

# Insider Update

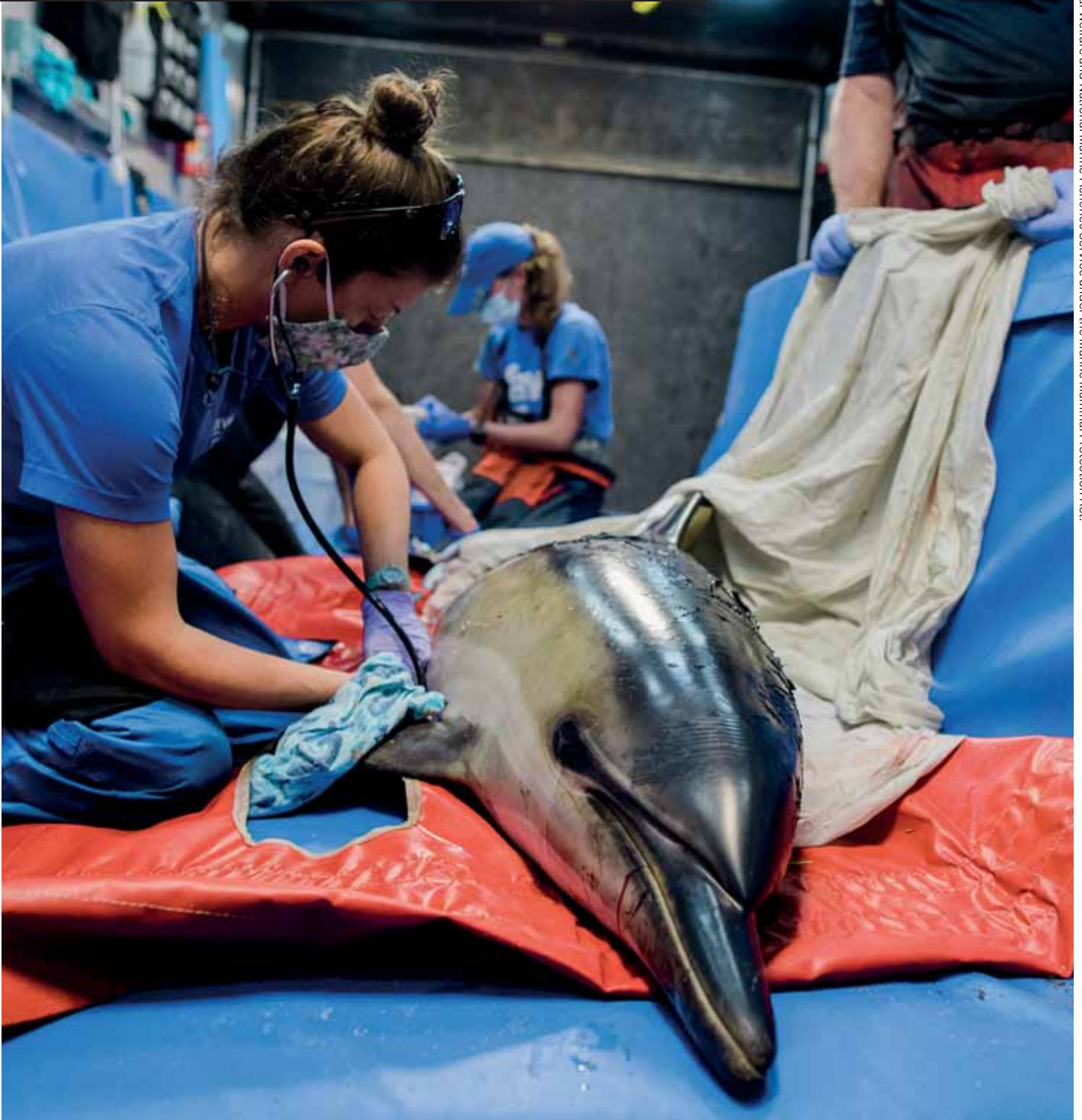


Photo: Stacey Hedman / @IFAW. Activities conducted under a federal stranding agreement between International Fund for Animal Welfare and National Marine Fisheries Service under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Dr. Sarah Sharp listens to a dolphin's lungs during a health exam.



Dear Friend,

It's my pleasure to share detailed developments behind many of IFAW's programmes and projects. Travel around the world with a few of our programme experts as they educate, train and work with fellow rescuers and local communities; learn more about the upcoming climate talks and how IFAW plans to make the voices of animals heard; make sure you and your family are prepared in the event of an emergency. This is your Insider Update.

Azzedine Downes  
President & CEO

## ask Azzedine

*Ask Azzedine offers our supporters the opportunity to learn more about IFAW directly from President and CEO Azzedine Downes. This edition's question comes from supporter Emil Maschner:*

**With increasing frequency and intensity, climate change-induced emergencies, human conflict, and population concerns impact our planet. How will IFAW strategise resources between its emergency animal rescue activities and its equally urgent major species protection and habitat conservation work in threatened regions and oceans around the world?**

Thank you, Emil, for this thoughtful question. There is seemingly no end to the issues affecting both the people and animals of our shared planet today—from climate change and the accompanying surge in environmental disasters to the suffering brought on directly by human conflict. The priorities are many, but resources are finite. For myself and for IFAW, the answer ultimately boils down to a question of impact.

As an organisation, we must focus on the impact that we have—in everything that we do. At all scales—from the 'micro' (helping one individual animal) to the 'macro' (working to ensure the needs of an entire population). IFAW wants to save lives. I want to save lives. Whether in the form of immediate emergency disaster response, individual animal rescue, or longer-term conservation efforts that span countries and even regions, our supporters have an underlying faith that IFAW will take action.

Though we understand we cannot save every animal or environment in distress, we accept the responsibility to lighten the load of all suffering, including people, animals, and landscapes, however we are able. We also understand our full responsibility in effectively and responsibly utilising the resources entrusted to us by our supporters across the globe. Knowing there is no 'one size fits all' approach in conservation or animal rescue, we strive for ingenuity and close collaboration to achieve the most significant impact, regardless of physical proximity or even pre-planned strategic importance.

Ultimately, our philosophy of impact is grounded in the fundamental tenets of compassion and stewardship. As long as these remain at the forefront of IFAW, regardless of the intensity of the challenges facing a rapidly changing world today, priorities that govern the strategic use of our resources will remain consistently clear.

*If you would like to submit a question to Azzedine, please email [mdevitt@ifaw.org](mailto:mdevitt@ifaw.org) with the subject line "Ask Azzedine." We may feature yours in the next Insider Update.*





Neil Greenwood, Wildlife  
Rescue Programme Director



Dr. Sarah Sharp, Animal  
Rescue Vet



Jennifer Gardner, Disaster  
Resilience Manager

## Thought leaders around the globe

IFAW prides itself on our team of rescue experts, equipped with experience in various fields including wildlife rescue, disaster response and marine conservation. Members of our staff frequently travel the globe, acting as thought leaders and hands-on advocates who share their skills and knowledge of best practices in animal rescue with local communities, partners and colleagues in other organisations.

In May, Neil Greenwood, IFAW's Wildlife Rescue Programme Director, traveled to Kafue National Park in Zambia to assist our partners at Game Rangers International (GRI) with the collaring of five orphaned elephants who were successfully released into the wild. With Neil's background in rehabilitation, he worked hands-on with the GRI and IFAW teams to prepare and properly fit collars to these growing elephants during a successful two-day operation.

Dr. Sarah Sharp is IFAW's Animal Rescue Vet, primarily focusing on marine mammal care. She helped pioneer IFAW's stranded dolphin satellite tagging programme and elevate the number of cetacean mammals released back into the wild. This year, Sarah attended the Marine Mammal Commission Workshop on Marine Mammal Health

Monitoring, where she was one of the selected experts asked to contribute to the development of a national plan for monitoring the health of marine mammal populations in US waters. She also represented IFAW at the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine Annual Conference and presented data and findings to hundreds of international vets, scientists, veterinary technicians and other support staff. Additionally, she was invited to speak to a group of 30 vets and vet students at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, sharing IFAW's best practices for dolphin stranding response with future leaders in aquatic animal medicine.

In April, IFAW's Disaster Resilience Manager, Jennifer Gardner, participated with partners in Indonesia to simulate the volcanic eruption of Mount Agung, one of two active volcanoes in Bali. Attended by 250 members of the Bunga community, the simulation was designed to train and practice evacuation and communication strategies. When prepared, communities can minimise the loss of life—including wildlife—during a natural disaster. Simulations such as these highlight how being proactive can be lifesaving.



Wildlife corridor landscape looking towards Lukusuzi National Park, on the road between Chipata and Lundazi, Zambia.

# A stronger presence during the climate discussions

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international body to which 198 countries are “Parties.” This year marks the Convention’s 28th meeting, called a “Conference of Parties,” or COP28.

In 2015, the COP adopted “The Paris Agreement,” which commits Parties to hold the increase in the global average temperature well below 2°C (35.6°F) above pre-industrial levels, ideally pursuing efforts to limit the increase to only 1.5°C (34.7°F). A Global Stocktake was introduced for countries to assess the collective party-wide progress being made to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and to further address opportunities for enhanced action and support. This year’s COP is the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake.

Each Global Stocktake is a two-year process that operates in three phases: collecting and preparing information; a technical assessment period; and presenting key findings. These findings will be discussed during this year’s COP, allowing Parties to negotiate a stocktake outcome—providing solutions as well as concrete targets and

milestones to help lay the foundation for countries to update and enhance their national climate action plans.

IFAW will be on-site at this year’s COP28 to argue that nature-based solutions, such as wildlife and ecosystem conservation and restoration, are essential means to mitigating, adapting to, and addressing the loss and damage caused by the climate crisis. Through a series of conference events, film presentations and hosted receptions, IFAW will highlight the active role of animals, nature and healthy ecosystems in preventing or mitigating climate change impact.

Nature-based solutions to climate change include wildlife conservation, marine conservation, ecosystem reservation, blue carbon projects, and more. Restoring biodiversity is at the heart of IFAW’s work. Wild animals and vegetation play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by making ecosystems healthy and productive. Biodiversity also benefits people—we rely on water, soil, air, stable temperatures, raw materials, and food, all of which are provided and maintained by a biodiverse ecosystem.





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Elephants walking down a dirt road in the Addo Elephant National Park.

We will also show how IFAW's work, which includes protecting biodiversity, landscape restoration and building community resilience, directly tackles the climate crisis in multiple ways—by protecting and increasing carbon stocks in the land and seascape, helping animals and people become resilient to climate impacts, and supporting communities, businesses and governments to adapt sustainably to changing climatic conditions.

In the lead up to COP28, IFAW has convened a high-level workshop on climate change, biodiversity and nature-based solutions for governments from across the Middle East and North Africa in Bahrain; coordinated civil society engagement on natural climate solutions at the African Action Climate Summit; and held several events at African Climate Week. We will also be releasing two flagship reports highlighting the critical importance of wildlife conservation for tackling the climate crisis effectively and explaining how countries can scale up investment in biodiversity conservation as a nature-based climate solution.

By showing that IFAW has the expertise and experience to deliver science-based programmes that have real impact for animals, people and the climate, and to influence policy at international and national levels, we are hopeful that world leaders and representatives will acknowledge and include animals and their habitats in their updated climate plans.

With only seven years remaining to reach the goal of halving emissions by 2030, now is the time to act quickly and decisively to protect wildlife and their habitats. The COP cannot overlook the importance of animals and nature as they continue to develop solutions to this essential but looming deadline. The relationship between nature loss and climate change is interlinked. Both crises must be addressed, together, to increase our chance of success in tackling these ongoing challenges. IFAW will continue to promote the importance of using holistic and community-centric approaches in our universal pursuit of mitigating climate change and creating climate resilient landscapes in which animals and people can thrive together despite climate change.

# How to build a global network

Many hands make light work, or in IFAW's case: many hands save more lives. As an organisation we have a limited number of responders who can deploy and assist animals when time is of the essence. That is why we are so focused on educating and training more individuals to extend our global reach and build a comprehensive network.

Key highlights of recent trainings include:

**Academy of Rescue and Conservation (ARC):** Inaugurated in August 2022, with a grant from the Suzanne McGraw Foundation, the ARC promised to enhance the standards of care worldwide. In just a few short months, the ARC has already completed the groundwork to become IFAW's centralised platform for the development, presentation and distribution of educational content and training in best practices in Animal Rescue. The ARC has released initial coursework for volunteers in the Marine Mammal Rescue and Research Programme and will have new content available for the opening of IFAW's new Dolphin Rescue Centre. At present, the ARC is in the process of developing multiple courses for wildlife rescue, disaster response and marine mammal rescue, with the long-term goal of IFAW's courses becoming the standard in training and education.

**Marine Rescue interns:** Our Marine Rescue team welcomed two responders from Kenya to Cape Cod to train in marine mammal stranding and disentanglement response. IFAW's marine rescue practices and innovative research have revolutionised how marine mammals are rescued and treated, and sharing these 'gold standard' techniques will help these two rescuers build capacity along the Kenyan coastline where we recently completed an aerial survey of declining marine populations and compromised ocean health.

**Disaster Relief technical training:** This past June, several IFAW team members came together in California for a two-week technical rescue training workshop. Collaborating with the North Valley Animal Disaster Group, responders learned about



Photo: Stacey Hedman / © IFAW

Michael Mwango'mbe and Lynn Njuguna training with the IFAW Marine Rescue team.

best practices in caring for farm animals when disasters occur, including rescues involving fire, water, and rope. The team also participated in a county-wide exercise, setting up a pop-up animal shelter to simulate a real-time fire rescue and how to respond to formal assistance requests while executing rescue efforts.

**CARE:** The Confiscated Animals – Rescue and Enforcement project is a two-year programme designed to provide resources for government agencies and trainings to frontline officers that handle and care for animals seized in trade within Indonesia, Congo, and Guyana.

Earlier this year, 200 frontline enforcement officers learned how to use confiscation kits to reduce biosafety risks, safeguard animal welfare and preserve evidence integrity. Even when rescued, confiscated animals have a low survival rate due to the inhumane and stressful conditions in which they are trafficked. Arming enforcement officers with knowledge and proper tools will give trafficked animals a better chance of returning to the wild.





Newly collared elephants play in Kafue National Park, Zambia.

## The purpose of collaring

In May, IFAW provided support to our partners at Game Rangers International to finance and outfit five elephants with tracking collars shortly before their release into Kafue National Park in Zambia.

The collaring of animals, especially elephants, has proven to be a critical component of their post-release monitoring. The entire collaring process takes around 20 minutes and is a non-invasive way to watch elephants without having to interfere in their natural dynamics. Once placed around the elephants' necks, the collars provide satellite communication with the elephants from a remote location, allowing the teams to monitor the activities of these orphans as they reintegrate back into the wild.

The satellite collars deliver "pings" that provide geo-reference points that can be mapped. This data paints a picture of the elephants' locations in relation to other geographic areas such as community areas, agricultural lands and other areas deemed high-risk for Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC). Knowing the elephants' locations not only benefits the animals, but it can also help people living adjacent to the designated protected area to mitigate HWC.

Elephants are highly sociable creatures. Once orphans are released, they will often join established herds. Through collaring, these elephants provide invaluable data about their post-release progression, as well as the movement patterns of the established wild groups with which they associate. This insight can contribute towards a critical piece of the Room to Roam puzzle: understanding where elephants move, and which habitats are vital as we work to conserve the linkages between fragmented areas that will facilitate safe movement.

After the release of the five orphaned elephants, preliminary data showed that they were doing well as they explored their new surroundings close to the release facility. Each day presents the post-release monitoring team with more understanding of the elephants during this final stage of the rehabilitation process. Through these observations, the team is learning key lessons which will help them refine and enhance the rehabilitation process to better serve the next generation of wild elephants that are still under their care.

# Interview with John Maretti of North Valley Animal Disaster Group

California has become notorious for its violent wildfire season. Each year thousands of families are forced to evacuate, oftentimes losing beloved pets while scores of wild animals struggle to find safety. IFAW partners with the North Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVADG) in Butte County, California, to fund and assist rescue and rehoming efforts for domestic animals.

This June IFAW and NVADG came together for two weeks of technical disaster training to learn best practices in disaster rescue. We followed up with Founder and Executive Director of NVADG John Maretti to get his take on why trainings such as these are so important to local organisations.

## **What were the reasons behind the creation of NVADG?**

*I have always loved animals as a child and an adult. As a young full-time firefighter in fire-plagued Northern California, I noticed on multiple occasions in my early career people fleeing fires by walking horses down the middle of the street. I knew that the Fire Department could do more. I contacted the Fire Chief's Association in our area, and they agreed. With a lot of help from the community, I set up the North Valley Animal Disaster Group. With the support of IFAW, we continue to be the regional leader in training groups to shelter and evacuate animals during disasters.*

## **How do these large trainings benefit rescuers, the community and wildlife in general?**

*NVADG relies heavily on the help of kind-hearted volunteers within our community who wish to be part of the solution to an ever-growing problem. Post-pandemic, our training schedule has been heavily disrupted, creating challenges with volunteer engagement. Having an IFAW-led training is a fantastic way to secure in-person training for those who want to volunteer and gain hands-on experience. Furthermore, NVADG provided IFAW*



© John Maretti/ North Valley Animal Disaster Group

Founder and Executive Director of NVADG,  
John Maretti

*with training in fire safety and awareness. Thus, our partnership enables a mutual sharing of expertise and preparation in disaster response and preparedness.*

*Learning advanced techniques, such as shelter in-place protocols and best approaches with rope rescue, will help us safely and efficiently save animal lives. These methods will allow us to locate, access, stabilise and transport any victims—human or animal. This type of training also helps the public be more prepared for potential disasters. The more people who can safely evacuate with their pets, the more time we have available to respond to animals in distress.*





IFAW staff and responders from around the world joined NVADG in advancing our knowledge and experience of handling large animals during a fire response, fire safety and awareness, and water rescue techniques.

**What changes have you observed in your work due to climate change?**

*Fires have become much larger and harder to control. Every year we continue to break records for how many homes we lose, not to mention acres of animal habitat. Additional emergency funding has helped in California, but no matter how many fire engines and firefighters you have, there is no way to stop Mother Nature. In 2020, over 4 million acres were damaged due to wildfires in California. Butte County alone saw 9 wildfire incidents destroy over 300,000 acres. During that time NVADG and IFAW rescued and provided care for more than 600 animals and helped over 1,000 find temporary shelter.*

**How is partnering with IFAW critical to a local organisation such as NVADG?**

*IFAW has a wealth of dedicated animal rescue experts and professionals that come with years of experience in emergency operations as well as everyday animal welfare measures. By training and*

*working alongside such individuals, local organisations obtain more reach and access to an incredible amount of information and resources. Working together benefits all organisations because of the advantage of multiple perspectives and experiences. It's a wonderful opportunity for our team to learn "best practices in animal rescue" from an institution with over 50 years of experience behind its name and that has participated in various types of rescues, beyond wildfire emergencies.*

**Do you have any recommendations for people who might be interested in volunteering in their local communities on behalf of animal welfare and disaster preparedness?**

*Do it! Sign up today! There are many great, small local organisations in YOUR community. Reach out and ask if they are in need of volunteers to help, especially in times of disaster when they may be setting up Emergency Animal shelters.*



IFAW responder Diane Treadwell sits with a dog at a Kentucky shelter in the aftermath of flooding.

## September is disaster preparedness month

The increase in climate-related disasters is an unfortunate reality we must face. Bushfires, flooding, earthquakes and more are on the rise. Being prepared and having a plan can save valuable time and energy during an emergency. Including your pet, or other animals, in your planning can help reduce stress in the event of an evacuation.

IFAW's Disaster Response and Risk Reduction programme deploys responders to areas around the world where animals are in distress. Teams work to reunite animals and their owners and provide emergency support services including animal search and rescue, temporary animal sheltering, aid distribution.

At IFAW we work with animal rescue partners and carers all across Australia and we know how important an animal evacuation plan is. Even in the most catastrophic disasters, being prepared and having a support network can save lives.

**Check out our website here:**

**<https://www.ifaw.org/au/resources/evacuation-planning-kit-au>**

Our Emergency Evacuation Planning kit includes step-by-step guidelines and templates to assist Australian wildlife care groups and individuals in preparing an effective evacuation plan. This resource outlines key operations and backup processes to activate before, during, and after natural disasters or other emergencies to support a successful evacuation

Thank you for helping us be prepared. Your continued support means we can respond rapidly in times of disaster and reach out to animal welfare organisations around the world to offer aid when it is needed most.



# Are you disaster ready?

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## know how to **prepare** for a disaster?

things to think about before a disaster:

- ▶ prepare your own disaster kit
- ▶ write down the addresses of pet-friendly hotels in your area and mark them on a physical map
- ▶ identify friends or family who you and your pets could stay with, and mark their locations on a physical map
- ▶ pack a physical map of your local area



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## know what to pack in your pet disaster kit?

- pet food (for 2+ weeks)
- bottled drinking water
- photo of you & your pet
- pet collar with ID
- medical records
- pet carrier
- portable bowls
- leash & harness
- pet medication
- a muzzle or labeled jacket if your dog is reactive

#disasterready 

## Download IFAW's Wildlife Rescue App today to help wildlife in Australia.



The IFAW Wildlife Rescue App is a joint initiative by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, (IFAW) and the NSW Wildlife Council (NWC). This helpful App identifies the closest licensed wildlife rescue group to where your phone is situated and, at the touch of a button, you will be connected to someone for assistance if you have found a sick, injured or orphaned animal.

The App is currently available for use in NSW, QLD, TAS and NT, with plans to roll-out to other states in the future.

Download our wildlife rescue app to help you locate your nearest licensed animal rescue group. Scan the QR code to learn more



# Upcoming events

Photo: Peter Stevens / © IFAW



George the dog at the 2022 Animal Action Awards.

### **Animal Action Awards**

Tuesday, October 17, 2023  
BAFTA Piccadilly, London

A celebration of the individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions to animal conservation, rescue, and welfare work. Six winners, selected from hundreds of nominees worldwide, will receive awards.



© IFAW

On safari in Tsavo National Park.

### **Cape Town & Zimbabwe Safari Trip**

Saturday August 3-Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Join us for a 12-day and 11-night private excursion across some of the world's unforgettable locations. Visit IFAW-supported project sites in-person, including the Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery, Panda Masuie Elephant Reserve and the Makona project within Hwange National Park.

For information, contact: [rwhite@ifaw.org](mailto:rwhite@ifaw.org)

# Recent events

Photo: © IFAW



Rob Leach speaking at recent event in Sydney

### **Your impact: Helping animals effected by disasters**

Friday 18th August  
Fishburners, Sydney CBD

We held a supporter event in Sydney during August to raise awareness about IFAW's local and global animal rescue work. With special guests, Jennifer Gardner, IFAW's Disaster Resilience Manager (all the way from the US) and Australia's own Animal Rescue Program Officer, Rob Leach, the event focused on IFAW's response to previous disaster's around the world, including the war in Ukraine, the recent cyclone in New Zealand and our continued work in Indonesia, working with communities on the ground who are frequently effected by volcano eruptions.



Photo: © IFAW

Some of the rescued pelicans after being cleaned and treated at WA Wildlife Hospital.

### **WA Wildlife Event**

Tuesday 15th August 2023

In collaboration with our partners at WA Wildlife, the IFAW team held a supporter event at WA Wildlife's animal hospital in Bibra Lake, Perth.

Supporters also enjoyed a free tour of the new hospital facilities and met some of the IFAW supported vet team and some animals currently in care at the rehabilitation center.

The event was timely as just last week the first pelicans affected by a mysterious oil spill were released back into the wild. 33 Pelican's were effected and it has been all hand on deck to wash off the oil, to ensure their feathers would be waterproof again.

Despite efforts from authorities, the source of the oil spill is still unknown, and it is possible that it has now dissipated. **To learn more about this rescue mission, scan the QR code to watch a video.**



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