



**AnimalsAsia**  
Kindness in action

# **YOU GOT US THROUGH**

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**2020 Review**



# THANK YOU

Dear friends,

**You, our wonderful, kind supporters, got us through the toughest of years** – a year of unprecedented challenges and pockets of heartbreaking sorrow. **But because of your love, it was also a year sprinkled with magical moments of joy...**

Such as when H’Plo, a 46-year-old elephant who’d been forced to work and carry tourists most of her life – slowly but surely – walked into her new forest home as the latest member of our Animals Asia family. Tears aplenty as we shared her wonder of freedom at last.

Or when elderly moon bear Arthur, who could barely walk, began climbing again – pain free and confident – after completing his very own physio program.

Or when eight magnificent crested serpent eagles soared high in the skies over Vietnam’s forests, free from their cages because of your support.

It’s moments like these, and *people like you*, that make Animals Asia the organisation we are today, an organisation that sees safe new lives for the animals. **Together, we’re kindness in action.** With my deepest, warmest gratitude. **You really did get us through.**

Bear hugs, blessings and love,



Jill Robinson MBE, Dr med vet hc, Hon LLD  
Founder and CEO, Animals Asia

PS Sadly our lovely To Zhai, pictured here on the left, passed away in 2021. Please see p26 for our tribute to this special little dog, who was the face of our campaign to end dog eating.



# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

Your generous support in 2020 allowed Animals Asia to continue its vital work to protect animals – despite the many challenges posed by the pandemic. Over the past year, we’ve seen an organisation living its motto of “Kindness in Action”. You were a special part of that. Animals Asia has grown steadily and purposefully into the confident, accomplished organisation it is today. With your continued support, we see a bright future for Animals Asia – and so a bright future for Asia’s animals.

## BOARD MEMBERS

### Anneleise Smillie

#### Chair

Former Animals Asia Education Director and long-term supporter. Anneleise has 20 years’ experience working in the non-profit world.

### Kirvil Skinnarland

#### Vice-chair

Retired trustee of an animal protection foundation and long-time Animals Asia adviser and supporter.

### Jonathan ‘Joe’ Hancock

#### Treasurer

Former senior finance executive and long-term Animals Asia supporter. Joe is now working with his wife, the founder of health and wellness company Bust-A-Rut.

### Celine Zhang

Celine has over 20 years’ experience across wealth management, investment and corporate banking and corporate development. She began her career by qualifying as an accountant for a Big 4 firm.



# SEE WHAT YOU DID IN 2020

You rescued bears from misery, you gave songbirds and elephants their freedom, and you spared millions of cats and dogs from slaughter

Thank you from every one of the animals you helped. Whether it was one lone elephant or thousands of birds, your love shone through to every one of these precious souls.

**11** bears rescued. This brings to 640 the total number of bears rescued at end-2020



**Millions**

of cats and dogs spared slaughter after dogs removed from China's official livestock list



**30,000** songbirds – so vital to the pollination of Indonesia's jungles – taken from smugglers and released back into the wild.



**400+** more suffering bears on their way to sanctuary soon, thanks to our 2017 agreement with the Vietnam government to end the country's bile trade...



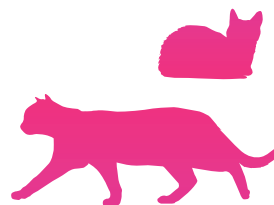
**63** Chinese animal welfare groups receive our support because we receive your support



Over **1,600** animal managers and vets trained in animal welfare concepts. This means better care for animals in zoos in China and Vietnam



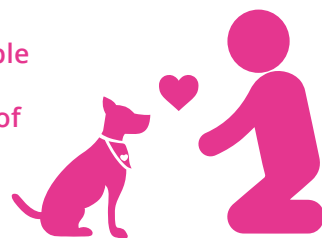
**205** stray cats given better lives through our trap, neuter, return projects with Chinese NGOs. Thank you for ending their misery



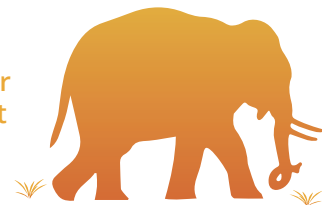
Over **320** bears at 3 bear rescue sites felt your love every day. Because of you, these precious souls are getting the special care they need



Over **4,600** people in mainland China and Hong Kong felt the love of our gentle therapy dogs – Dr Dogs and Professor Paws



One lonely elephant **rescued** from drudgery to live her life roaming in the forest with new friends



## YOUR LOVE GOT GLORIA THROUGH

And brought 11 other lucky bears to sanctuary



# PROMOTING EXCELLENCE

Thanks to your support, our sanctuary vet team is offering a hands-on course for Chinese vet graduates.

Through a pioneering collaboration with the China Agricultural University, these young vets are gaining better technical skills and more understanding of animal welfare.

*"We saw the farm cages and shackles of rescued bears, which left an impression on me. I'd never thought about how bad conditions were for the bears on farms. They can be kept in cages for over 20 years."*

**Hu Yuquing**

*"As well as physically caring for the animals, we should protect their hearts."*

**Ming Yuexing**

*"My time at the sanctuary made me feel a great responsibility for wildlife protection. We should teach the next generation that caring for and protecting wildlife is everyone's duty."*

**Ma Yihen**

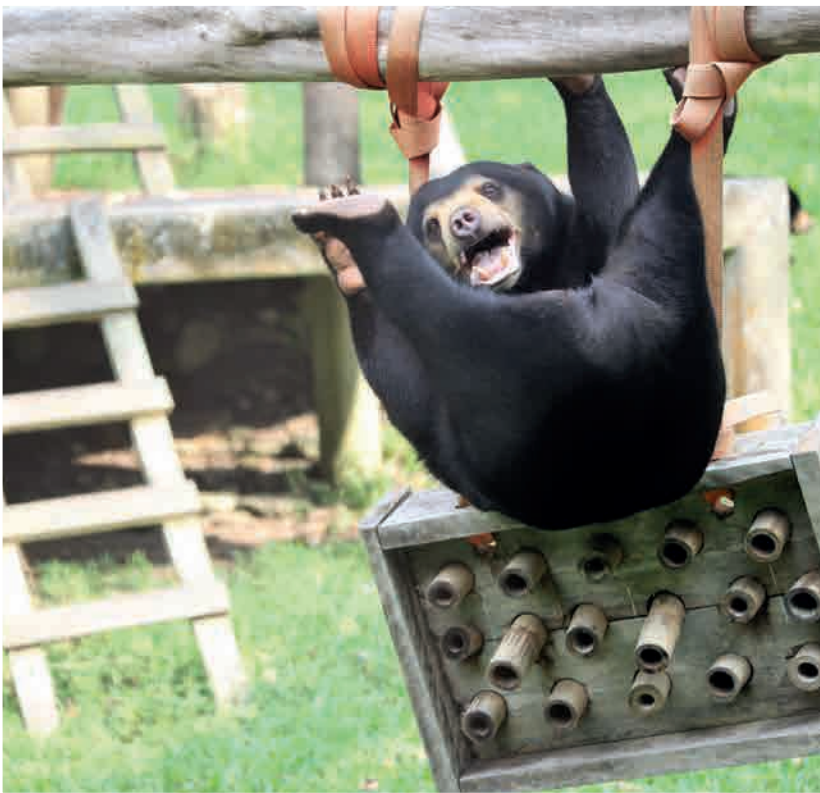
Animals Asia is now seeking similar onsite collaborations with other agricultural colleges, and our vet staff currently give presentations for vet students at agricultural colleges and universities throughout China.

At the end of 2020, Animals Asia had rescued **640** bears from lives of suffering – 418 in China and 222 in Vietnam.

Our sincere thanks to Professor Jin Yipeng of the China Agricultural School of Veterinary Medicine. Professor Jin often donates medical and surgical supplies to our sanctuary. He also promotes our work at veterinary conferences across China.



You're helping to give China's animals better care through our pioneering courses for vet graduates.



This is what your kindness looks like – Goldie without a care in the world. We found him as a tiny, terrified cub crouched in the back of a cage. Today, he's our much-loved mischief-maker.

# SOWING SEEDS OF KINDNESS

Schoolchildren in bile farming areas are learning there are medicinal alternatives to bile – herbs. And they're helping to grow them.

To date, Animals Asia has 13 herb gardens across Vietnam. Local children plant them and tend them as they learn why their country's iconic moon bear species needs to be protected.

We also work with traditional medicine doctors in both China and Vietnam to promote herbal alternatives to bear bile.

We're now growing over **24,000** plants that can be used as herbal alternatives to bear bile in 13 herbal gardens around Vietnam.



Children across Vietnam are learning to love bears by planting herbal alternatives to bile.

## Does bear bile work?

Under the right conditions, yes. Bear bile contains ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA), which is an anti-inflammatory. It's used in Western medicine too, but the bile comes from slaughtered cows and chickens or the UDCA is made synthetically. Some of our bears even take pharmaceutical UDCA for liver and gall bladder disease caused by bile farming. Traditional herbal doctors say herbs are more effective and more affordable.



Thank you to those who sent "flowers" and messages of love for Amy, the little bear who lived just 33 days in our care. Staff at our Vietnam sanctuary held a special ceremony where they read out your messages and later placed them on her grave.



# OUR FIRST MOON BEAR LIBRARY

Eighty children in a poverty-stricken village in China now have their own school library...

... and a new understanding of moon bears.

With your generous support, we were able to launch a social media campaign that saw 1,800 books donated to set up our first Moon Bear Library – hopefully the first of many for deprived Chinese schools.

Most of the students at the school are “left-behind” children, meaning their parents were forced to leave them in the village to seek work in the city.



Your kindness is helping underprivileged children in China. Part of the Moon Bear Library project is to educate students about the need to protect moon bears.

In China,  
**120,000**  
marshmallows  
helped deliver vital  
medicine and pain  
relief to sick and  
elderly bears.



Thanks to all you supporters who joined our #BearInTheWindow campaign in solidarity with the bears during the pandemic.



Because of your kindness, thousands of schoolchildren have visited our bear sanctuaries in China and Vietnam.

## MAKING VET VISITS FUN

Valerie has learned to open her mouth for dental checks...

... Tatzi has learned to present both his claws for trimming. And Benji has learned to get into a cage for weighing and health checks.

These are some of the clever bears learning to participate in their own healthcare.

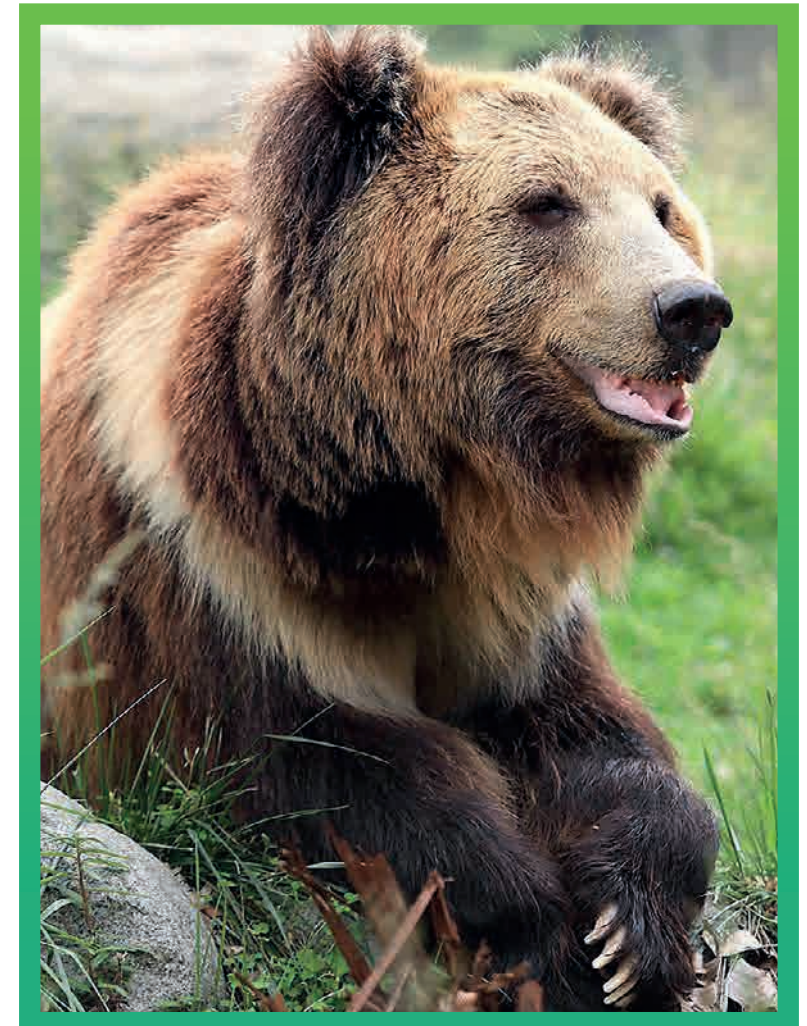
Health checks can be stressful for the bears, so we make them as stress-free and fun as possible. This involves hours of training – and lots of delicious treats.

We use only positive reinforcement with treats like peanut butter, strawberry sauce and condensed milk – tailored treats that particular bears like and come to associate with completing specific actions.

*“We build relationships with all the bears we care for to minimise stress. We make sure that any trip to the bear hospital is a sweet experience for the bears, not one to be feared.”*

**Sarah van Herpt**  
Senior Bear Team Manager, Vietnam

In 2020, our Vietnam and China vets completed  
**183** health checks under anaesthesia on the bears.



For Benji, our stunning Tibetan brown bear, health checks are no longer traumatic.

## THANK YOU EKATERINA

Our US Jasper Award winner for 2020 is Los Angeles artist Ekaterina Sky, who painted the stunning mural of “Rainbow” bear at the entrance to our Vietnam sanctuary. She’s also selling prints of the image and T-shirts, with all proceeds going to Animals Asia.





# ARTHUR'S VERY OWN PHYSIO PROGRAM

We're careful not to give the bears too many sweet treats, partly to avoid them becoming resistant to their charms and partly to keep their teeth nice and healthy.

Our rescued bears chomped through over **380,000kg** (400 tons) of food in 2020 – every bite a gift from you.

**After 13 long years in a cage, this dear old bear was in so much pain he could hardly stand**

Now physiotherapy sessions have put a new spring in his step. Arthur spends a few hours each week in a specially designed den. It's full of strategically selected and placed toys that encourage him to move, stretch and build up his strength. He even has a small obstacle course.

For Arthur, it's a chance to play – and be spoiled rotten. He gets to try new games, has all his favourite carers encouraging him, and is rewarded with plenty of delicious treats.

And after just six weeks of physiotherapy, he could walk and even stand up on his back legs more easily. Then slowly he began playing and foraging. Even climbing in the outdoor enclosure – something he couldn't have done before the program. Something he couldn't have done without you.



Arthur soon grew to love his physiotherapy sessions.



And today he can forage for food and even climb again.

## NEW SANCTUARY GOING AHEAD

**Thanks to your love and compassion, hundreds more suffering bile farm bears will soon have their own piece of paradise**

Our plans for a new sanctuary at Bach Ma National Park are going ahead, although slightly delayed due to the impact of Covid-19. Your kind support has already helped us with all the preparatory work needed to start building – plans and permits, architects, drainage experts and environmental reports.

We're now hoping to break ground on our new sanctuary – our second in Vietnam – in the second half of 2021.

The bears will live in comfy dens attached to their outdoor enclosures. At night they'll snuggle up in hanging basket beds or on the grass under the stars if they wish. There'll also be trees, swimming pools, wooden structures, and bear-sized toys.

What a paradise awaits these poor bears, the last bile farm survivors in the country.

Our soon-to-be-built second bear sanctuary will be home up to **300** of Vietnam's last bile bears.

Animals Asia is the Vietnam government's official partner in the historic rescue of all remaining bears on farms... and the end of the cruel industry forever. Never forget your special part in this incredible achievement. *We're doing this together.*





# YOU OPENED THEIR CAGES

Meet the 11 brave bears your love brought home to our Vietnam sanctuary in 2020

Now every gift of kindness you send helps to fill their tummies with wholesome food... to treat their wounds... and mend their broken hearts.

## JAMES, ALICE AND BÂN

Rescued from a bile farm in Nam Dinh Province, these three bears were clearly stressed and traumatised when we came to bring them to safety.

Their young age (around four) pointed to them being caught in the wild as cubs and most probably seeing their mothers killed. But thanks to you, they're now in their happy place – far away from the horrors of the past.

### JAMES



James rocked violently from side to side, his only way to cope. We couldn't wait to get him out of his cage.

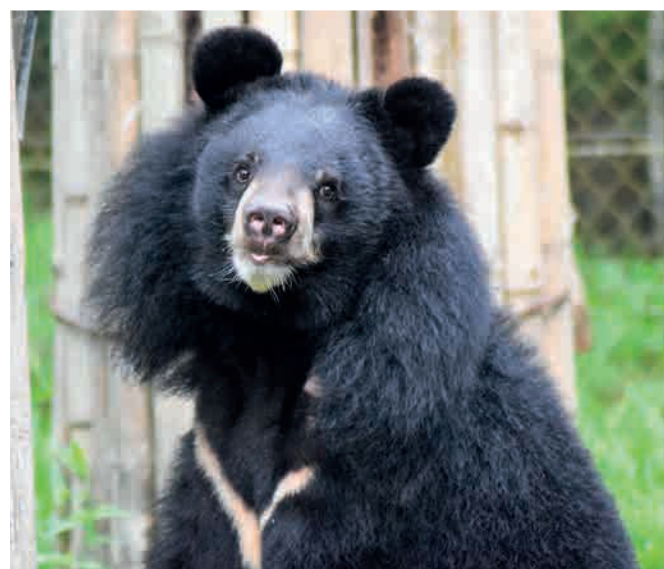


Now he's good friends with Alice, who was caged beside him for four years.

### ALICE



Alice was as silent as a mouse, her eyes filled with fear. This poor little bear had waited so long for help.



Today she likes to explore her enclosure, finding new things to delight her every day – like bubble baths with bestie James.

### BÂN



Bân was frantic when we came for her, but back at our sanctuary – with lots of loving care, treats and toys – she soon calmed down.



Today, this gorgeous girl loves foraging outdoors for her favourite tasty treat, sweet potato.

### UNO



Poor Uno couldn't even lie flat on his back because his spine was twisted. He had large patches of missing fur and his face had big bald patches from where he'd rubbed against the bars.



Now thanks to you, this gorgeous old boy is getting the special vet care he so desperately needs. And as you can see his fur has all grown back.

### UNO

After 18 years in heart-breaking captivity, Uno's now feeling your love and support. He was rescued from a bile farm in Phuc Tho province, just 50km from our sanctuary.

He has been rescued from a life surrounded on six sides by cage bars with no sky above and no grass below him. He was handed over by the family who kept him.

We named him "Uno" as a reminder that he's one very special bear of many we need to rescue to make Vietnam bile farm free. (For more about this very special boy, please see page 21.)



**FLORENCE AND CLARA**

These two lovelies were rescued from a bile farm that was part of a restaurant in Vinh Yen City near Hanoi. They'd been held captive for 20 years, exploited for their bile and displayed to visitors.

The farmer said he'd been extracting Florence and Clara's bile less frequently in recent years as demand had fallen and the price had dropped. He also said that he had begun to find it difficult to watch when the bile was extracted.

The bears were in a pitiful state when you came into their lives.

**FLORENCE**



Poor Florence. She was thin, her skin was irritated and she was missing fur in patches.

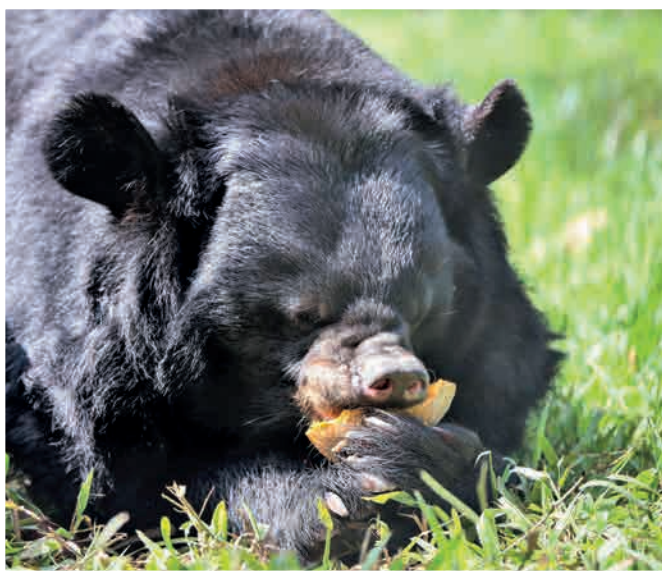


Today this beautiful bear with the distinctive pale brows has a coat that's thick and luscious. And it's usually shining in the sunshine.

**CLARA**

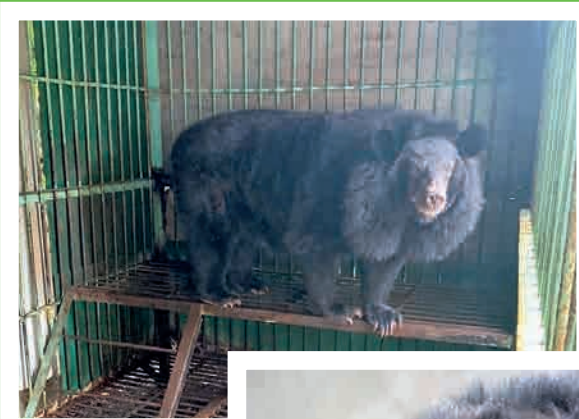


Like Florence, Clara was thin and malnourished. She was also in pain from dental problems.



Today, Clara can happily chomp through her veggies after having a painful molar removed. All thanks to your loving support.

**COTTON BLOSSOM**



Cotton Blossom spent 14 long years behind these bars, and likely six more in another bile cage, robbed of her freedom and dignity.

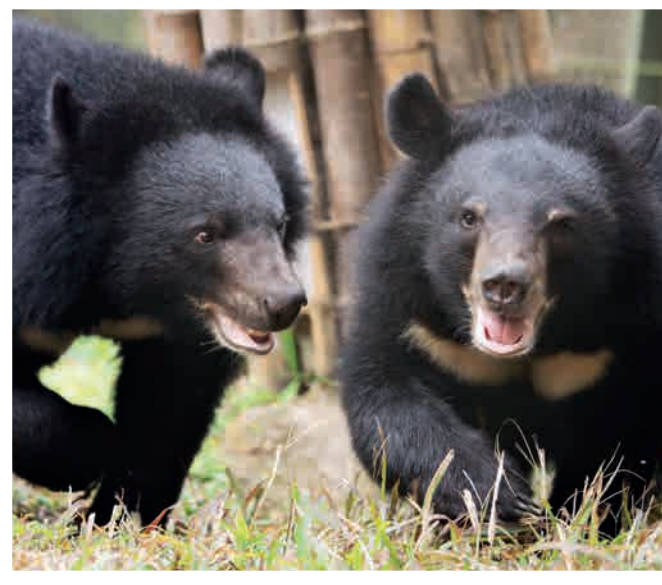


Amazingly, she was calm right from the start and now her special friendly nature is really coming through... all because of you.

**ANH AND EM**



Anh and Em were so small when they came home to our sanctuary they needed to drink milk from a bowl.



The cubs now spend their days tearing around their very own Cub House with swings, hammocks, a pool and platforms to climb.

**COTTON BLOSSOM**

Middle-aged Cotton Blossom endured 14 years of misery on a bile farm in Gia Lai province and likely six more on another bile farm. But with her first slurp of honey, you changed her life forever.

Cotton Blossom needs a lifetime of love and care to repair the harm caused by bile farming. And we'll provide both in abundance to build back her confidence, trust and joy. We've already discovered that our little sweetie has a sweet tooth. She loves jam, mango and dried banana.

**ANH AND EM**

The saddest little brown eyes looked up at us when came for cubs Anh and Em. But soon these little ones were wrapped in a blanket of love – their tender hearts warmed by your compassion and care.

We rescued Anh (Big Brother, pronounced "Ang") and Em (Little Sibling) from Yen Bai province after a kind man called to say he'd bought the cubs from an illegal trader because they looked sad in a small cage.

He'd let them out of their cage into an enclosed outside area. Unfortunately when we came for them, the frightened pair were hiding in a small space between two walls. Our rescue team used all of their experience – and a spoon of sweet treats on a very long pole – to entice the cubs into our transport cage for the journey home.

In the wild, cubs stay with their mothers for at least two years, learning the skills they need to survive. Instead, at just over three months, these babies most likely saw their mothers killed by poachers.



STORM AND STARFIRE

Last, but not least, came these two beautiful girls, rescued from a bile farm in Phu Tho Village, near our sanctuary.

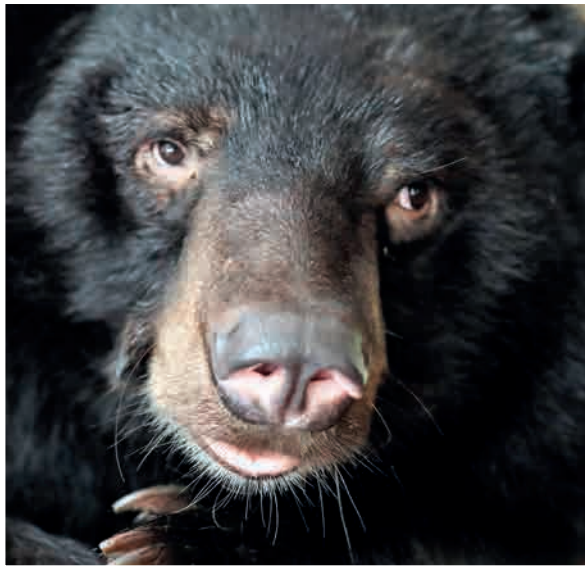
Storm and Starfire had been kept in cages in a shed with little sunlight or ventilation for up to 20 years.

Our rescue team noted that Storm had a very deformed hind limb and Starfire needed urgent dental work.

STORM



Storm's hind leg is twisted, maybe from an injury or a fracture that had healed badly, or maybe a growth deformity from spending her life in a small cage.



Back at our sanctuary our lovely Storm began to recover. Thank you for sending her your healing love.

STARFIRE



Starfire had two broken canine teeth, other broken smaller teeth and lots of calculus build up in her mouth. She was thin and had extremely overgrown claws.



Just look at this beautiful, brave girl now. This is the first time she walked on grass since she was a cub.

PUTTING WELFARE INTO VET CARE

You helped give five more Asian wildlife vets the chance to train with our expert veterinary teams.

These young vets – Crystal in China, and Han, Huong, Ngan and Thai in Vietnam – are the latest intake of interns we've welcomed at our sanctuaries in the past five years.

This training empowers them to assess why an animal is experiencing pain or discomfort so they can determine the best course of action for their specific needs.

*"When the interns first join us, they know how to treat an issue, but not necessarily why. We want them to understand the reasons behind our actions and ensure they are always doing the very best for the animal."*

Kat Donald, Veterinary Nurse

Out vet interns helped prepare the 128 sets of daily medications for the bears at our Vietnam sanctuary. This adds up to **46,720** individual prescriptions.

Despite hunting and trading of bears being illegal, there's still a lot of hunting in Vietnam. Last year in Pu Mat National Park in central Vietnam rangers removed over **5,000** traps. These traps were set by hunters to indiscriminately catch anything, including bears. If the traders are caught, they face heavy fines or time in jail.



Vet interns Ngan, left, and Han are the future of animal welfare in Vietnam.



Like sweet old Delaney, many of our Chengdu bears are now elderly and mobility-challenged. Some were slipping on the wet concrete outside their dens. So we experimented with non-slip etching into the concrete and it helped a lot. So we're now installing this diamond-shaped etching outside all the dens at the sanctuary.



# THE ONLY CURE IS KINDNESS

## Coping with the coronavirus and how you helped us through

Your support last year in our time of crisis was truly phenomenal and we really can't thank you enough.

Your kindness allowed us to pay for the face masks, disinfectant and medicines that soared in price in the early days of the pandemic. You gave us the strength to carry on.

Celebrities like Joaquin Phoenix, Ricky Gervais and Dame Jane Goodall pitched in too, joining our campaign, "The only cure is kindness".

At our rescue sites, we upgraded our already strict hygiene measures and our clever vets even made our own hand disinfectant when supplies were running low.

Vietnamese TV star and online influencer, the lovely Minh Trang, is helping us educate families about moon bears.

Over **5,000** families subscribe to a monthly Surprise Box provided by Minh Trang. In 2020, the gift box included bear-themed handbooks, stickers, postcards and traditional lucky packets used to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

## CHINA'S

Dr Liu Fang, a scientist specialising in human-bear conflict, worked with us to record a video on how to live in harmony with bears and other wildlife. Sichuan Forestry released the film on social media.

Our Vietnam vet team made **200** bottles of hand sanitiser from scratch following World Health Organization guidelines for use at our Vietnam rescue centre and the surrounding community.



Academy Award winning actor Joaquin Phoenix joined our campaign to focus on the root cause of the pandemic – the poor treatment of animals.



Because of your support, we were able to increase the already stringent hygiene protocols at our sanctuaries.

# CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

## Engaging with kids is crucial to ending bear bile farming. Here are just two ways you're helping...

While the coronavirus limited the number of visitors we could have at our sanctuaries, we still had quite a few very excited young visitors.

In China, 11 lucky families visited our Chengdu centre after winning a competition through Sichuan Traffic Radio, which ran a program about our work for its 90 million listeners.

The children designed and created their own moon bear T-shirts, helped prepare snacks for the bears and then watched them forage for the delicious treats.

## No place too remote

We're also engaging with a school in a mountainous area in central Vietnam that serves the Dan Lai Vietnamese-Thai speaking community.

We've been working with Bong Khe Primary School since 2018 – setting up a herb garden on campus, helping the children to decorate school walls with beautiful bear murals, and inviting teachers to bring their outstanding students on a visit to our sanctuary.

In 2020, we held a drawing competition with the dual themes of preventing the coronavirus and protecting bears.

We chose this school because it's in the top three bear farming regions in Vietnam, just after Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. We hope the children will grow up respecting nature and appreciating their wonderful wildlife.

## Suited and booted

Forest rangers in a poverty-stricken area in Lishang Prefecture, China now have flashlights, hats, raincoats and boots, all thanks to your support. We also donated around 800 much needed books to the local school, where we're creating a second "Moon Bear Library". This was part of our 2020 poverty-alleviation work.

In China, we teamed up with Weibo Sport to call on people to care for moon bears and maintain a low-carbon lifestyle. The campaign attracted more than **140m** views.



First the children made some bear treats, then they watched as the bears foraged for them.



With your kind support, we're sharing our love of moon bears with the next generation.



# RAE'S ROOT CANAL

**In 2020, Rae became the very first bear to have a root canal performed by our own vet team**

For the past three years, our team has been working with Dr Cedric Tutt, a veterinary dental specialist from South Africa and longtime volunteer at our sanctuaries. After months of specialised training from Cedric, our Senior Veterinary Surgeon, Shaun Thomson, took the reins and performed a temporary root canal on Rae.

The alternative to root canal surgery is extraction, a much more complicated procedure. With root canal surgery, Rae was kept in for observation overnight but the very next day was eating her favourite foods and playing with her friends in the pool.

The next time you're in the dentist chair think of Rae and her friends, flashing beautiful, healthy bear smiles, all thanks to you.



Senior vet Shaun Thomson takes away Rae's pain with his first root canal.

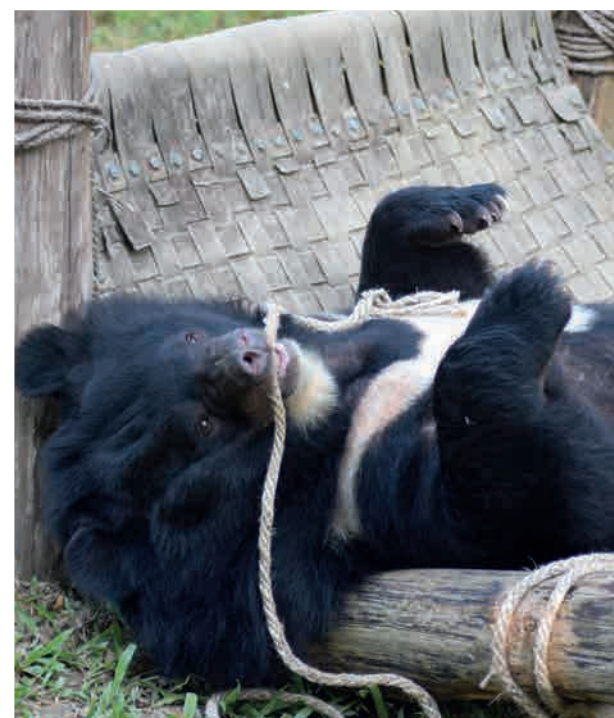


Now this precious bear can happily chomp away on the crunchiest of carrots.

The file used to penetrate and clean a human's tooth and root is 3cm long. The file used for Rae's whopping 67mm-long tooth was 12cm.



Grateful thanks to our Italian Animal Award winners, Roma Group, who held many different events in 2020 raising funds and awareness for Animals Asia. These include two vegan supporters running 500km across Italy in five days! What an amazing effort. Thank you!



Oh Parly! Another broken hammock and another fix-it job for our patient and hard-working maintenance team.

# UNO'S JOURNEY

**The day he felt the sun on his face after nearly two decades in a cage is a day we'll treasure forever**

Uno spent 18 miserable years in a dark and gloomy cage surrounded on all sides by walls. But today, because your love brought him home, he's finally feeling the sunshine.

When we came for Uno he was a sad and sorry sight – obese and with a curved spine from an inappropriate diet and lack of exercise, a very bald bottom and bald spots on his forehead from rubbing against the bars of his cage in frustration. His thickened gall bladder suggested a long history of bile extraction.

*"It's so wonderful to see Uno, who's lived through unimaginable boredom and restriction, begin to remember what it means to simply be a bear."*

**Heidi Quine,  
Vet and Bear Team Director, Vietnam**



Almost ready to go outside... it took time for Uno to adjust to the light and the extra space in his den.



But when he was ready, this precious bear showed us just how far he's come. The sunshine on his face, the breeze ruffling his fur, it's all because of your kindness.

**Meet Doris, our first Chinese resident vet**

Our former vet intern, Chen Si Wen (Doris), is our China sanctuary's first ever Chinese national Resident Veterinary Surgeon.

Over the past year, Doris has amazed us all with her veterinary knowledge and ability. Throughout 2020, she shuttled between our two China rescue sites – Chengdu and Nanning – bringing healing and loving care to bears and staff alike.



Having a vet intern become a Resident Vet Surgeon is the goal of our internship program and Doris is a shining example of what can be achieved.

*"Without Doris, our vet team would have struggled to stay so composed through 2020."*

**Ryan Marcel Sucaet  
China Bear and Vet Team Director**



Our lovely longtime UK supporter, Chris Coldrick, went above and beyond for the bears in 2020. Chris sold her house and donated all the funds to the bears! A truly extraordinary example of kindness in action. Thank you beyond words, Chris.



# TUFFY, YOU LEFT US TOO SOON

Of all the precious bears we lost in 2020, Tuffy left the biggest hole in our hearts

Perhaps because he showed us how to truly live – with unbridled joy in our hearts.

You might have seen the video of Tuffy in the big pool for the very first time. Splashes and plunges! Belly flops and back-flips! This beautiful boy, who'd spent years in a bile cage, finally felt the wonder of freedom and he wanted the world to know it.

Tuffy went viral, capturing the hearts of five million people and counting worldwide.

One of his carers, Hao, says Tuffy continued to love the pool, splashing water everywhere with his paws, his face "lighting up with happiness each time he splashed". He also loved apples and pears, and he liked to play with corn stems, puzzle ball feeders and hessian sacks. The concrete tunnel was his tiny playhouse.

Tuffy spent his final days old-boy wrestling and playing with best friends Zebedee and Bubu.

*"We'll remember you, Tuffy, as a happiness super-spreader."*

**Tran Thi Gai, Bear Team Supervisor**

To re-live Tuffy's glorious time in the pool, please go to [bit.ly/2RPEqmz](https://bit.ly/2RPEqmz)



You gave Tuffy a life he never dared dream of during his long and terrible years on a bile farm. Today your love and compassion live on in his name as we prepare to bring the last of Vietnam's bile bears home.

## Always in our hearts

Including Tuffy, we said goodbye to 33 bears at our rescue sites in 2020. And like Tuffy, each one of these brave and beautiful souls felt the power of your love every day.

### At our Chengdu sanctuary



*"I first met the three-legged boof-head, **Bodo**, in 2006. Several times over the years I saw this beautiful boy breaking up disagreements between his friends, one time physically pulling one bear off another with his 1.5 forelegs."*  
**Nicola Field, former China Bear and Vet Team Director**



*"**Dick** was so large and hungry and funny and playful, and he just enjoyed life. It was clear from the smile on his face."*  
**Ryan Marcel Sucaet, China Bear and Vet Team Director**



*"Although **Freedom** had lost her forepaws, she went everywhere in the enclosure to forage. She liked sweets, such as honey, jam, dried fruit and yogurt. She wasn't picky."*  
**Ding De Quan, Bear Team Leader**



*"From his stumpy legs to his big head that didn't match his odd-shaped body, **George** was unique. I remember him eating his marshmallows and getting condensed milk everywhere!"*  
**Natalie Faulds, Vet Nurse**



*"All the other bears have something really defining like a notch in their ear or white claws. But not **Kira**! Her coat wasn't too long or too shaggy, her crescent was average and her personality was calm and mild."*  
**Ryan Marcel Sucaet, China Bear and Vet Team Director**



*"Our beautiful square bear, **Tinsley**. Behind the sadness, it's lovely to remember her roly-poly moments with best friend, Mimi that would always make our problems go away."*  
**Jill Robinson MBE, founder and CEO**



*"**Manuka** was a cheerful, gentle and happy bear. She had made some good friends in our sanctuary, frequently playing with them, foraging together in the enclosure, wrestling and looking for happiness."*  
**Ou Jun, Bear Team Supervisor**



*"From the way she'd gently take apple from your hand, or sit quietly waiting for her medication, **Moonlight's** gentle nature shone through."*  
**Molly Feldman, Senior Bear Team Manager**



*"**Longo** sometimes wrapped straw and banana leaves around her body and slept happily."*  
**Wen Si Guang, Bear Team Leader**



*"**Roberta** became inseparable from Pooh every year when winter fell. Seeing Pooh sleeping in a dig pit, Roberta would mouth-carry dried grass or substrates from around her to near Pooh's side little by little."*  
**Li Ping, Bear Team Leader**



*"With her three legs, **Poe-3** lived with a courageous heart. She didn't give up on life. She had a good friend, Stardust. Every time she went out, she played and wrestled with him."*  
**Ou Jun, Bear Team Supervisor**



*"**Noodles** became best friends with Jumpy all the way back in 2016. He was a lean bear with nearly a completely bald face. But I've never seen a crescent that large and impressive, bright and just stunning!"*  
**Ryan Marcel Sucaet, China Bear and Vet Team Director**

*"If anyone ever wanted to know exactly what a male moon bear should look like, we only needed to point to **Peanut**."*

**Jill Robinson MBE, founder and CEO**



*"**Laetizia** was small and soft and liked to show her cuteness. She loved having her photo taken. She was adorable."*  
**Ou Jun, Bear Team Supervisor**



*"Beautiful **Valee**, it saddens me that you didn't get the chance to walk on grass, play in a big pool or be a part of a big social group. But I'm grateful that you had good food, clean water, straw, hessian sacks and toys to fill your days."*

**Natalie Faulds, Vet Nurse**

### At our Nanning rescue site



*"I'll never forget the first time seeing you, **Florence**. You were resting on your hammock being all cute. You had a kind spirit. We really did the best we could for you, from the peeled veggies and fruit, to offering you ample pumpkin pulp (your favourite)."*  
**Hong Khuc, Bear Team Manager**



*"**Max** was a beautiful soul and a calming presence among the bears. He kept himself busy by chewing apart pieces of log and bamboo, occasionally destroying his hammock instead. He never seemed to rest on it very much, preferring instead to prop himself up and use it sort of like a table. When he slept, it was usually in 'bear splat' in front of the yard door."*  
**Molly Feldman, Senior Bear Team Manager**



*"When **Soraya** got a hammock for the first time, she was adorable. Always one to not conform, she didn't like to lie on the hammock completely, just her forearms and head."*  
**Ryan Marcel Sucaet, China Bear and Vet Team Director**





*"Fiona was like a fireplace on a winter's night or a grandma's hug. She had the most gorgeous coat, adorable rolls on her face that made her look comfortably sleepy, and a mild-tempered manner."*

**Ryan Marcel Sucaet, China Bear and Vet Team Director**



*"In her last moments, we wheeled Hua outside in a cage where she could see the trees and the mountains, the grass and the rain. As she reached through the bars and grasped at the strands of grass, eating them voraciously, it was the most active and lively she'd been in weeks."*

**Emily (Eddie) Drayton, Senior Vet Surgeon**



*"Jax and I had a game she loved. Once I accidentally threw a piece of dried pineapple into her pool. It was a hot day and Jax ran down the stairs and belly-flopped into her pool to get the pineapple. She then started splashing and flailing her arms, and she was smiling. She ran back to her spot and sat looking at me like, 'Let's do it again.'"*

**Ryan Marcel Sucaet, China Bear and Vet Team Director**



*"Our raggedy bear, Sniffy. His character and silliness made us laugh. His humongous ears stole the show and beige spots on his chest earned him the nickname, 'Spotty Sniffy'. His joy of destroying his hammock was also legendary."*

**Jill Robinson MBE, founder and CEO**



*"I'll always remember Sashi the way she was during my last time in Nanning – spending most of the day comfortably resting on her hammock. She was there every morning and retired there every evening, occasionally getting up to build a nest with straw."*

**Molly Feldman, Senior Bear Team Manager**

## At our Vietnam sanctuary



*"Pagan had the most gorgeous, soulful eyes and luscious ruff, so face-on he was one of our most handsome bears. But from behind, it was a different story. A strange waddy walk, callused bottom and skinny little legs."*

**Sarah van Herpt, Senior Bear Team Manager**



*"I love to think of the showers Hercules John had since his rescue, the plunges in the pool and his glistening coat as this water baby enjoyed his days in the rain."*

**Jill Robinson MBE, founder and CEO**



*"Ti Map reminded me of an old, slippered man just woken from a nap. At the end, we made him a big, fluffy straw nest on the floor. And when he found it hard to get up, we slipped ice blocks and other treats under his nose."*

**Heidi Quine, Vietnam Bear and Vet Team Director**



*"Leila, what a lovely girl you were! You were so friendly and cheerful, so small yet so tenacious, playing with the big guys like you were a giant yourself, living your best life while fighting against illness."*

**Phan Thi Binh, Bear Team Leader**



*"Raymond was an odd little bear, one of our tanks, with cauliflower ears from exuberant play, a pointy muzzle and teeny tiny legs. But under the odd-looking exterior was a heart of absolute gold."*

**Sarah van Herpt, Senior Bear Team Manager**



*"Mama, how heart-warming to see you snuggle up with Moggy in your well-built, cosy nest during your idle months."*

**Nguyen Thi Quyen, Assistant Bear Team Leader**



*"Chocolate Tara looked as candy-like as his name. Chocolate-coloured coat, gingerbread highlights, bubble-gum-pink paws and coconut muzzle."*

**Heidi Quine, Vietnam Bear and Vet Team Director**



*"Blue was a friendly and playful bear. He felt very excited every time he had outdoor access, enjoying his favourite friends and food. Even when he rested, he liked to lie next to his friends."*

**Hoang Van Chien, Bear Team Supervisor**



*"You were such a unique bear, Precious. Although you didn't play with any bears, you didn't mess with anyone either. We feel so lost and empty every time we look toward the enclosure and can't see you there anymore."*

**Tran Thi Mai, Bear Carer**

# YOUR LOYALTY GOT THEM THROUGH

**Because of you, To Zhai lived to see dogs taken off China's official livestock list**



# GOODBYE TO ZHAI

**You might remember smiling To Zhai as the face of our campaign to end dog and cat eating in China**

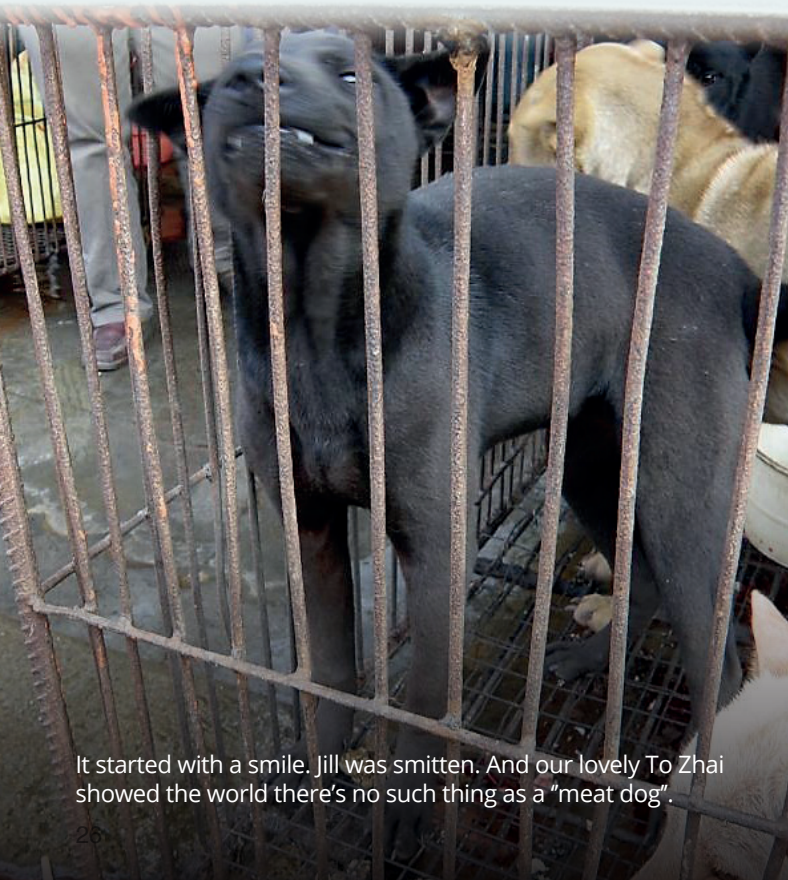
Sadly she has passed away at our Chengdu sanctuary where she was much loved as self-appointed Head of Security.

Our founder, Jill Robinson, rescued “Toj” from a meat market in 2011 at the end of a long and emotionally draining undercover investigation into China’s dog meat industry. It was love at first sight when, amid all the horror, this funny little dog looked up from her cage and grinned at Jill.

Toj, and her smile, went on to promote our China-wide campaign to end dog and cat eating. And she lived to see dogs removed from China’s official livestock list. But sadly, despite the new regulation, illegal meat traders left baited meat that ended her life.

Now though, thanks to the local authorities and community, billboards and banners promoting the protection of companion animals are up in surrounding villages, and a local school has opened a reading corner in To Zhai’s honour.

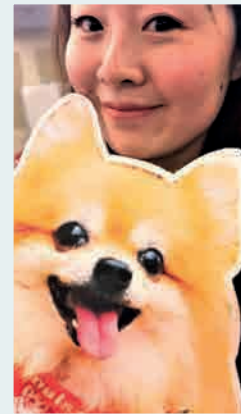
Rest in peace our gorgeous, grinning girl.



It started with a smile. Jill was smitten. And our lovely To Zhai showed the world there’s no such thing as a “meat dog”.



Meet New Zealand’s Paulette Kane, our Australia/ New Zealand Andrew Award winner for 2020. Every year, Paulette sells the delicious avocados she grows in her backyard to family and friends and donates the proceeds to Animals Asia. Thank you, Paulette.



Our China Cat and Dog Director, Suki Deng, has been appointed to a new body aimed at tackling rabies in China. Suki attended the first meeting of the Rabies Prevention and Control Committee of the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association in 2020. With your kind help, Animals Asia campaigns to replace cruel dog culls with humane population control and vaccination.

Thanks to your kindness, Animals Asia funds or advises **63** animal welfare groups in China. We also bring these groups and the authorities together at our symposiums and conferences to promote more humane ways of managing cats and dogs at community level.

Animals Asia continued to support animal shelters in Wuhan, China that were impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak. To date, we’ve given nearly 13 tonnes of food, helping to feed almost **8,000** dogs and cats. We’ve also provided 393 vaccinations and 89 neuter surgeries for local cats and dogs.

# A BIG MEOW OF THANKS

**Actually if you’ve ever lived with a cat, you’ll know it would be a head-butt of thanks, not a meow!**

Because of your kindness and generosity, hundreds of once-miserable cats are now purring with contentment.

Because you sent your love, 205 cats are happier and healthier from our trap, neuter, return (TNR) programs in 2020. To date, 328 volunteers from 53 Chinese animal welfare groups have learned about humane population control for cats with our TNR training. We’ve also donated vaccines.

## Help for flooded dog and cat shelters

Three animal rescue shelters in China and Vietnam reached out to Animals Asia for help in 2020 when floods made their shelters uninhabitable.

The Lv Ye Mao Zong Stray Cat Yard and the Niao Shu Stray Dog Shelter in the Guangxi region of China – home to 28 cats and 21 dogs respectively – asked for our emergency support and help in rebuilding their facilities.

*Your generosity meant we could respond quickly*, donating cat and dog beds, food and medical supplies. We installed fences, quarantine areas and sewage works, and we helped build fences, floors and enrichment areas with toys and play furniture.

We also gave emergency support to the Quang Ninh Shelter in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam, home to over 100 cats and 50 dogs. We provided 400kg of dried dog food over 120kg of dried cat food, flea and skin treatments, and treats.



Cats in our trap, neuter, return programs are fed by local residents who are provided with cat food.



Because of the sudden upheaval and lack of quarantine facilities, many of the China cats were stressed and ill. Your love wrapped them in warmth.

Your support has seen almost **2,000** cats de-sexed across China. And that means untold numbers of unborn kittens will never have to live lives of misery on the streets.



# WOOF, WOOF! CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Wagging their tails and smiling into computer screens, our gentle therapy dogs continued dispensing their special brand of unconditional love right through 2020

In Hong Kong, when social distancing restrictions meant our furry Dr Dogs and Professor Paws could no longer make actual visits, they went online, making nearly 50 “visits” to hospitals, care homes and schools via Zoom or Google Meet.

Dr Dog and Professor Paws now operate in Hong Kong and four mainland Chinese cities – Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Nanning.



Our devoted Dr Dogs have learned to socially distance, sending their love via Zoom calls.



Dr YoYo brings some comfort and cheer to a care home resident in China. Thanks to you, over 4,600 people’s lives were brightened by these special dogs and their lovely guardians in 2020.

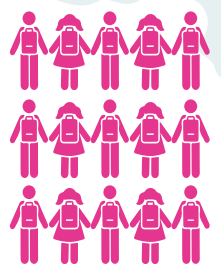
# SHARING THE LOVE IN 2020

## Mainland China



32 Dr Dog visits reaching

**1,074**  
people



26 Professor Paws visits reaching

**1,575**  
students

## Hong Kong



16 Dr Dog visits reaching

**320**  
people



33 online Dr Dog visits reaching

**237**  
people



11 Professor Paws visits reaching

**741**  
students



15 online Professor Paws visits reaching

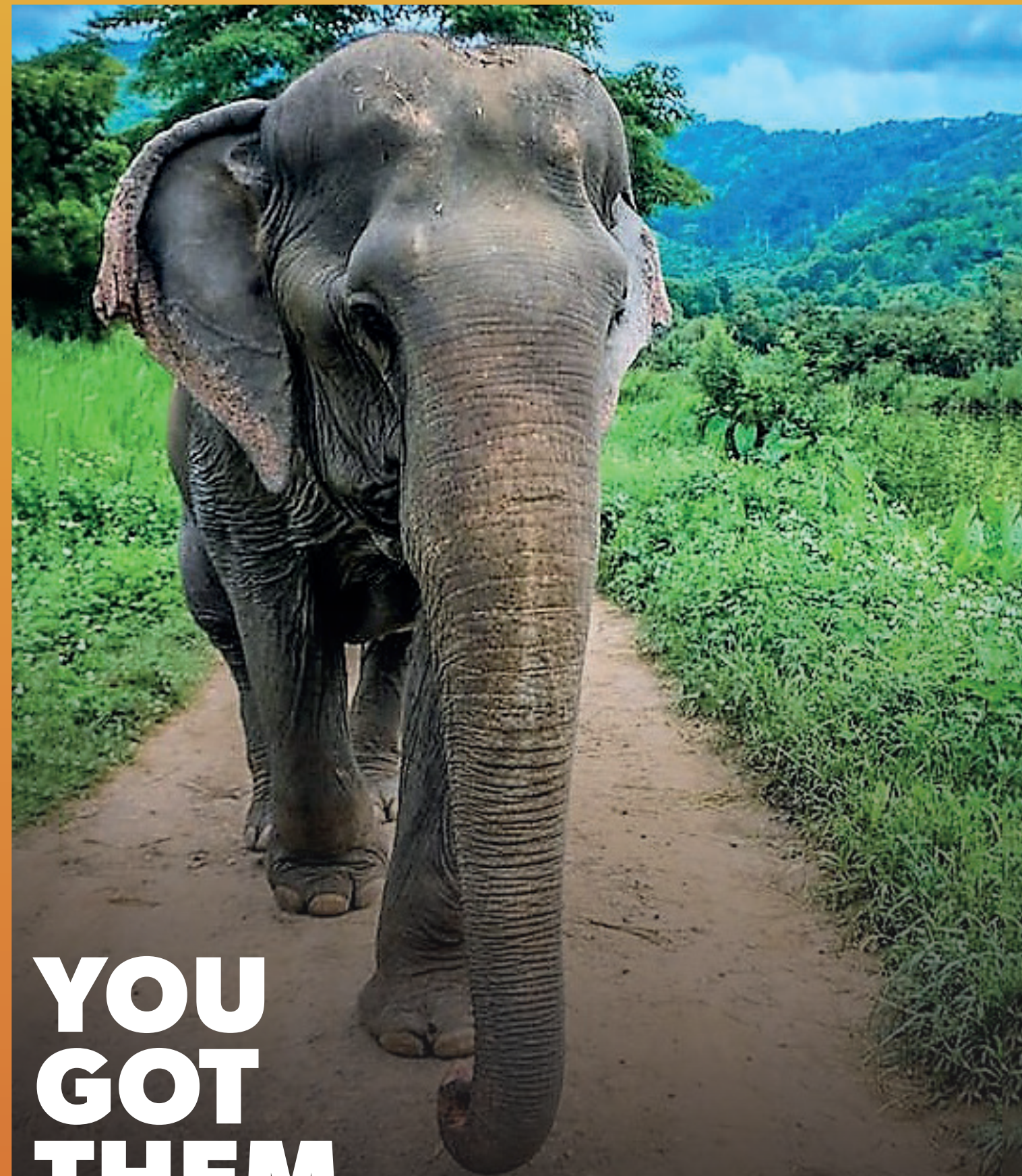
**705**  
students

## Total

133 visits reaching

**4,652**

people in need and students



# YOU GOT THEM THROUGH

And gave thousands of other captive animals new lives of joy



# AT 46 SHE'S FINALLY HOME

## H'Plo joins our elephant family, and what a beautiful soul she is

Meet gentle H'Plo, a 46-year old female Asian elephant you helped rescue from the elephant riding industry last year. Now she spends her days roaming with her friends in Vietnam's Yok Don National Park.

When H'Plo arrived at the park in December 2020, she was delighted to find her old friend, H'Non. The two had worked together in the past and soon grew close again.

Sadly, our grand old granny H'Non passed away five months later, but it's wonderful that she was there to welcome her old friend to her new home and help her to settle in. During their short time together, these ladies of leisure were inseparable. Even though H'Plo was the bigger of the two, H'Non was older at 58, and when they went down to the river for a dip, H'Plo stood back and allowed H'Non to enter the water first.

H'Plo has three other rescued elephants in her family, so she won't be lonely. She now spends her days roaming the forest, foraging for food and lounging in the river. After decades of hard work, she's finally free to simply be an elephant.

H'Plo's name means "twinkling" and it's pronounced "huh plo", like "low", the "p" somewhere between a "b" and a "p".



It's as if she knew she was coming home. H'Plo walks slowly, but confidently, to her new forest home.



Please never forget the impact your kindness can have on suffering animals like H'Plo.

# THEY WON'T FORGET YOU

## Your support is helping to save Vietnam's last wild elephants

Because of your kindness, Animals Asia continues to support the welfare enrichment program for rescued elephants, Jun, Gold and Thang Kham at the Dak Lak Elephant Conservation Centre in Vietnam.

"Enrichment", as it sounds, is a way to enrich their lives. This includes cooling hose-downs, a sandpit that they love to roll in, a pool to wash in, and elephant-sized branches and foliage for them to play with.

We also provide management advice to the conservation centre. It's hoped that one day elephants might be bred there and introduced to the wild.

They say elephants never forget. We're sure they won't forget your kindness.



Jun (back) and Gold love their elephant-sized toys. Thank you for bringing joy into their lives.

# FROM YOU TO THEM WITH LOVE...

When koalas were burnt in bushfires in Victoria, Australia, our Vet Nurse, Kat Donald, offered her skills to help.

Our Australian supporters have always been so generous, and we wanted to return that kindness. So Kat was seconded to a triage station near the fire-ravaged town of Mallacoota to help care for the koalas, assessing them and starting initial treatments.



It's because of your kind support that we could send vet nurse Kat to help koalas caught in Australian bushfires.

## How you're support is helping to free Vietnam's elephants

2014

We launch the Ethical Elephant Initiative and begin lobbying in Dak Lak province – where most elephant riding takes place – to end the industry.

2016

We sign an agreement with the Dak Lak Agriculture and Rural Development Department that allows us to work directly with key stakeholders, policy makers and local communities, and run awareness campaigns about the threats to wild and captive elephant populations.

2018

Thanks to the support of The Olsen Animal Trust, we sign an agreement with Yok Don National Park to end elephant riding within the park and launch Vietnam's first ethical elephant tourism experience, allowing tourists to observe the elephants in the forest.

2020

Vietnam's first ethical elephant tours are proving popular, despite the travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We hope they'll become a model for other ventures throughout the country.



Koalas get almost all their moisture from the eucalyptus leaves they eat. They rarely drink water.



# BORN TO BE WILD

**For wild animals in rescue facilities across Vietnam, it's the little things that count...**

... like straw to play with, places to hide, and platforms to climb. With your kind support, we're working with a number of these facilities to help them better care for their animals, including bears, gibbons, macaques, otters, turtles, porcupines and civets.

Thanks to your generous support, in 2020, we designed 59 hectares of enclosure space across more than three rescue sites and 13 enclosures at the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Centre, giving countless animals a better life.

Our work with the Hanoi centre also saw 277 animals released into the wild in 2020. These include 32 precious birds – 18 red breasted parakeets, three mynah birds, a red whiskered bulbul, eight crested serpent eagles and two goshawks.



Your kindness is helping to provide rescued macaques with toys, fruit and ongoing enclosure improvements.



And because of you, baby orphans like this little one have the special love and care they need.

Songbirds are vital to the pollination of Indonesia's forests.

**You helped give 30,000 precious songbirds their freedom**

Our Indonesian partners, FLIGHT, helped rescue and release 30,000 songbirds in 2020.

Working with officials, FLIGHT identified trafficking routes, and checked the birds' welfare and disease status before releasing them into protected forests.

The FLIGHT team also patrols the forests to remove cruel glue traps and educates communities near the forests on the harm caused by the illegal trade in birds. The trade is fuelled by the market for song birds kept as domestic pets. They're sometimes made to take part in singing competitions.

*"By helping to fund FLIGHT, you're helping to intercept poachers and smugglers at every stage of the process."*

**Dave Neale,  
Animal Welfare Director**



Your love and support gave wings to trafficked songbirds in Indonesia.



Meet our fabulous UK Andrew Award winner, Linda Galton, who was inspired by a lovely resident of the care home she works at. Caroline was particularly moved by the koalas affected by the Australian bushfires and suggested the home held a Wildlife Awareness Fun Day to help animals. Linda organised a fantastic day and raised a bundle of money for the animals. She's now thinking of other ways to fundraise for us throughout the year. Thank you, Linda.

# IT'S TIME TO RETHINK FISH

**Dave Neale, our Director of Animal Welfare, says it's time the world sees fish as they really are. Sentient, able to feel pain, and emotionally distraught when ripped from their families...**

Commercial fishing causes severe and often lengthy suffering during capture, landing and processing. Fish experience fear, pain and distress as they're pursued to exhaustion by nets.

Many are crushed under the weight of other fish as trawl nets are heaved to the surface. Many suffer decompression, others are snared in gillnets, confined in seine nets and caught on hooks.

Out of the water they die from suffocation and live gutting. Many commercial operations instantly chill the fish after capture, prolonging their suffering as they suffocate. Some species stay conscious for up to two hours after landing and storage.



Fish feel physical and emotional pain. Let's leave them in the ocean. Photo: Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals Media

## What we're doing

Animals Asia is changing attitudes about fish sentience, emotions and cognition through our educational talks in schools across China and Vietnam.

## Fish facts

**Turtles and dolphins are caught as fishing bycatch,** and countless whales die entangled in discarded fishing gear.

**Up to 2.3 trillion wild fish are slaughtered each year** for consumption.

**Some fish species can count,** a skill once thought to be limited to humans.

**Fish like to play.** They're also good planners, they have excellent memories, and they can be quite crafty at times!



Enormous thanks to the students at YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College who found a great way to help the animals and also get a day off from wearing their school uniforms. The students chose Animals Asia as their "Adopt-a-Charity" in 2020, and they held a casual dress day to raise funds and awareness. The college is our Hong Kong Andrew Award winner for 2020.



# ANIMALS ASIA SUPPORTER AWARDS 2020

In recognition of those very special people who gave so much for the animals in 2020

## ANDREW AWARD

For exceptional innovation in fundraising and/or advocacy

Linda Galton (UK) – see Linda’s story on p32  
Paulette Kane (New Zealand) – see Paulette’s story on p26  
Roma Group (Italy) – see their story on p20  
YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College (Hong Kong) – see their story on p33

## JASPER AWARD

For raising the most funds for the animals

Giuliana Corea (Italy)  
Angela and Martin Humphery (UK)  
Denise Nawisielski (Australia)  
Ekaterina Sky (US) – see Ekaterina’s story on p9  
Susan Sum (Hong Kong)

## RUPERT AWARD

For raising the most funds for the animals in 2020

### Gold

Support Group Japan (Japan)  
Peace Fur Paws (US)  
Surrey & Hampshire Borders Support Group (UK)  
VZUT (Switzerland)  
WA Support Group (Australia)

### Silver

Associazione Salviamo Gli Orsi Della Luna (Italy)  
ISF Academy (Hong Kong)  
The Sleuth (Australia)  
West Yorkshire Support Group (UK)

### Bronze

ACT Support Group (Australia)  
Japanese International School (Hong Kong)  
London Support Group (UK)  
Soutien France (France)

## OLIVER AWARD

For exceptional fundraising and advocacy

Vicki Bowen (UK)  
Chris Coldrick (UK) – see p21 for the amazing reason behind Chris’s award.  
Helen McKenzie (Australia)  
Sandra Pang and Yeung Chi Ho (Hong Kong)  
Keith Shepherd (Australia)  
Team Prijshamer Winterswijk (The Netherlands)  
The University of Arizona (US)  
Maarten Willems (Belgium)

## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

For outstanding support

ITALY: Silvia Marriotti  
UK: Elizabeth Midson, Jo Povey, Herbie Rollinson, Jean Whitfield  
US: Berkeley High School

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

We couldn’t have done it without you. 2020 started out as a year of unprecedented challenges. Not least of which was maintaining our income, which we expected would fall significantly as the economic repercussions of the pandemic set in.

But you, our loyal and generous supporters got us through. And you got us through with flying colours – our annual income was our highest ever.

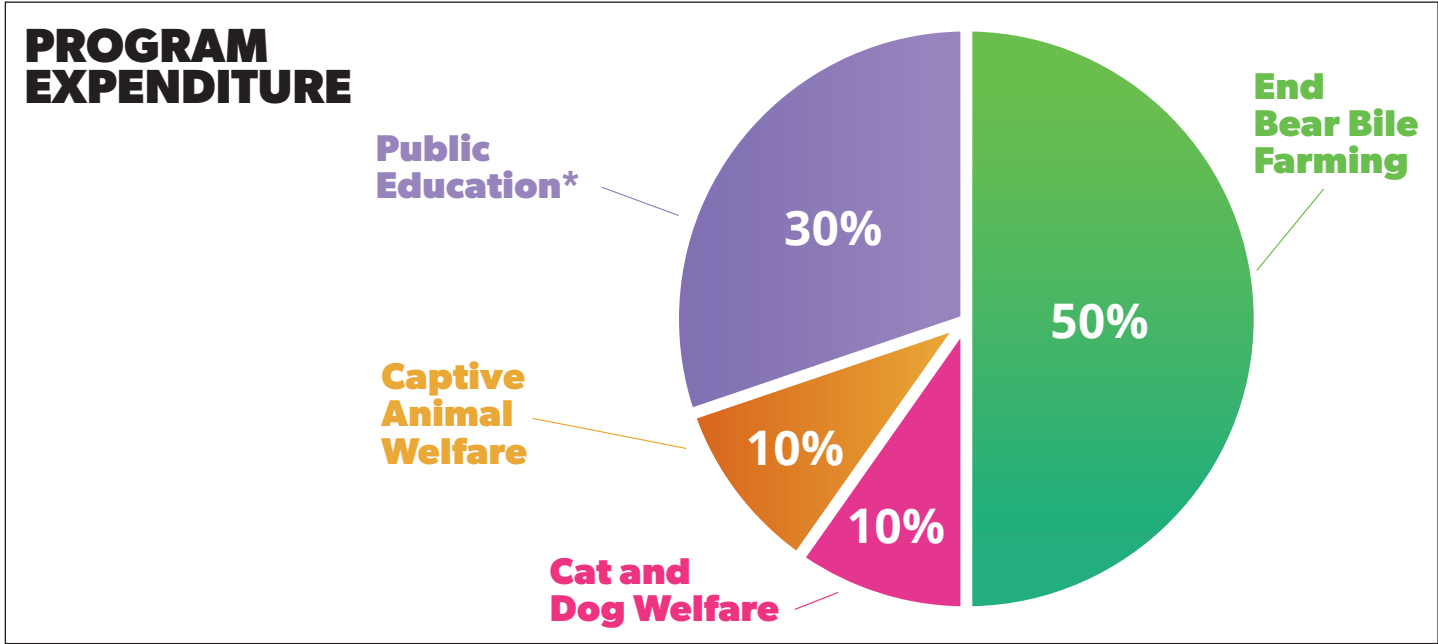
And because of you, thousands of animals who

knew only darkness, now have a better life.

Your generosity meant the world to animals, big and small, in 2020. Some were set free, some were welcomed home and some were healed. Each one of these precious souls has you to thank for their life today.

Please know just how much we appreciate your generous gifts. We really couldn’t do any of this without you.

**GLOBAL INCOME \$15.037m** (all amounts in US\$)



## Capital expenditure

**\$127,311**

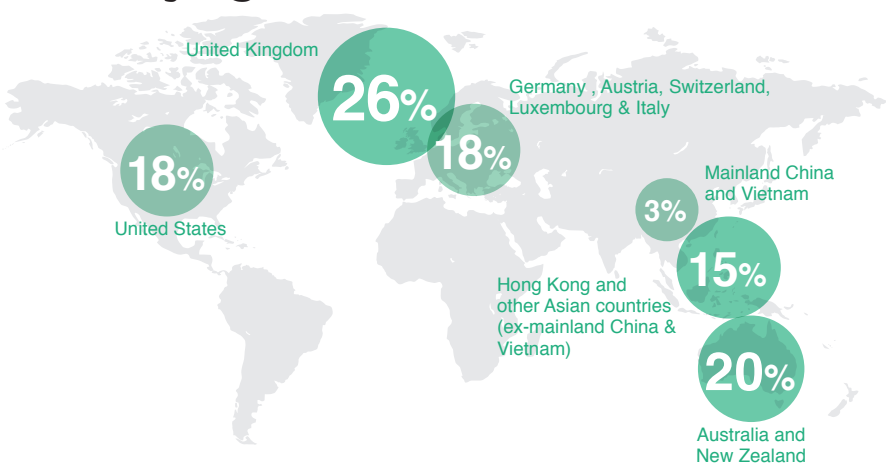
Equipment	8%
Construction	36%
Sanctuary refurbishment	56%

## Running costs

**\$12.317m**

Programs	\$7.776m
Income generation	\$3.871m
Administration and governance	\$0.67m

## Source by region



\* Supporting our three main programs is our critical community education work, which is changing hearts and minds throughout Asia.



# ‘Every animal deserves a happy ending.’

– Jill Robinson MBE  
Dr med vet hc, Hon LLD  
Founder and CEO

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**COVER BOY:** Handsome and brave, Alfons spent over a decade in a bile cage. Today, he lives happily with friends at our Vietnam sanctuary, where he loves finding snacks like carrots and apples hidden around outdoors.

Animals Asia Foundation is a registered charity in Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Luxembourg, the UK and US. Donations are tax-deductible in all these countries.

Follow us    

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