

FOUR PAWS International

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Animal Welfare.  
Worldwide.



# Editorial

## Dear readers!

2020 was a challenging year for animal welfare. Travel restrictions and lockdowns made it harder than ever to rescue bears, lions and tigers but FOUR PAWS has risen to the challenges presented by the Coronavirus pandemic, continuing to fight with full strength for the welfare of suffering animals. Over the last year, we brought 28 bears and big cats into the care of our sanctuaries, often crossing many national borders to do so. Now that they are safely in the care of FOUR PAWS, they can begin the process of recovering from their traumatic past. The animal carers at our sanctuaries look after a total of 113 bears, 135 big cats and 12 orangutan orphans, as well as more than 4,600 domestic wild animals.

Day in, day out, we have worked tirelessly to improve animal welfare all over the world. In 2020, we were active in 29 countries. Our stray animal project teams treated over 21,000 homeless animals. In South-East Asia, FOUR PAWS achieved notable successes in the fight against the trading and consumption of dog and cat meat. Two dog slaughterhouses in Cambodia and a cat slaughterhouse in Vietnam were closed for good. Meanwhile, our emergency team continued to work in crisis-hit areas over the past year. We also managed to achieve a small miracle: after months of negotiations, we were able to liberate Kaavan the elephant from a dismal zoo enclosure in Pakistan, transporting him 4,000 kilometres by air to his new home in Cambodia.

In addition to our direct aid for animals, we lobbied politicians and businesses to bring about permanent improvements in animal welfare. Campaigns to raise awareness of the issues with long-distance animal transport to non-EU countries and the cruel conditions in which caged hens, pigs and other farm animals are kept put pressure on decision-makers and mobilised large sections of the population.



Together, we put animal welfare on the political agenda of numerous member states and the EU Commission.

This annual report clearly demonstrates that the donations entrusted to us have been and continue to be used responsibly in order 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 the campaigns and projects run by FOUR PAWS. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude.

Kind regards,

Josef Pfabigan  
FOUR PAWS Chief Executive Officer

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# The World of FOUR PAWS

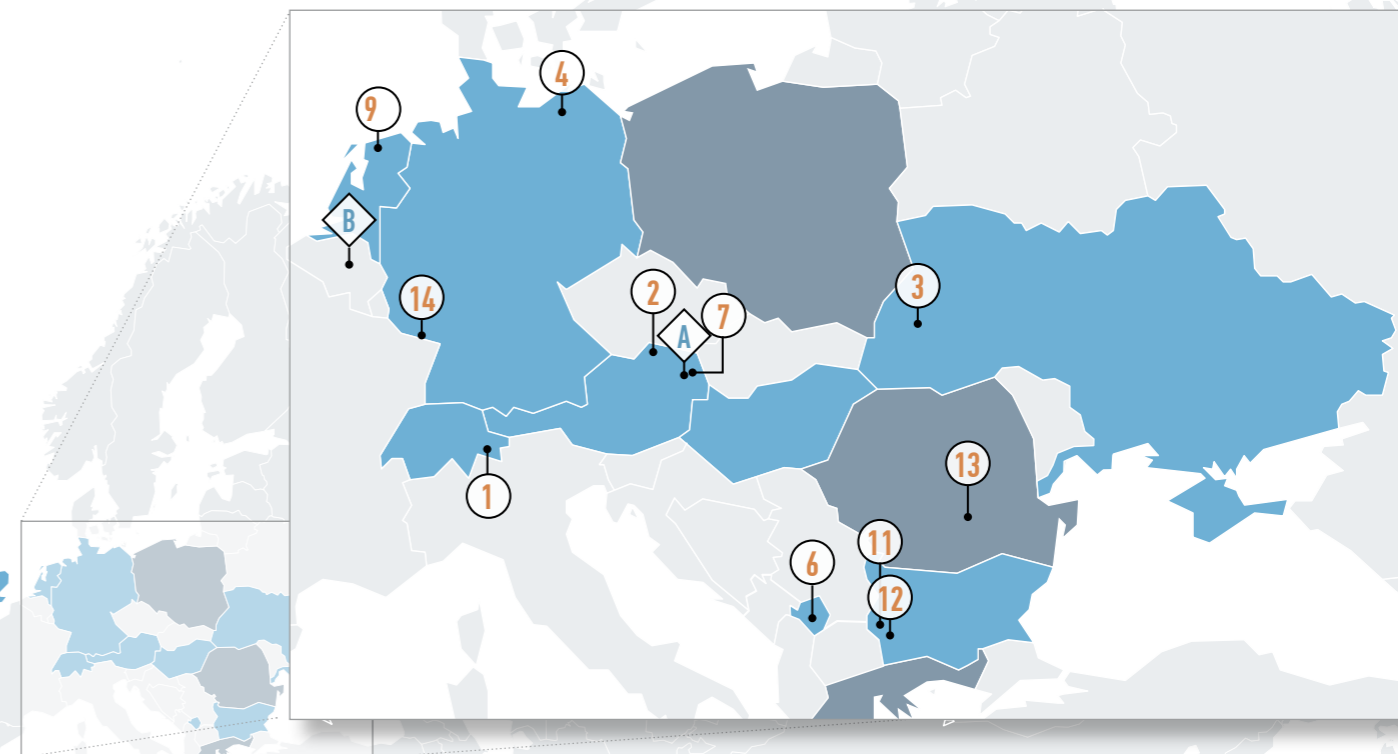
## Offices, projects and countries of operation

-  **FOUR PAWS International**  
with headquarters in Vienna and a branch office in
-  Brussels (EPO – European Policy Office)

 **FOUR PAWS Offices 2020:** Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, the Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam

 **Countries of operation and location of cooperation partners 2020**  
Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Greece, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Myanmar, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sudan

All addresses on pages 64 and 65.

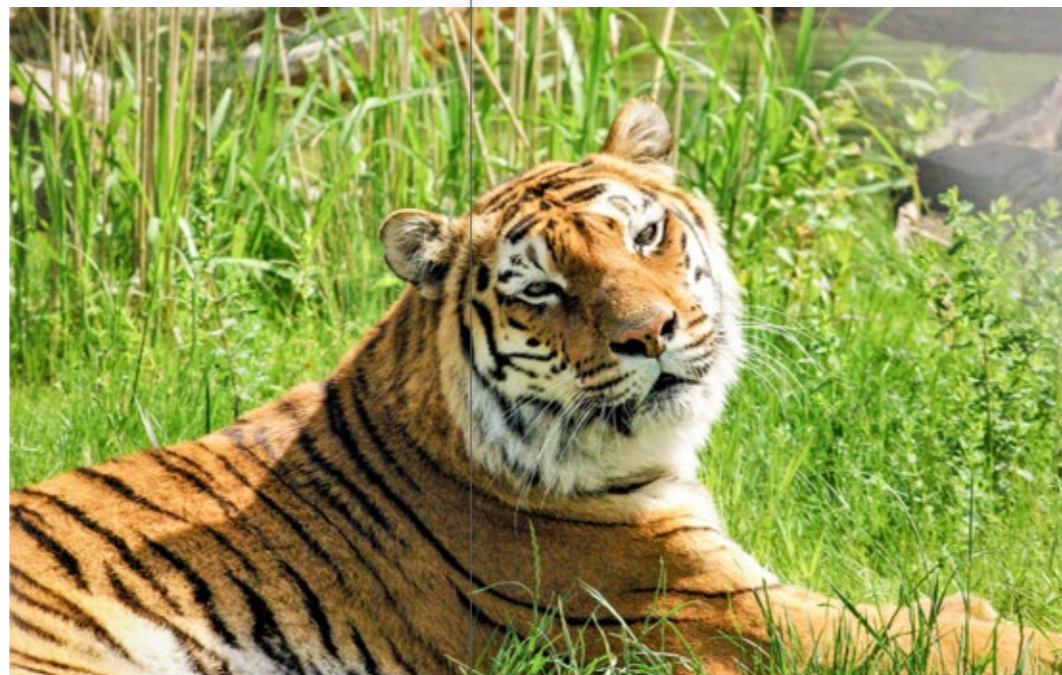
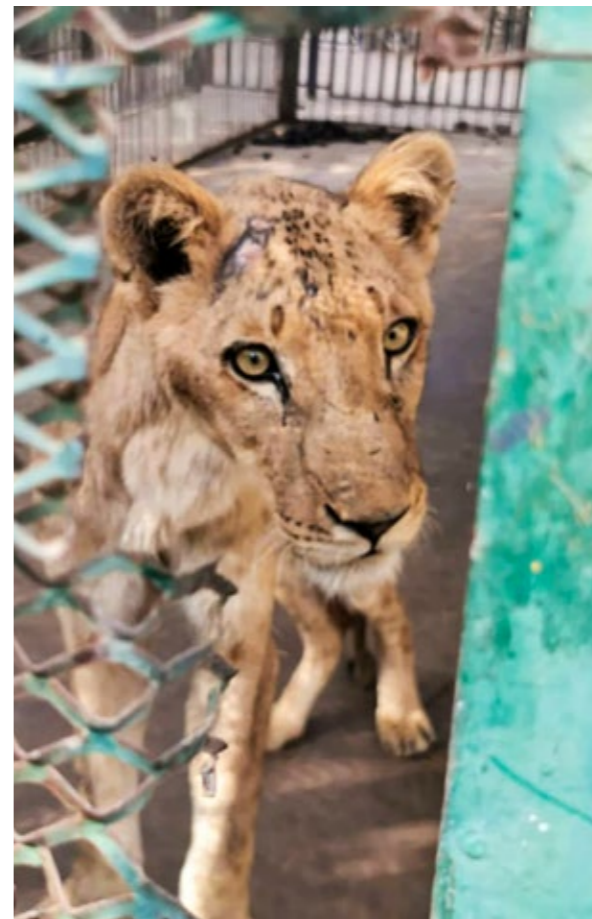
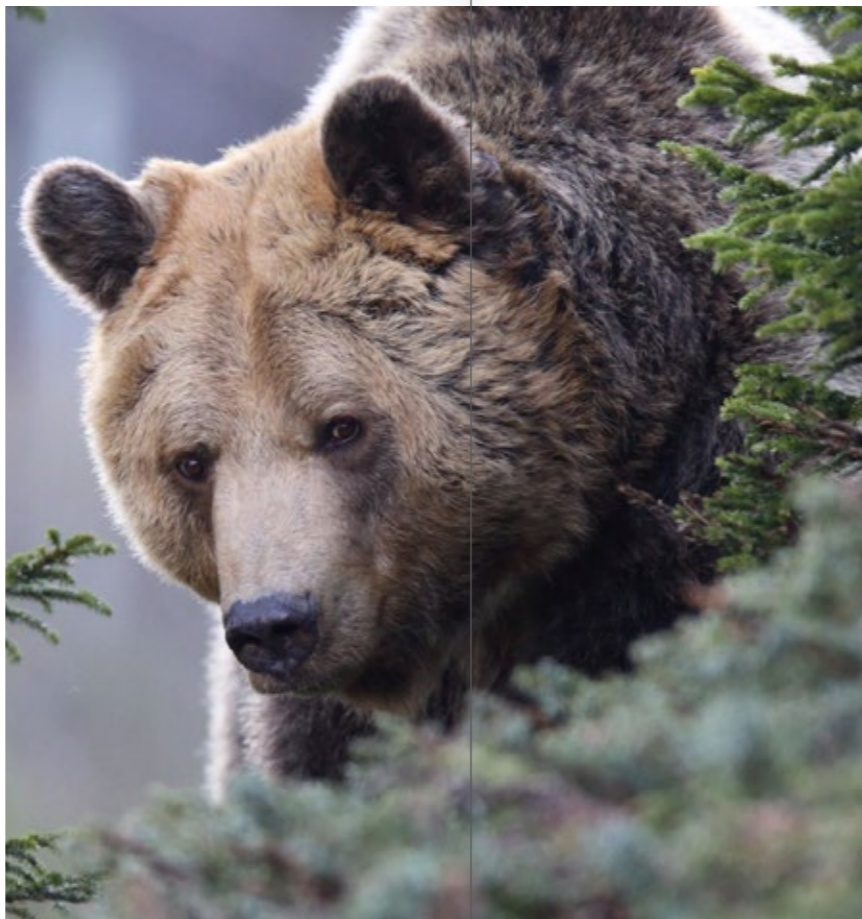


## FOUR PAWS sanctuaries and animal clinics

- |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Arosa Bear Sanctuary*                         |  FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary                          |
|  BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach                      |  LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary                       |
|  BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr                       |  Stray animal clinic Bankya                        |
|  BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz                         |  DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa*                       |
|  BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh                      |  FOUR PAWS centre for animal-assisted intervention |
|  BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina                      |  TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary                     |
|  OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee* |  Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife*                 |
|  ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL*                      |                                                                                                                                         |

\* in cooperation with partners

# THE YEAR IN PICTURES





# Mission Statement

## 14 Countries – One Objective

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

### Mission Statement

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

### Objectives, Tasks and Expertise

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

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

We take a problem-solving approach and offers animals in distress swift and direct aid. Our aim is to achieve and

establish changes in politics, society and the economy that will benefit animals – through projects, campaigns and education. Our work is based on scientific expertise, sound research and intensive national and international lobbying.

#### Reveal

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

#### Rescue

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

#### Protect

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

# How We Work

## Nationally and Internationally

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

### Structure

FOUR PAWS is organised internationally so that its work can be carried out as efficiently and effectively as

possible, and this applies also to its financial and human resources. Led by the Chief Programme Officer, the work in all countries can be divided into that relating to wild animals, farm animals and companion animals. They monitor quality standards, develop certain projects and plan new ones.

The Board meets in Vienna and is responsible for all strategic tasks. In addition to the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Programme Officer, it also includes the Chief Marketing Officer, who is in charge of the Communication and Fundraising departments, and the Chief Development Officer, in charge of the departments of IT, Contract Management & Legal Affairs, Quality Management and Organisational Development. The national FOUR PAWS branches are led by Country Directors who, with their national teams, embody the principle of *ONE FOUR PAWS*.

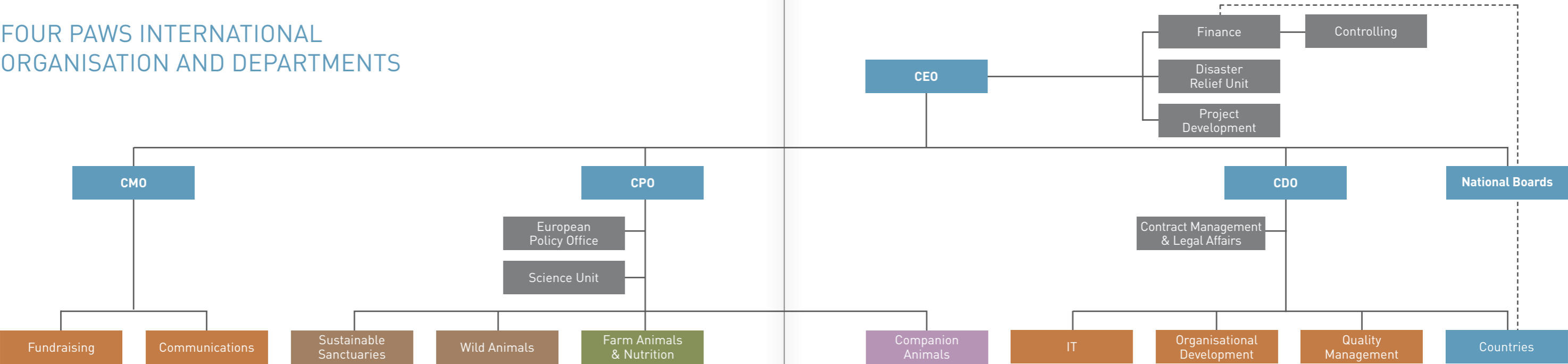
The development of FOUR PAWS has shown that maintaining a careful balance between the interests of the individual countries and those of FOUR PAWS International is an important factor for success. Since 2012, FOUR PAWS has been operating according to a matrix which, to a great extent, allows for joint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

### Strategy

With the FOUR PAWS Strategy 2025, FOUR PAWS has formulated clear goals for the coming years. The focus of the work is to achieve significant improvements in the living conditions of animals under human influence: wild

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

## FOUR PAWS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION AND DEPARTMENTS



Managerial Responsibility

Content Matrix

# Help for Bears

## Giving bears a species-appropriate life

### Background

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

### Our aims

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

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

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

keeping bears in animal parks and zoos that guarantee the well-being of the animals. All of these facilities must be run according to scientific principles.

- Furthermore, these animals must only be kept in licensed zoological facilities, and only where this is strictly necessary. They must be guaranteed sufficient space, proper care, social structure and veterinary treatment in order to guarantee a high quality of life for adult breeding animals and their offspring.

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

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

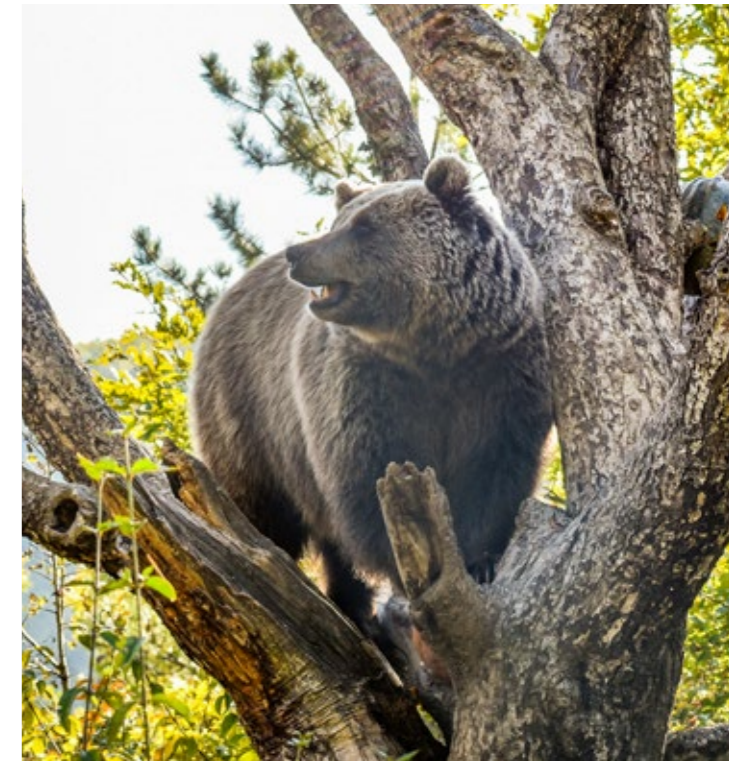
- The Vietnamese government must be held accountable for delivering on its promise to end bear farming in Vietnam.
- The Vietnamese people must be educated on the cruel practice of bear bile farming through educational campaigns.
- The FOUR PAWS bear sanctuary in the north of Vietnam, BEAR SANCTUARY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

To achieve these goals for bears in Europe and Vietnam, and thereby helping the animals as effectively as possible over the long term, FOUR PAWS restructured its internal organisation in 2020. The bear and big cat teams were merged to form the "Wild Animal Rescue & Advocacy" department, which will act as a central point for coordinating and pooling rescues, research and strategies. The team is also working to get



legal frameworks in place in the countries where it is active in order to enable intervention in poor bear-keeping practices. This unit also 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. Following the restructuring, the "Sustainable Sanctuaries" department is now responsible for managing the sanctuaries. Its job is to concentrate on sustainably developing the sanctuaries in view of their educational mandate and the need to secure their future.

Both departments work together closely during rescues, so that the rescued animals can be given a suitable, permanent home as quickly and easily as possible.



### Projects

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



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

**113** bears were cared for by FOUR PAWS around the world in 2020.

nature, the animals can rediscover their instincts and follow their natural behaviour patterns, while experienced animal handlers provide daily stimulation to prevent or aid in the recovery from behavioural problems. Wild animal vets examine and treat the animals regularly. All bears 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: the DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa together with the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, and Arosa Bear Sanctuary together with the Arosa tourist board and the Arosa Bergbahnen cable car company. FOUR PAWS also works alongside Poznan Zoo in Poland and the Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife sanctuary in Jordan.

**BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach**

The first FOUR PAWS bear sanctuary was constructed in 1998 in Austria's wooded Waldiviertel region. Since then, one developing area of animal care has been meeting the needs of older bears, since many of the animals that call the sanctuary their home are now reaching an advanced age. Two of these bears, Vinzenz and Jerry, had to be put to sleep in 2020, leaving four bears living at BEAR SANCTUARY

Arbesbach by the end of the year. Despite the closures due to COVID-19, visitor numbers exceeded 2019 levels. A new online ticketing system has proved useful for coordination during the pandemic, but will continue to bring benefits well into the future as it helps tourists organise their visit.

**BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz**

BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, opened in 2006. Covering 16 hectares, it is the largest bear sanctuary in Western Europe. The BEAR SANCTUARY had to close for several weeks during the lockdown, and this time was spent carrying out repairs and making investments. Another lockdown project was the development of 'Bearology', a learning platform for children and families, which was very well received during the enforced closure. Despite the difficult circumstances, a total of 120,000 visitors were welcomed to the sanctuary in 2020.

**BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina**

FOUR PAWS opened BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina in Kosovo in 2013 to provide brown bears that were being kept illegally in restaurants and private mini-zoos with appropriate living conditions spread over an area of 16 hectares. In addition to all brown bears once kept privately in Kosovo, this sanctuary also provides a safe home to bears rescued from poor conditions in Albania. The BEAR SANCTUARY had to close three times in 2020, during which time it focused on expanding its digital offerings. It also opened a nature trail, with the aim of generating media buzz and attracting new visitors. And with the unveiling of a new solar power facility, the BEAR SANCTUARY will now be able to meet its own power needs – in the summer, at least.

**BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr**

In Ukraine, the keeping of bears has been regulated by law since 2011. But in spite of the law, dozens of bears were still being kept captive in appalling conditions, mostly in restaurants and hotels. It is entirely legal for bears to continue being kept at hunting stations, where they are still at risk of being illegally misused in fights with hunting dogs. In 2018, FOUR PAWS opened BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr in order to give these bears a safe alternative. The



BEAR PROJECTS

- 1 Arosa Bear Sanctuary (Switzerland)
- 2 BEAR SANCTUARY Arbesbach (Austria)
- 3 BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr (Ukraine)
- 4 BEAR SANCTUARY Müritz (Germany)
- 5 BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh (Vietnam)
- 6 BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina (Kosovo)
- 7 DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa (Bulgaria)
- 8 Poznan Zoo outdoor bear enclosure (Poland)
- 9 Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Centre Soc Son (Vietnam)



sanctuary welcomed seven rescued bears in 2020, including the 'Presidential bears' Leo and Melanka, who had spent 14 years languishing in small concrete pens on the grounds of a presidential residence. As of the end of 2020, a total of 22 bears were living at BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr. Visitor numbers fell by around a third due to the lockdown, dealing a heavy blow to the sanctuary. For this reason, the team concentrated on expanding the spacious outdoor enclosure, which contains woodland, caves and water features, as well as improving the services offered to visitors and the sanctuary's educational programme.

**BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh**

In Vietnam, there are around 370 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 law. Since 2017, bears that are confiscated or voluntarily surrendered can be re-homed in a species-appropriate setting at BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh, which was constructed by FOUR PAWS in the north-east of the country. The sanctuary currently has approximately six hectares of land and can accommodate around fifty bears rescued from bile farms. Plans are in place to gradually expand the site to offer new homes to around a hundred bears. 13 rescued bears joined the sanctuary in 2020, including three young bears who had been victims of the illegal wild

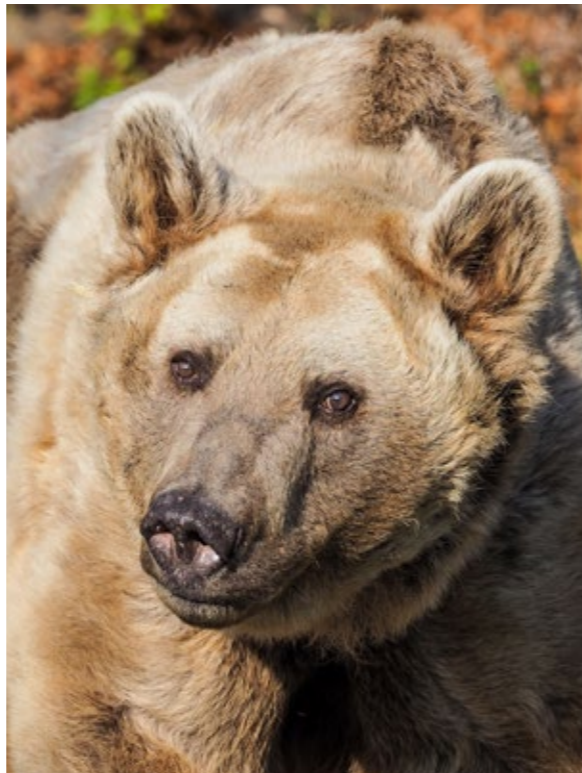
animal trade. By the end of 2020, BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh was home to a total of forty bears. Over the year, work was also carried out on improving the tourism infrastructure and expanding the educational programme.

**DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa**

In the year 2000, there were still 25 registered dancing bears in Bulgaria. Fitted with chains and a nose ring, they were kept in back gardens and made to dance for audiences in towns and tourist resorts. After negotiating with the Bulgarian government to implement a ban on keeping dancing bears, FOUR PAWS partnered with the Brigitte Bardot Foundation to establish DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa, taking in all the Bulgarian dancing bears and the remaining few from Serbia. Since then, bears kept in other inappropriate conditions have found a new home here too. Three bears died in 2020. This meant there was space for a new arrival, Teddy, who was saved from illegal captivity in North Macedonia and will now live out his days at DANCING BEARS PARK Belitsa.

**Arosa Bear Sanctuary**

Arosa Bear Sanctuary in Switzerland opened in 2018 and is located at an altitude of around 2000 metres. It has the capacity to look after five bears rescued from poor living conditions. The joint project between FOUR PAWS, the Arosa tourist board and the Arosa Bergbahnen cable car company



brings together animal protection with efforts to promote tourism in the region of Arosa in the canton of Graubünden. Sadly, the death of Napa the bear in 2020 meant the sanctuary had to say goodbye to its very first resident. But a new rescue was not far behind, and former circus bear Jambolina from Ukraine now gets to call the sanctuary her home. This meant that by the end of the year, Arosa Bear Sanctuary was providing safe and suitable living conditions for three bears. The sanctuary has further increased its visitor capacity, and now features a suspended adventure trail that allows guests to observe the bears from above.

#### Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife

The Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife sanctuary in Jordan was founded by the Princess Alia Foundation in partnership with FOUR PAWS. This sanctuary is home to many wild animals rescued by FOUR PAWS from zoos and private captivity in war zones and crisis regions in the Middle East. The team used the visitor-free quiet period in 2020 to socialise two bears who had already been living at the sanctuary for some time. By the end of 2020, a total of twelve brown bears were living at the sanctuary.

### Key activities in 2020

The #saddestbears campaign was continued in 2020, accompanied by a great deal of publicity work, in order to keep raising awareness of the plight of the countless bears kept in captivity. The campaign focuses on brown bears in Ukraine and south-east Europe, as well as black bears in Vietnam, who are mostly rescued from the bile farming industry. Another aim of the campaign is to make it possible to rescue bears from the saddest cases of captivity.

The plan for 2020 was to liberate 20 to 25 bears from poor living conditions. And even though the travel restrictions and other difficulties caused by COVID-19 presented monumental challenges, FOUR PAWS succeeded in rescuing 22 animals: 13 black bears in Vietnam, eight brown bears from Ukraine and one brown bear from North Macedonia. All these bears were given new homes by the BEAR SANCTUARIES and partner projects, bringing the total number of bears cared for by FOUR PAWS to 125 by the end of the year.

Bears, big cats and other wild animals are living in unsuitable conditions in zoos across Bulgaria. Some of these animals are the result of uncontrolled breeding or even inbreeding, which can lead to serious health problems. In spite of this mistreatment, the Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment has granted zoo permits to unsuitable wild animal parks without ensuring that they meet the standards for living conditions, protection and education that are set out in the EU Zoos Directive. For this reason, FOUR PAWS launched the #closecruelcages campaign in 2020. So far, more than 25,000 people have signed a petition urging the Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment to implement properly the EU Directive relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos, and to end the inappropriate keeping of wild animals in captivity.

In Croatia, FOUR PAWS experienced a setback. Back in 2018, the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding and declared to FOUR PAWS that it would

bring illegal bear keeping to an end. But at the start of 2020, the Ministry went entirely in the opposite direction, legalising the last cases of bear keeping in poor living conditions. FOUR PAWS was forced to officially terminate the Memorandum of Understanding and end its partnership with the Ministry.

In France, it has until very recently still been common practice for bears to be used in circuses, at festivals and funfairs, where they are surrounded by thronging crowds and noisy environments, and forced to do tricks that are wholly unnatural for any bear. But the tide is turning at last. In 2019, a petition organised by FOUR PAWS, the Brigitte Bardot foundation and the French organisation AVES France that called for a ban on bear shows was signed by some 170,000 people. The French Ministry of the Environment introduced draft legislation in 2020 that would outlaw this practice from 2023 onwards. FOUR PAWS has offered to take the bears from the organisers of these public attractions and to house them at its own sanctuaries.

In Ukraine, FOUR PAWS is supporting initiatives seeking to end private captivity of wild animals. We've had some great successes: in 2020, welfare regulations were tightened and now set out defined standards for keeping wild animals. For example, bear enclosures will have to include a pool in future. FOUR PAWS also renewed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Energy and Environmental protection that provides a framework for future cooperation; however, it has not yet been possible to sign the document due to the pandemic-related travel restrictions.

The Albanian government plans to open a sanctuary for brown bears and other native wild animals near to its capital city, Tirana. This initiative aims to help protect native species that are endangered by poaching and the widespread trade in wild animals. In the summer of 2020, FOUR PAWS uncovered the extent of the illegal wild animal trade in Albania and brought it to the attention of the international media. FOUR PAWS will continue to campaign for greater protection in the law and thorough implementation of wild animal protection legislation in Albania, as well as supporting the Albanian government in its creation of a wild animal sanctuary. 2020 marked the official entry of FOUR PAWS into the national council for wild animals. This committee is made up of

members from various national institutions and authorities, as well as non-governmental organisations. It advises the Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment on topics relating to wild animal management and conservation.

### Outlook for 2021

The #saddestbears campaign will be continued in 2021. It will focus chiefly on Vietnam, where it is hoped that in addition to rescuing as many bears as possible, public relations campaigns in Hanoi will also help to bring about the end of bile farming. The situation of bears kept in unsuitable living conditions in other European countries will also be researched, for instance in the Czech Republic, North Macedonia, Slovakia and Slovenia. Efforts will also be made to involve Russia in the research and campaign activities. It is hoped that, in the medium term, a wild animal sanctuary can be established here. In Albania, FOUR PAWS will continue to monitor the plans for a wild animal rescue centre and assist the government in setting this up.

At the EU level, FOUR PAWS aims to help ensure that countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania correctly and fully implement the requirements set out in the EU Directive on the keeping of wild animals in zoos. It will also campaign for further changes in the law to protect bears, big cats and other wild animals in France, Malta and Ukraine.

The team at the new Sustainable Sanctuaries department will continue to work on a strategy. Their aim is to support the sanctuaries in a way that enables them to concentrate on their core tasks: looking after the animals and visitors. At the BEAR SANCTUARIES Arbesbach, Domazhyr and Ninh Binh, there is work to be done on expanding and upgrading the facilities. FOUR PAWS is also turning its attention to its carbon footprint as part of the Green Sanctuaries initiative, under which it plans to further develop its sanctuaries in an eco-friendly and sustainable manner.

Finally, bears will continue to be rescued from poor conditions in 2021 and brought to the sanctuaries, where they can live their lives in a new home that is entirely suited to their needs. ■



# Great Apes in Need

## Protection, rehabilitation, reintroduction

### Background

In Africa and Asia, the wild populations of gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans are shrinking drastically. There are many reasons for this, from commercial and illegal logging to agriculture and mining, all of which are taking ever greater areas of habitat away from these primates. In Western and Central Africa, they are also persecuted as a result of the demand for bushmeat. In Indonesia, huge areas of rainforest are destroyed each year by burning in order to make space for more palm oil plantations. Meanwhile, the babies of all three ape species continue to be targeted by the illegal animal trade.

### Our aims

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

### Projects

#### Asia

In 2014, the Indonesian Yayasan Jejak Pulang foundation (the "Homecoming Foundation") was established with the help of FOUR PAWS. Thanks to an agreement with the Indonesian government's official nature conservation

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

New fosterlings are taken to the quarantine station as soon as they arrive, and remain there for a period of two months while they receive medical care. The orangutans are then prepared for release back into the rainforest in three stages: kindergarten, the forest school and the forest academy. The care received by the apes and their daily routines are constantly adjusted as they grow older so that new skills can be encouraged and developing needs taken into consideration. By observing their peers and with the patient guidance of their 'surrogate mothers' (a role assigned to specially trained carers), the orangutans at the ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL, an area of woodland covering 100 hectares, learn everything they need to know to live independently in the wild: how to move high among the treetops, how to find food in the forest, how to build a nest to sleep in and how to communicate with other members of their own species. When the orangutans reach an age of around eight years

**12** orangutan orphans were looked after at the FOREST SCHOOL in 2020 by FOUR PAWS.

**48** people work at the school.

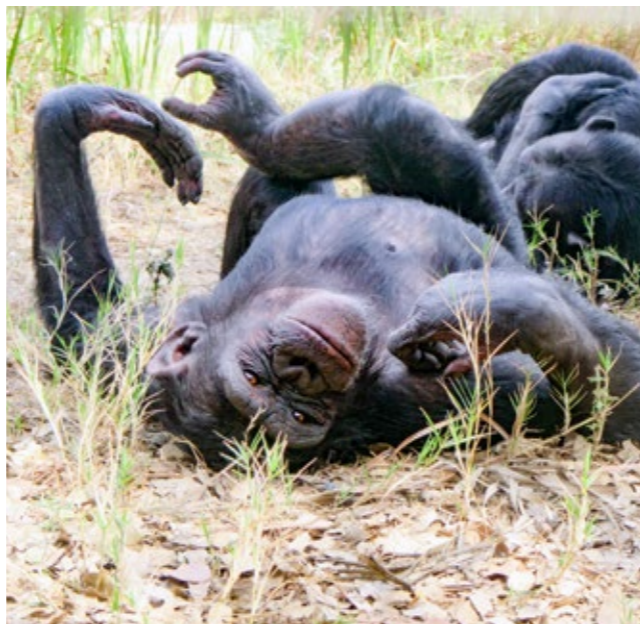




old, they are ready to enter the reintroduction programme. They are moved to a protected jungle region, where they continue to be observed and guarded by FOUR PAWS.

#### Africa

All gorilla species are at risk of extinction. In order to protect the population of western lowland gorillas living wild in the Fernan-Vaz region of south-western Gabon, FOUR PAWS has been working in partnership with the Fernan-Vaz Gorilla Project since 2019. The organisation campaigns to protect the habitat of these primates, as well as rescuing gorillas from the bushmeat trade and rehabilitating them so that they can be returned to the wild to live in protected habitats. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, FOUR PAWS partnered with the organisation Jeunes Animaux Confisqués au Katanga (Young Animals Confiscated in Katanga) in 2020 to help endangered chimpanzees. Their work focuses on protecting the animals from illegal trade, as well as rehabilitating confiscated chimpanzee orphans and reintroducing them to the wild.



### Key activities in 2020

#### ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL

Over the past year, four more orangutan babies were rescued and brought to the school in Borneo. A total of twelve orangutan orphans, aged between 15 months and nine years, now live at the FOUR PAWS FOREST SCHOOL. In order to enable the team to provide the best possible care to its orangutans, it welcomed some new members into the fold. A total of 26 'surrogate mothers', two vets and two primatologists cared for the orphaned animals.



## GREAT APE PROJECTS

- 1 **ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL (Indonesia):** 12 orangutans
- 2 **Fernan-Vaz Gorilla Project (Gabon):** 13 gorillas
- 3 **Jeunes Animaux Confisqués au Katanga (Democratic Republic of the Congo):** 33 chimpanzees

The younger orangutans were gradually moved out of the 'nursery' and now sleep in a covered cage in the forest, where they can start to familiarise themselves with the normal night-time sounds of the jungle. Meanwhile, the older orphans have learnt to spend their nights high up in the treetops, in nests they have built themselves. This means that both age groups now spend 13 hours a day in their natural environment. In addition to caring for the orangutan orphans, the special safety measures required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were a key focus during 2020.

Another important task was the search for a suitable reintroduction area that would meet the various ecological and socio-cultural requirements. The responsible government organisations have already signalled their approval of the selected area.

#### Gorillas

Thanks to the support from FOUR PAWS, the Fernan-Vaz Gorilla Project has been able to take in two more seized gorillas. In addition to these two, the project now provides a home to nine other gorillas, who can experience the freedom of the wild on an island without any direct contact with humans.

#### Chimpanzees

At the Jeunes Animaux Confisqués au Katanga rehabilitation centre, 33 chimpanzee orphans are given expert care. With

the help of FOUR PAWS, the centre has developed new COVID-19 safety measures to safeguard the chimpanzees and the people working on the project.

### Outlook for 2021

FOUR PAWS anticipates that the Indonesian authorities will approve the request to use a selected area of rainforest for the reintroduction of orangutans into the wild in 2021. We can then begin to set up a local station in the rainforest. In order to ensure peaceful relations among neighbours, the nearby communities and logging companies operating in the region will need to be brought on board with concessions. However, the continued destruction of the rainforest and the encroachment of humans on the habitat of primates will make it necessary to establish special security measures around the reintroduction zone so that the orangutans remain protected after their release.

In 2021, FOUR PAWS is planning to look after further orphaned orangutans under the umbrella of the Jejak Pulang foundation. In total, the ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL can accommodate around thirty orangutans.

The projects for protecting gorillas and chimpanzees in Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo will continue to be pursued. ■

# Big Cat Rescues

## A new home for lions and tigers

### Background

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

### Our aims

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

In order to achieve these goals, research and strategies are needed alongside political lobbying and publicity campaigns. At FOUR PAWS, all these activities are carried out by the new "Wild Animal Rescue & Advocacy" department, which is made up of the former bear and big cat teams. It will also intervene whenever it learns of specific cases of big cats suffering in poor and inappropriate living conditions, doing all it can to rescue these animals.

Where big cats are seized or surrendered voluntarily, they will be rehomed wherever possible at the sanctuaries operated by FOUR PAWS alone or in cooperation with partner organisations. FOUR PAWS will only admit big cats to one of these sanctuaries if the owners of the animal sign a contract to never keep big cats again. Since the restructuring, the "Sustainable Sanctuaries" department has been responsible for the sanctuaries. Their aim is to continue developing these facilities, secure their funding and provide support to the teams on site so that they can more effectively meet the needs of the animals in their care.

### Sanctuaries

Big cats that have grown up in captivity cannot be released into the wild. As there is a shortage of 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.

#### 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

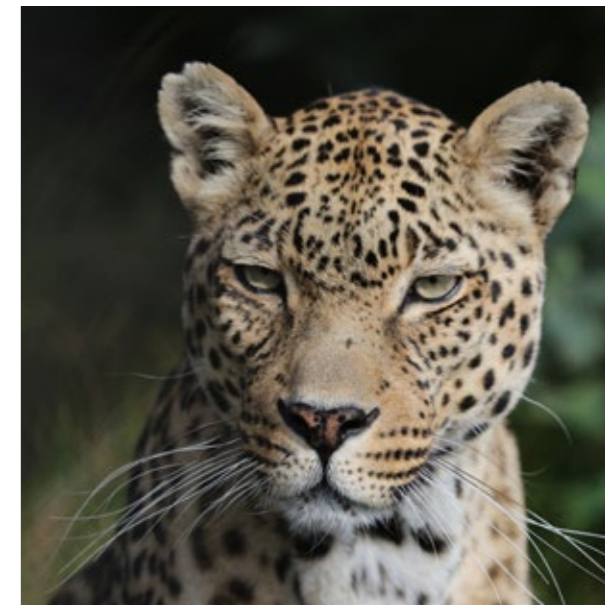


so typical of animals kept in captivity. The big cats cared for in this protective environment can gradually overcome the stereotypical behaviours they have acquired and the trauma they have suffered in their previous lives.

As of the end of 2020, LIONSROCK was home to a total of 101 big cats: 79 lions, 19 tigers and 3 leopards, as well as a hyena, a caracal and a cheetah. Because of the lockdown, necessary and planned building works had to be delayed until the second half of the year. These included the construction of a new enclosure for two tiger brothers, who were rescued from a neglected zoo in March. Two more lions who had been kept privately in captivity in poor conditions also joined LIONSROCK in August.

#### FELIDA

In 2013, FOUR PAWS took over a big cat rescue centre housing 26 animals in the Dutch village of Nijebberkoop. The centre, which has now been renamed FELIDA, specialises in caring for big cats with special needs. For example, the centre provides individual therapy for severely traumatised animals rescued from war zones – for the rest of their lives if they need it. Other animals, once physically fit enough, are prepared for their long journey to LIONSROCK.



In 2020, the centre procured a specially modified vehicle for transporting big cats, which is now being used for rescue and transport operations throughout Europe. Since the usual open days had to be cancelled because of the pandemic, FELIDA organised ten exclusive VIP days for two people at a time. These proved very popular and generated the same amount of income as the open days. Elsewhere, new enclosures were built as part of the preparations for the planned renovations. At the end of 2020, FELIDA was home to four lions and a tiger.



**4** big cat sanctuaries are operated by FOUR PAWS, either independently or with partner organisations.

**135** big cats were cared for by FOUR PAWS in 2020.



### TIERART

FOUR PAWS is the main shareholder of the TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary 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.

In 2020, two tigers from a circus and one serval were welcomed to TIERART. As of the end of 2020, the centre was home to four tigers, a puma called Tikam and a serval called Kiano. Over the course of the year, work was started on constructing new enclosures for the puma and the serval. TIERART now also has a new exhibition on wild animals in circuses, as well as one on animals in war zones and a smaller exhibition about the tiger trade. Visitors to the centre can also enjoy a new bistro and a shop.

### 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 2020, the sanctuary – which was founded by the Princess Alia Foundation in partnership with FOUR PAWS – was home to a total of 25 big cats: 23 lions and 2 tigers. The sanctuary offers tours to educate visitors about the specific needs of the rescued big cats.

### Key activities in 2020

Despite the difficulties caused by the coronavirus pandemic, FOUR PAWS managed to rescue six big cats in 2020 and give them a new home at its sanctuaries.

FOUR PAWS has been campaigning in Germany for a ban on wild animals in circuses for many years. And in late 2020, it looked like these efforts were paying off, with the Ministry of Agriculture presenting draft legislation for precisely this purpose. However, unlike elephants or giraffes, the draft text made no mention of lions and tigers, leaving them at risk of continuing to be forced to perform tricks for the circus. Seeing that this legislation would fall far short of what is required from an animal protection perspective, FOUR PAWS submitted a statement to the Ministry of Agriculture, urging it to liberate all animals – without exception – from the circus ring.



106 lions



26 tigers



3 leopards

## BIG CAT PROJECTS

- ① LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary (South Africa)
- ② FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary (the Netherlands)
- ③ TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary (Germany)
- ④ Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife Sanctuary (Jordan)



In Malta, FOUR PAWS is working to improve the protection of big cats. Following a meeting with the Commissioner for Animal Protection and the veterinary authorities, the former published a report on wild cats in Malta. Meanwhile, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal rights proposed new legislation for zoos in October. In Kosovo, a lion called Gjoni has been living since 2019 in a tiny cage in a restaurant, all alone and exposed to freezing winter temperatures. Although this is illegal, the authorities had not put forward any kind of solution. FOUR PAWS mobilised the public, appealed to the European Commission and the EU office in Kosovo for support, and offered to take in Gjoni and give him a home at one of its sanctuaries. But in spite of the Minister for the Economy and the Environment in Kosovo agreeing to seek the “best possible solution”, it has not yet been possible to rescue the lion.

### Outlook for 2021

One of the biggest projects for the coming year will be the rescue of big cats being kept in poor welfare conditions – particularly Gjoni the lion in Kosovo. Through lobbying work

in countries such as Bulgaria and Romania, FOUR PAWS aims to help ensure that the EU Zoos Directive is implemented in full in these regions. This would guarantee certain minimum standards of care for the big cats living in zoos.

At LIONSROCK, the enclosures are to be restructured and divided up so that rescued wild animals can be moved from temporary accommodation into their final enclosures, making space for new arrivals. The facilities also require work to protect them against flooding and earthquakes. After storms in late 2020 and in view of climate change in general, it must be assumed that events like these will occur more frequently in future.

Upgrades will also be carried out at FELIDA so that it can accommodate new animals. At TIERART, the construction work on the puma and serval enclosures should be completed within the coming year. The organisation will also continue to focus on its educational offerings for visitors, raising awareness of the issues involved in animal protection. ■

# Campaigns for Wild Animals

## The tiger trade in the EU

### Background

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

### Our aims

FOUR PAWS is demanding an EU-wide ban on the commercial trade in tigers, their body parts and goods produced from tiger body parts, as well as a ban on exports to third countries. Tiger breeding should only be permitted for strictly regulated conservation breeding programmes. Live tigers should only be transferred between zoos that have signed up to these

programmes and between animal sanctuaries that do not breed from rescued animals.

### Key activities in 2020

Carrying on from the previous year, FOUR PAWS continued its research into the extent of the tiger trade in the European Union, sending out 640 surveys to the responsible authorities in order to determine how many tigers are being kept in the EU. The report “Europe’s second-class tigers”, published in 2020, shows that the authorities in most EU Member States do not know how many tigers live within their jurisdiction. The report was presented to those responsible at the national and EU level. Five representatives of the EU Parliament also submitted written enquiries concerning the tiger trade to the European Parliament.

In order to bring the issue further into the political spotlight, FOUR PAWS held a special premiere screening of Karl Ammann’s film “The Tiger Mafia” in November followed by a live panel discussion. Ammann’s documentation – collected over a ten-year period – and the research conducted by FOUR PAWS have revealed that the ‘tiger mafia’ is operating in a wide-reaching network that also extends right into the heart of Europe.

Together with six members of the European Parliament, FOUR PAWS organised a political online seminar on the commercial tiger trade, working with representatives of the EU Commission to lay out the next steps in protecting tigers in the EU. The need for greater protection of tigers and tighter



regulation of the trade in these animals was subsequently mentioned in the EU biodiversity strategy.

FOUR PAWS supported the legislative process for the protection of big cats in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as helping the French and Lithuanian authorities with their investigations into the illegal tiger trade.

### Outlook for 2021

Building on the political momentum generated in 2020, FOUR PAWS is working closely with the Czech and Slovakian CITES offices (CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) to develop EU guidelines on the tiger trade. With their help, it has been possible to establish new standards for the protection of tigers in the EU. FOUR PAWS continues to campaign for a ban on trading and will also seek to hold accountable the members of the European Parliament who have already publicly signalled their approval of such a measure.

In 2021, FOUR PAWS will publish a third report on the tiger trade, this time focusing on criminality surrounding big cats

in the EU and the lack of serious consequences for illegal dealers. Throughout the year, we will also be supporting the Czech authorities in bringing to light the cruel practices of the criminal network which kills, processes and sells tigers in Europe. Meanwhile, lobbying will continue in the other EU Member States and a new campaign will be launched on the tiger trade and tiger farms in South Africa, which are further accelerating the decline of the species in the wild.

Ahead of the CITES conference in 2022, FOUR PAWS will also conduct a lobbying campaign aimed at the signatories to the CITES agreement, with the aim of promoting greater protection of tigers and other big cats. ■



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

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

# Native Wild Animals

## 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 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 rescuing the species of animals that we keep as companion animals. 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 & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee (Austria)

The OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee, Austria, 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 12,000-square metre site, employing a dedicated team of staff headed up by scientific director Dr Hans Frey. If a wild bird is too severely injured to be considered for release, the centre offers species-appropriate accommodation in its high-specification aviaries. Some of the animals are given a new 'job' as surrogate parents for injured or orphaned young birds. The OWL & BIRDS 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 & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee in 2010, and in 2016, the station became a part of the FOUR PAWS organisation.

#### TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary (Germany)

Since 2016, FOUR PAWS has been the main shareholder of TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary in the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. With 14 hectares of land at its disposal, the sanctuary is the largest privately operated wild animal sanctuary in Germany. TIERART places a high value on providing professional animal care for native wild animals, offering species-specific accommodation across over 3,400 square metres of individually designed enclosures for a wide range of wild animal species. While being nursed back to health for release, the abandoned, sick or injured animals are looked after by a team of five animal carers and two biologists. The most common patients at the centre are foxes, badgers, 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 sanctuary now provides a permanent, species-appropriate home for 33 abandoned raccoons. The centre is also a permanent home for five tame red foxes, two pastel foxes and two silver foxes rescued from private captivity. In 2017, working in partnership with the EU LIFE lynx project, TIERART opened a rescue centre for lynxes. The centre takes in and cares for injured or abandoned lynxes from the repopulation programme before releasing them into the Palatinate Forest. TIERART also looks after farm animals that have been seized or left behind. The centre currently houses 31 sheep and six goats.

#### Wild Animal and Species Protection Centre gGmbH (Germany)

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

native wild animals. The team provides wild animals in need with care that is species-appropriate and as close to nature as possible, enabling them to make a full return to fitness for life in the wild. In some instances, very severely injured wild animals, exotic animals and farm animals that have been found abandoned or seized are transferred to partner centres and other recognised animal rescue organisations. The wild animal centre also raises abandoned raccoon kits; unfortunately, these animals will not be able to be released back into the wild, instead, they will live out their days here in a safe and suitable enclosure spread across 700 or so square metres.

### Our aims

Around 80% of the wild animals brought into rescue centres or wild animal centres have found themselves in difficulty for reasons attributable to human civilisation. FOUR PAWS therefore believes it is its moral duty and responsibility to help and care for these animals. The primary objective of the wild animal centres is to rescue, provide professional care for and then successfully release and reintegrate native wild animals into the natural environment. Working together with FOUR PAWS, the wild animal centres also engage in media and public relations campaigns to help educate the public on how to deal with wild animals in the correct manner. Every year, the staff at the wild animal 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



**33** orphaned raccoons are permanent residents at TIERART.

**140** hedgehogs overwintered at the OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee in 2020.



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 2020

### OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee

The OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee admitted a total of 2,196 wild animals in 2020. Of the animals taken into its care, 931 have already been successfully released into the wild. Many of the wild animals require additional care from the experienced team, including 140



hedgehogs, who remained at the centre over the winter. A further 173 wild animals originally admitted the previous year were also successfully released back into the wild. A large aviary has been built for sea eagles, and is already home to its first three residents.

### TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary

Over the past year, TIERART cared for and raised more than 230 wild animals before releasing them back into the wild. The centre also fielded hundreds of emergency calls from across Germany, with the team giving advice and instructions over the phone so that many more wild animals could be helped. New enclosures were built for hedgehogs and hares, and work on a new raccoon centre continued. Many



## WILD ANIMAL CENTRES

- 1 OWL & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee (Austria)
- 2 TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary (Germany)
- 3 Wild Animal and Species Protection Centre gGmbH (Germany)

older enclosures were refurbished and the roof of the sheep barn was replaced. The new arrivals in 2020 included seven chickens and two bee colonies. In addition to teaching events about bees, TIERART now offers its very own honey for sale to the public. Visitors to the centre can learn about a range of issues through the various exhibitions that are now open on site: one on the tiger trade, one on animals in circuses, and a large exhibition about the history of animals in war.

### Wild Animal and Species Protection Centre gGmbH

The wild animal centre rescued more than 2,200 wild animals from life-threatening situations in 2020. More than half of these rescues were successfully returned to 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. A pond for turtles was built on the grounds of the centre in 2020. In addition, construction work was completed on two additional aviaries for owls and birds of prey. The ancillary building was extended to make more room for intensive care patients, with a special facility containing indoor enclosures and incubators being built as part of this. Unfortunately, the programme of tours and nature education had to be heavily restricted owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Outlook for 2021

In 2021, 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 & BIRDS OF PREY RESCUE STATION Haringsee, existing enclosures are in need of repair. The three large training and pre-release aviaries will be renovated, and there are also plans to build a large aviary for ravens.

In the summer, the TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary will open the new facility for Tikam the puma, as well as building an additional enclosure for lynxes. The centre also plans to renovate the enclosures for raccoons, foxes and wild cats. In 2021, TIERART hopes to step up its activities to educate visitors, with educational programmes to complement the new exhibitions and a new trail and visitor concept at the centre.

FOUR PAWS will continue its partnership with the Wild Animal and Species Protection Centre gGmbH. In order to provide the best possible care to the ever-growing number of rescue animals, there are plans to build further enclosures at the centre. A seminar room and green classroom will also be built as part of the centre's educational offering. ■

# Fur Farming Campaign

## Fashion without fur

### Background

Every year, about 100 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.

The year 2020 was a stark reminder that fur farming also entails considerable health risks to humans and animals: SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, spread rapidly on mink farms, where it was then transmitted back to humans. Millions of animals had to be culled prematurely.

For decades, FOUR PAWS has worked to help fur animals, educating the general public, exerting consistent pressure on politicians and businesses and protesting outside fur farms. Our efforts have been successful: the keeping of fur animals has been prohibited in Austria since 1998, and the sale of fur products at Viennese markets was banned in 2018.

### Our aims

Our long-term goal is an EU-wide ban on fur farms and an end to the trade in fur products. Until such a ban is implemented, more companies must be convinced to withdraw from the fur trade. As part of the fight against COVID-19, FOUR PAWS is campaigning for the suspension of mink farming across the EU at a minimum. The transportation of mink and untreated fur must also be banned.



### Campaigns in 2020

In January, FOUR PAWS partnered with a number of other organisations to put on a panel discussion in the European Parliament. At this discussion, the new report by the international Fur Free Alliance (FFA) was presented, which highlighted the major shortcomings of the new certification programme for the fur industry (WelFur). The FFA is an international alliance of leading animal welfare groups, including FOUR PAWS.

In Austria, Australia, Bulgaria, Germany and South Africa, FOUR PAWS supports the Fur Free Retailer Programme ([www.furfreeretailer.com](http://www.furfreeretailer.com)). The programme certifies retailers, fashion companies and designers who have entered into a binding agreement to refrain from using or selling real fur. Across the world, over 1,500 companies have already signed up to the initiative. Over the past year, FOUR PAWS was able to recruit 15 new companies to the programme, including the Jones, Airfield and Högl brands.

FOUR PAWS also carried out investigations into the use of fur at the leading fashion companies in the German-speaking world, auditing a total of 188 retailers in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The results showed that 71.3 per cent of the leading brands had banned real fur from their collections. A representative opinion poll conducted on behalf of FOUR PAWS also revealed that at least 83 per cent of respondents in all three countries disagree with the farming and killing of animals in order to use their fur in the fashion industry.



One of the companies that went against this trend in 2020 and continued to use real fur in Germany was the mail-order company Madeleine. Countless raccoon dogs, foxes, mink and rabbits died for the sake of Madeleine's clothing lines. By the end of the year, 65,000 supporters had joined FOUR PAWS in urging the company to stop selling fur.

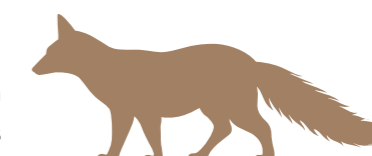
There have been a number of coronavirus outbreaks on mink farms in Europe, Canada and the US since April 2020. This shows that the conditions on fur farms create an ideal environment for the spread of infectious diseases. FOUR PAWS responded to the worrying trend of infections and transmission of the virus back to humans, as well as the mass culling that followed on the mink farms, with increased lobbying and publicity work at the EU and national level. Together with the other members of the Fur Free Alliance, we urged heads of state and government from G20 countries to put a definitive end to fur farming.

As well as bringing tragedy, the COVID-19 outbreaks on the farms also offered an opportunity to call time on this outdated industry. For instance, France announced in September that it would be ending fur farming. In November, Hungary outlawed the breeding of mink and foxes, while the Netherlands brought forward its ban on fur farms, originally planned for 2024, to 2021.

In late 2020, FOUR PAWS debuted the educational film "Hide", which tells three interconnected stories behind one fur coat. The Fur Free Alliance partnered with US actor Mena Suvari, musician Billie Eilish and film-maker Dustin Brown to create this film.

### Outlook for 2021

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



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

**396** mink farms in the EU were affected by COVID-19 in 2020.

# Stray Animal Care

## Global projects for cats and dogs

### Background

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

### Our aims

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

### Stray animal care

To permanently reduce the number of stray animals roaming the streets, FOUR PAWS deploys specially trained teams across the world, all of whom use the Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return method. The teams catch stray dogs and

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

### Animal-assisted intervention

The “Animal-assisted intervention” project is a special component of the FOUR PAWS international stray animal care programme. Since 2004, 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 2020

Over the past year, FOUR PAWS has neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and provided medical treatment for 131,859 stray animals. The stray aid teams worked in a total of



in Myanmar, FOUR PAWS vaccinated 110,368 dogs and cats against this deadly virus.

**Indonesia:** FOUR PAWS is active on the islands of Bali, Borneo and Java. On Bali, FOUR PAWS works with various partners from the healthcare sector to run the “Dharma” programme. This includes vaccinations against rabies, free neutering of companion animals and strays and the establishment of an animal health clinic. In the Indonesian part of Borneo and in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital on the island of Java, the FOUR PAWS team works with partner organisations Pro Natura and the Jakarta Animal Aid Network to help stray cats and dogs. In 2020, a total of 4,124 stray animals across the three Indonesian islands were neutered, dewormed and given vaccines. Together with the Jakarta Animal Aid Network, FOUR PAWS established the first online educational platform for animal welfare in Indonesia ([www.animalwelfare.id](http://www.animalwelfare.id)). The local team aims to use this platform to provide information to schools, rescue centres and the general public.

eight countries: Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. FOUR PAWS also supported projects in Greece and Jordan. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the collapse of the tourism industry, the situation for stray animals took a dramatic turn for the worse in many parts of Europe and South-East Asia in early 2020. Animals that would normally eat from the rubbish left behind by tourists in bins and roadside ditches suddenly had no food at all. FOUR PAWS acted quickly to get a global food programme up and running. With regular deliveries of food and emergency aid, FOUR PAWS saved hundreds of thousands of stray animals from death by starvation in Eastern Europe and South-East Asia.

### Stray animal care in South-East Asia

In Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, FOUR PAWS worked with local animal welfare organisations to save the lives of countless animals in need. In 2020, the teams treated and neutered 9,095 dogs and cats in these countries. The teams also provided training for vets and ran campaigns to raise awareness. During a major rabies prevention campaign



**10** countries across the world received help from the stray aid teams in 2020.

**131,859** strays received treatment.



cats. At talks and workshops held in schools, FOUR PAWS taught more than 150 pupils and teachers about caring for companion animals responsibly and the dangers of the pet meat industry.

**Myanmar:** Myanmar is home to over four million stray dogs. Rabies is widespread, and almost a thousand people a year die from this fatal disease. The brutal mass killings of strays that have taken place in the past have not helped to solve the problem. Since 2018, FOUR PAWS has been running a major vaccine drive against rabies in close partnership with Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI). Before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, 110,338 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies in Myanmar in 2020. FOUR PAWS also provided training to more than 100 local vets and helpers, as well as raising public awareness of the need for a sustainable rabies prevention programme through media reports and poster campaigns. Activities had to be suspended in late March due to the national lockdown.



**Thailand:** FOUR PAWS looks after strays in partnership with the "Thailand's Forgotten Dogs" aid programme. In 2020, the local team cared for 1,850 injured and sick dogs and cats. In addition to neutering and providing medical treatment for these animals, educating the public is a major part of the team's work.

**Vietnam:** More than a million pet and stray cats fall victim to the meat trade each year. To help protect these animals, FOUR PAWS runs the "Cats Matter Too" programme in partnership with local organisations Vietnam Cat Welfare and PAWS for Compassion. In 2020, 1,013 stray and companion animals were neutered and vaccinated for free.

#### Stray animal care in 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 2020, our clinical teams in Eastern Europe neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and treated a total of 12,396 dogs and cats. 5,953 of these animals were in Bulgaria, with a further 2,209 in Ukraine, 4,048 in Romania and 186 in Greece. In addition to carrying out neutering, the FOUR PAWS vets also saved the lives of 800 seriously injured cats and dogs, most of whom had been hit by cars. FOUR PAWS took them into its clinics,



nursing them back to health – in some cases over a period of several months. They were then given homes with new, responsible owners.

**Bulgaria:** In the city of Pernik, FOUR PAWS started a new programme offering free neutering services for cats and dogs with low-income owners. This prevented hundreds of unwanted litters, as a result of which thousands of puppies would have been abandoned.

**Romania:** In the Romanian city of Galati, FOUR PAWS partnered with the Animal Society on a project to support local initiatives for the humane and responsible treatment of animals living on the streets. The aim here is to create a sustainable framework that will enable the community of Galati to reduce the stray dog population and improve the quality of life of street animals in the long term. In Romania, FOUR PAWS also supports the Speranta shelter, which houses almost 600 former stray dogs who are now waiting for their new families.

**Ukraine:** Last year, FOUR PAWS launched the "Shelter Adoption Programme", which helps shelters to find new homes for cats

and dogs who are difficult to place. For instance, workers at the centres are trained to teach dogs basic commands (heel, sit, stay, etc.). They learn how to present photos of the animals on their own websites and set up digital ad campaigns. The state-run rescue centre in Vinnytsia, the first centre to sign up to the programme, managed to increase its adoption rate by 70 per cent in one year.

A new collaborative project with the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv has saved thousands of stray animals from a cruel death. With help from FOUR PAWS, the city will implement a programme over the next three years for humanely reducing the population of stray dogs. Mykolaiv is one of the last cities in Ukraine that, up until this point, was still carrying out mass killings of stray animals.

**New projects:** In addition to the existing projects in Eastern Europe, FOUR PAWS partnered with the Greek Animal Welfare Fund (GAWF) in 2020 to initiate a local programme on the island of Paros, which helped a total of 186 stray cats. In Jordan, FOUR PAWS launched a new aid project in December for stray dogs in partnership with the Princess Alia Foundation, which enabled 500 stray animals to be



neutered and treated. In the Moldavian capital of Chisinau, FOUR PAWS distributed 10 tonnes of food to starving stray dogs during an emergency mission in December.

#### Animal-assisted intervention

At the three FOUR PAWS therapy centres in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine, a total of 1,485 children with disabilities, students and elderly people attended 478 three therapy sessions with former stray dogs over the past year.

#### Scientific study

The scientific study STRAYS (Sustainable Techniques for Reducing the Abundance of Stray Dogs) was funded by FOUR PAWS and was a four-year scientific collaboration between FOUR PAWS, the University of Leeds (UK) and the Italian institute Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise Giuseppe Caporale (IZSAM). It was structured as a PhD programme that concluded in 2020. The study compared methods of managing street dog populations in terms of effectiveness in reducing dog numbers, cost efficiency, and

long-term sustainability. The study investigated potential management impact on street dog welfare, public health, and public acceptance, among other factors.

This study determined that combining Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (CNVR) with responsible dog ownership interventions is the most effective, efficient and sustainable method of managing free-roaming dog populations over long periods of time. The positive effects of a systematic neutering and responsible ownership programme are further amplified when targeting high proportions of the street dog population to be neutered (e.g. 70%). Applying this management strategy is effective, efficient and sustainable because the combined methods address multiple causes for street dog increase, namely reproduction and abandonment of pets.

In comparison, killing of street dogs or their removal and placement in permanent shelters are less effective and sustainable management strategies in the long-term as they do not target the causes for population increase, allowing the dog population to return to its original size more quickly.



#### Outlook for 2021

**Asia:** In order to continue improving the poor situation for stray animals in southern Asian, FOUR PAWS plans to launch a new project in India. The first phase will involve using mobile animal clinics in the city of Chennai to provide urgent medical care to sick and injured stray animals.

The aim is to expand and build on the programme of assistance for stray animals, as well as partnerships with local interest groups in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. In 2021, we are aiming to treat and neuter at least 10,000 dogs and cats across the South-East Asia region. We will also be continuing our public awareness work and campaigns against the dog and cat meat trade. 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. A dedicated mobile clinic for cats will be set up in order to reach remote rural areas. In Cambodia, the



number of pagodas taking in animals will be increased and a collaborative project with local communities will be launched.

**Europe:** In Eastern Europe, FOUR PAWS will focus on the implementation of sustainable projects, helping local people to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to work independently in the future. 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 2021, FOUR PAWS will also neuter and provide medical care to thousands of stray animals in Eastern Europe. The Ukrainian "Shelter Adoption Programme" will be given an online presence in 2021 so that even more animal shelters can receive help to find homes for their dogs. In the Bulgarian city of Sofia, FOUR PAWS will be partnering with the city authorities to launch a new project for stray cats, while a new stray dog project is taking shape in Constanta, Romania. The new projects in Greece and Jordan will be continued. ■

# 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. The trade in dog and cat meat is not only a huge animal welfare issue, but also poses a major risk to public health. The long-distance transportation, unhygienic slaughter and consumption of cat and dog meat create the perfect conditions for dangerous pathogens such as rabies to spread. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has also become clear that the uncontrolled trading of meat can fuel the spread of deadly viruses.

### Our aims

FOUR PAWS wants to end the dog and cat meat trade in Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam by the year 2030. The governments in these countries are urged to pass laws that ban the slaughter, sale and consumption of cats and dogs.

### Campaigns in 2020

Over the last year, the FOUR PAWS international campaign has focused on informing the public about how the trade in cat and dog meat affects not just strays but also millions of stolen companion animals. FOUR PAWS published a report on this subject entitled “The dog and cat meat trade – a danger to animals and humans”, as well as releasing the film “Victims of the Trade”, while also running an ad campaign in Cambodia and Vietnam.

By the end of the year, FOUR PAWS had collected more than one million signatures in support of a ban on the dog and cat meat trade. During its research in slaughterhouses, FOUR PAWS rescued many cats and dogs. It also brought about the closure of a dog slaughterhouse in Cambodia and a cat slaughterhouse in Vietnam.

In South-East Asia, FOUR PAWS is part of the animal

protection coalitions DMFI (Dog Meat Free Indonesia) and ACPA (Asia Canine Protection Alliance), whose work includes conducting covert investigations, lobbying governments and raising awareness among the general public.

### Cambodia

FOUR PAWS achieved a major success in Cambodia in July 2020: Siem Reap, the second largest city in the country and a popular tourist attraction, announced that it would be banning the dog and cat meat trade. This decision came after talks with the local government of Siem Reap, in which FOUR PAWS presented government representatives with a detailed report on the trading of dog and cat meat in the city. With the exception of the province of Siem Reap, there are no laws in Cambodia that forbid the trading of dog meat. In August, FOUR PAWS closed a dog slaughterhouse in the province of Kampong Thom and rescued the surviving dogs from their cages. Before its closure, the facility was responsible for the deaths of around 3,000 dogs a year.

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.

### Vietnam

In Vietnam, up to five million dogs and over a million cats are killed each year for food. FOUR PAWS published a report in August on the cat meat trade in Vietnam, which had previously been under-researched compared to the trade in dog meat. The report caught the attention of the media, government representatives and stakeholders. In November, a panel discussion entitled “Build Back Better for Animals Together” was held in London in order to inform the international tourism industry about cat meat trading in Vietnam. In December, FOUR PAWS closed a cat slaughterhouse in the city of Thai Binh, a stronghold of the cat meat trade that harbours numerous restaurants where the meat is sold. All the cats were



liberated from their cages and brought to an animal rescue centre. Our work was supported by Vietnamese animal welfare organisations Paws for Compassion and Vietnam Cat Welfare.

### Outlook for 2021

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. Through partnerships with the tourism industry and travel agents, we are aiming to increase the pressure on governments to take action in 2021. FOUR PAWS will also make contact with the embassies of the three south-east Asian countries in Europe, conduct further investigations, close slaughterhouses and rescue animals, while continuing to raise awareness of the cruel dog and cat meat trade in South-East Asia and beyond. ■



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

**1 m.** signatures were collected in support of a ban on the dog and cat meat trade.

# The Illegal Puppy Trade

## Creating transparency

### Background

In Eastern Europe, millions of puppies are farmed in huge numbers in appalling conditions every year. Separated from their mothers far too early in life, they are sold anonymously via the internet, with fake vaccination records to dupe buyers in Western Europe; often, the puppies are seriously ill, traumatised, unvaccinated, and riddled with worms. Many dogs die just days after purchase, and some don't even make it through their long journey across Europe. The surviving animals suffer from behavioural problems 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 responsibility.

### 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, keeping and trading. The key objective 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 – especially in the case of online transactions.

### Key activities in 2020

#### At the EU level

FOUR PAWS presented its “model solution for the complete traceability of the online trade in dogs and cats in the EU” to various authorities of the European Union and to the European Commission. In an early success for the

project, a report delivered by international experts to the EU Commission and the member states contained the key demands of the FOUR PAWS model solution concerning the verification of online dealers and animal registration. The model solution also forms part of the recommendations by the “Pets trade” working group and is supported by the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.

#### At the national level

FOUR PAWS held talks with politicians at the federal and national level in a number of member states, including Austria, Bulgaria, Germany and Switzerland. It urged the member states to pass national laws that would enable only clearly verified sellers to list animals for sale online, and would require these animals to be chipped and registered. The FOUR PAWS team also presented the model solution to a range of classified ad platforms and operators of databases for companion animal microchips in Europe. Thanks to a new partnership with Europetnet, it was possible to integrate their verification system into the model solution. With more than 92 million entries, Europetnet is one of the largest companion animal databases in the EU.

In 2020, FOUR PAWS published a report on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the online dog trade. It found that the number of animals advertised fell drastically during the first lockdown, but rose steadily once borders reopened in May. The illegal puppy trade also experienced a boom due to the immense demand for companion animals.

Thanks to support from FOUR PAWS, a parliamentary question on the illegal puppy trade was asked for the first time in Germany, while a prolific puppy trader was also sentenced. In Austria, FOUR PAWS lodged a complaint in September against an animal trader from Slovakia, who was operating 15 websites with an Austrian domain as well as numerous



social media pages, offering many different breeds of dog for sale. In Denmark and Ireland, FOUR PAWS worked with local animal welfare organisations, assisting them in their efforts to introduce the model solution in their countries.

### Outlook for 2021

In 2021, FOUR PAWS will continue its programme of intensive research, lobbying and public relations work to campaign for restrictions on the online trading of animals that would ensure that only registered companion animals can be sold by verified traders. More classified ad portals must be encouraged to adopt the model solution developed by FOUR PAWS and end the anonymous and illegal trade of puppies on their platforms.

In the EU member states, FOUR PAWS will make a strong case for the robust implementation of the EU Animal Health Regulation in national law. It will also seek to ensure that the

wording of the Digital Services Act explicitly stipulates checks on the identity of animals and traders on online platforms. In January 2021, FOUR PAWS was invited to a round table discussion in Germany with Minister of Agriculture Julia Klöckner, where the parties discussed the problem of and potential solutions to the illegal trade of animals on the internet. FOUR PAWS also collected 100,000 signatures in support of a petition condemning the illegal puppy trade, which it will submit to the German federal government. ■



**2,4 m.** puppies are advertised for sale online each year.

**1,5 b.** euros in annual profit is thought to be generated by dealers each year.



# Horses and Donkeys

## Campaigning for better living and working conditions

### Background

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

### Romania: Working horses

In 2017, FOUR PAWS commenced a pilot project to improve the lives and health of working horses in some of the poorest regions of Romania. Over the past few years, veterinary treatment has been provided for a total of 430 horses in the community of Smardioasa and the surrounding villages. Almost all of these horses were fitted with new shoes. In order to ensure long-term improvements to the situation, the owners were advised about the needs of their working horses and taught how to care for them properly.

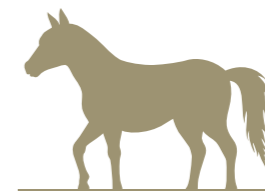
### Romania: Wild horses

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

to guarantee long-term protection of the wild horse population living in the Danube Delta biosphere reserve, the project reins will be handed over to the responsible local authority.

### 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 significantly 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.



**500** or so wild horses live in the Danube Delta.

**100** working horses were provided with veterinary care in Jordan in 2020.



### Our aims

A top priority for FOUR PAWS is to uncover abuses 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 so wild horses live in the Danube Delta, and communities to sustainably improve the well-being of these working animals. In the city of Petra in Jordan, a target has been set to halve the use of working horses and donkeys by 2025.



### Key activities in 2020

#### Romania

Horse welfare visits to the communities surrounding Smardioasa had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 safety measures. The humane birth control programme for the wild horses in the Danube Delta was continued with some restrictions. 25 mares were given a new contraceptive and eight studs were castrated.

#### Jordan

The ongoing work to improve the health and living conditions of the working horses was forced to stop in March due to the global lockdown. The sudden lack of tourists affected the

## HORSE AND DONKEY PROJECTS

- 1 Wild horses in Letea (Romania)
- 2 Working horses in Smardioasa (Romania)
- 3 Working horses and donkeys in Petra (Jordan)

income of horse and donkey owners in Petra. FOUR PAWS provided assistance in the form of an emergency supply of medicines for the working animals, with the Princess Alia Foundation stepping in to continue the work in August. Four field operations were carried out over the course of the year, providing veterinary treatment and care to more than one hundred horses. An informational seminar was also held for local vets, horse owners and public officials. Prior announcements by the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority about the planned use of electric vehicles came to fruition at the end of the year, the aim of these vehicles being to gradually replace all horse-drawn carts currently on the streets. This is a major success for the protection of these working animals and a testament to the years of campaigning by FOUR PAWS and the Princess Alia Foundation.

### Outlook for 2021

#### Romania: Wild horses

The birth control programme for the wild horses in the Danube Delta will be continued in 2021. Up to 150 mares will be given the immunocontraceptive that will make them infertile for three years. The use of a drone will be trialled as part of efforts to find more efficient and less stressful

ways to guide the mares into an enclosure for the injections. Meanwhile, FOUR PAWS is putting 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

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 communities in southern Romania. Aid missions to provide medical treatment and fit new shoes are planned for the communities of Smardioasa, Frumoasa, Soimu and Piatra Olt. However, they can only be carried out when COVID-19 regulations allow.

#### Jordan

From 2021 onwards, the horse-drawn carts in Petra will be gradually replaced by electric vehicles. Meanwhile, FOUR PAWS and the Princess Alia Foundation are continuing to provide veterinary treatment to working animals. Alongside these activities, educational events will be offered so that owners can learn how to look after their animals properly. In the nearby village of Uum Sahyoun, the donkeys will be examined and chipped in order to improve their health and protect them from neglect. ■

# Farm Animals and Food

## For people, animals and the environment

### Background

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

### 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.

The EU regulation on the protection of animals during transport requires a long-overdue revision, so that the journey times do not exceed eight hours for ungulates and four hours for rabbits and poultry. Transport to third countries and the transport of animals that are too young to have been fully weaned must be banned.

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

## Animal transport

### Key activities in 2020

Early in the year 2020, trucks carrying live animals were backed up for days at EU borders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to save time, it was ruled that the usual mandatory veterinary checks could be dispensed with. FOUR PAWS criticised this decision and managed to convince some EU countries, such as Austria, to restore these checks at the borders.

Throughout the year, FOUR PAWS has focused on raising awareness of the plight of transported live animals, urging the EU Commission to ban the long-distance transport of animals. Severe and systematic violations of animal welfare obligations and applicable laws have been occurring for decades in live animal transport. The European Commission finally responded in 2020, announcing a long-overdue revision of its regulation on the protection of animals during transport – a major victory in the fight to improve the welfare of these animals. Meanwhile,



in the European Parliament, an overwhelming majority backed the creation of an investigation committee tasked with uncovering abuses during live animal transport. FOUR PAWS is in close contact with the parliamentarians on the committee.

In Austria, FOUR PAWS attended two animal welfare summits organised by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, which also touched on the topic of animal transport. The main issues covered were the transport of living animals to third countries, and the transport of calves who had not yet been weaned. In 2020, Austria took a first step in tightening restrictions on the transport of animals to and via Russia.

Based on suspected acts of aiding and abetting cruelty to animals, FOUR PAWS submitted legal complaints against 21 German veterinary inspection posts in four federal states. This prompted all four of the federal states to stop transporting animals to non-EU countries. In addition, North Rhine-Westphalia banned the long-distance transport of

young animals that have not yet been weaned, while Baden-Württemberg suspended the transport of calves to Spain. FOUR PAWS also repeatedly urged Federal Minister Julia Klöckner to make the case for putting an end to live animal transport during the German chairpersonship of the EU Council presidency. This call to action was bolstered by the presentation of a petition bearing 150,000 signatures to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

### Outlook for 2021

In 2021, FOUR PAWS aims to keep exerting pressure at the national and EU level, as well as working to ensure that the new EU regulation on the transport of live animals offers the greatest possible protection to the animals and enshrines in law a ban on transport to third countries.

In Austria, FOUR PAWS will focus on campaigning for a ban on the transport of calves that have not been weaned, as well as a ban on the long-distance transport of breeding cattle.

# End the Cage Age

## Background

In intensive farming, female pigs are confined for months on end to crates so small they cannot even turn around. Most egg-laying hens and rabbits farmed for meat know nothing but a cage for the whole of their short lives. Calves are separated from their mothers to be housed in individual crates that are not much larger than their young bodies. These farming systems harm the animals and severely restrict their natural behaviour. In order to end the cage confinement of farm animals across Europe, FOUR PAWS partnered with more than 175 organisations in 2018 to launch the European citizens' initiative "End the Cage Age". These initiatives require the support of at least one million citizens before the European Commission will put the issue on its agenda.

## Key activities in 2020

In October, 1.4 million signatures were handed over to the EU Commission, meaning that the number of people supporting the "End the Cage Age" was significantly higher than the minimum requirement. An international survey commissioned by FOUR PAWS together with other organisations shed further light on just how pressing a concern this is for citizens in the EU. More than 70 per cent of respondents strongly disagreed with the keeping of animals in cages and rejected the idea of cage systems continuing to be funded by the EU.

## Outlook for 2021

A hearing on "End the Cage Age" is set to take place in the European Parliament in 2021. After this, the EU Commission will have up to three months to respond to the citizens' initiative. FOUR PAWS will give public updates on the development of this process, alongside making the case for the end of caged farming in the EU at the political level.



# 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), 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 a merino lamb's buttocks to prevent flystrike. This cruel practice is known as mulesing; it is only used in Australia, where 75 per cent of the wool used in clothing is produced.

Thanks to consistent investigative work and campaigning by FOUR PAWS, many clothing brands have faced up to their need to act. They have spoken out publicly against mulesing and announced their policies of refusing to use this wool any longer, which also sends an important signal to producers in Australia. FOUR PAWS also 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 2020

To encourage even more textile brands to eliminate mulesing from their supply chains completely, FOUR PAWS sought out dialogue with the textile industry. Meanwhile, public awareness of this cruel practice was raised through the "Mulesing-Free Wool" campaign.

In April, a list was published of the one hundred international textile companies that have already implemented measures to eliminate mulesing. This enabled FOUR PAWS to highlight the demand for mulesing-free wool and convince many more fashion brands to stop using Merino wool from mutilated sheep. By the end of the year, a further 80 companies had committed to using only mulesing-free wool in future, including Jack Wolfskin and O'Neill Europe.

Meanwhile, rankings of various national clothing brands were published in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. As a result, six more brands pledged to stop sourcing wool from suppliers who practice mulesing.

In July 2020, FOUR PAWS published an investigation showing that Australian sheep farmers keeping the more resistant breeds produced merino wool that was just as profitable, without mutilating their animals. The report was presented to the EU Parliament, the EU Commission and the Australian Delegation during the consultations on the trade agreement between the EU and Australia. In response to this report, the international wool supplier The Schneider Group organised a three-day international wool conference with mulesing as its main focus. In addition, many Australian wool producers expressed a desire to end this cruel practice.

## Outlook for 2021

FOUR PAWS wants to see the fashion industry switch to certified mulesing-free wool across the board, as well as achieving an end to mulesing in the Australian wool industry. In addition, the organisation aims to launch a new "Wear it Kind" campaign for cruelty-free fashion in order to help consumers make ethical and sustainable decisions when purchasing clothing. ■

# 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. For this reason, FOUR PAWS developed the Tierschutz-kontrolliert (“Inspected animal welfare”) label in close cooperation with scientific experts. 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. FOUR PAWS has published ten guidelines to date for the various livestock species. They include provisions for the keeping, transport



and slaughter of animals. Certified businesses are inspected yearly by independent, government-accredited certification bodies, based on the criteria set out by FOUR PAWS. These auditing organisations assess not only the general conditions

in which the animals are kept, but also their well-being with the aid of various animal-focused parameters. Over the last few years, 907,000 farm animals were reared according to FOUR PAWS’ guidelines and lived a better life as a result.



## Our aims

FOUR PAWS aims to improve the living, transport and slaughter conditions for as many farm animals as possible. To this end, it introduced its Tierschutz-kontrolliert animal welfare label in 2012. The label is divided into two levels: Silver and Gold.

products bearing the Tierschutz-kontrolliert label were sold all over Austria.

To raise awareness of the programme even further among consumers and potential partners, a website has been launched: [www.tierschutz-kontrolliert.org](http://www.tierschutz-kontrolliert.org).

## Key activities in 2020

In 2020, more than 522,000 animals lived on farms certified by FOUR PAWS. The following project partners held the Tierschutz-kontrolliert label at the Gold or Silver level:

- Wanderhuhn GmbH, Gold for the farming of laying hens in mobile stalls and the rearing of male chicks
- Eiermacher GmbH, Gold for duck farming
- Hütthaler KG, Silver for pig farming
- Allgäuer Hofmilch GmbH, Silver for dairy cow farming

The partnership with the Almochsen project (a project focusing on pasture-raised beef cattle) run by Schirnhöfer GmbH was amicably terminated in July.

For consumers and producers, the responsible farming of cows, pigs and other farm animals is becoming a matter of ever greater concern. Project partners were able to recruit more agricultural businesses to the programme, and

## Outlook for 2021

In future, the Tierschutz-kontrolliert animal welfare label will focus on Austria. The programme will be expanded to new partners and other animal species, so that beef cattle, turkeys, free-range geese and dairy calves can live in better conditions. The programme will be steadily adapted to improve its effectiveness, and will also serve as a best-practice example in the European context for greater animal welfare standards in farming. ■



**522,000** animals lived on farms that were certified by FOUR PAWS in 2020.

# Aid Following Natural and Environmental Disasters

## International campaigns

### 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 companion animals – 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, rescuers 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, 2016 and 2019), the Philippines (following typhoons in 2013 and 2014, and the 2020 volcanic eruption), Australia (after bush fires in 2020), 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 2020

#### Expansion of international networks

Over the last year, the disaster relief team worked closely with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and wrote a report on animals in disaster-hit areas, which is due to be published in 2021. The report shows that, following all natural and environmental disasters, rescuing companion and farm animals plays an important role in the recovery of the affected communities. In March, FOUR PAWS also assisted the OIE in establishing an emergency network of vets.



After the collapse of the tourism industry due to the COVID-19 lockdown, dogs, cats, donkeys, cows and other companion and farm animals were at risk of starvation. In urban and rural communities, FOUR PAWS' partner organisations distributed more than ten tonnes of food over a 60-day period.

### Outlook for 2021

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 2021, 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 2021, we are also planning an overhaul of our training programme for volunteers and aiming to train new volunteers. ■

A joint report was published in February by FOUR PAWS and 170 animal welfare organisations through the World Animal Net international forum, looking at how animal welfare can be promoted during and in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Emergency aid

**Australia:** In the wake of the devastating Australian bush fires of January 2020, the FOUR PAWS team supported eight local animal welfare organisations in four states, helping them to rescue and care for native wild animals.

**Philippines:** In January, almost 2,000 animals died after the Taal volcano erupted in the Philippines. Several hundred were evacuated, and were looked after by FOUR PAWS together with the partner organisation Animal Kingdom Foundation, who provided emergency accommodation, food and water, while vets attended to the health of the animals. In India and the Philippines, food deliveries from FOUR PAWS saved the lives of more than 10,000 animals between March and June.



**10,000** animals were saved by FOUR PAWS through food deliveries in 2020.

**10** tonnes of feed were distributed.

# Help for Animals in War and Crisis Zones

## International campaigns

### Background

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

### Our aims

FOUR PAWS helps animals that are at risk from war or political 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 unstable regions. 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 rescue team is comprised of vets,

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

### Key activities in 2020

#### Sudan

Sudan has been blighted by ongoing unrest and political power struggles. As a result of the decades of conflict it has already suffered, the region is lacking in food and medicine. Millions of people are dependent on humanitarian aid. In 2020, images circulated in the global media of starving lions in a zoo in Sudan's capital, Khartoum. FOUR PAWS rapidly organised a mission to help the big cats at Al Qurashi Family Park.

A team of vets, led by Dr Amir Khalil, travelled to Khartoum and organised deliveries of food and water to the two zoo lions. When they arrived, Kandaka the lion weighed just 30 kilograms and could not stand up by herself. She was also suffering from kidney damage and a cataract in her eye. The vets from FOUR PAWS were able to save the life of this lioness. Without intervention, her partner Mansour would not have survived either. After numerous meetings with politicians, authorities and local animal welfare organisations, both lions were transferred to a newly built rescue centre run by the Sudan Animal Rescue. The two lions can live out their lives here in a safe and suitable environment.

#### Lebanon

Since October 2019, Lebanon has been affected by enormous political unrest and mass demonstrations. In August 2020,



elephant. When a court ordered the dilapidated animal park to close, FOUR PAWS transferred Kaavan via aeroplane to a wildlife sanctuary in Cambodia – a process that required three months of preparation. Here, he encountered other elephants for the first time in eight lonely years. Once he is settled into his new home, he will begin the process of being socialised with his new herdmates.

the country was suddenly hit by another catastrophe: a violent explosion in the port of its capital Beirut. More than 300,000 people lost their homes, and swathes of the city lay in ruins. FOUR PAWS initiated an emergency mission in order to help the companion animals – primarily cats – affected by the disaster. The team saved the lives of more than 3,000 cats; hundreds were successfully reunited with their owners, while a thousand were vaccinated and a hundred neutered. The aid workers also distributed 11 tonnes of food.

#### Pakistan

In November 2020, FOUR PAWS launched another emergency mission, and this time it was a spectacular one: rescuing Kaavan, the 'world's loneliest elephant'. Presented as an official gift from Sri Lanka to Pakistan as a baby, Kaavan languished for decades in a tiny, bleak enclosure at the Islamabad Zoo. After the death of his partner Saheli, he was all alone. FOUR PAWS had been working with animal rescuers in Pakistan, the organisation Free The Wild and the American singer Cher since 2016 in an effort to free the male

### Outlook for 2021

In 2021, 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 check whether and how we can help. The safety of our teams is always our top priority. ■



**3,000** companion animals were saved by the emergency aid team in 2020.

**2** big cats were saved from death by starvation.



# European Politics

## Lobbying for animal welfare

The FOUR PAWS European Policy Office provides a link between the FOUR PAWS national offices in Europe and the political institutions of the EU. The European Policy 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. The aim of this work is to ensure that animal welfare is enshrined in EU law.

### Background

In early 2020, the political leaders of the European Union adopted a new growth strategy. The Green Deal and the associated “farm to fork” strategy, along with the EU biodiversity strategy, offer numerous starting points for

improving not just climate protection and sustainable food production, but also animal welfare in Europe.

### Key activities in 2020

#### The tiger trade in the EU

In 2020, the FOUR PAWS European Policy Office used the discussions surrounding the publication of the Green Deal, and in particular the new EU biodiversity strategy, to make political decision-makers aware of the issue of the tiger trade in the EU. In December, the European Policy Office organised a political online seminar on the commercial tiger trade, discussing possible actions for the protection of these tigers with the EU Commission. These efforts were successful: after the online seminar, the EU parliamentary representative responsible for the

EU biodiversity strategy called for greater protection of tigers in Europe.

#### EU agricultural policy

The EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has an enormous impact on the structure of the agricultural economy and the well-being of billions of farm animals. The FOUR PAWS European Policy Office used lobbying to great success in 2020, ensuring that specific provisions on animal welfare were included in the proposals put forward by the EU Parliament and the EU Commission.

#### Live animal transport

After the accident involving the transport ship Queen Hind in Romania in November 2019, FOUR PAWS seized the opportunity to step up its lobbying against long-distance animal transport. Thanks to these efforts, the European Parliament decided in June 2020 to set up an investigation committee to look into the issue of live animal transport. The European Policy Office of FOUR PAWS has been in close contact with the members of the committee since then.

#### The illegal puppy trade

At the start of the year, the European Parliament passed a resolution to combat the impacts of the illegal trade

in companion animals. The Commission was urged to strengthen protection for consumers and animals in the new Digital Services Act. The text of the resolution was drafted almost entirely by the FOUR PAWS European Policy Office.

### Outlook for 2021

Over the coming year, the FOUR PAWS European Policy Office aims to use the COVID-19 outbreaks on European fur farms as an opportunity to campaign for an end to fur farming throughout the EU. Meanwhile, the objectives of the Green Deal and the associated strategies will continue to be pursued. Some of the tasks the team will undertake in this area are carrying out a fitness check of EU animal welfare legislation, supporting the inclusion of restrictions on the commercial tiger trade in the upcoming “Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking”, and leading the process of bringing in an EU animal welfare label for farm animal products. The team will also continue to support the EU investigation committee on the protection of animals during live transport. As the chair of the ‘Euro-group for animals’ sub-group of the EU’s agricultural policy, FOUR PAWS will work with the EU Commission and the member states in 2021 to support investments in farm animal welfare at the national level. ■

# Quality: Our Top Priority

## The highest standards of animal protection

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

### 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 animals in the care of our ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOL, all of the animals looked after by FOUR PAWS receive the best possible care. As part of our quality management system, we have defined detailed guidelines and standards covering topics such as the size and design of enclosures, veterinary care and species-appropriate feeding. Our "Wild animal care and medicine" and "Quality management" departments perform regular internal audits to check compliance with the system.

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



### 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 may have broken off from years of chewing on the metal bars of cages; they might be suffering from skin or joint problems, damage to the kidneys or other organs, or show signs of behavioural issues. Months or years after rescue, some animals still spend hours performing the same ritualistic, monotonous sequences of movement as they did in their previous caged existence. In 2020, veterinarians specialising in wild animal care visited FOUR PAWS animal protection projects a total of 67 times. They examined 32 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,

which cover aspects such as veterinary examinations before and after transfer and the size and material of the crates in which the animals travel. FOUR PAWS provides regular training for all animal care staff and uses their day-to-day observations and feedback to inform decisions. The results are collected continually and in annual quality workshops and incorporated into our internal guidelines and standards.

### In all other animal welfare activities

For FOUR PAWS, quality is a top priority not only in its direct work with animals, but in all of its operations. Our controlled, regularly revised processes help our 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. This ensures that its working time and the donations it receives are put to the best possible use to help animals in need. ■

# Fundraising

## Reaching People



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 five European countries and also in the USA, Australia and South Africa. In addition to this, it receives income from bequests and interest earnings.

### Security and Transparency

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

### Letters to Donors

The FOUR PAWS foundation sends information out to its donors regularly. The aim is to tell them about the work of FOUR PAWS and at the same time embed an awareness of animal welfare deeper in their consciousness. We also ask the addressees for donations for our projects and campaigns. We often also enclose petitions or protest postcards which recipients can use to show their commitment to our ideals.



### Attracting New Donors

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

### Telephone Calls and Sponsorship

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



# PR Work

## Education and Information

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

### Dialogue with the General Public

Through its social media channels, FOUR PAWS reached a total of more than 1.7 million people worldwide. In 2020 the Facebook communities had a total of 1,274,714 fans. The Instagram accounts were followed by 418,711 people, the Twitter accounts by 58,982, and the FOUR PAWS YouTube channels had 33,248 followers. The international and

national websites together recorded an average number of 309,437 visitors a month in 2020.

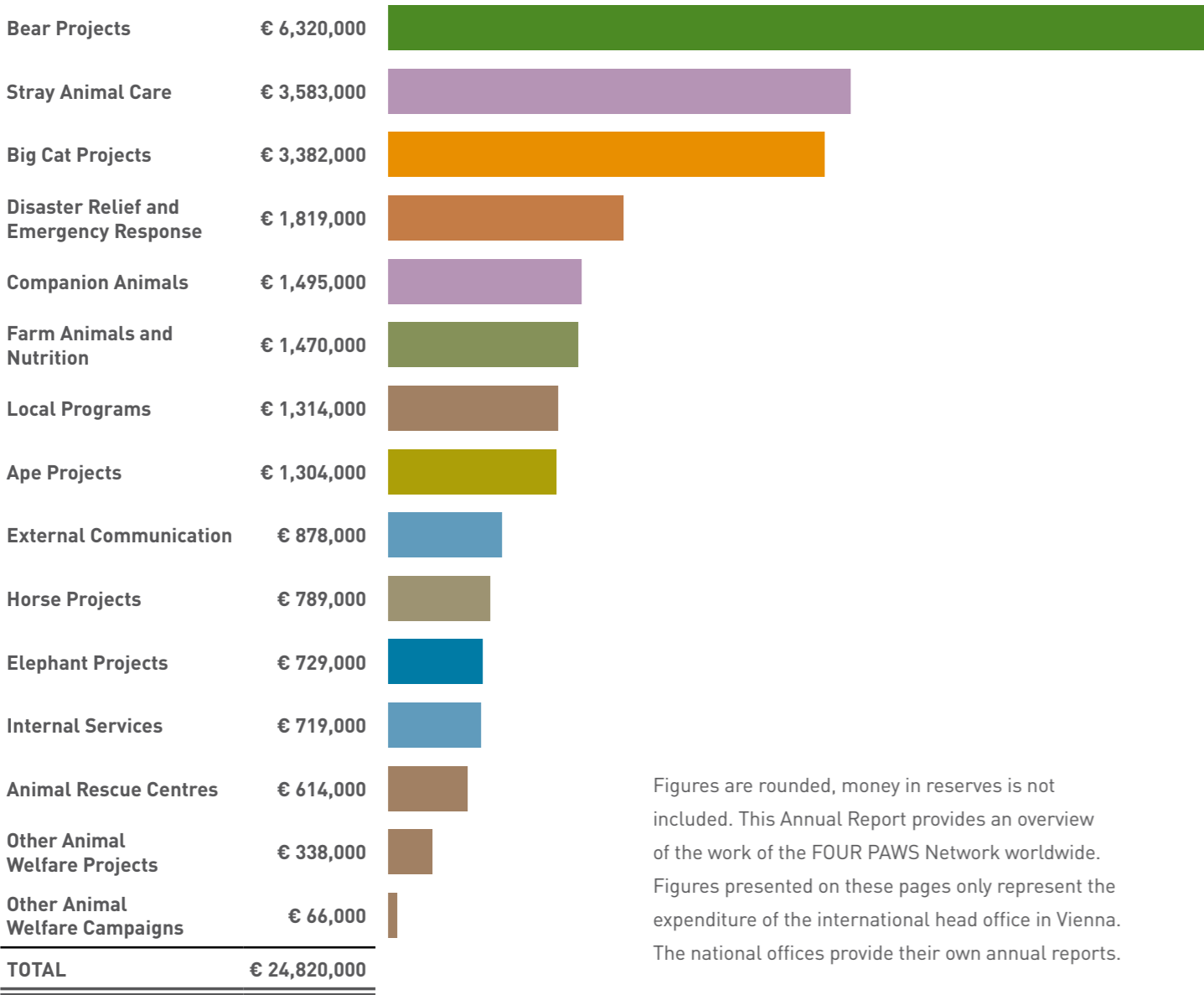
### Impact

The work of FOUR PAWS regularly features in national and international media reports. The closure of dog slaughterhouses in South-East Asia, the rescue of the elephant Kaavan from the Islamabad Zoo in Pakistan and the campaign against long-distance animal transports received particularly wide global attention.

The events were reported on by large media outlets with a huge public reach, including the BBC, CNN and RTL, Daily Mail, The Guardian and The New York Times, Der Spiegel, as well as international news agencies AFP, Associated Press and Reuters. In total, more than 17,500 articles about FOUR PAWS appeared in the media worldwide in 2020. ■

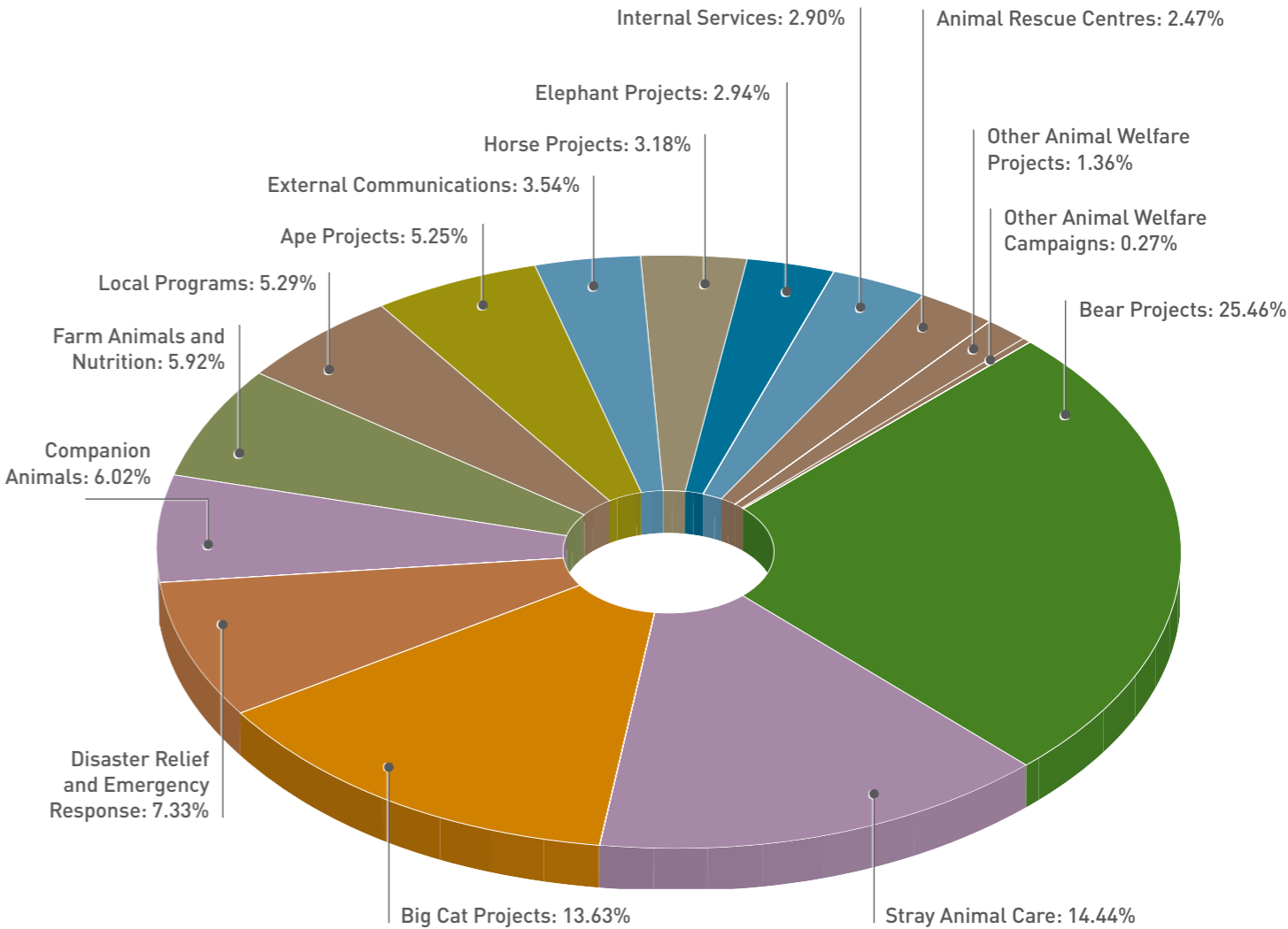
# Financial Report

## Total Expenses in 2020



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

## Total Expenses in 2020 in %



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



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 DancingBearsParkBelitsa

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## FOUR PAWS offices

## FOUR PAWS sanctuaries and animal clinics

## Cooperation partners

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## POLAND

### Zoo Poznan

Ogrod Zoologiczny, ul. Krancowa 81, 61-048 Poznan, Poland  
T: +40 0374 950 605, www.zoo.poznan.pl

## ROMANIA

### Dogs for People

Animal-Assisted Therapy Centre  
Prelungirea Ghencea Bvd.no. 195 district 6, Bucharest, Romania


### Animal Rescue and Care Association

B-dul Ion Ionescu de la Brad, no. 61-63, Bucharest, 013812, Romania  
T: +40 723 596 007

### ANIMAL SOCIETY

Strada Zarii 3, Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania  
T: +40 0374 950 605  
www.animal-society.org

### Dog Shelter Speranta

Popesti Leordeni, Ilfov County, Romania  
sperantapentruanimale@yahoo.com  
 sperantapentruanimale

## SOUTH AFRICA

### FOUR PAWS South Africa

Westlake Business Park, The Green Building, 9B Bell Crescent Westlake, 7945, Republic of South Africa  
T: +27 21 702 4277, office@four-paws.org.za  
www.four-paws.org.za

### LIONSROCK Big Cat Sanctuary

Farm Kleinbloemhof, Bethlehem 9700, Republic of South Africa  
T: +27 58 304 1691 (Park), T: +27 58 304 1003 (Sanctuary)  
office@lionsrock.org, www.lionsrock.org

## SWITZERLAND

### FOUR PAWS Switzerland

Enzianweg 4, 8048 Zürich, Switzerland  
T: +41 43 311 8090, office@vier-pfoten.ch  
www.vier-pfoten.ch

### Arosa Bear Sanctuary

Dorfstrasse / SKZA, 7050 Arosa, Switzerland  
T: +41 81 378 70 20, baeren@arosa.swiss  
www.arosabaerenland.ch

## THAILAND

### FOUR PAWS Thailand

11th Floor B, Gypsum Metropolitan Tower 539/2 Sri Ayudhaya Road, Thanon Phaya Thai, Ratchathewi, Bangkok, 10400, Thailand

### Headrock Dogs Rescue

71/1 Moo 1, Pong Prasart, Bang Saphan Prachuap Khiri Khan,Thailand 77140  
T: +66 89 028 3787  
www.headrockdogs.org

## UKRAINE

### FOUR PAWS Ukraine

12 ul. Yuria Illenka, Shevchenkivsky District, 04050 Kiev, Ukraine  
T: +380 680251132

### BEAR SANCTUARY Domazhyr

1 Vedmezhy Krai St, Zhornyska, Yavoriv District, 81083, Lviv Region, Ukraine  
T: +380 67 509 3058  
bsd-office@four-paws.org  
www.bearsanctuary-domazhyr.org

## UNITED KINGDOM

### FOUR PAWS UK

7-14 Great Dover St, London, SE1 4YR, United Kingdom  
T: +44 207 922 79 54, office@four-paws.org.uk  
www.four-paws.org.uk

## USA

### FOUR PAWS USA


36 Bromfield Street, Suite 410, Boston, MA 02108, USA  
T: +1 617 942 1233, info@four-paws.us  
www.four-paws.us

## VIETNAM

### FOUR PAWS Vietnam

Street: Nga 3 Village, Cuc Phuong Commune Nho Quan District, Ninh Binh Province Postal Code 430000, Vietnam  
loc.dinh@four-paws.org.vn

### BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh

Cuc Phuong – Bai Dinh Road, Ky Phu Commune, Nho Quan District, Ninh Binh 430000, Vietnam  
T: +84 229 3666 388, info@four-paws.org.vn  
 BEARSANCTUARYNinhBinh

### Education for Nature – Vietnam

Block 17T5, 17th floor, Room 1701 Hoang Dao Thuy Street, Cau Giay District, Hanoi, Vietnam  
T: +84 24 6281 5424, env@env4wildlife.org  
www.env4wildlife.org

### Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center Soc Son

Tien Duroc, Soc Son, Hanoi, Vietnam  
T: +84 24 3885 3071

### Paws for Compassion

24a My Da Dong 8, Bac My An, Nga Hanh Son, Da Nang 550000, Vietnam  
T: +84 0905 716937  
www.pawsforcompassion.org

### Vietnam Cat Welfare

Le Hong Phong Street Hô.i An, 563889, Vietnam  
T: +84 097 583 2515  
vietnamcatwelfare@gmail.com  
www.vietnamcatwelfare.org

#### **FOUR PAWS Headquarters**

#### **VIER PFOTEN International – gemeinnützige Privatstiftung**

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#### **Donation Account**

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