

how to protect jaguars and marine turtles? building blue dog houses and chicken coops.

1,000+

community animals and their owners that are coexisting with jaguars and other smaller predators

500+

community animals whose health has been improved to prevent disease transmission to jaguars

- ▶ Jaguar feeding on a marine turtle carcass. Jaguars are natural predators of marine turtles, the impact of dog predation on marine turtle nests and adults risk this natural prey for jaguars.
-



Casitas Azules

Since 2010, IFAW has been providing life-saving services to both community animals and their owners in the region surrounding Playa del Carmen, Mexico, a rapidly expanding city, where urban sprawl overlaps with key habitat densely populated with jaguars. In this city, as well as in nearby communities, interactions between wildlife, humans and community animals (primarily dogs, chickens, and sheep) are quite common. Since 2017, IFAW noticed multiple reports of jaguar predation of dogs on the outskirts of 'Playa' and in outlying communities surrounded by jungle. As the top predator, jaguars seek out community

animals as easy prey, an alternative to natural prey which have become less abundant due to illegal hunting to feed the illegal wildlife market, habitat deterioration and fragmentation.

These interactions bring new threats to jaguars as well, including 'retaliatory killing' by a fearful community and disease transmission from community animals, including canine distemper. All the while, 'free roaming' dogs bring additional threats to other forms of endangered wildlife such as marine turtles, whose nests of abundant young often fall victim to hungry dogs.



Photo: Scott Anger/IFAW



Photo: Scott Anger/IFAW

300+

families have improved their community animals' health, welfare and shelter

- ◀ IFAW has provided materials for community members to build distinctive blue dog houses (casitas azules) in targeted communities where jaguars and dog interactions had occurred.
- ▶ In some communities jaguars were also preying on chickens, so IFAW helped them with materials to build predator-proof chicken coops. More than 12 chicken coops have been built.

In response, IFAW launched its Casitas Azules (Blue Houses) project in 2017 to help achieve coexistence between both humans and wildlife. This holistic approach would include the building of over 130 doghouses, and dog pens to provide adequate shelter while discouraging them from roaming free throughout the night, minimizing marine turtle predation and protecting them from jaguar predation and further community animal loss.

The comprehensive program also includes building predator-proof chicken coops when necessary, as well as jaguar deterrents such as lights, which tend to keep jaguars at a safer distance. Wellness clinics are offered to ensure the local community animal population is well-controlled and vaccinated to prevent disease transmission to jaguars. This reflects the One Health and One Welfare approach, which recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, and their shared environment.

IFAW has saved, rehomed, sterilized and assisted over 50,000 companion animals and counting.

Whenever there is a survivor dog attacked by a jaguar we offer free veterinary care and the animal gets around the clock care, we do everything we can to save that dog's life. We know that whenever there is an attack, people get scared, angry and build up negative feelings against the predator so we try to ease their burden covering the veterinary care and doing everything we can to save them and bring them back their family member. We also help to protect the other dogs, making sure no new attacks happen through our mitigation methods.

Families that receive Casitas Azules then become animal welfare ambassadors in their local community, which in turn encourages further guardianship and community safety.

Through Casitas Azules, coexistence between both humans and wildlife is achieved, promoting safety and responsible animal guardianship.

▶ see how at [ifaw.org](https://www.ifaw.org)



#AllTogetherNow