

Naturewatch &
Naturewatch Foundation
CAMPAIGNING AGAINST ANIMAL CRUELTY

Annual Review
2008



A look at 2008 in
pictures ...

Ukraine . Lithuania . World Animal Day . Badger Cruelty . China . Animal Experiments

Two thousand and eight saw many
milestones and the blossoming of
ambitious and challenging
campaigns. Plus World Animal Day events
reached record numbers.

All in all 2008 was an outstanding year.

Ukraine



Tamara Tarnawska meeting Mayor Chernovetsky



Tamara, John Ruane & Christian Janatsch at the meeting with the Mayor

In 2008 major changes occurred in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine where we campaign to stop barbaric treatment of stray animals and assist funding of the Kyiv SPA-SOS animal protection shelter. Our representative, Ms Tamara Tarnawska, introduced a programme of neuter & release for strays to replace the old practice of simply killing homeless animals. On 17th October 2008, we achieved a groundbreaking meeting with Mayor Chernovetsky regarding the stray animals of Kyiv.

The notorious “budka” (city-run holding location for captured strays) has been our prime concern for many years due to the barbaric conditions in which the animals are kept. Mayor Chernovetsky issued instructions to set in motion the dismissal of the director in charge and appoint a new director who would work to create humane conditions for the animals. Tamara, the leading animal welfarist in Kyiv, will advise the Mayor and the new director on all the issues relating to the humane care of stray animals including a rehoming programme.

We still face massive opposition from powerful enemies who want to continue

to divert city funds from animal welfare to line their own pockets. For the past ten years, corruption has allowed these people to obtain city funds and then siphon them off for their own benefit. Money intended to care for stray animals never reaches the animals.

As a result, the Kyiv SPA-SOS shelter has taken in many abandoned animals and figures have now reached around 900 dogs and 200 cats. This is a big strain on our resources but we have no choice. If left on the streets we know most would be killed despite orders that this must not occur.



Tamara with Miss Ukraine highlighting corruption

During the year, Tamara has worked tirelessly with TV and news media, and various MP’s and celebrities, gaining support to highlight the corruption surrounding stray animal control.

In 2008 we assisted with funding specialist veterinarians from the UK to train local Kyiv vets with modern neutering techniques, plus we continue to fund our ‘free neutering service’ for the animals of poor citizens, new shelter kennels and equipment and, of course, the care of the ‘residents’ at the shelter. Visitors to the shelter always receive a warm welcome from the animals who really do enjoy their lives there – and they are free from cruelty and abuse. Rehoming is difficult but during the year we welcomed a continual stream of people who gave a dog or cat a new life as a family pet.

The economic situation in Ukraine declined dramatically toward the end of 2008, gas supplies were halted by Russia and the outlook is very uncertain. Nevertheless, 2008 saw meaningful progress in animal welfare but, as we have experienced since 1997 when we first gave attention to the plight of strays in Kyiv, progress remains difficult.

In 2009, we will continue humane education, rehoming programmes and work with the Kyiv authorities to adopt high standards of animal welfare and to prevent cruelty.

Lithuania

Over the year, Naturewatch Foundation and the Lithuanian Society for the Protection of Animals (LiSPA) provided direct rescue and veterinary care to over 900 individual wild animals.

In respect to other types of animals, there are now dog and cat shelters in every main city, the national zoo is continuously improving conditions for its animals, the State Veterinary Service Inspectors safeguard livestock animals and LiSPA is a member of the Laboratory Animal use and Ethics Committee.



Release of wild storks that were rescued by LiSPA

This has been achieved because LiSPA and Naturewatch have worked closely with the national authorities since 1993 to promote animal welfare issues and achieve a first class working relationship with everyone involved. LiSPA staff members (four) have this year written many articles and provided interviews to journals, TV, radio, and news media. LiSPA has responded to countless local and national issues and has lobbied both its MP’s and MEP’s.

A comprehensive overview of our work in Lithuania, and indeed all our activities, is available at www.naturewatch.org.



Release of a rescued sea eagle

World Animal Day

EVENTS WERE HELD IN 66 COUNTRIES AROUND THE GLOBE IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD ANIMAL DAY 2008!

Thank you so much to everyone who got involved and helped make it the best year yet! Launching the World Animal Day Ambassador initiative in early 2008 has helped tremendously to speed up the growth of World Animal Day. So far we have appointed 38 Ambassadors representing 37 countries and they all work tirelessly to raise awareness of World Animal Day. Their hard work helped ensure a huge increase in the number of



events held and the amount of media coverage gained. Our Ambassadors have proved to be invaluable! With the aim of having a World Animal Day Ambassador represent each country, we will connect millions of people and achieve our goal: to be successful in uniting the animal welfare movement throughout the globe. For comprehensive coverage of the World Animal Day initiative (sponsored by Naturewatch) and the truly inspiring events that took place in celebration of World Animal Day 2008, please visit www.worldanimalday.org.uk.

<p>South Africa >></p> <p>A local rescue society held a 'Spayathon' helping animals from disadvantaged communities. They managed to sterilise a massive 85 pets.</p>		<p>UK</p> <p>Verity from Kent won a fantastic behind-the-scenes trip to the London Aquarium via a WAD competition run in National Geographic Kids magazine. ✓</p>	<p>South Pacific >></p> <p>A rescue group teamed up with the Ministry of Agriculture to hold an Animal Expo Day to educate children from 8 schools about livestock care and welfare.</p>	
	<p><< Guatemala</p> <p>A rescue group paraded with musicians and clowns raising awareness about pet sterilisation and care, followed by a day of fun for pets and children.</p>		<p>Egypt</p> <p>Many welfare groups joined at Cairo Zoo to hold an awareness day with a wide range of entertainment and competitions, gathering huge media coverage. ✓</p>	
<p>USA >></p> <p>Rescue groups joined for an animal rescue awareness day, complete with a fundraising raffle, cakes and balloons.</p>		<p>Malta</p> <p>His Excellency the Archbishop held mass at the local animal sanctuary, blessing people, their pets, and the homeless animals living at the shelter. ✓</p>		<p>India ^</p> <p>Welfare groups, schools and local community volunteers held a rally to promote vegetarianism and raise awareness of the plight of farmed animals.</p>
<p>Pakistan</p> <p>85 volunteer vets ran a Free Animal Treatment and Deworming Camp that was attended by local farmers, villagers and their animals. ✓</p>			<p>Join us this year to celebrate World Animal Day on 4th October</p>	
	<p>Spain ^</p> <p>12,000 people visited a pet adoption fair. Cats and dogs paraded the catwalk, animal care and sentience was promoted, & over 200 animals were adopted.</p>	<p>Australia >></p> <p>A farm sanctuary held an open day, complete with face painting, farm tours, inspirational presentations, dog agility displays and vegan food.</p>		<p>Ghana ^</p> <p>Welfare groups, government officials, environmental groups, teachers and students gathered to discuss the progress and future of animal rights & welfare.</p>

World Animal Day Ambassadors

ARMENIA Shushan Gyulkhasyan ASIA Jill Robinson AUSTRALIA Pam Ahern BULGARIA Kristina Slavova CAMEROON Ben Wara CANADA Jane Bowers CONGO Paul Lughembe COSTA RICA Patricia Artimana CYPRUS Stella Stylianou EGYPT Amina Abaza FRANCE Anouk de Winter GERMANY Rebecca Stache GHANA Martin M Ujakpa GUATEMALA Suzanne Rivera HONDURAS Karla Johanna Duarte INDIA Ashima Sharma IRAN Fatemeh Motamedi ITALY Judith Shahverdian JORDAN Mustafa Ghazi KENYA Marlen Enz KUWAIT Jesse Ruiz LEBANON Lana El-Khalil MALAYSIA/SINGAPORE Shameem Siah Li Ming MEXICO Araceli Ferris MOROCCO Nibani Houssine NEPAL Hans Kriek NIGERIA Steve Omoarukhe NEW ZEALAND Hans Kriek NIGERIA Steve Omoarukhe PAKISTAN Waseem Shaukat PERU Fernando Moreno ROMANIA Carmen Milobendzchi SERBIA Ivan Kurajov SRI LANKA Otara Gunawardene SYRIA Darem Tabbaa TANZANIA MAINLAND Mohammed M Bahari TANZANIA ZANZIBAR Ali Abdalla Juma UK Ryan O'Meara USA Jim Willis

Badger Campaign



As a result of the Badger Crime Awareness campaign we launched in conjunction with Crimestoppers in Wales, the profile of crimes against badgers increased significantly throughout 2008. With the aid of up-to-date intelligence, Wildlife Crime Officers have been able to carry out operations against known perpetrators, which included the execution of search warrants against notorious badger baiters.

Our campaign has enabled the South Wales Police and neighbouring forces to show they are taking crimes against badgers seriously, with many of the investigations still in progress, and possible prosecutions in the pipe-line.

We are now in the process of putting together a document, which will consist of more than a decade's research carried out by Naturewatch, all pointing to the same conclusion; that badger crime should be made notifiable to the Home Office. This report will be distributed to all MP's, members of PAW and other official bodies involved in addressing wildlife crime.

China Campaign

Throughout 2008 Naturewatch donated a total of £35,000 to help animals across China. Most of the funds are supporting the work of three animal welfare groups (photos below), whilst the remaining funds have helped to finance a number of smaller projects in China. To help raise awareness about our Spotlight on China campaign, we have built a website dedicated to its cause - www.naturewatch.eu

The Changsha Small Animal Protection Society (CSAPS)



Shenzhen Cats (SZCats)



Xiamen Animal Protection



Having been forced to relocate to a rundown retirement home with over 100 animals, we provided CSAPS with funds for basic necessities like water, electricity, waste disposal and fencing, and we funded a consultation from a highly experienced UK shelter expert.

We funded the production of leaflets that promote pet sterilisation, and we are helping CSAPS and SZCats enhance their neutering programme, including a vet training work shop, whereby vets from around the globe are volunteering to train vets in China.

We funded the production of a paper, written by ACTAsia for the International Animal Protection Legislation, on animal welfare legislation in the current Chinese society, and the promotion of animal protection to the Chinese public.



We have helped to purchase 100 humane cat catching cages, which have been distributed to fifteen animal rescue groups around China.

To educate the younger generation that all animals are sentient, we provided funds to print leaflets that promote the humane treatment of animals and to build an education programme for students at colleges and universities.



Animal Experiments



In spring 2008, Naturewatch reported on the hi-tech non-animal alternatives which could replace animal testing, discussed at the conference "Nanotechnology: towards ending animal testing". Tissue engineering, skin models and "bio-chips", offer real hope of humane scientific research, yet progress towards developing and implementing non-animal alternatives over the 50 years since replacement was first advocated has been desperately slow. So our focus in 2008 has been on the support that industry and government can provide, to developing and encouraging the use of non-animal replacements.

Following the release of Home Office figures for 2007, confirming an increase for the sixth successive year in the number of animals used in experiments, Naturewatch sent a 5 page briefing document to all MP's, entitled "Scientific Procedures on Animals: encouraging non-animal alternatives." This highlights serious deficiencies in the present system of licensing animal experiments, and suggests a series of measures to quicken the pace towards alternatives, and reduce the number of animals subjected to experiments.

While, Early Day Motion 2183, tabled by Martin Horwood MP on behalf of Naturewatch, aims to demonstrate support for measures that will encourage the use of non-animal alternatives in scientific procedures, and halt increases in the numbers of animals used. As an ongoing campaign, the EDM has been re-tabled (EDM 545) to continue throughout the 2009 parliamentary session.