logistical hurdles. Once they arrived, the team had to work under immense time pressure, as the border between Gaza and Israel was only open for 24 hours. The vets sedated the wild animals and provided first aid where necessary. The animals were then loaded onto a truck and transported, via Israel, to the safety of Jordan, where they were taken in by the New Hope sanctuary and the Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife wild animal sanctuary. Two

of the lions later made the journey to the FOUR PAWS big cats sanctuary LIONSROCK in South Africa.

#### Lebanon

Since October 2019, Lebanon has been affected by enormous political unrest and mass demonstrations. As the banking system had collapsed, two zoos in the south of the country became unable to provide for their animals. In November, the FOUR PAWS emergency aid team travelled to the zoos to provide food for the suffering wild animals. Two Syrian brown bears and a young female lion were given the medical treatment they desperately needed. FOUR PAWS also provided financial support to the local animal protection charity Animals Lebanon, enabling it to secure ongoing food deliveries for the zoo and continue its local aid programmes for stray dogs and cats.

### Outlook for 2020

In 2020, we will continue to provide emergency aid to animals in war zones and crisis regions. Whenever there is a crisis, the rescue team and the FOUR PAWS Board checks whether and how we can help. The safety of our teams is always our top priority. ■



# 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. ■



# 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

In 2019 the Facebook community had a total of 900,989 fans. The Instagram account was followed by 39,853 people and the FOUR PAWS YouTube channel had 27,473 followers. About 1,144,428 people subscribed to the newsletter. The international and national websites together recorded an average number of 213,234 visitors a month in 2019.

### Impact

The work of FOUR PAWS regularly features in national and international media reports. The many bears we rescued from bile farms in Vietnam, the closure of a dog slaughterhouse in Cambodia, and the evacuation of hundreds of sheep from a cap-sized cargo ship just outside the port of Midia in the Romanian city of Constanta received particularly wide global attention.

Over 1,600 reports covered the FOUR PAWS rescue mission in the Gaza Strip, during which we managed to free all of the animals from the dilapidated Rafah zoo, and were read and watched by people in more than 80 countries. The events were reported on by large media outlets with a huge public reach, including the BBC, Daily Mail, The Guardian, Newsweek, RTL, Stern and ZDF, as well as international news agencies Agence France-Presse, Associated Press and Reuters. ■



**804,434**

donors support FOUR PAWS  
in eight countries.



**56,370**

sponsors support  
our work in four countries.





# European politics

## Lobbying for animal welfare

56 The FOUR PAWS European Policy Office provides a link between the FOUR PAWS national offices in Europe and the political institutions of the EU. The 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 and EU member states. FOUR PAWS advises these institutions and politicians on all animal welfare topics, voices its concerns and contributes suggestions. The aim of this work is to ensure that legal provisions for the wellbeing of animals are enshrined in EU law.

### Key activities in 2019

**European elections**  
In the lead-up to and the period following the European elections in May 2019, the European office of FOUR PAWS lobbied the candidates intensively to get animal protection issues on the agenda.

**EU Platform on Animal Welfare**  
As a member of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, an initiative of the EU Commission, the European office of FOUR PAWS focused its efforts primarily on the working groups “Live animal transport” and “The illegal pet trade” in 2019. The sinking of a freight ship with over 14,000 sheep on board in November 2019 provided us with an opportunity to present political solutions for ending the live transport of animals to members of the European Parliament.

**EU agricultural policy**  
The EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has an enormous impact on the structure of the agricultural economy and the wellbeing of billions of farm animals. In 2019, the FOUR PAWS European office was able to get animal welfare adopted as a specific objective of the CAP.

**Outlook for 2020**  
Over the next year, the European office of FOUR PAWS will continue to lobby politicians to bring an end to the practice of trading in sick puppies, which is still taking place across the EU. A key milestone in this process will be the European Parliament vote at the start of 2020, which will decide whether all dogs and cats in the EU should be subject to mandatory registration rules. The European office will continue its political activities to shape the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) throughout 2020. As the individual nations will play an increasingly important role in the future CAP, we will organise events to accompany crucial decision-making points in Brussels and in various member states. The team from the European office will also promote the “End the Cage Age” European citizens’ initiative to ban cages in farming, campaign for a ban on live animal transport, and lobby for pet welfare and an EU-wide ban on the commercial tiger trade. ■

# 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 SANCTUARIES, 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.

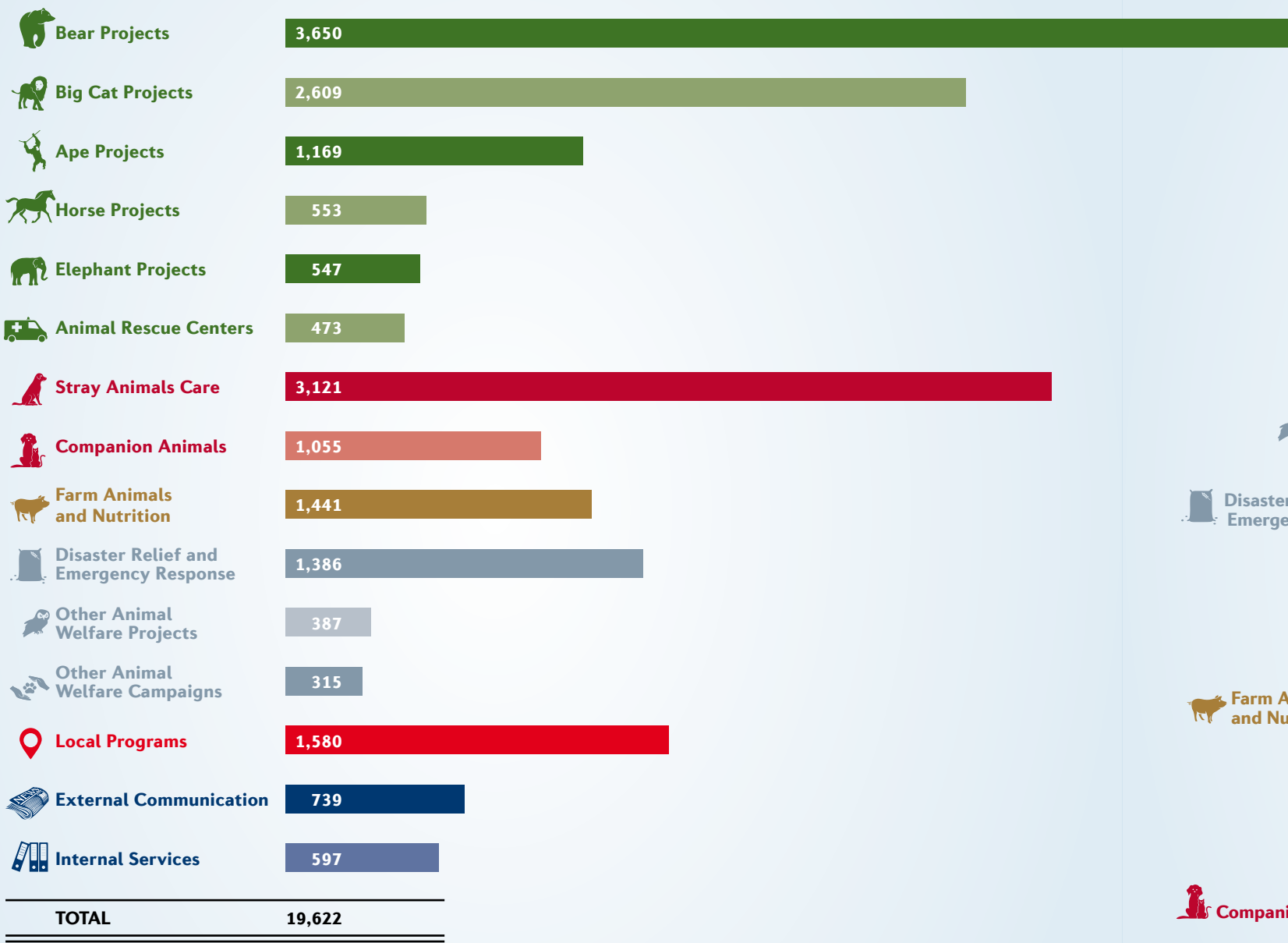
**In All Other Animal Welfare Activities**  
For FOUR PAWS, quality is a top priority not only in our direct work with animals, but in all of our operations. Our controlled, regularly revised processes help our team to develop and run strategic animal welfare campaigns, to organise aid in disaster zones 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. ■





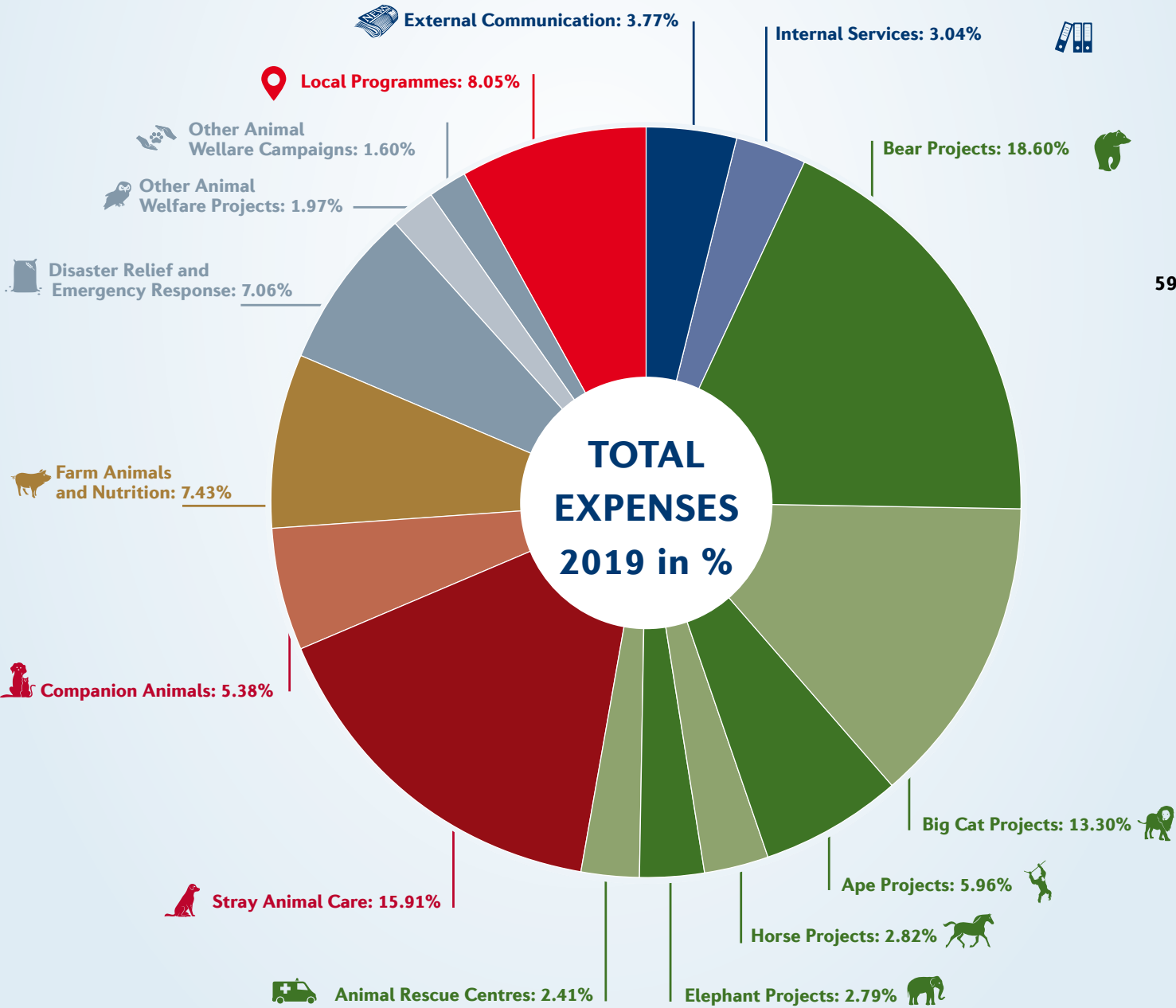
# Financial Report

## TOTAL EXPENSES 2019



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.

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







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