



# THE RESCUER 2016

Dedicated to the rescue  
and rehabilitation of  
suffering animals



# FRIENDS INDEED TO ANIMALS IN NEED

If you have ever taken on the care of any animal, large or small, you will understand what a huge responsibility that is. Once you have committed to protecting and providing for that creature, there is no going back.

That lasting commitment is fundamental to the work of International Animal Rescue.

By the time they come into our care, many of the animals we rescue have spent years in captivity and are no longer able to fend for themselves. The rescued dancing bears in India are physically and mentally damaged and dependent on our help for the rest of their lives.

Some of the orangutans in our rehabilitation centre in West Kalimantan have spent years behind bars. Like the bears, their years in captivity have robbed them of the ability to fend for themselves and they will always be reliant on us for food and shelter.

However, many of our rescued primates are still young and fit enough to be able to develop the natural behaviours they will need to survive in the forest. We have taken on the responsibility of rehabilitating and releasing them into protected areas where they will be safe from harm.

Our work doesn't stop there. It extends to the long term monitoring of the animals we release, both to gather information about their movements and to ensure they are surviving and thriving in the forest. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are fortunate to be able to invest as much time and effort as it needs to return these animals to the life nature intended for them.



Alan Knight OBE, Chief Executive



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Front cover: As baby Nam holds tight, IAR's rescue team works to revive his unconscious mother. Thankfully the orangutans' ordeal had a happy ending.







## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Rescuing and caring for suffering animals would not be possible without your help. Thanks to you desperate animals can be rescued from atrocious conditions and given all the love and care they need to make their lives worth living again. And only with your support do they have a chance of the happy, healthy future they deserve.

Every single donation makes a huge difference to animals in desperate need. Thank you for making our work possible!

## AN EASY WAY TO HELP

Did you know that by setting up a regular gift you can make an ongoing difference to animals in need? Regular gifts are life-saving for suffering animals as they allow us to plan our work ahead, secure in the knowledge that we have financial support we can rely on, day in day out.

It's quick and simple to set up, and the payments are collected automatically, cutting down on our administration costs.

You will be making a difference not just today but every day and allow us to continue rescuing and caring for more animals now and in the months ahead.

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# PROVIDING LIFELONG, LOVING CARE FOR BEARS IN INDIA

IAR's involvement in the dancing bear rescue project began in 2002. Indian charity Wildlife SOS sought our help rescuing and caring for the hundreds of captive bears being forced to perform on the streets of India. It was an ambitious goal but we were eager to help bring an end to the bears' suffering.

Thanks to generous funding from our supporters, in 2009 we made history by rescuing all the dancing bears off the streets and providing them with a permanent home in sanctuaries throughout India.

Since then the rescued bears have enjoyed a peaceful, pain-free existence in an environment designed to be as close to their natural habitat as possible. They live in large forested enclosures with adjoining dens where they come to be fed and to sleep. Human interaction with the bears is kept to a minimum and, as time has passed, so the bears have been seen to revert

more and more to their wild state. Some of the female bears can now be identified by an area of long shaggy fur between their shoulders. Bear cubs use this to cling on to when they ride on their mothers' backs in the wild.



The bears' body clocks have also changed. Sloth bears are generally nocturnal but during their years on the streets the bears were forced to 'dance' during the day and remain inactive at night. In our sanctuaries, they have the freedom to do as they please and have gradually spent more and more of the daytime sleeping and dozing. Then, as dusk falls, the sanctuary comes alive with bears busying themselves digging for termites, climbing trees or play-fighting with each other in the cool evening air. It's thrilling to see that, in spite of living in captivity for so long, these bears are still able to revert to being and behaving in the way that nature intended.



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## ELVIS TURNS ONE!

Sloth bears and other wildlife species in India are under increasing threat from human activity and encroachment into natural habitats.

Last year two month old bear cub Elvis was rescued by our partners Wildlife SOS from a group of poachers preparing to smuggle him over the Indo-Nepal border and sell him for body parts or into a life of slavery as a dancing bear.

Now, at a year old, Elvis is enjoying life at the Agra Bear Sanctuary. He is a happy, playful young bear who loves batting at his enrichment ball filled with tasty treats of dates and nuts. Although still in the cub weaning unit, it will soon be time for Elvis to meet some of the other young bears and start making friends.



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## SWEET ROSE STARTS TO BLOOM

Rose the bear cub was taken into the care of our centre in Bhopal after being found wandering alone with part of her left foreleg missing, probably after being caught in a snare. Poor little Rose was in a very bad way, severely traumatised and clearly in terrible pain.

Yet just a few months later the brave little bear has made a full recovery from surgery. The vets assure us that her wounds have healed properly and she is now able to walk confidently.

She will soon be introduced to a larger enclosure where she can roam freely and enjoy foraging and climbing trees. She has developed a fondness for dates and looks forward to receiving them from her keeper, Hatim, whom she has learnt to trust.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who responded to our appeal for Rose and gave us the means to provide her with the intensive treatment and care she needed to survive.



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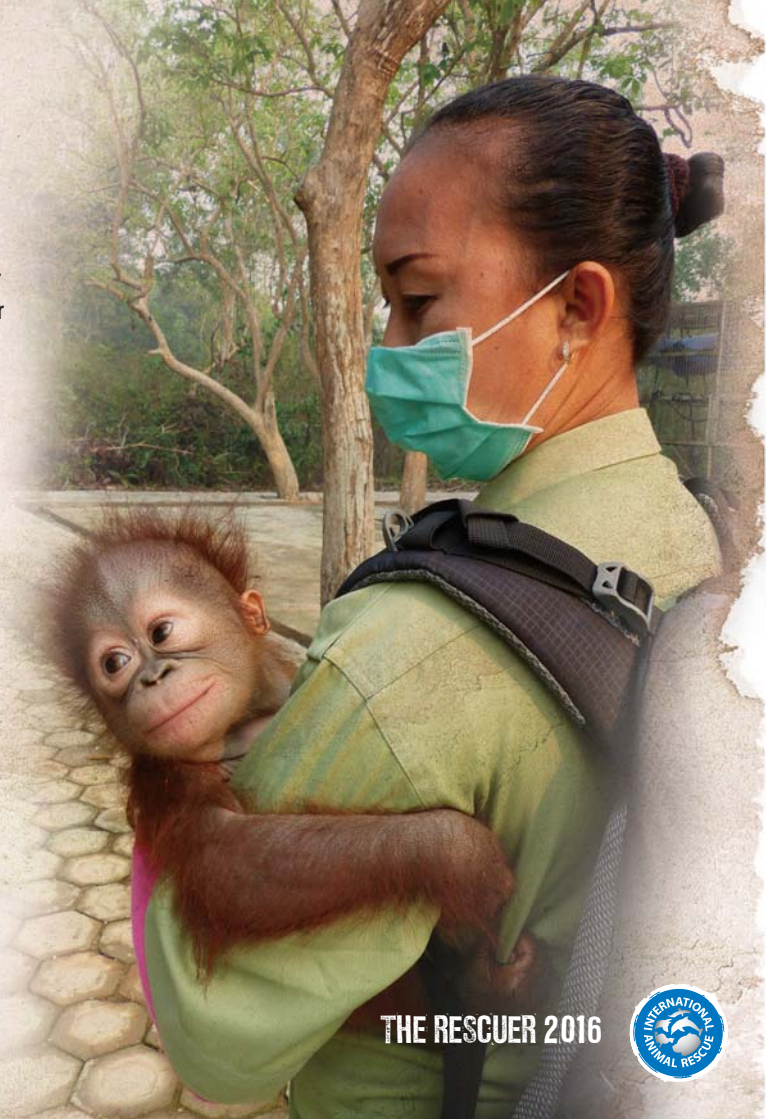
# SAVING THE LIVES OF ENDANGERED ORANGUTANS

In 2009 we established the first rehabilitation and release facility for orangutans in West Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo.) Since then our team has rescued more than 160 orangutans, bringing many into our centre for rehabilitation and relocating others into protected forest. By spring 2016 there were 106 orangutans in our centre. Among them were small babies that had been kept as pets after being snatched from their dying mothers in the forest.

## BABY ASOKA STARTS PRE-SCHOOL

Weighing just 2kg and only about four months old, baby orangutan Asoka was one of the tiniest babies our team had ever rescued. He had been kept in the home of a local man who claimed to have found the little orangutan alone in the forest.

Asoka came into our centre in August 2015. He underwent a series of medical checks and was in quarantine for several weeks. Then he started pre-school, a first stage for babies at the centre. He soon made friends and his long journey to freedom began.



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## REACHING OUT TO RESCUE JAPIK

Japik spent two years chained to a tree with nothing but a narrow wooden plank to sit on. When our team arrived to rescue her in January 2016 they found Japik shivering under an old coat, trying to shelter from the rain.

However, once rescued Japik made a swift recovery. As she is about five years old, after leaving quarantine she went straight into forest school. Orangutans at this stage are very independent but monitored closely to assess their progress in developing the behaviours they will need to survive in the wild.

Like other youngsters in forest school, Japik chooses to stay in the forest overnight and is adept at building nests to sleep in – encouraging signs for her future back in the wild.



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## RETURNING RESCUED ORANGUTANS TO THE WILD

With roughly 1500 orangutans in rehabilitation centres in Indonesia, reintroduction is regarded as one way of conserving the species in the wild.

The Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (BBBR NP) is one of the most suitable reintroduction sites. Although it already has a population of wild orangutans, their numbers are too low for the population to be viable. The park covers 181,000 hectares and adjoins large areas of forest straddling the border of West and Central Kalimantan.

The first two orangutans chosen for release had been rescued from the burnt landscape at the end of 2015 after fires had destroyed millions of hectares of Indonesian rainforest. Mata, a magnificent male of about 20 years old, had been caught by our team in a banana plantation. He was accompanied on the long journey back to the forest by Mynah, an adult female.

It took nearly three days to reach the release site, travelling by road, boat and on foot. On arrival, both cages were carried deep into the forest. When the crates were opened, both animals scrambled up a tree and immediately began foraging for food.



There could not have been a more successful start to this reintroduction programme which aims to release ten orangutans during the next two years. Our longer term goal is to establish and maintain a self-sustaining orangutan population in the National Park and ensure community support for the project and for protection of the National Park's habitat.

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## TACKLING THE TRADE IN SLOW LORISES

Early in 2016 our primate rehabilitation centre in Ciapus, Java took in five Critically Endangered Javan slow lorises that had been confiscated by police from market traders in Jakarta. Three were adults and two were tiny babies of about six to eight weeks old. The adults were in a dire condition. They were dehydrated, their teeth had been clipped out and their mouths were bleeding and infected. One female was pregnant.

Sadly, owing to the terrible damage to their teeth, it is unlikely that the adults will ever return to the wild. However, babies Pasar and Warung have not suffered the same barbaric cruelty and still stand a chance of returning to the forest.

The two little lorises have developed a strong bond. They can be heard making chirruping calls to each other in their enclosure and they sleep curled up together. Rehabilitation will give them every chance to develop the natural behaviours they will need to survive back in a safe, protected area of forest.



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# TICKLING IS TORTURE

In June 2015 we launched a celebrity-backed campaign to expose the cruelty involved in keeping slow lorises as pets. Clips online showing pet lorises being tickled or handled have led to a clamour from people around the world to own one, even though they are completely unsuited to being domestic pets. Our "Tickling is TORTURE" campaign revealed the truth behind keeping the shy nocturnal primates in captivity in order to stifle the craze for them created by online videos.

The hard-hitting campaign video is narrated by actor Peter Egan asking the public "not to support the trade in slow lorises by 'sharing' or 'liking' images of lorises being kept as pets." Instead it calls on people to "sign the pledge, help to expose the truth and end the suffering."

To date the campaign message has reached more than 45 million people online and continues to be viewed and shared by animal lovers across the globe.

To view the video please visit  
[www.ticklingistorture.org](http://www.ticklingistorture.org)



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# LISA MILELLA – OUR ANIMAL HERO

Lisa Milella's contribution to the work of International Animal Rescue far exceeds that of most charity trustees. Over the past ten years Lisa, a European specialist in veterinary dentistry, has paid numerous visits to our projects in India and Indonesia to treat animals with painful dental problems – the result of abuse and neglect at the hands of human beings.

Were it not for Lisa, countless animals would still be suffering the misery of broken teeth, agonising abscesses and infections. Thankfully, in 2004 she was approached by Paul Cassar, IAR Trustee and human dentist, and invited to travel to India with him and treat some unusual patients. About 20 rescued dancing bears in our Agra sanctuary were in urgent need of dental surgery. The bears' teeth had been knocked out to make them easier to handle. They were in desperate need of Lisa's expertise to give them the pain-free retirement they deserved.

Since that first memorable trip Lisa has returned frequently to the bear sanctuaries and often other species have been added to her list of patients. Rescued circus tigers, their teeth broken and infected by years biting the bars of their small cages, even a wild leopard that had

damaged its teeth and gums trying to escape from a snare, are among the animals that Lisa has helped.

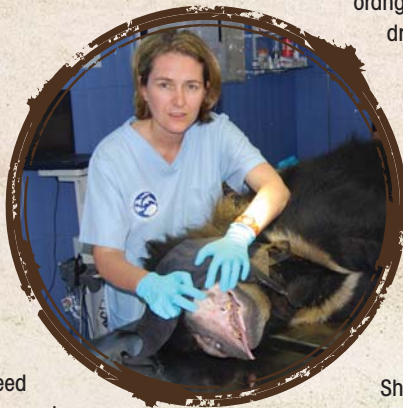
When we set up our primate projects in Indonesia, Lisa immediately offered her services there too. She first treated Pingky, an orangutan who had been fed on fast food and fizzy drinks, then a number of rescued slow lorises. Many of these little primates have had their teeth cut out to make them easier to handle, leaving them in terrible pain. Lisa ended their suffering too.

Tragically, in 2014 Lisa was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. She was forced to close her veterinary dental practice and is no longer able to operate. However she has continued to coach and advise the vets at our rescue centres so that they can carry on her work.

She has also chosen to help raise funds for IAR. Lisa set out to raise £10,000 but increased the target after achieving more than double that amount:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lisa-Milella-100>

Lisa, you are a true inspiration. A heartfelt thank you, on behalf of International Animal Rescue and on behalf of all the animals you continue to help.



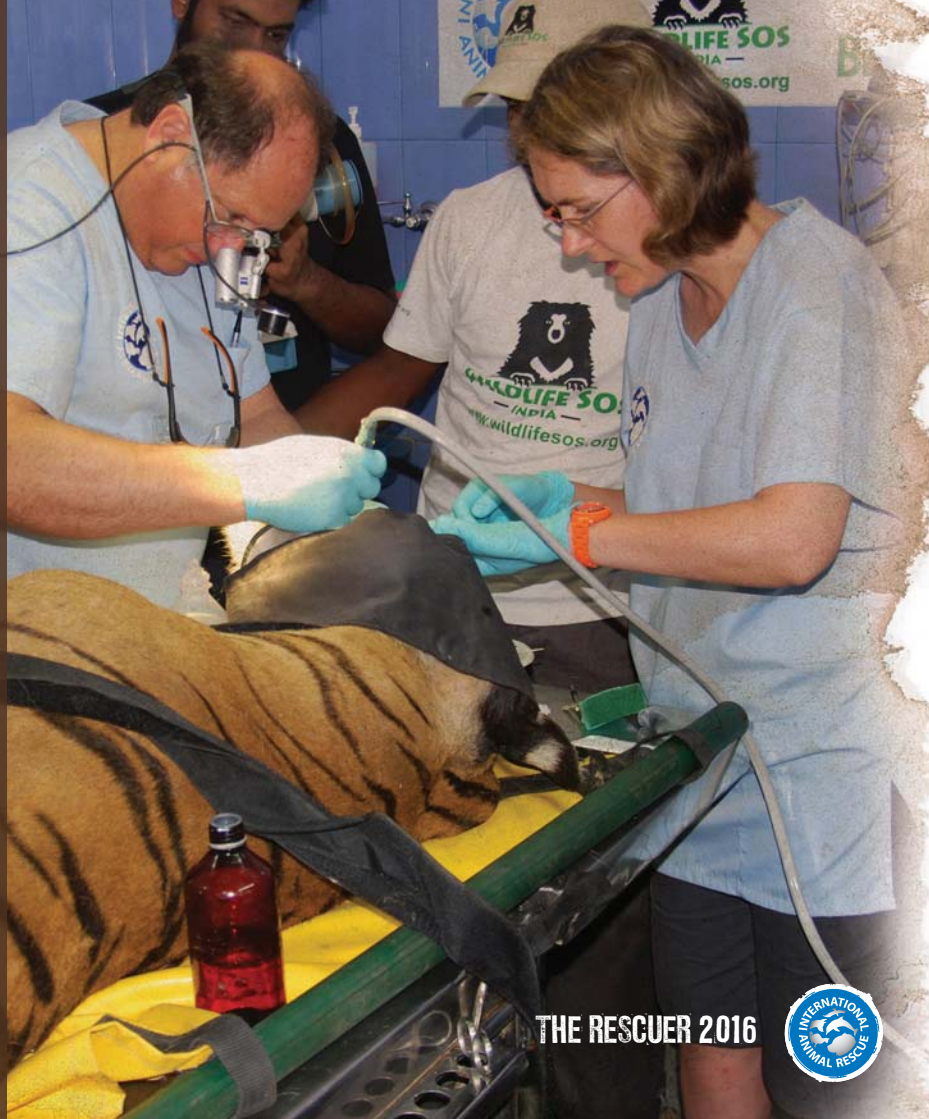
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## LEAVING THAT SPECIAL GIFT

A gift in your Will can transform the lives of suffering animals forever. Leaving that special gift could help buy protected areas of forest for abused orangutans or enrich the retirement of rescued dancing bears for years to come.

Leaving a gift in your Will can be very simple. To request an information pack or to find out more, give us a call on 01825 767688 or email [info@internationalanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@internationalanimalrescue.org)



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## CATASTROPHES CAT RESCUE

Thanks to support from International Animal Rescue, Catastrophes continues to provide a loving home for unwanted cats in the UK. Among them is Fluffy Frank, a handsome black and white cat who was found living on waste ground and surviving on scraps.

At the beginning of 2016 Frank was diagnosed with a serious polyp growing deep inside his ear which was affecting his balance and causing him great pain and discomfort. Thankfully, following a successful appeal to its loyal supporters for emergency funds, Catastrophes was able to go ahead with Frank's operation. Latest news is that he is recovering well and is back enjoying the sunshine in the sanctuary's garden.

## MACAQUES

Our team in Java is working to reduce conflict between people living in a residential area of Jakarta and wild macaques in a neighbouring nature reserve. Investigations have shown that the main conflict hotspots occur where people feed the macaques on a



regular basis and the animals have lost their instinctive fear of human beings. A pilot project launched in spring 2016 aims to resolve this conflict situation and if successful will be expanded into other problem areas.

## DOG RESCUE

International Animal Rescue continues to collaborate with local groups in Goa, India to improve the welfare of the stray dog population. This requires a comprehensive sterilisation programme to control breeding and a vaccination programme to prevent the spread of diseases.

## BIRD PROTECTION

We continue to lobby for stronger bird protection legislation and more effective law enforcement. We actively support monitoring of bird hunting to expose the illegal shooting of protected species.

## THE WORLD'S SADDEST ZOO

In January 2016 we brought worldwide attention to the plight of three lions and two bears languishing in horrific conditions in an abandoned zoo in Gyumri, Armenia.

Thanks to the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, the bears were flown to a sanctuary in Romania where they are recovering well from their years in captivity.



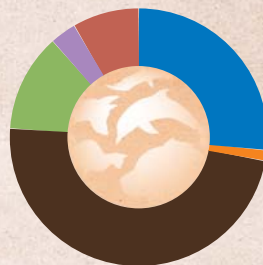
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# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW-2015

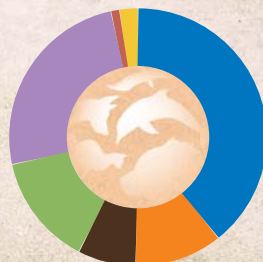


Meanwhile, thanks to the influx of public donations, an enclosure was built for the three lions in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge in Armenia. The mother and two cubs were moved in February and are now in good physical and mental condition. They have the offer of a permanent home in a UK sanctuary if sufficient funds can be raised for their transport.



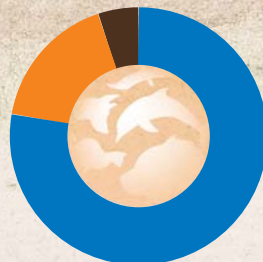
## CAMPAIGN EXPENSES £1,249,000

- Indian Dancing Bears
- Goa Community Animal Rescue & Clinic
- Primate Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Cat Rescue
- Other projects
- Education



## INCOME £2,567,000

- Individual Donations
- Regular Gifts from Individuals
- Gift aid
- Trusts and foundations
- Legacies
- Fundraising events
- Investment income



## TOTAL EXPENDITURE £1,870,000

- Campaign and animal rescue projects
- Fundraising
- Governance, development and administration

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