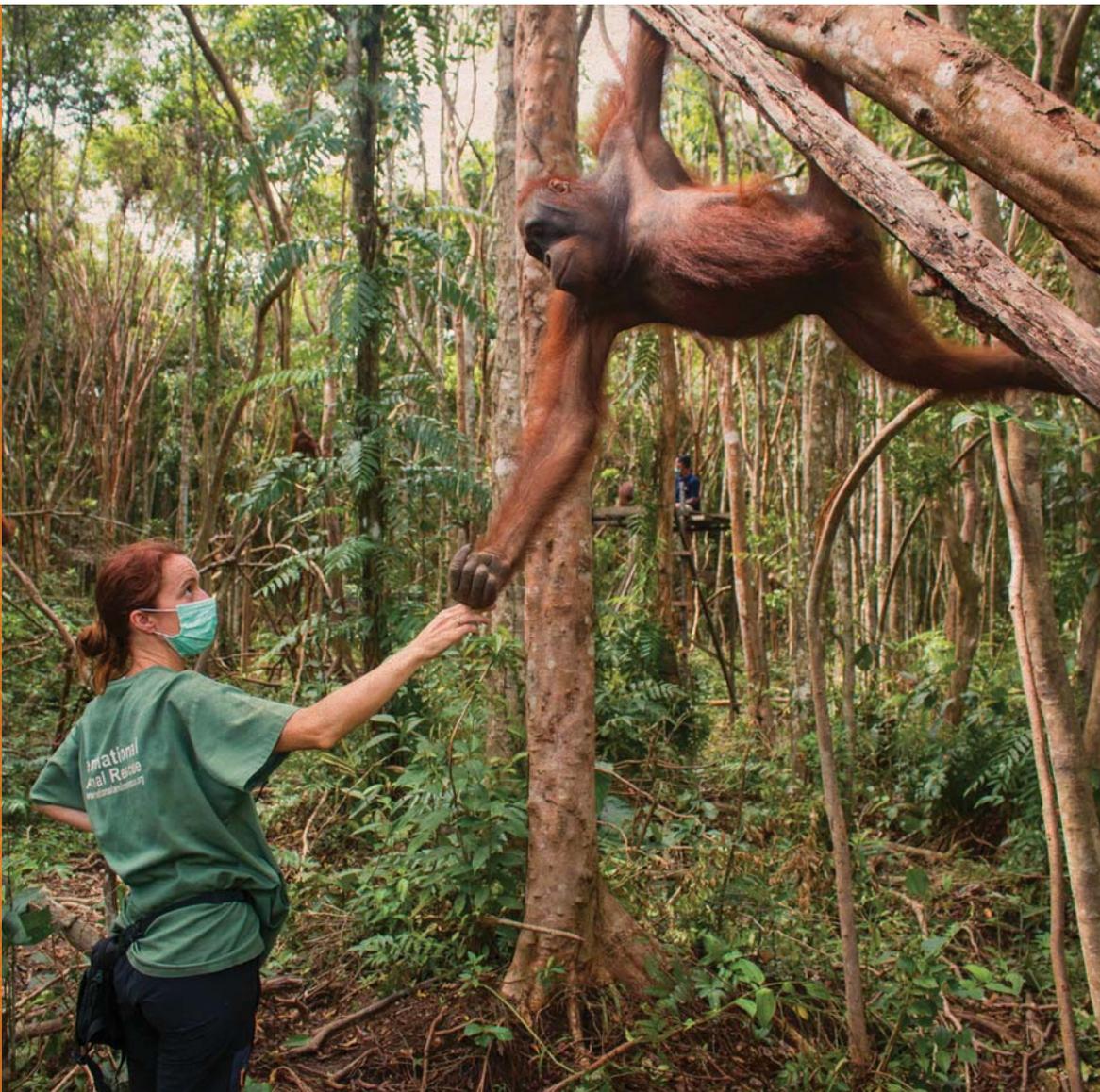




# THE RESCUER 2017/2018

Dedicated to the rescue,  
rehabilitation and  
protection of suffering  
animals and their habitats  
around the world.



## WHEN IT'S TIME TO GO HOME

When International Animal Rescue first embarked on its mission to help animals, its focus was on animal welfare and the need to relieve the suffering of individual animals. For example, in the early days, the suffering of stray dogs in India was of particular concern to us.

It was through our work in India that we came to learn of the plight of the dancing bears. The bears were subjected to terrible cruelty. Their noses were pierced with a red hot needle and a coarse rope was threaded through the open wound. They were controlled by that vicious rope and forced to 'dance' to beg money from tourists. It was an issue in which we were keen to become involved and we remain committed to the care of the rescued bears to this day.

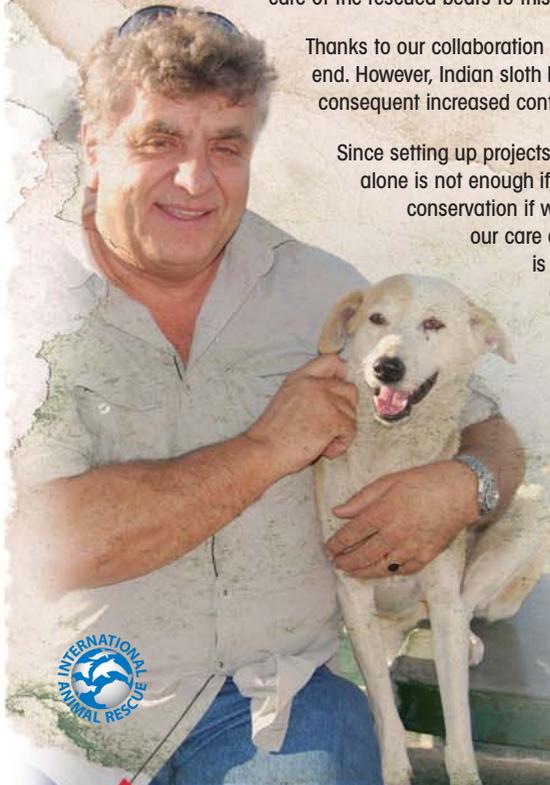
Thanks to our collaboration with Indian partners Wildlife SOS, the practice of dancing bears in India has been brought to an end. However, Indian sloth bears face other threats to their survival, primarily the destruction of their natural habitat and consequent increased conflict with people. These are threats facing wildlife the world over.

Since setting up projects in Indonesia to help orangutans and slow lorises, it has become clear to us that animal rescue alone is not enough if we are to do the best we can for these animals. We have to address the issue of habitat conservation if we are to return rescued wildlife to its natural home. We have more than 100 rescued orangutans in our care and we aim to release most of them back into the wild. But we can only do that if sufficient forest is preserved and protected. In Indonesia we work with local authorities, commercial companies, communities and other environmental groups to protect precious forest habitat, for the sake of the wildlife and the people who depend on it. We help local farmers get the best out of their land to reduce deforestation. And we organise conservation camps for young people to teach them about their natural environment and the importance of protecting it.

The rescue and rehabilitation of animals in desperate need still rests at the heart of our work. But it is underpinned by a range of other vital activities designed to ensure that, when those animals have completed their rehabilitation and are ready to go home, they still have a home to go to.



**Front cover:** This beautiful photo of Karnele, Programme Director of IAR Indonesia, shows the extraordinary nature of our life-saving work. Humans are responsible for the devastating decline in the orangutan species, and now it is up to us to fight for their survival before it is too late.



## THE GREAT BEAR RESCUE

After playing a leading role in ending the barbaric practice of dancing bears in India, in 2017 IAR took on a new challenge helping suffering bears in Armenia.

Dozens of brown bears are kept in cages in Armenia to attract tourists to restaurants and other public venues.

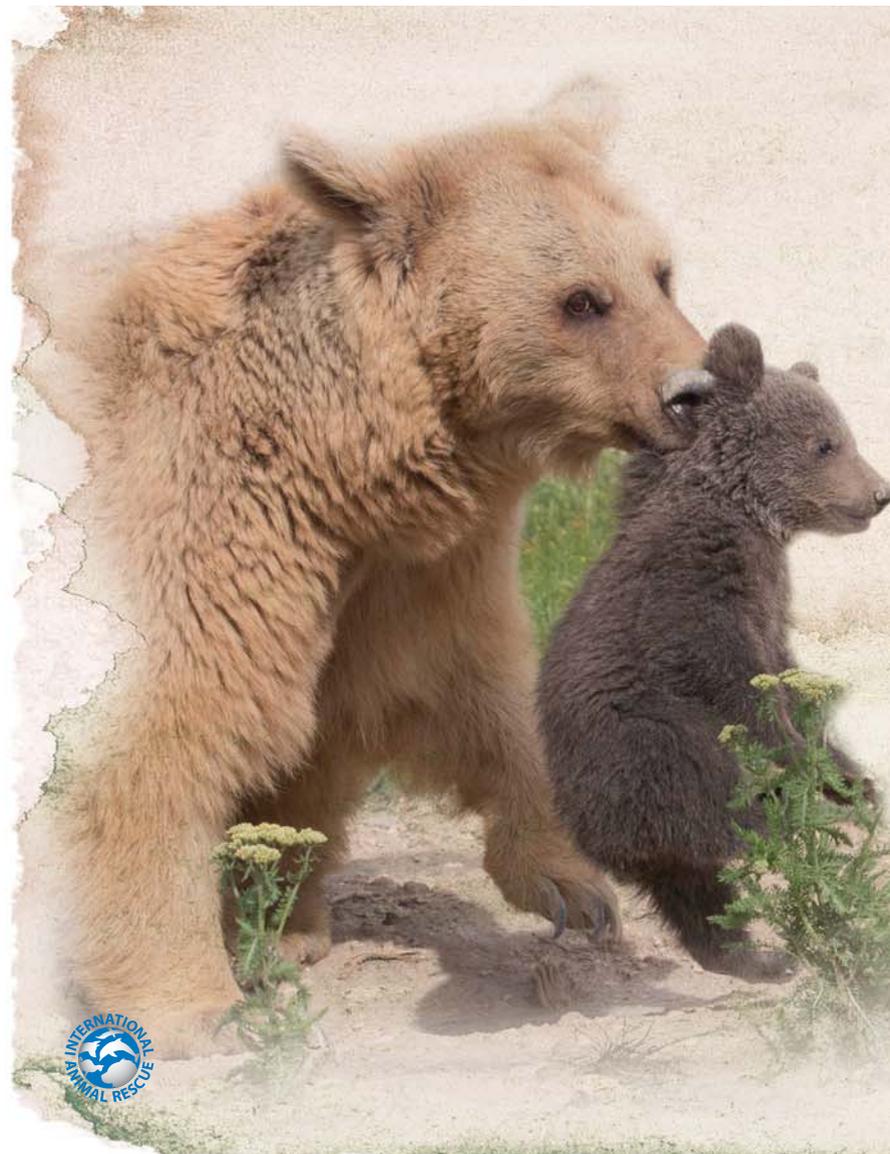
When we learned of their existence from local group FPWC\*, we knew we had to help them.

"The living conditions of these bears are nothing short of appalling. Most of them have spent years in cramped, barren cages, surviving only on scraps and filthy, stagnant water. Many try to relieve their boredom and frustration by pacing endlessly to and fro, banging their heads against the walls or climbing up the bars in search of an escape route. It's heart-breaking," said Alan Knight, IAR CEO.

The bears are kept illegally but, with no suitable place to house them, it was impossible to enforce the law. First we had to build a centre where each rescued bear would be carefully assessed, treated and undergo rehabilitation before its future could be decided. The facility would also provide a permanent home for those that could never return to the wild.

\*Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets





At the end of October 2017 we launched our Great Bear Rescue campaign and a week later, with the support of the Armenian government and the Emergency Services, we cut the first two bears free.

Female Dasha and male Misha had spent ten years in a cramped cage half-submerged in water by a riverside restaurant in Yerevan. On one occasion, when the river flooded, the two bears had narrowly escaped drowning.

The Emergency Services cut through the iron bars of the cage using bolt cutters so that the anaesthetised bears could be carried to freedom.

Then, several months later, as signs of spring began to appear, Dasha surprised us all by emerging from hibernation with two beautiful cubs at her heels. It seems we had rescued her just in time! A big thank you to our supporters for naming these cubs Coco and Luka.

Since that first rescue operation, The Great Bear Rescue has gone from strength to strength. In less than a year 20 bears have already been cut free from their cages and started on the road to a better, brighter future.

To find out more, visit:

[www.greatbearrescue.org](http://www.greatbearrescue.org)

## TACKLING THE TRADE IN SLOW LORISES

In recent years, undercover investigations and prosecutions by the police, coupled with community awareness-raising activities by our team in Indonesia, have led to a reduction in the number of slow lorises for sale in the animal markets. However, at the same time there has been a noticeable increase in the number being sold via social media. Social network platforms are increasingly being used by wildlife smugglers for their illegal trading activities.

In September 2017 nine Sumatran slow lorises were recovered after police dismantled a criminal online network using Facebook to sell wildlife illegally. The two perpetrators were arrested and taken to the police headquarters in West Sumatra.

The nine slow lorises, including a mother and baby, were assessed and treated by our team, who had been present at the seizure. The little primates were in reasonable condition, but severely distressed. Sadly, one further loris had died, perhaps as a result of suffocation after being confined in a cramped, airless box by the traffickers.

Slow lorises destined to be sold as pets have their teeth cut out to make them easier to handle. This brutal practice often causes serious infections, leading to the death of many of them through starvation or septicaemia. However, the teeth of the nine survivors were intact. They were also still displaying wild behaviour, indicating that they might have only recently been caught and could therefore be released into a safe area of forest once they had recovered from their ordeal.



## PROTECTING AND PRESERVING CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ORANGUTANS

At the beginning of 2018 new research revealed a dramatic decline in the Bornean orangutan population with nearly 150,000 animals lost between 1999 and 2015.

Researchers estimate that the number of orangutans left in Borneo is now between 70,000 and 100,000, which means the population dropped by more than half during the study period.

Without greater efforts to protect these great apes, experts predict that numbers could fall by at least another 45,000 in the next 35 years.

Such bleak news has only served to strengthen our resolve to protect the orangutan and its dwindling habitat, to ensure the survival of this critically endangered species for future generations.

At our centre in Ketapang, West Borneo, a team of 132 people, the majority of them local to the area, are dedicated to the smooth running of our orangutan conservation project. This includes the care and rehabilitation of more than 100 rescued orangutans that were captured and kept as pets after their forest home was destroyed. The project also involves education and awareness-raising, outreach into local communities and protection of precious forest habitat for the sake of wildlife and people.



## A LUCKY ESCAPE FOR LULUP

The story of Lulup, a male orangutan rescued in January 2018, highlights the serious threats to the survival of these great apes. Lulup was rescued by our team from a community garden in West Borneo after residents complained that he was eating fruit from their orchard. He was found to have a significant wound from an airgun on his right cheekpad. Tragically, orangutans that venture into community gardens in search of food are frequently shot by local residents protecting their crops.

Our vet estimated Lulup to be more than 25 years old. Once she had sewn up his wound, checked his general condition and inserted a microchip under his skin so that he could be identified in future, he was ready to be translocated to a protected forest.

Four local men acted as porters and carried Lulup's transport crate on the two-hour journey to the release site in Gunung Palung National Park which would be his new home.

Conflict between people and orangutans is increasingly common as a result of large scale deforestation. On the one hand, people feel threatened and scared. On the other hand, orangutans only stray into gardens and plantations because humans have destroyed their habitat and left them without food and shelter.

However, translocation is only a short-term solution. Habitat conservation requires the cooperation of all involved, including local communities, governments and also companies that have plantation land in or around orangutan habitat. In this instance, IAR's team is working with the local forestry authorities and the Gunung Palung National Park to find a longer term solution that will meet the needs of everyone involved, both animals and people.



## KEEPING RESCUED SLOTH BEARS BUSY

In 2009 International Animal Rescue played a key role in rescuing the last dancing bear off the streets of India. Since then, thanks to our supporters, we have been able to provide the hundreds of rescued bears with a permanent home in spacious sanctuaries in India, managed by our partners Wildlife SOS.

The rehabilitation of rescued bears presents many challenges. Our sanctuaries are not zoos. The animals are not kept there to entertain visitors. Our goal is to provide the rescued animals with an environment that is as close as possible to their natural habitat, while providing the specialist care these broken bears need after years of neglect and abuse.

Many are traumatised. Some initially refuse to leave their dens, associating the outside world only with pain and terror. The sanctuary teams use great patience and skill to coax even the most fearful among them out into their enclosures with tasty treats and soothing words.

Environmental enrichment is used to help the bears recover from their traumatic past, to keep them happy and occupied and to stimulate their natural behaviour. Wobble trees containing chunks of fruit and nuts mimic real trees and the bears are rewarded with food raining down on them when they give the trees a vigorous shake.

The best type of enrichment is one that requires skill and ingenuity – and takes plenty of time – to reach its contents. Food braid feeders made of non-plastic fire hose material are very popular with the bears who spend hours extracting the treats with their sharp claws and long tongues.



## RATNA, THE LAZIEST BEAR IN THE LAND!

For the first three years of Ratna the sloth bear's life, she knew nothing but torture as a dancing bear on the streets of India.

We welcomed Ratna in to the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre (BBRC) in 2009 and have since done all we can to give her the life she deserves. Initially, Ratna struggled to trust any keepers who came too close to her. However, she has gained confidence and now her favourite face is of her keeper, Jagath, whom she greets enthusiastically every day.

Although most bears enjoy actively exploring, Ratna prefers sleeping, even at times of excitement, leading to her title of the BBRC's 'laziest bear.' She has been observed accidentally somersaulting from her hammock while she is in the process of dozing off and enjoys contorting herself into comical positions while she sleeps - confusing the keepers when trying to distinguish her rear from her head!

During the summer months, the bears receive a variety of different foods to eat, and Ratna has developed quite a sweet tooth. She enjoys eating as many watermelons, honey, dates and popcorn as she can get her paws on - and mealtimes are generally her favourite part of the day!

Thank you for your generous support, which makes it possible for us to provide Ratna with the food and the veterinary care she needs to give her an enjoyable and fulfilled life! We wouldn't be able to continue this work without your help.

Ratna



## HELPING HOWLER MONKEYS

Our partnership with Refuge for Wildlife in Nosara, Costa Rica, has already led to a number of positive changes and improvements at the centre.

During 2017 the Refuge team responded to 238 calls to help a variety of animals. Of those animals, 183 received medical treatment and care and 62 of them were injured and orphaned howler monkeys.

The Refuge has grown and expanded a great deal since it was established back in 1999 and the centre, currently still located within the home of its founders, is now bursting at the seams. But not for much longer! IAR has committed to building a brand new rescue centre, complete with fully-equipped vet clinic, quarantine units, nursery enclosures, pre-release habituation enclosures and education/visitor centre, not to mention staff and volunteer accommodation.

Building work will begin during the latter half of 2018. We're thrilled to be embarking on this new venture and hugely grateful to our supporters for giving us the means to do it!

## MANGO

Mango the howler monkey suffered a bad fall when trying to jump a gap in the trees over a busy road. He was knocked unconscious but quickly rescued by passers-by and taken to a vet. By the time he arrived, Mango was awake and sitting up. After pain medication and antibiotics, the little howler was fed some mango baby food which he ate hungrily and messily - hence his name!

Mango was transferred to the Refuge where he received special treatment in our clinic for visual injuries and neurological damage. After weeks of care he has improved a great deal but his left eyelid remains droopy. Nevertheless, Mango has grown into a beautiful juvenile with the loudest howl we've ever heard from one of our rescued orphans!



Mango



## GOOD NEWS FROM MAURITIUS!

In summer 2018 the first spay and neuter clinic for dogs opened its doors on the island of Mauritius. After years of campaigning by a coalition of animal welfare groups including International Animal Rescue, the cruel killing of thousands of dogs was finally suspended.

With funding from IAR and the Marchig Trust, the clinic, run by HSI in partnership with the Mauritian Government's Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, will initially operate for one year. Its aim is to prove that a humane sterilisation programme can reduce dog numbers and persuade the authorities to expand it to the whole island, abandoning their brutal killing methods for good.



## MACAQUES ON THE MOVE

Our work helping macaques in Java, Indonesia aims to improve the lives of individual animals through rescue, rehabilitation and release and to increase understanding and tolerance of macaques among local communities.

We recently released twenty-four rescued macaques in Batuteji Protected Forest in the province of Lampung, Sumatra. The monkeys - 18 long-tailed and six pig-tailed macaques - had undergone lengthy and comprehensive rehabilitation and socialisation to ensure they were mentally and physically equipped for life back in the wild.



## LOVING CARE FOR CATASTROPHES CATS

Without Catastrophes Cat Rescue and the ongoing support it receives from IAR, there would be little hope for homeless and unwanted cats in desperate need of food and shelter. It is Catastrophes' mission to give every cat a second chance in life. Its residents receive expert veterinary treatment and plenty of love and attention from an army of cat-loving carers dedicated to giving the cats a contented and happy life. Sick and sorry cats are nursed back to health and given a home for life in the sanctuary's beautiful countryside setting.





## SUPERSTAR SUPPORTERS

Over the past year, our supporters have raised a truly incredible amount enabling us to continue our important and life-saving work. They've baked cakes, run marathons, donated their birthdays, jumped out of planes and hosted spectacular events (to list just a few!).

We are so grateful to every single person who has gone the extra mile in support of our work. Their dedication and support make every rescue and happy ending possible.

## RUN FOR THEIR LIVES



On 15th April 2018, 15 amazing runners took on the Brighton Marathon and together raised over £14,000! For many of them, it was their first ever marathon and we are incredibly inspired by the strength and determination they showed. Thank you for going the extra, extra mile for all the animals in our care!

## CAKES FOR APES



From 23rd-30th Ape-ri! we invited our supporters to go wild and get baking to raise money for our orangutan rescue project. We are blown away by the amazing support and the number of people who took part. Bake sales were hosted in schools, offices, shops and cafes as well as people inviting friends and family over for a fundraising tea party - the global event raised almost £20,000! We can't wait to do it all again next year!



## FUNDRAISING STARS

### ★ THANK YOU PATTY

We are so grateful to Patty for her amazing dedication to our work! She has organised a number of events to raise awareness of and funds for our orangutan rescue project. She has held fundraising parties as well as collecting donations at her work place. She is a true ambassador for our cause and we are so pleased to have her on board.



### ★ TERRIFIC TEAM: DEBORAH AND SIAN!

Deborah and Sian have been incredibly busy representing us at a number of fairs and events in the South of England. Together they have raised an amazing amount in addition to educating the public about the important work we are doing to end animal suffering.

### ★ EXCELLENT EMILY

Emily took part in an 'Inflatable 5K' and raised over £100 in support of our projects. She had lots of fun and plans to take on more challenges to raise even more for the animals in our care. Thank you Emily!



## JOIN THE TEAM

If you're interested in organising a fundraiser, or taking part in the 2019 Brighton Marathon, then we would love to hear from you! You can email us at [fundraising@internationalanimalrescue.org](mailto:fundraising@internationalanimalrescue.org) or call us on 01825 767688



## DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN VIRTUALLY ADOPT ONE OF OUR ANIMALS?

Some animals stay with us forever and depend on us for lifelong care because they are no longer able to fend for themselves in the wild. By adopting one or more of the cherished members of our family, you can help keep them healthy, happy and safe and support our work rescuing and rehabilitating other animals too. In return, you'll become a special friend to an animal in need.

Our virtual adoptions also make a wonderful gift and allow you to support our work rescuing animals from suffering in a more engaged way! There are a number of animals currently available for online adoption.

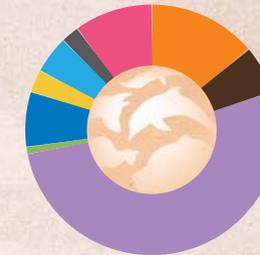


### What do you get in an adoption pack?

- A personalised certificate
  - A photograph
  - An optional soft toy
  - A fact sheet
- Exclusive updates on your adopted animal

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW-2017

In 2017 International Animal Rescue generated a surplus of funds thanks to better than expected income from legacies. This is excellent news and means that we have more funds available to help more animals in 2018 and beyond. More than half the surplus has been used in 2018 to purchase land in Costa Rica where, once all the correct permits and permissions are obtained, we will build a purpose-built Wildlife Rescue Centre to help protect howler monkeys and other wildlife in the region. In addition, we have invested more funds into 'The Great Bear Rescue' - our project to rescue caged bears in Armenia. We have also been able to provide extra financial support to our dancing bear rescue project in India which has seen costs escalate owing to local taxes, inflation and a reduction in income from other funders. We remain fully committed to providing life-long sanctuary to the ex-dancing bears of India.



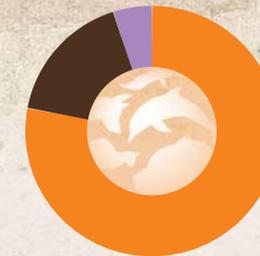
### CAMPAIGN EXPENSES £2,407,000

- Indian Dancing Bears
- Armenia Bears
- Primate Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Costa Rica - Howler Monkey Rescue
- Cat Rescue
- Other projects
- Education
- Programme Travel
- Campaign Support



### INCOME £3,404,000

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



### TOTAL EXPENDITURE £2,823,000

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



Have a look on our website now:

[www.internationalanimalrescue.org/adopt-an-animal](http://www.internationalanimalrescue.org/adopt-an-animal)

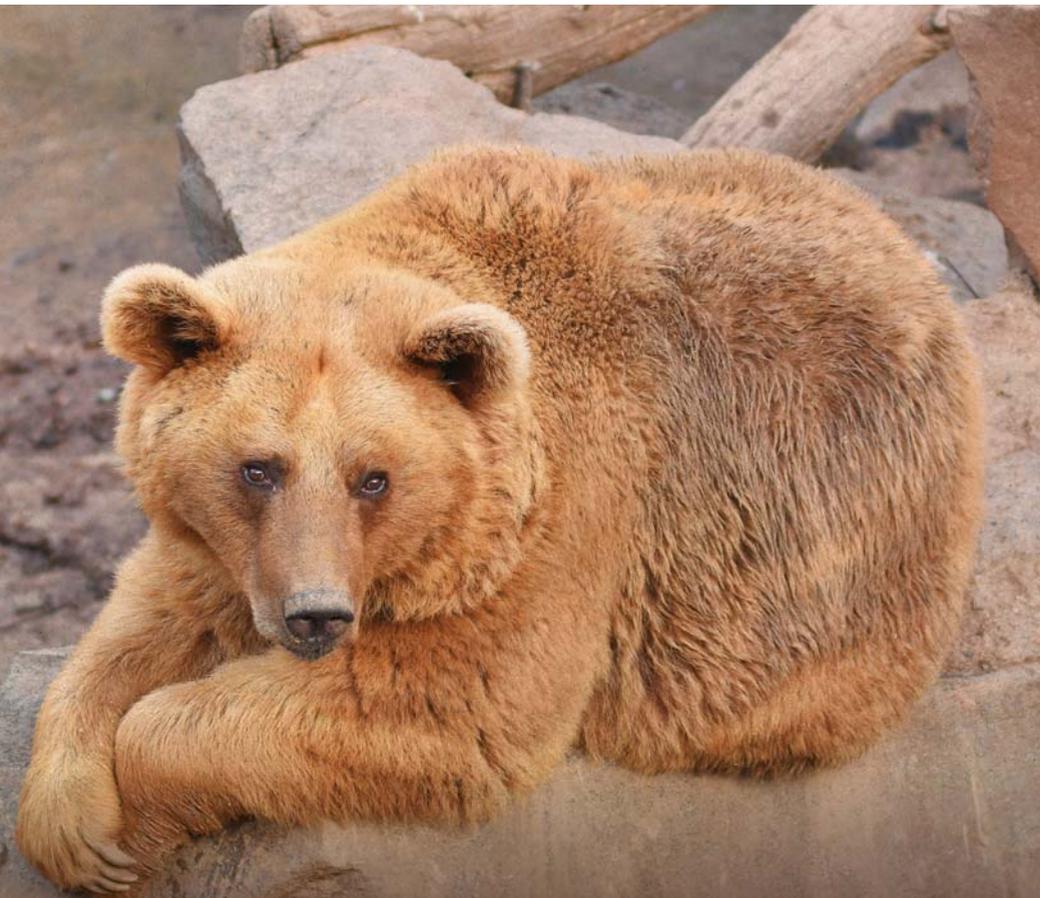


## GIVE THE GIFT OF FREEDOM

Leaving a gift to International Animal Rescue in your Will is easy to set up and will make a world of difference to suffering animals around the world.

By choosing to remember us in your Will, you will be part of something incredible, part of an end to animal suffering. You will be a lasting part of the solution.

To find out more please get in touch today!



## CONTACT US

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