Every Life Counts!
Stories of animals you helped save.

Elephants March ... with 290,000 petitions to end the ivory trade.
We count our successes one by one ... in the grateful eyes of an orphan bear or rhino, an abused or abandoned cat or dog, or an elephant in need of protection. At IFAW, every life counts.

Whether a wild animal needs rescue from harm, or an abused cat or dog needs critical care, you make it possible for IFAW to save animals large and small.

Thank you for making a difference in these animals’ lives,

Ian Robinson
Director of Animal Rescue

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Over the last year, you helped make a big difference in so many innocent lives. Here are three stories of animals your generosity touched.

Sugar Bear
After the State of Ohio passed stronger legislation following a tragic wild animal massacre at a backyard menagerie in Zanesville, many big cat and other exotic animal owners couldn’t afford to keep their facilities open. IFAW has been working to find suitable sanctuaries for animals who must be relocated.

One of them is Sugar Bear, an 8-year-old black bear who was originally rescued from a ‘canned’ hunting farm at the age of 16 months. IFAW moved Sugar Bear and five tigers from a bankrupt family compound to safe, permanent homes last June. According to the USDA inspector in Ohio, Sugar Bear is the nicest bear she’s met during her career. So when he went into his transport cage without any trouble, he was rewarded with his favorite food – yogurt.
Asha the Rhino

When floods swamped the forests of India last summer, hundreds of animals were swept away or stranded. The Assam Forest Department rescued a baby female rhino, less than a month old, in Kaziranga National Park and brought her to IFAW’s Wildlife Rescue Center.

Although the calf suffered some bruises, she was basically healthy. Vets and animal keepers at the center gave her milk every two hours and named her Asha, which means ‘hope.’ Being a typical baby rhino, she was docile and playful. As soon as possible, they removed her from isolation and took her for walks around the center. Now she is learning to forage for grass.

She has a big brother, too. Another rhino calf – a six-month-old male named Pravir – was also rescued after he strayed from a national park into a village. When they are old enough, they will be released back to the forest together.

Bernie

Bernie was found abandoned in an empty lot in Mexico about to be run over by an industrial sweeping machine. He was starving and weak from pneumonia.

At the IFAW-supported clinic at the Humane Society of Cozumel, Bernie received emergency treatment and was cleaned and fed. IFAW’s vet Erika Flores gave him round-the-clock medicine, along with nebulizations to clear his lungs. Bernie thrived under care, growing from just over 3 pounds to 11 pounds in one-and-a-half months.

Erika kept the loveable little dog in foster care while he recovered. He caught on quickly living in a home ... learning to play with toys and other dogs.

Then a family visiting Cozumel from Iowa met Bernie quite by accident and fell in love with him. They adopted him the next day and took him home.

A couple of days later, they sent this note to Erika: “The trip went extremely well. Bernie was very quiet and well-behaved. He immediately started playing with our other dog and even our cat. Today when my younger three children met him they were as happy as I’ve ever seen them! The puppy is worn out from playing, but overall doing very well.”

Each of these stories reflects our belief in the intrinsic value of every animal. At IFAW, we work just as hard to save one little life as we do to protect entire animal populations.
In 2011, more than 23 tons of illegal ivory was seized and thousands of elephants were killed. During 2012, for the first time in many years, widespread elephant poaching was reported across the entire elephant range in Africa, including among populations in Southern Africa that were previously thought to be safe.

**Speaking Out Against Ivory**

In Germany, IFAW supporters signed 56,000 petitions urging Minister of Environment Peter Altmaier to take a strong stand against any decisions at CITES that would allow ivory trade or lessen the protection of elephants. IFAW UK Country Director Robbie Marsland presented more than 51,000 postcard petitions from our supporters to the UK Environment Minister Richard Benyon in Victoria Gardens, next to the House of Lords.

In the US, Kelvin Alie, IFAW’s Wildlife Crime and Consumer Awareness Program Director, met with Roddy Gabel, Chief of the Division of CITES Management Authority at the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He presented one big card, which represented 2,295 postcards sent by supporters urging the government to take a stand against the ivory trade. More than 27,000 Americans also expressed their opposition to ivory trade via our online petition, FaceBook or email.

In France, 38,000 people signed our online petition within 8 months. We also had more than 18 million pro bono placements of our Elephant March campaign online to spread the word.

The highlight of the campaign was when Mr. Hans Bleker, Secretary of State on Environment in the Netherlands, publicly declared the Dutch will not support ivory stockpile sales any longer.

Whatever ivory sale proposal comes forward at CITES in Bangkok next year, they will pro-actively lobby against it. This is a historical change since the Dutch helped champion the last ivory trade deal (102 tonnes of raw ivory) when CITES met in The Hague in 2007. The highest political figure of the country has now said that deal has failed.

**With hundreds of thousands of people all around the world speaking out, governments can no longer ignore the brutal killing of elephants for their ivory tusks.**
536 Tortoises Rescued

In the Middle East, spur-thighed tortoises (Testudo graeca) are popular with people who keep wild animals as pets. Last spring, customs officials seized 536 tortoises from a traveler trying to smuggle them from Jordan into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Jordanian officers delivered the tortoises to the IFAW-supported Princess Alia Foundation for care. Later, they were released back into the wild in their native habitat in the northern region of Jordan.

Undercover with INTERPOL

Following IFAW’s training of agents, police, customs officers and other authorities in procedures to prevent wildlife trafficking, INTERPOL launched Operation Worthy. During a three-month crackdown, INTERPOL arrested more than 200 people, seized almost 2 tonnes of ivory, 20kg of rhino horn and military grade machine guns in 14 African countries.

David Higgins, manager of INTERPOL’s Environmental Crime Programme, said: “The intelligence gathered during Operation Worthy will enable us to identify the links between the poachers and the global networks driving and facilitating the crime.”

Stepped up enforcement efforts are showing poachers and traffickers that wildlife crime doesn’t pay.

Travelers Think Twice

Over the summer holiday season, IFAW displays in two major European Airports informed travelers about animal products and cautioned them to think twice before buying animal souvenirs. Souvenirs made from animals add an unnecessary threat to endangered species. In addition, these souvenirs very often cause cruelty and suffering to animals.

The displays reached out to passengers traveling through the airports in Frankfurt, Germany, and Brussels, Belgium. Airport Frankfurt donated the space for ten displays near the long distance departure gates.
Established in 1995, the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (DWCF) has continued this legacy and has provided more than $20 million to programs in 112 countries.

For well over a decade, the DWCF has helped IFAW rescue and care for the animal victims of disasters, and protect habitat critical to elephants, tigers, porpoises and other animals.

Disney supported IFAW and local partners’ efforts to rescue thousands of endangered African penguins after an oil spill in South Africa in 2000. Since then, they’ve helped IFAW respond to the Haiti earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, the Asian tsunami, and many other disasters.

Now the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund has awarded a grant to not only help IFAW rescue animals from disasters but also train and equip IFAW and our animal rescue partners. The Animal Rescue and Readiness fund will be used for direct emergency responses around the world and to help our partners prepare their rescue personnel for emergencies.

Disney has been a committed supporter in IFAW’s mission to make the world better for animals. We look forward to continuing to work together and going wherever we are needed to help suffering animals.

For more information about the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund: www.disney.com/conservation

Researchers Dig Whale Skull

In July, IFAW delivered a massive portion of whale skull (weighing about 300 lbs.) to the Smithsonian in Washington, DC.

The whale skull was discovered on a beach at the Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster, MA. Experts believe it is from a North Atlantic right whale, and may be up to 380 years old. IFAW staff carefully removed the fragile skull from the beach and worked with other researchers to take bone shaving samples for DNA testing.

Carbon-dating analysis, performed at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, revealed that the whale might even pre-date European settlement of New England. Scientists at the Smithsonian will conduct further tests, and the skull will become part of their research collection available for public display.

Floods Threaten Wildlife

During the monsoon season in northeast India, IFAW and our partner the Wildlife Trust of India helped the Assam Forest Department rescue 100 animals from floods. In preparation, IFAW had put a team of seven vets, 10 trained animal keepers and a number of volunteers on high alert.

The teams rescued hog deer, wild boar, sambar deer, rhino and elephant calves. Most were released when the floodwaters receded, but injured or infant animals – like the little rhino Asha – remained in care.

(See related story on page 3.)

Disney helped IFAW rescue animals after the Haiti earthquake and many other disasters.

IFAW Receives Grant from Disney for Animal Rescue and Readiness Fund
Whales in Focus

Research Mission Becomes Rescue Mission in Iceland

Song of the Whale conducting research off Iceland’s coast

Her research mission was interrupted as soon as she arrived in Reykjavik by the reports of a possible stranding of 200 pilot whales 20 miles down the coast. Thanks to the quick actions of local divers, fishermen and a whale watch boat, the pilot whales were herded away from shore. Song of the Whale tracked the whales as they made for the safety of deeper water.

Song of the Whale was in Iceland to study blue and fin whales, to observe the interaction of whale watch boats with the local minke whale population, and to serve as an ambassador for IFAW’s campaign to end commercial whaling and protect whales against the many threats they face.

The blue and fin whale study was a fascinating collaboration with the University of Iceland. The University provided Song of the Whale’s crew with a specially-designed listening device that was deployed deep into the North Atlantic to record and count the number of blue and fin whales.

Song of the Whale’s collaboration with the University was covered by nearly all of Iceland’s major media outlets, helping further our efforts to better understand and protect whales off of Iceland and beyond.

“Meet Us Don’t Eat Us”
Tourists visiting Iceland the past two summers have been greeted on the street by a human-sized whale tail and teams of volunteers who have a simple message from Iceland’s local whales: “Meet us, don’t eat us.”

This high-profile campaign from IFAW and Ice Whale (Iceland Whale Watchers Association) encourages visitors to think carefully about the menu choices they make in the country’s excellent restaurants to ensure they don’t go home with a bad taste in their mouths.

IFAW believes an estimated 40% of tourists are persuaded to eat whale meat while in Iceland, mainly out of curiosity. The result is that whales are killed every year just to be sampled by tourists.

The “Meet us, don’t eat us” campaign has ruffled some feathers in Iceland. Despite IFAW signing and paying a four-month contract to place ads in Keflavik Airport last year, the airport’s general manager ordered IFAW to remove them shortly after they went on display following complaints from whalers. This sparked a major media debate in the country on the issue of free speech and IFAW was delighted that many Icelanders, including politicians, spoke out in defense of the campaign.

We hope that by presenting tourists with the full facts about whaling and whale meat consumption in Iceland, many of them will satisfy their culinary and cultural curiosity and “meet” these amazing creatures on a whale watch off the coast of this beautiful country in lieu of “eating” them.

Mixed Results for Whales at IWC

The International Whaling Commission’s 2012 meeting in Panama had some wins and losses for whales, and continued an overall movement towards a more civil and democratic forum.

One of the most important proposals voted on at the meeting was the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary. While a simple majority of countries voted in favor of the proposal, it failed to reach the three-quarters majority required for approval.

Perhaps the most newsworthy item coming from Panama was the announcement from South Korea that they would begin whaling. After heated discussions at the conference and in the media afterwards, Korea thankfully backed down from their plan. But there’s still a possibility that it will submit a whaling proposal to the Scientific Committee of the IWC, so we must remain vigilant.

So the results for whales from IWC Panama were certainly mixed, and IFAW and like-minded organizations must continue to work hard to save whales from commercial whaling and the many other threats they face.
In Profile
Britt with Zeke
IFAW People and their Pets

It’s not surprising that IFAW employees are animal lovers. What is amazing is how some of them go above and beyond the call of duty, and bring special animals into their lives.

Number 216

For the first five years of her life, dog #216 lived in a puppy mill and was forced to produce litter after litter of puppies. She never had a blanket to lie on, never got a pat on the head.

When the puppy mill was shut down and 170 dogs were moved to a temporary shelter, IFAW Animal Rescue Manager Gail A’Brunzo helped run the shelter. And she met #216, now named Macy.

“For both of us it was love at first sight,” Gail said, and she brought Macy home with her. Macy struggled to deal with all the things we take for granted. She had no idea what to do with a toy. Going up and down stairs was too big of a challenge.

Now Macy is enjoying life much more confidently and is willing to go anywhere, even up the stairs.

Canadian Dogs Come South

When Human Resources Director Kevin McGinnis and his partner lost their much loved springer spaniel/collie Clyde after 15 years, they weren’t really ready for another dog. But a photo from Jan Hannah, who runs IFAW’s Northern Dogs program convinced them otherwise.

The little puppy was from Waskaganish, Canada. “Waskaganish is Cree for ‘little house’ but our girl, who we named Norrie (from the North), didn’t have a little house or indeed a shelter of any sort,” Kevin said.

Following a flurry of emails, vaccinations and paperwork, Norrie made her way south. She now has a house and loving companions to call her own.

IFAW Philanthropic Advisor Britt Beedenbender also learned of a puppy living on the streets from Jan – a three-month-old mix whose life was in danger. Britt drove to Niagara Falls to cross the border into Canada and rescue this little guy.

“He’s been a joy from the first day I brought him home and adjusted quickly to the family,” Britt said. Now named Zeke, he’s a teenager with boundless energy. Every morning he goes out and gets the paper. He shows his rambunctious side when he plays “pounce” with the four cats. And he will fetch a ball or stick for hours.
Snowy was rescued with her brother, Cloud, from the streets of Beijing, China. Less than a month old, they were very weak and suffering from a skin infection.

But with loving foster care at the IFAW-supported Lucky Cats rescue shelter, they grew strong and healthy. The kittens were inseparable so they were both adopted by the same family.