

Animal Rescue



Extending a Lifeline

Elephants and rhinos orphaned by poaching, whales and dolphins stranded on our shores, dogs and cats fighting for survival after disasters – animals in crisis need our help.



Rescuing Animals with Compassion, Good Science

The International Fund for Animal Welfare rescue teams are driven by a set of principles that compel us to recognize the intrinsic value of all animals. Through a rescue, we attend to animals' immediate needs for survival and safety. But to ultimately improve the welfare of individual animals, there is more to be done. For companion animals, we strive to return them to loving homes. For wildlife, the ultimate goal is to see all rescued and rehabilitated animals successfully released and integrated back into the wild.

But how do we know we are succeeding? This is where our knowledge of and adherence to the science becomes important. We have to measure our progress and document our successes (and our failures), so that we may learn. We must always be striving to improve the work we do. Reflecting on each rescue leads to insights and improvements to our protocols that lead to making lives of animals and people better throughout the entire world.

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Rescuing Animals in Disasters

Earthquakes. Fires. Floods. Tsunamis. Hurricanes. When disasters strike, animals are left vulnerable, and IFAW mobilizes. In all, we have helped more than 200,000 animals in some of the world's worst disasters. Since 1999, IFAW emergency response teams have deployed around the world to help animals in danger from the effects of natural disasters as well as from armed conflicts and animal cruelty situations.



Earthquakes in Ecuador, Nepal, Haiti, and China

After a magnitude 8.0 earthquake in China in 2008, IFAW provided food and rabies vaccinations, offering humane alternatives to dog culls. We treated more than 68,000 animals after a catastrophic 7.0 earthquake demolished Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 2010. The IFAW team in Nepal provided vaccinations, food and emergency medical care for dogs, cats and farm animals after two massive earthquakes in 2015. When Ecuador suffered a 7.8 earthquake in 2016 we joined partner groups to provide life-saving triage, transport, food, fresh water and emergency medical care to thousands of pets, farm animals and wildlife.



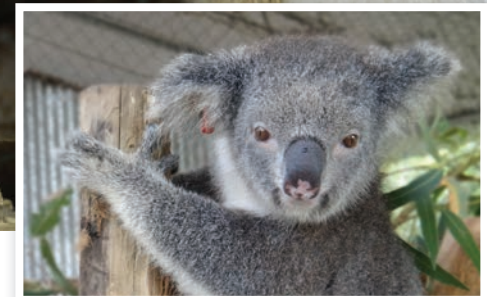
Hurricane Katrina to Superstorm Sandy and Beyond

IFAW is a founding member of the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) which was established after Hurricane Katrina to better coordinate responses to US disasters. Following the destruction of Superstorm Sandy in the US, IFAW rushed an animal search and rescue team to Oceanside, New Jersey to rescue stranded pets. After Hurricane Matthew, IFAW provided expert staff and emergency grants that helped feed animals, repair impacted shelters and a wildlife rehabilitation center, care for the influx of stranded animals in affected Jamaica and North Carolina.



Typhoons Haiyan and Bopha

IFAW and our partner the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) have responded to disasters in the Philippines since 1999. After Category 5 super typhoon Bopha hit the island nation in 2012, IFAW and PAWS distributed 3.1 tons of dog food and 800 kilos of pig feed. When Haiyan hit the Visayan Islands in 2013, we were able to feed, medically treat and vaccinate more than 2,000 companion animals. We brought together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to form the Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation in the Philippines (ARRPH) coalition that continues to collaborate in preparing for and responding to natural disasters.



Australia Bushfires and Flooding

Since 2009, IFAW helped rescue, treat and feed hundreds of wild wombats, wallabies, kangaroos, koalas, and echidnas hurt and displaced because of dangerous bushfires in Australia. We also tended to injured farm animals and companion animals such as horses, dogs and goats. Flooding can be as serious a problem for animals. In 2011 we supported efforts to rescue reptiles, birds and mammals stranded in Queensland flooding. In 2016, IFAW provided an emergency grant to buy a pump and purchase food for animals such as kangaroos and kookaburras at waterlogged Koonawonga Wildlife Refuge in Victoria.

Improving Capacity, Capabilities to Respond

IFAW strives to improve standards for emergency relief and to establish best practices in order to improve the welfare and survival of animals in crisis. IFAW also actively promotes disaster risk reduction planning. The Emergency Relief Network (ERN) model was developed to enhance our ability to respond through relationships with key partners. ERN members include groups, networks, agencies, and organizations that are trained and equipped to respond to animals impacted by disaster.

South America

When the national government officially invited IFAW and our local partner the Global Alliance for Animals and People (GAAP) to deploy and help manage the animals affected by severe floods in Northern Chile, we immediately mobilized our Disaster Response team. We set up feeding stations, provided supplies to vaccinate animals, treated injuries and reunited pets with their owners. The South America ERN is beginning to take shape around solid local governmental and non-governmental partners.

India and Pakistan

With vast regions of great animal diversity, quick responses to emergencies in India and Pakistan pose many challenges. For over eight years IFAW and our local partner Wildlife Trust of India have responded to help wildlife, dogs and cats, and farm animals impacted by disasters. Relief camps providing food and medical care must often be mobile to reach remote areas. The flooding in 2016 affected 22 districts across the entire state of Assam in India. Thousands of animals were in crisis including a wildlife sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh where impacted animals were successfully tracked and driven to safer, higher grounds. In Pakistan we collaborate with local partners to reduce risks to animals and their owners facing annual monsoon flooding. Our Disaster Risk Reduction Training Program has reached over 2,000 animal owners and government officials over the last year resulting in improved husbandry, family emergency planning, and disaster response best practices.



United States

America has suffered greatly from natural disasters. The robust IFAW US ERN is focused on risk reduction and on-going training of ERN responders. After a deadly tornado struck the town of Moore, Oklahoma, IFAW rushed a team to help care for companion animals and wild animals affected by the disaster. Shelter teams worked with lost pets to reunite them with their families. IFAW also helped our partner WildCare Foundation repair or replace enclosures to protect new arrivals before they were released back to the wild.



Southeast Asia

In trying to keep one step ahead of the always present threat of the next disaster, the Southeast Asia ERN continues to gain momentum as we engage new members across the Philippines and Indonesia. We all train together, with members from both countries bringing their own experiences and solutions to help animals in crisis. These island countries count on the ERN to bring strength and consistency through standardized field work and a commitment to both animals and people in need.

Caring for Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



Elephant Orphans in Zambia

Poaching for ivory has reached epidemic proportions in Southern Africa. Human-wildlife conflicts and accidents have caused an additional number of tragic deaths. Without the essential natal care and nutrient rich milk from their mothers, orphaned baby elephants are left to perish.

IFAW is working with our local partner, Game Rangers International, to address this tragic problem by providing long-term care for these animals with the aim of releasing them into the wild once grown.

A team of locally employed, highly trained keepers spend time with the rescued elephants around the clock in an effort to provide stability and help with recovery from the emotional damage the elephant has suffered, taking them out for daily walks, and sitting close by their stables at night. As soon as the calves can be weaned from milk formula they are moved to the Kafue National Park to join other older orphaned elephants at the Elephant Orphanage Project's (EOP) Kafue Release Facility, where they are more independent of human support and spend most of their time browsing freely in the park. The Facility

backs onto the ancient Ngoma Teak Forest, where there is a 1,000-strong local elephant population, which maximizes the opportunity for the orphans to eventually reintegrate with fellow elephants back in the wild.

The GRI-Elephant Orphanage Project operates in partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.



Helping Animals in India

IFAW partners with the Wildlife Trust of India to manage the Wildlife Rescue Centre in Kaziranga, where we care for injured and orphaned wildlife, ranging from elephants and rhinos to snakes and birds. Since 2005, IFAW's team has cared for and released three groups of orphan Asian elephants into Manas National Park. At our Kaziranga center, the calves are bottle-fed, and taken for walks in the forest to learn how to browse and graze in the wild. The rhino calf pictured is the second to be born to a rehabilitated female after release, showing the ultimate success in the rehabilitation process, and a positive step to reincorporate the species into Manas National Park.



Providing Haven for Bears, Chimps, and Big Cats

Bear Rescue, Rehab and Release

IFAW's Bear Rescue Center in Russia has successfully returned more than 200 bears to the wild. Working out of Bubonitsy, Russia, this groundbreaking project has become a world leader in bear rehabilitation, and IFAW has shared our successful techniques with bear rehabilitation projects around the world. For years in Russia, wealthy trophy hunters participated in a winter den hunt in which dogs would rouse bears from hibernation and hunters would shoot the bears as they stumbled from their dens.

Even though IFAW was instrumental in making this hunt illegal, bears are still orphaned through illegal hunts and abandonment when mother bears are startled from their winter dens by human presence, especially loggers. If the bear is female, newborn cubs are left behind to freeze or starve to death. IFAW's rehabilitation center rescues such cubs, some of which are only weeks old. When they are strong enough to survive on their own, the cubs are tagged and released back into the wild.

In India, IFAW is pioneering the rehabilitation and release of orphaned Asiatic black bears, called 'moon bears' due to the crescent of pale fur on their chest. Most are orphaned from poaching and human-wildlife conflict. From our rescue center near the Pakke Tiger Reserve, the cubs are taken for walks in the wild so they can learn to identify common wild foods such as bamboo, canes, insects, crabs and even fish, until they have learned to survive in the wild on their own.



Sanctuary for Chimps, Big Cats

The Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda was established in 1998 to provide orphaned chimpanzees with a safe haven and to implement a comprehensive approach to chimpanzee conservation, from snare removal projects and education programs to eco-tourism.

The sanctuary is managed by the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT), a partnership of organizations committed to the welfare and conservation of wildlife. IFAW provides critical financial support to this endeavor.

Upwards of 10,000 big cats like tigers, lions and cougars are kept captive in the U.S. by private owners. Since 2003, IFAW has come to the rescue of more than 178 big cats along with many other displaced, unwanted, and abused captive wildlife. In addition to responding to these urgent situations, IFAW works diligently with the US big cat sanctuary community to support the life-time care of these animals once they are placed in qualified, reputable facilities.

From Stranded to Saved

IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue and Research team deploys with specialized response equipment and a dedicated corps of staff and local volunteers to rescue stranded marine mammals: dolphins, whales, porpoises and seals.

We work primarily on Cape Cod, in the United States, one of the world's hot spots for mass strandings of groups of whales and dolphins. We are committed to the best possible care for each stranded animal and also to improving scientific protocols and increased knowledge that advance marine mammal rescue science.

IFAW's cutting-edge science has directly led to increases in survival rates for rescued animals and our expert responders have conducted trainings throughout the world.



Alone, but not Hopeless

Many dolphin and small whale species are social animals, and conventional thinking is that individual animals cannot survive without the group. Standard protocols dictate that single stranded or lone-surviving social cetaceans be euthanized rather than released alone, even if healthy.

Based on advanced health assessments, IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue and Research team believed many of these animals could survive. By satellite tagging single released dolphins, IFAW scientists are proving that healthy animals are capable of joining a social group when released alone.

This discovery could save hundreds of dolphins each year that will not be euthanized, but instead will be given a second chance for survival.

Cutting Deadly Bonds

When whales encounter fishing gear, many become so entangled they can't swim or feed properly. The animals may live for weeks, months or even years, as the deadly gear becomes more and more tightly wrapped around them, leading to infection, illness and frequently, a painful death.

IFAW works to create safer fishing gear and more effective methods of freeing whales from entanglements.



© Elding Whale Watch

To help address whale entanglements, IFAW conducts trainings and participates in international multi-agency response teams. Preventing entanglements before they happen is key, and IFAW worked with fisherman in the US to replace miles and miles of dangerous floating fishing gear with sinking line that is less likely to entangle whales.



In addition to responding to whales and dolphins, the IFAW team also helps seals in distress. Our team on Cape Cod, in the United States, responds to hundreds of calls of injured or ill seals hauled out on beaches and also disentangles seals from fishing gear and marine debris.

Innovations in Marine Mammal Rescue



Every stranded animal, whether alive or dead, offers a unique opportunity to learn more about these often elusive creatures. Since studying these animals in the wild is very difficult, most of what is known about marine mammals comes from the study of stranded animals. The IFAW team strives to maximize what we learn from every stranding event, while ensuring the highest quality of care for stranded animals.

Our goals are to:

- improve the survival rate of stranded marine mammals by applying what we learn from each event to improve response protocols; and
- provide policy makers and wildlife managers with quality scientific data upon which to base conservation efforts.

Reliance on Quality Data

Thanks to the consistent efforts of staff and volunteers, IFAW has amassed a wealth of valuable, high quality data on marine mammal strandings on Cape Cod and southeastern Massachusetts. We update and revise our assessment, handling, medical treatment, transportation, and release protocols each year based on the new information gathered, and share these with other stranding networks around the world.

Beyond the standard data collected during the course of stranding response, our directed research currently includes:

- evaluating the hearing of stranded marine mammals
- post-release monitoring (satellite tagging)
- mass stranding prevention
- seal disentanglement
- health status through necropsy (post-mortem examinations) and sample analyses
- ultrasound diagnostics in the field.

Saving Animals Before They Strand

Most notably, IFAW is developing the first systematic mass stranding prevention program in the world designed to avert strandings before they happen.

As soon as we receive word that whales or dolphins are swimming in dangerous locations, the team hits the water in boats equipped with special high frequency acoustic devices called “pingers.” Expertly navigating the boat to herd the dolphins, we safely encourage them into deeper water and out of danger.



Sharing Our Expertise

The IFAW team is recognized as a leader in the field and contributes to marine mammal conferences and workshops internationally to share best practices and to connect responders and agencies. These trainings and responses have occurred throughout the world in places such as Chile, Peru, Argentina, Trinidad, Iceland, the UK, Oman and India.

Become a Champion for Animals

Over the years, IFAW has won a number of important victories to protect animals through policy work, community education and animal rescue, but we cannot do it alone. We need your help!

There are many ways you can help animals:

- Micro-chip your pet so that it can always be identified and reunited with you if you are separated.
- Make an evacuation plan in case of disaster in your area, and don't forget your pet. It's a good idea to bring a week's worth of food, water, and medications when evacuating.
- Reduce conflict with wildlife in your backyard by storing your garbage in tight containers, and by considering wildlife when selecting plants.
- When traveling, support eco-tourism and responsible wildlife viewing.

Visit www.ifaw.org to learn more.



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Founded in 1969, IFAW today has offices in 16 countries around the world. IFAW rescues individual animals and advocates for the protection of wildlife populations and their habitats

