

your impact: helping animals in crisis all around the world



Veterinarian Andrew Kushnir with dogs belonging to Ukrainian refugee Tatiana – some of the dogs are in new carriers provided by IFAW.

ifaw

your impact: Ukraine



Photo: Michael Zomer / © IFAW

The IFAW team, including Shannon Walajtys, carry dogs of Ukrainian refugees in new carriers provided by IFAW.

It has been a year since the start of the war in Ukraine. When the news broke, IFAW turned to our supporters for help, and you answered the call with open hearts. Thanks to our generous advocates, we provided immediate aid at a most critical time to our established partner shelters in the country.

Between March and May 2022, 43 IFAW responders, including seven veterinarians, were deployed to greet and care for refugees and their pets as they entered Poland and began the next part of their journey. Our responders came from all over the world to help.

Front Cover:

Tatiana is a veterinarian who fled Sumy, Ukraine with about 11 dogs and one cat. We helped her with some new carriers, as there were too many dogs crowded into each of her carriers. We also gave the animals food and water and put a heat blanket around the cat's carrier for the journey forward to Italy or Spain.

After IFAW's deployment ended, we continued to support shelters, zoos, sanctuaries and other partners with over 80 grants totaling over US \$1.5M, helping more than 100,000 companion and wild animals.

As you read about the IFAW-led and partner activities in and around Ukraine over the past year, please know of our gratitude for your generous response to a crisis that has already affected so many—animals and people alike.

All of us at IFAW join you in hope for the end of the war in Ukraine. Thank you for enabling us to respond effectively with your support. We know our work is far from complete, but together we can help return Ukraine to a place where animals and people will—once again—thrive together.

hope in the face of tragedy



Photo: Dominica Mack @ IFAW

Thanks to incredible support from IFAW supporters, we were able to offer emergency aid at border crossings in Poland. The “blue tent” became known as a safe place where pets were able to rest, eat, drink and receive supplies - leashes, carriers, dog bowls and anything else they would need for their onward journey.

In March, IFAW deployed to Poland. Our disaster response team began caring for the pets of refugees at several points set up along the Ukrainian-Polish border.

The Przemyśl train station was a key border crossing spot with thousands of refugees coming and going daily, each one trying to get to a safe destination in Europe. Two IFAW-supported veterinarians assisted these families and their pets, providing vaccinations, microchipping and other items for 3,355 animals.

For seven weeks from March to mid-May 2022, IFAW-trained responders and veterinarians managed the only animal care tent at the Medyka border crossing, nicknamed the ‘blue tent,’ caring for an average of 50 animals a day. We

Inside the ‘blue tent’ located at the Medyka footpath border crossing between Ukraine and Poland. Ukrainian refugees Alice (left) and Love (right) with their dogs Lucky and Bona Parte.

provided triage veterinary care and purchased and distributed animal food, leashes, collars, pet carriers and clothing to 2,425 refugees and their pets.

“Animals are an extension of their families, we’re helping people through animals” - Andrew Kushnir, a veterinarian who volunteered with IFAW. Kushnir spent several weeks volunteering at the Medyka border crossing in Poland and in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, and Odessa.

in chaos, you brought calm

When refugees and rescuers crossed the border and were met by welcoming IFAW staff and volunteers, they could finally relax a little. Worried expressions softened, tears of relief flowed down cheeks and frowns turned to grateful smiles.

Animals stopped shivering in fear and curled into the IFAW rescuers for comfort. Their healing had begun.

some stories from the border



Photo: © IFAW

IFAW's Dominica Mack holds a puppy owned by Ukrainian refugee Svitlana as the mother dog, Lesia, looks on from her carrier.

Svitlana and five puppies

Svitlana fled Mariupol with her two-and-a-half-year old dog named Lesia and her five puppies - which were one and a half months old. Her house was completely destroyed by Russian missiles. She took Lesia and her five puppies and travelled for two days to Zaporizhzhia where she stayed with family. During her travels she saw a lot of dogs and cats left outside houses because Russians didn't allow the Ukrainians to take them when they evacuated.

During that time, Lesia was so stressed, she wasn't producing any milk for her puppies. Svitlana couldn't find any puppy milk in town either. She had no choice but to continue travelling to Poland. She made it to Lviv where she was able to get a bigger carrier for Lesia and her puppies. Lesia's anxiety lessened and she was able to produce milk for her puppies. Svitlana then travelled to the Polish border at Medyka and arrived at the IFAW tent on April 19. We gave the mum and puppies food and water. Svitlana didn't know where she was going to go next, but was very thankful for the help IFAW provided.



Photo: Dominica Mack / © IFAW

Five puppies owned by Ukrainian refugee Svitlana inside their carrier.

Larisa and Keks

Larisa Zabolotna fled the Kyiv region and travelled for one day before arriving to the IFAW tent on April 12. She travelled with her cat Keks which means “Muffin” in Ukrainian. He was named that because he likes to eat cakes. Keks lost some weight because of the stress of the past few weeks and gobbled up some food we gave him at the tent. We also gave him a carrier to travel more comfortably to Warsaw.

Iuliia and Hugo Boss



photo: Julia Cumes / © IFAW

Ukrainian refugee Iuliia and her eight year-old Pomeranian, Hugo Boss, photographed at the refugee center in Korczowa, Poland.

In Korczowa, we meet Iuliia as she sits on a cot in the refugee welcome centre. She tells us that she escaped the bombing in Kyiv and is hoping to bring her eight-year-old Pomeranian, Hugo Boss, to the United States, where she has family. IFAW’s Jennifer Gardner and Shannon Walajtys helped advise her on the process for getting Hugo Boss the correct vaccinations and paperwork for an “owned dog” importation permit.



Photo: Dominica Mack / © IFAW

Dr. Markee Kuschel from Greater Good Charities examines Keks the cat, owned by Ukrainian refugee Larisa

in despair, you brought hope

Deep within Ukraine, your support meant that shelters, veterinary clinics and wildlife facilities were provided with food and other vital supplies just in time. You helped us work with humanitarian groups to deliver pet food and supplies to families in great need. Several companion animal shelters also felt the grace of your generosity and have been able to sustain through the fighting.

rescue project

Since the beginning of the war, IFAW has been implementing a comprehensive, multi-year rescue and recovery plan in and around Ukraine, centred on two primary initiatives.

1. feed, treat, heat & reunite

IFAW partnered with the Mykolaiv Red Cross in December 2022 to provide for the basic needs of pets of vulnerable families in the region. During the cold winter months, we are providing mattresses, blankets and insulated houses for cats and dogs, as well as food for animals of families in need and free home visits by veterinary specialists.

IFAW and Ukrainian Small Animal Veterinary Association (USAVA) have partnered to provide free vaccination, chipping and sterilisation for pets from displaced and resident families. The project aims to vaccinate and chip 20,000 and sterilise 4,000 pets from displaced and resident families at partner veterinary posts in four key cities-Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv and Odessa.



Photo @ USAVA

A woman and her cat after being helped at a partner veterinary clinic.



Photo: Dominica Mack / © IFAW

Richard the dog with one of his owners in the animal service station tent at the Ukraine-Poland border.

2. assess, rescue, rehome / rehab & release

Ukrainian wildlife was also in desperate need of assistance as the shelling and bombings spread throughout the country.



Photo: © Nova Ukraine

Evacuated dogs from Kherson, Ukraine.

IFAW supported Kyiv's Save Wild's White Rock Bear Shelter and the Ukrainian Independent Ecology Institute—where staff were able to relocate the bears and provide food and supplies. The institute has been rehabilitating Ukraine's bats for 20 years, and with support from donors like you, biologists and veterinarians were able to release 3,287 bats back into the wild.

IFAW funded the rescue and safe evacuation of four lion cubs and one black leopard cub surrendered from the country's exotic pet trade. Having survived drone attacks and sporadic bombings, the cubs were safely transferred to the Poznań Zoo in Poland while being cared for by IFAW veterinarian Dr. Andrew Kushnir.

In December 2022, the four lion cubs—Taras, Stefania, Lesya and Prada—were transported to The Wildcat Sanctuary in the United States, an accredited natural sanctuary which will provide the lions with ample space to live out the rest of their days as a pride. Kiara, the leopard cub, was transferred to Tonga Terre d'Accueil in France—a charity that takes in exploited wildlife—as they search for a permanent home for her.

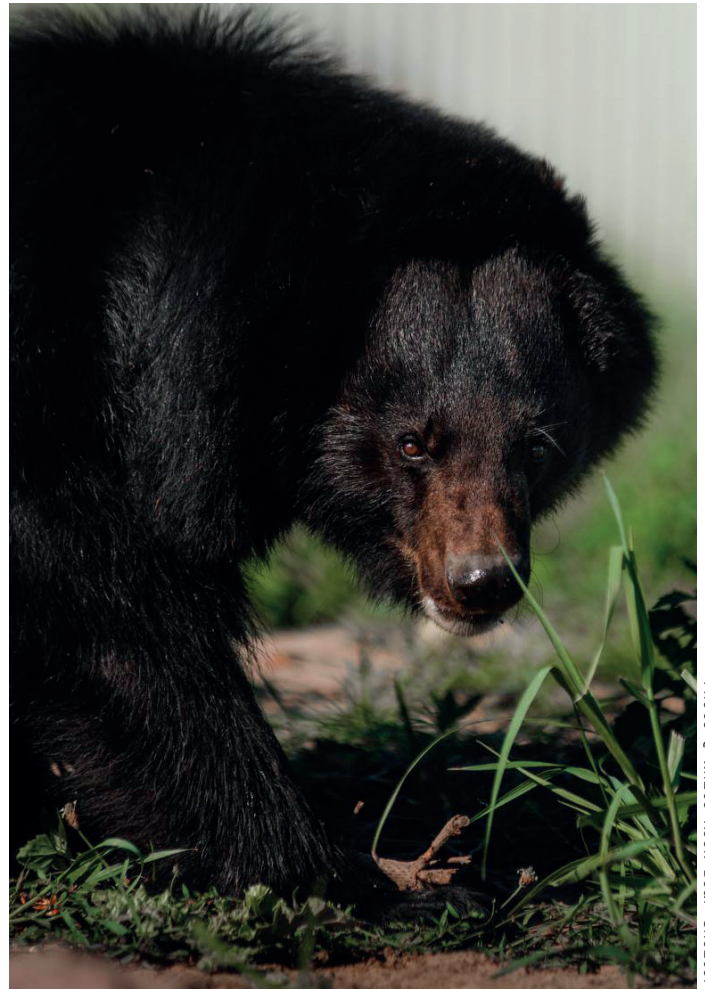


Photo @ White Rock Bear Shelter

Malvina the bear at Save Wild's White Rock Bear Shelter outside of Kyiv, Ukraine.



Photo: Julia Cumes / © IFAW

From left to right: Taras, Stefania and Lesya shortly after arrival at The Wildcat Sanctuary.



Esaul, 10, is a former sports horse who was injured before being purchased by Shelter Ugolyok to keep him safe.

Before the war, there were an estimated 100,000 horses living in Ukraine. After a year of bombing and shelling, severe hunger and injuries, it is unknown how many horses are left in the country. The threats they face are only exacerbated by the harsh winter conditions.

In response, IFAW supported the production and delivery of special feed and the distribution of hay to horse owners in the Mykolaiv region. In the past two months, the grant has enabled the delivery of 75 tons of hay, which, together with 40 tons of compound feed, has helped keep more than 150 equines in 15 stables alive.

“Because of constant shelling, mined fields, and lack of fuel and financial resources, the stables in the regions were not able to harvest hay to source the compound feed. Blackouts added a problem with electricity and water supply...With support from IFAW, we have helped all stables that we could identify in the region, such as shelters, riding schools, stables specialising in breeding and training of horses, and small home stables...” says **Mykhaylo Parkhomchuk, founder and CEO of Ukrainian Equestrian Charity Foundation.**

We all hope the war in Ukraine will end as soon as possible and the fear and suffering will be replaced by healing and hopefulness. But as long as the fighting persists and animals and people need help, IFAW will be there. And I know your generosity and compassion will be there too to provide the care they so desperately need.

in darkness, you brought light

The difference you make for animals is immense. The numbers in Ukraine alone are astounding—more than 103,000 animals helped so far through direct support and by helping more than 80 local organisations and partners. But more importantly, you provide hope, peace and love to animals and people in such need. In their time of darkness, you bring so much light. And they, and all of us at IFAW, are immeasurably grateful.

one year on **March 2023**

the animals you have helped

Total number of animals (as of Dec 22) that you have helped: 103,770

Companion animals: **90,989**

Wildlife: **12,092**

Horses: **689**

of animals helped at the blue tent: 2,425

of animals helped at Poland's Przemyśl train station: 3,355

of responders and veterinarians deployed for IFAW: 43

▶ The USAVA activities will be expanded to include thousands of shelter animals as well – in the cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Odessa, and additionally also in Dnipro. IFAW has also made an in-kind donation of multiple generators so veterinary clinics can continue to operate.

▶ The first-ever Ukrainian Animal Protection Award was presented to 20 volunteers who saved the lives of animals during the war in Ukraine. The ceremony, initiated by UAnimals and Humane State, took place in one of the bomb shelters in Kyiv on 2 February 2023.

“This award is our way of thanking the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who, amid shelling and under occupation, continue to save animals: dogs and cats, cows and sheep, tigers and lions,” says **Oleksandr Todorchuk, a soldier of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, founder of UAnimals, and founder of the awards.**

▶ Instead of giving individual grants for purchasing food, we are working on an agreement with a large food producer in Ukraine. We will then be able to put in monthly orders with them, and have food distributed to various partners, who will distribute further to IFAW's beneficiaries.

▶ The ‘pet volunteer’ has become a well-known and much needed role during the war. These are people who stayed behind in Ukraine and will go into (abandoned) villages and cities on a daily basis, on a bike or with a shopping cart and even in the freezing cold, to bring food and water to the stray and homeless animals in need.

▶ IFAW is supporting Wild Animal Rescue with the purchase of a branded vehicle to rescue captive wildlife and wounded wild animals.



A kitten is treated by a veterinarian at one of the participating vaccination, chipping and sterilisation program clinics in Ukraine.

IFAW's Ukraine rescue team



Photo: Michael Zomer / © IFAW

IFAW-sponsored Ukrainian veterinarian Veronika Herasymenko prepares to examine a Ukrainian refugee's dog at the veterinarian post inside the Przemyśl train station.

To assist IFAW's Ukraine Rescue project & achieve the European regional disaster program goal, we have welcomed four inspiring staff dedicated to furthering our mission.

Veronika Herasymenko is a veterinary surgeon, experienced in the primary care of domestic animals, with expertise in surgical and emergency care. Before the war she co-owned a veterinary clinic in Kharkiv. When her city was shelled, she joined the IFAW team in Poland assisting incoming refugees. In September, she joined IFAW as Operations Coordinator, to implement emergency response activities together with our partners. She still resides in Ukraine.

Maryna Erlemgidze is an Advocacy Officer. Her primary focus is to help raise animal welfare standards in Ukraine and bordering countries. She

is working to establish, maintain and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Kateryna Kyrsta works as Project Manager. She manages the project team and activities to mitigate the effects of the war on animals and will help create better welfare for them in the recovery phase.

Natalia Gozak is a Wildlife Rescue Field Officer. She strives to mitigate the effects of the war on wildlife, through data collection and by supporting wildlife rescues and evacuations. Natalia is based in Kyiv, Ukraine.

into the future: European regional disaster program goals



Photo: © Save the Dogs

Dogs fed by Save the Dogs (an animal shelter in Cernavoda in Romania, which is 2.5 hours from the Ukrainian border) outside damaged buildings during the war in Ukraine.

- ▶ We hope by 2025, animals will be considered in the European risk preparedness and disaster response policy and included in a concept for a local emergency plan to reduce suffering of animals during disasters.
- ▶ IFAW is engaging with Four Paws and Eurogroup for Animals in Brussel's on policy work for inclusion of animals in disasters; assessing capacity and strategies.
- ▶ We hope to be working with ICAFW (International Coalition for Animal Welfare) and other NGOs & WOAHA (World Organisation for Animal Health) on their Ukraine efforts.
- ▶ In the Netherlands, IFAW, together with the two biggest Dutch animal rescue organisations, discussed with the Ministry of

Justice the implementation of a parliamentary motion to include animals and animal rescuers in the official crisis structure. This motion was prepared by IFAW and received full support from the Minister of Justice earlier this year.

The Ministry acknowledged the professional way we organised the Ukraine pet support system, and asked us to write a project proposal for a grant to develop Meldpunt Oekraïne into a broader structure for animals in disasters. This project proposal is now with the Ministry for review and approval.

- ▶ **Our overall goal is to raise animal welfare standards in Ukraine and bordering countries.**

your impact: Turkey/Syria



Photo: © House of Cats Ernesto

The House of Cats Ernesto team performs an ultrasound on a pregnant goat affected by the earthquake in Syria.

On 6 February 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake and unusually large 7.5 magnitude aftershock nine hours later impacted southern Turkey and northern Syria. Aftershocks continue to devastate already destroyed areas and compromise residents and first responders.

Humanitarian organisations and IFAW's local rescue partners began working around the clock to help. Tragically, another earthquake hit Malatya, Turkey early March, causing even more destruction.

IFAW provided emergency aid to two organisations performing search and rescue: Haytap Animal Rights Federation in Turkey, and House of Cats Ernesto in Syria. Both organisations are providing lifesaving veterinary care, distributing pet food, and caring for injured and displaced animals.

Helping people and their animals in communities in northern Syria hit hardest by the aftershocks has been a labour of love for the brave rescuers at House of Cats Ernesto. They have provided care to

more than 800 animals since the earthquake. That includes cats, dogs, birds, rabbits, farm animals ... and even a goat who is yet to be born.



Photo: © House of Cats Ernesto

The House of Cats Ernesto team rescued a trapped cat, named Hayyat (meaning "Life"), from the rubble after the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Syria.



Photo: © Haytap

The Haytap field hospital tent is treating animals affected by the earthquake in Turkey.

When the goat's owner rescued her from a collapsed barn, her owner contacted House of Cats Ernesto for help. The goat was fine, but she was pregnant, and her owner worried for her unborn baby. House of Cats Ernesto performed an ultrasound to ensure the goat's little one was okay. Mum and baby got a clean bill of health, much to the owner's relief.

IFAW partner Haytap Animal Rights Federation lost a rescue truck in Malayta when a building collapsed on it, but thankfully, no one was injured. Thanks to your ongoing support, IFAW has been able to commit to financing a replacement rescue vehicle immediately, so they can continue their vital work rescuing animals, providing veterinary care and supplies to animals and people fighting to survive after the disaster.



Photo: © House of Cats Ernesto

A rescue team from House of Cats Ernesto treats a sick and injured black dog during a community visit following the devastating 7.8 earthquake in Syria

We have helped animals affected by this disaster through funding, connected a network of people who can work together to achieve more, provide expertise, and engage other NGO's and government organisations who provide greater support in managing disasters. This help will continue well into the future.

IFAW is working closely with the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture. Their Food Security and Livelihood Program addresses all-hazards to include disasters. The IFAW team feels their experience responding to disasters (to include war and political conflict) is a natural fit for our mission. They have experience primarily on the human side but have seamlessly shifted to include animals in their assessment/relief efforts.

now and into the future

As the devastation unfolds, many rescue groups in the affected areas leaped into action—and IFAW has been working to support their efforts, which we were able to provide so quickly because of your ongoing support. We're pleased to announce that IFAW is sending emergency aid to two rescue groups: Angel's Farm Sanctuary and Watan.

Our support has activated additional vet and para-vet responders to work side-by-side with ministry teams who will evaluate animal health and well-being, provide food, veterinary treatment and vaccinations as necessary to protect animals.

your impact: New Zealand

“Heartbreaking destruction. Towns are decimated, communities fractured, and farm animals that did not escape are piled up by the side of the road.”
Robert Leach, Animal Rescue Program Officer

When the cyclone first made landfall, IFAW immediately contacted our friends Helping You Help Animals NZ (HUHA NZ) and offered support. Within 24 hours, the incredible team had already established an animal evacuation shelter for the affected communities around Auckland, and the country braced while the cyclone continued its path of destruction.

Once the cyclone tracked further south and barrelled through the Hawkes Bay region, it was clear that response efforts had to divide and conquer to help the devastated communities and animals. With only a smaller team to mobilise, HUHA NZ, under the direction of the NZ Ministry of Primary Industries, requested IFAW’s assistance.

Animal Rescue Program Officer Robert Leach deployed to Hawkes Bay within 36 hours of the cyclone hitting, where the team established a second animal evacuation centre.

Rob’s Story

The flooding was widespread and isolated towns and communities. The shelter was located in the nearby town of Hastings, which was left with only one major road access point.

After a two and a half hour drive with my rental car, I arrived in the evening and was welcomed by the HUHA team as they were settling down for dinner. Walking through the shelter I was greeted by the recently rescued dogs. They were confused and tired, lifting just their eyelids to see yet another set of footsteps that weren’t their owner’s. I made my way through to the next room where the cats were sheltered, and apparently so were the humans. Between each row of cat cages were sleeping bags set up for the volunteers. I found a vacant spot and made friends with my new furry neighbours before settling in for the night.

The days went by fast. From first-light the team attended to all the shelter animals making sure they were settled and comfortable, freeing ourselves to meet the needs of the day ahead. To my delight, I was tasked with looking after the cats and the wildlife/farm animals. As I met some of the cats, I learnt of their horrific encounters and what led them to us. One story that stood out to me was a beautiful ginger cat—for privacy purposes I’ll call him Freddy. Freddy’s human family were hastily rescued by boat as floodwaters were rapidly rising in their house.

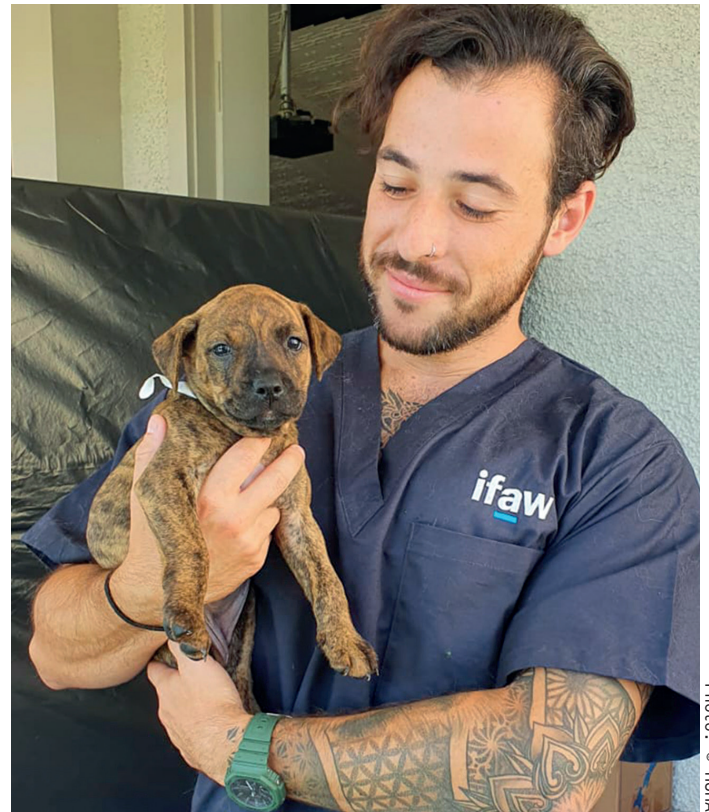


Photo: © HUHA

IFAW Animal Rescue Officer Robert Leach with a puppy rescued after the New Zealand cyclone.

Thankfully, they all made it to safety. Freddy and his sibling watched them depart from the windowsill. Once the animal rescue teams were able to make their way to the house, they discovered that Freddy was agile enough to jump into the ceiling cavity, but sadly his more-elderly sibling was not able to follow. Freddy was brought to us at the animal shelter where we showered him with so much love and attention in such a devastating time. When Freddy was reunited with his human family there were tears of joy shared by everyone.

“It’s so heartwarming to be able to reunite pets with their owners. It’s a great reminder of the importance of why we’re here.”

Between the triaging of new animals and caring for the shelter animals, I was helping where I could with the relief efforts. Incredibly, every new minute brought a new moment of the community coming together and finding any way to help others, and it was overwhelmingly beautiful. From donating their clothes, bedding, food—people were mustering up anything to help those in need. If we had any free time during the day, we would pack trucks full of donations and drive to various resource hubs to help resupply their animal-related goods for the nearby devastated communities.

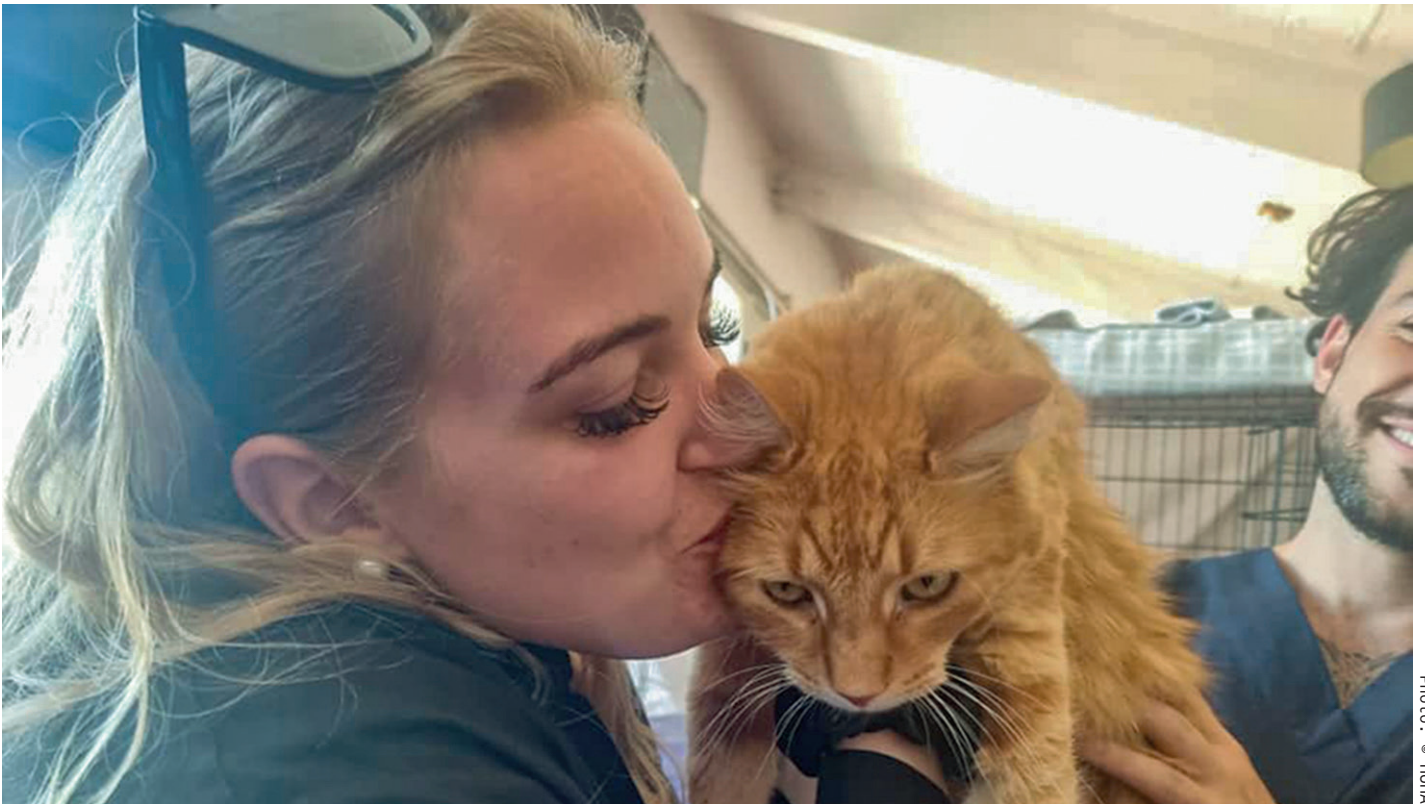


Photo: © HUHA

A woman is reunited with her cat after the devastation of ex-Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle.

Travelling into the newly accessible towns and witnessing the devastation of livelihoods was heartbreaking. The images of roadside piles of ruined infrastructure and furniture, the sea of apples from destroyed orchards strewn of thick mud, and the mounds of deceased farm animals will forever remain imprinted in my mind. These were all people's livelihoods, now lost. Generations of farmers and growers now left with nothing.

We were able to connect with the impacted community members as we unloaded our supplies at the community hubs. A story I cannot forget is of a lady who had just lost almost everything she owned, but her horse managed to survive. We learned of her story and immediately started grabbing some donated food to pack into her car. She refused. She said there must be others worse off than her, and we must save it for them. We eventually convinced her there was plenty on offer for everyone, and despite her request for just one bag of food, we stocked her car to the brim with food and supplies for her and her horse.

"It always hits hardest for me when people have lost their entire homes and livelihoods but still consider themselves 'lucky' when they hear their animal has survived."

The visual and emotional devastation of the disaster is overwhelming, but it's the small moments of joy and the rewarding feeling of doing what we can to help that forms the memories of my deployment with IFAW.

Robert Leach, Animal Rescue Program Officer, IFAW



Photo: © IFAW

Animal enclosures set up at the HUHA temporary animal shelter in Hastings.

thank you for your support

These devastating disasters have left thousands of animals and people in need. We mourn the tragic loss of life, and our thoughts remain with the people and animals struggling for survival in the aftermath.

But thanks to you, and your belief in IFAW, we have been able to transform these stories of tragedy into opportunities for recovery and regrowth. We know there is still a lot of work to be done. IFAW is committed to the well-being of animals, people and landscapes of Ukraine, Turkey, Syria, New Zealand and many other countries enduring natural and man-made disasters — now and in the future.

Donating to IFAW's Animal Rescue efforts enable us to rescue and protect animals in crisis, rebuild following devastation, and work with communities to reduce risks by including animals in emergency plans and policies everywhere disaster strikes. As you know, we are still on the ground in Ukraine; your generous gifts ensure our teams can remain as long as needed.

Thank you once again for being there for animals in need, we are forever grateful for your compassion and kindness and we hope you will continue to join us on our mission of helping animals in need around the world well into the future.



Photo: © House of Cats Ernesto

The House of Cats Ernesto team provides urgent veterinary treatment to a sick donkey in the aftermath of the earthquake in Syria.

be prepared and ready

To be prepared and protect your pets and animals for future emergencies, ensure you include your pets in the planning by:

- ▶ identifying pet friendly shelters, hotels, family or friends houses or evacuation centres
- ▶ vaccinate and microchip your pets so they can be identified if lost and reunited with you
- ▶ keep your pet identified buy having your pets name and contact number on their collar and with a photo of you and your pet together
- ▶ prepare an emergency go-bag for your pets that includes food, water, treats, a few toys and towels and blankets
- ▶ evacuate your pets. If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for your pets. Never leave a pet behind, chained or caged.

To read more, please download our Emergency Evacuation Planning Kit at www.ifaw.org/au/resources/evacuation-planning-kit-au

or scan the QR Code.



IFAW acknowledges the traditional owners of the country throughout Australia and the Oceania region and their connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

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