

SUMMER 2026

NEWS!
INTERVIEWS!
UPDATES!



ENDING CATAPULT CRUELTY...

Target crime, not wildlife!

CELEBRATING A
SPECIAL BOND...

Actor and advocate
Peter Egan shares his
'Purple Paw' story.



WELCOME!



Welcome to the third edition of 'Watch', our summer magazine filled with campaigning highlights from the first half of 2026!

Trying to improve or change the law is a frustratingly slow process. Ideas that seem obvious take years of consultation and then are put through the mangle of parliamentary debate. *It's a good job we're a tenacious bunch!*

We have six very different animal welfare campaigns, and you may have

a favourite cause that draws you to support our charity. Our team achieves so much because of our wider team of supporters and volunteers who all love animals.

- In this edition, we reflect on the hard campaigning to end the Victorian-era use and regulation of animals in science.
- After five years of lobbying, we've welcomed strengthened protections for both animals and people from violent abuse in the passing of the Police and Crime Act 2026.
- In wildlife crime, we've taken part in the government's consultation to ban trail hunting and we're at the top table in tackling the scourge of catapult crime to maim wildlife and domestic animals.
- In Ukraine, Moldova and Romania, we have provided support to the neediest of animal shelters, helping dogs and cats – and even wolves and bears – and spreading best practice in shelter management.
- We've recruited new voluntary World Animal Day ambassadors in

Mongolia, Zambia and Brazil and we're in contact with hundreds of organisations to get involved in our World Animal Day 'Donate a Dinner' project!

- Back in the UK, while improving the regulation of dog, cat and rabbit breeding remains a constant battle, we have been able to spread some joy through our Pet Rescue Grant.

- And last, but by no means least, our UK animal crime investigators' work has resulted in multiple prosecutions from dog breeding to badger baiting.

We cannot do it alone. Please read on and find out more about how we are working together to improve the lives of animals.

With best wishes,

Sarah

CEO, Naturewatch Foundation

Cover image: Naturalist David Lindo, also known as 'The Urban Birder', supported our 'Target Crime, Not Wildlife' campaign at Bird Fair in July

Meet our newest patrons!

Writer/producer **Paul Goodenough** founded *Rewriting Earth*, a project that's helped save over 625 species!

And you might recognise zoologist **Megan McCubbin** from BBC Two's *Springwatch*. Megan advocates for wildlife, including foxes and badgers.

We're excited to work with Paul and Megan on our campaigns!



DID YOU KNOW?

We have six campaigns! They're all united by our passion to end animal cruelty and improve the lives of all animals, in the UK, Eastern Europe and around the world.

(We colour-code our campaigns so you can easily find the content you're most interested in!)

Animal Experiments and the
Compassionate Shopping Guide

Animal Welfare
in Eastern Europe

Companion Animal Breeding,
including Puppy Farming

Protect Animals. Protect People.

Wildlife Crime

World Animal Day

General

We also operate a telephone and online hotline for reporting illegal pet breeding and wildlife crime!

'PURPLE PAW' AND THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND

As part of our 'Protect Animals. Protect People.' campaign, 'Purple Paw' highlights why this special bond truly matters.

This spring, we launched 'Purple Paw' as part of our 'Protect Animals. Protect People.' campaign, celebrating the bond between people and their pets.

We'd love to hear your story. Has your companion helped you through a difficult time, eased loneliness, or simply brought joy to your life? Share your story and a photo with us by emailing hope@naturewatch.org.



Above: Campaign Manager Mark, Jess Fuller-Brown MP and our patron, Wendy Turner-Webster, at the launch of 'Purple Paw' in Westminster

Cat's story

"Penny is my 10-year-old cat, and Hugo is six.

I got Penny in the most unexpected way

when a stranger handed me a box containing a tiny black kitten at a bus stop on my way to work. I couldn't bear to part with her, and she's been with me ever since. Hugo joined our family in 2020 as a lockdown kitten.

They bring unconditional love, always seem to sense when I'm anxious, and remind me every day how much pets can support our wellbeing.

I can't imagine life without them."

Cat Eccles MP (above, with Penny) regularly backs calls for improvements to the UK's animal welfare laws.



Above: Actor and animal advocate Peter Egan with Pippa, one of his much-loved rescue dogs

Peter's story

"Over the years, my late wife Myra and I have been fortunate enough to have rescued over 16 dogs.

Each one was different and each one was unique in personality and look. I know it's a cliché, but it happens to be true, that they rescue us just as much as we rescue them.

There isn't a single moment I regret in time spent with these wonderful friends and I've learnt something from each of them.

From the way they developed their individuality and personality as they grew to trust and accept us, to

learning that the home we offered was for them to be happy, to be themselves and not to be extensions of us.

Every rescue has a journey to make, from being abandoned or cruelly abused, they have a bridge to cross to trust.

I loved all of our dogs equally, but two stood out because they laid a paw on my heart in such a way that insisted that they would be the first among equals.

First was DJ, a border-collie spaniel cross who was magical in his attention. He insisted that I look him in the eyes and understand that he was my gate-keeper, he defined for me the meaning of sentience in all animals.

Then Pippa, a blonde staffie cross, took my heart. Pippa taught me to live in the moment and the true meaning of forgiveness. She was very nervous when she first joined our home but quickly settled down and said, 'I'm here to stay'.

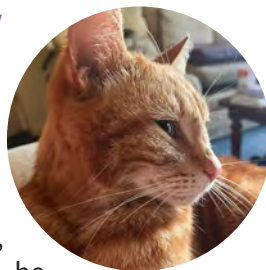
They have both gone now on their next journey and I hope they have united again with Myra, in a place where one day all our energies will once again be one."

Peter Egan is an actor and dedicated animal advocate. We are grateful to him for sharing the special bond he has with his beloved dogs as part of 'Purple Paw'.

Sam's story

"My cat Harper has a wonderfully calming effect on me.

Every morning, after I feed him, he curls up on my lap, purrs contentedly and helps melt away my stress. He's been part of our family since he was a tiny kitten and his companionship



is constant. Harper encourages me to slow down, be present and appreciate the moment.

He's taught me a lot about life and love."

Sam Billingham is a domestic abuse survivor-advocate. Sam supports our 'Protect Animals. Protect People.' campaign, which focuses on recognising animal abuse as a vital safeguarding warning sign. (Left: Sam's cat, Harper)

Thank you to Cat and Sam for sharing their 'Purple Paw' stories, which you can read in full at: naturewatch.org/campaigns/protect-animals-protect-people

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

From tackling catapult cruelty to uncovering wildlife crime, you're helping us make a real difference for British wildlife.



Above: Campaign Manager Jim and Sir Roger Gale MP at our 'Target Crime, Not Wildlife' event in the House of Commons in March

Ending catapult cruelty

Our 'Target Crime, Not Wildlife' campaign to restrict catapult sales is having a positive impact on the protection of wildlife and companion animals, while also helping to reduce anti-social behaviour in our towns and countryside.

Collaborating with politicians and other animal welfare organisations, we are working to change legislation and raise awareness of this terrible trend.

Through national media engagement, Government working groups and sustained pressure on catapult retailers, we are leading the national fight against catapult crime.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, either online or by providing hard copy letters for us to deliver to the Policing Minister.

Change cannot come soon enough.



Above: Cheltenham MP Max Wilkinson caught up with Sarah to support our 'Target Crime, Not Wildlife' campaign

The ban on trail hunting

With your help, we have played an important part in the Government's proposals to ban trail hunting.

Looking to the future, our coalition work and our participation in the Government Roundtable have earned us a well-deserved place at the table in shaping the future of wildlife protection.

Right: CEO Sarah with our patron, Chris Packham, at a peaceful anti-trail hunting rally in London in June



Our covert investigations are bringing offenders to justice!

Did you know? Our investigators assisted Cambridgeshire Police with 'Op Calluna' – their investigation into an organised mass hare coursing event on farmland in January 2025.

Thanks to our supporters, whose donations make our investigations possible, evidence gathered by our team helped secure the conviction of the finalists who targeted the UK's beautiful brown hares.

We provided police with critical footage of the 'Super 8 Cup' final, the missing link in the chain of evidence from



the day, showing the hare coursing event taking place (below).

A detective working on the operation said: "The material you provided forms an extremely significant part of the evidence we rely on".

Of the 43 people arrested, 25 suspects were charged with a combined total of 39 offences.



To read more about our campaign, and our crucial investigations into wildlife crime, visit our website: naturewatch.org/campaigns/wildlife-crime

New wildlife crime grant!

We're planning to launch a new wildlife crime grant in 2027!

Opening in January, the grant has been created to support the often under-recognised work of grassroots

wildlife organisations that stand on the front line of wildlife protection with limited resources.

Applications will be open via our website, and we encourage organisations of all sizes, particularly smaller charities, to apply.

ANIMAL TESTING: MAKING PROGRESS

Our animal experiments campaign is busier than ever, and we have exciting plans in the pipeline!

Every year, millions of animals, including hundreds to thousands of dogs, are still used in the UK for animal testing.

Alongside dogs, other 'protected species' used include cats, horses and non-human primates.

We've been actively campaigning to make people aware of the vast numbers and the severity of the experiments.

All these animals spend much of their lives behind bars in laboratory cages, living starkly different lives from their companion animal counterparts.



*Above left: Campaigning with friends to defend our right to speak up for lab animals
Above: Marking World Day for Animals in Laboratories at a rally in London in April*

Whilst the government have published a 'phase-out' strategy, we continue to lobby for an actual deadline for animal testing.

The UK's 'Forgotten Lives'

In July, the UK government announced it will begin collecting and publishing

the number of animals bred for but not used in British laboratories, with the first figures expected in 2028. These stats have not been collected since 2017. We've urged for years for these Forgotten Lives to be counted to increase transparency in animal experiments.

Animal experiments must end!

Compassion meets innovation: Dr Alison Giles on the future of animal-free research

With government progress frustratingly slow, we're pleased to be partnering with *The Humane Research Trust* in a groundbreaking leukaemia research project to show how non-animal methods can be used instead.

We asked their CEO Alison Giles a few questions in introduction...

"What aspects of your work do you most enjoy?"

"There are so many! But my biggest highlights are working with our amazing staff and trustees and having the privilege of working with scientists who are at the cutting-edge of animal-free research."

"What area of animal-free research most excites you?"

"The pace of change is very exciting. The models and techniques now in development are truly game-changing

for understanding disease and testing new treatments without the use of animals."

"Who inspires you (the most) in the world of animal welfare?"

"I take inspiration from our supporters. Their dedication to animal welfare and to the advancement of medical research is why we are here."

It's vital we keep our supporters' concerns front and centre when we are deciding who and what we fund, and who we partner with. It's a great pleasure to work with Naturewatch Foundation as we are so closely aligned."

Thank you to Dr. Giles for taking time out of her busy schedule to answer our questions. We'll keep supporters updated on this exciting partnership as the year progresses!



Above: Dr. Alison Giles running to raise funds for The Humane Research Trust at the Manchester AJ Bell half marathon in May 2026

Answers to crossword puzzle on back cover:

Across: 2. Stoat | 4. Newt | 5. Hedgehog | 7. Fox | 8. Swan | 11. Dog | 12. Rabbit | 14. Otter
Down: 1. Badger | 3. Kingfisher | 5. Hamster | 6. Deer | 9. Adder | 10. Cat | 13. Beetle | 15. Rat

Read more about our work to end animal testing in the UK:
naturewatch.org/campaigns/animal-experiments

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR COMPANION ANIMALS

Meet Tiny Paws MCR, our 2026 Pet Rescue Grant winner!

PLUS... exciting news on our companion animals campaign.

Getting to know Tiny Paws

Thanks to our supporters' generosity, we awarded a £4,000 **Pet Rescue Grant** to *Tiny Paws MCR** earlier this year to support their brilliant work rescuing rabbits who have been impacted by the pet trade.

We sat down with Suzy, their founder, to find out more about this small but mighty Manchester-based rescue.

“What’s a common misconception about keeping small animals as companions?”

“The main misconception is that small = small commitment. This couldn’t be further from the truth!”

“How much does it typically cost you to rescue a rabbit?”

“On average, it costs us £331.50 per rabbit! Our annual vet bills are around £17,000 – often, one unwell animal can cost us thousands for investigations and treatment.”



“What one change do you think would improve the lives of UK rabbits the most?”

“Stopping the sale of rabbits in pet shops would be top of our list.”

“Can you tell us about one of your most rewarding rescues?”

“Diamond had been housed alone in a tiny, dirty hutch. Once with us, she



Above: Campaign Manager Natalie H enjoyed visiting Amy and Suzy (and Snowy!) at Tiny Paws MCR’s Manchester-based rescue



soon started to enjoy being able to freely stretch her legs in one of our full-sized enclosures.

We were so pleased when the perfect adopter came along, whose existing rescue rabbit, Primrose, had sadly recently lost her bonded partner. We bonded Diamond with Primrose over the course of a week and it was lovely to see them both find comfort in each other.

Diamond’s life now couldn’t be more different. She is one lucky rabbit!”

“What is your main goal for the future of Tiny Paws MCR and how can people help?”

“We want to change the lives of more rodents and rabbits in need! Our waiting list is constantly full.

To help, people can donate, foster, adopt, volunteer, and share our posts on social media.

You can find us at @tinypawsmcr and tinypawsmcr.org.uk.”

Read the full *Tiny Paws* interview at naturewatch.org/whats-new

*Our other fantastic grant recipients were *One Wish Dog Foundation* and *The Neuter Project*.

Progress on ending puppy farming

Years of campaigning are starting to pay off. With a UK government pledge to ‘end puppy farming’, a new law banning puppy smuggling, and new recommendations for breeding caps in Northern Ireland, the push for meaningful reform is gathering pace.

There’s more to do, but change could soon be in sight.



Coming soon!

Two exciting new video projects will launch this autumn. Created to expose the realities of the low-welfare puppy trade and inspire kinder choices for dogs, they’ve been months in the making.

Sign up for updates on projects like this: naturewatch.org/mailling-list

HELPING ANIMALS IN UKRAINE



Honouring a voice for animals

In June, our Ukraine-based Campaign Coordinator, Natalie S, travelled to Kyiv to attend a forum that brought together around 270 animal welfare professionals to discuss the biggest challenges facing Ukraine's animals today.

During the event, Natalie surprised our friend, lawyer Maryna Surkova (*above*), with our latest Challenge Coin, which we award to those whose dedication to animal welfare goes above and beyond.

As President of the Association of Animal Protection Organisations of Ukraine (AZOU), her knowledge has helped strengthen legal protections for animals and improved cooperation between animal welfare organisations and law enforcement. *Congratulations, Maryna!*

A better future for wildlife

In 2026, we supported the *Bila Skelia* ('White Rock') sanctuary with parasite protection for its rescued bears and wolves. During a visit in May, Natalie was impressed by the dedication of founder Dr Maryna Shkvyria and her team.

Bila Skelia rescues wild animals who have suffered from human cruelty, including from circuses and zoos. Their aim is not just to provide lifelong care in captivity but to rehabilitate animals, restore their natural behaviours and,



Right:
Rescued bear
Chada playing in her
splash pool at Bila Skelia

when possible, prepare them for release or transfer to appropriate sanctuaries.

The shelter uses their stories to educate through tours and activities for children and adults. They also work to improve wildlife protection standards, creating a lasting legacy for rescued animals.

Natalie was pleased to witness their commitment and expertise first-hand!

To read more about our projects in Eastern Europe, please visit our website:
naturewatch.org/campaigns/animal-welfare-in-eastern-europe

Every 4 October, we coordinate **World Animal Day**, uniting people across the globe in a shared mission to raise the status of animals and improve welfare standards.

2026 World Animal Day theme



We're delighted to announce that this year's theme is: **"See the World Through Their Eyes"**. Our illustrator-in-residence, Emma Jayne, has created a beautiful commemorative stamp inspired by the Coral Triangle, one of the world's richest ecosystems, seen through the shape of a fish (*above*). Isn't it beautiful?

WORLD ANIMAL DAY!



Supporting rescue animals, one dinner at a time!

Now in its third year, our **Donate a Dinner** initiative encourages people to donate a meal to their local animal rescue centre.

Every dinner donated helps feed an animal in need while supporting the incredible teams who care for them every day.

To launch this year's campaign, the Naturewatch Foundation team donated a dinner for every resident at our local rescue centre, *Teckels*.

Sarah, Alice and Wenna visited the shelter to deliver the donation and were delighted to meet some of its four-legged residents, including Paula, Pearl and Podge!

*Who will **you** donate a dinner to?*



Above: Sarah and Alice with the Teckels team – and Paula, Pearl and Podge!

Keep an eye on our social channels for details on how to take part!

- Facebook: @Naturewatch.org
- Instagram: @naturewatchfoundation
- Bluesky: @naturewatch.org

Get involved in World Animal Day on October 4! Check out our helpful resources: worldanimalday.org/resources

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR ANIMALS

Leaving a gift in your will is a powerful way to make a lasting difference.

Your support can help protect animals for generations by funding vital campaigns, rescuing animals from suffering, and driving real, lasting change.

We always recommend using a qualified professional to ensure your wishes are clearly recorded and legally protected. Taking this step brings peace of mind and creates a meaningful legacy that will help animals long into the future.

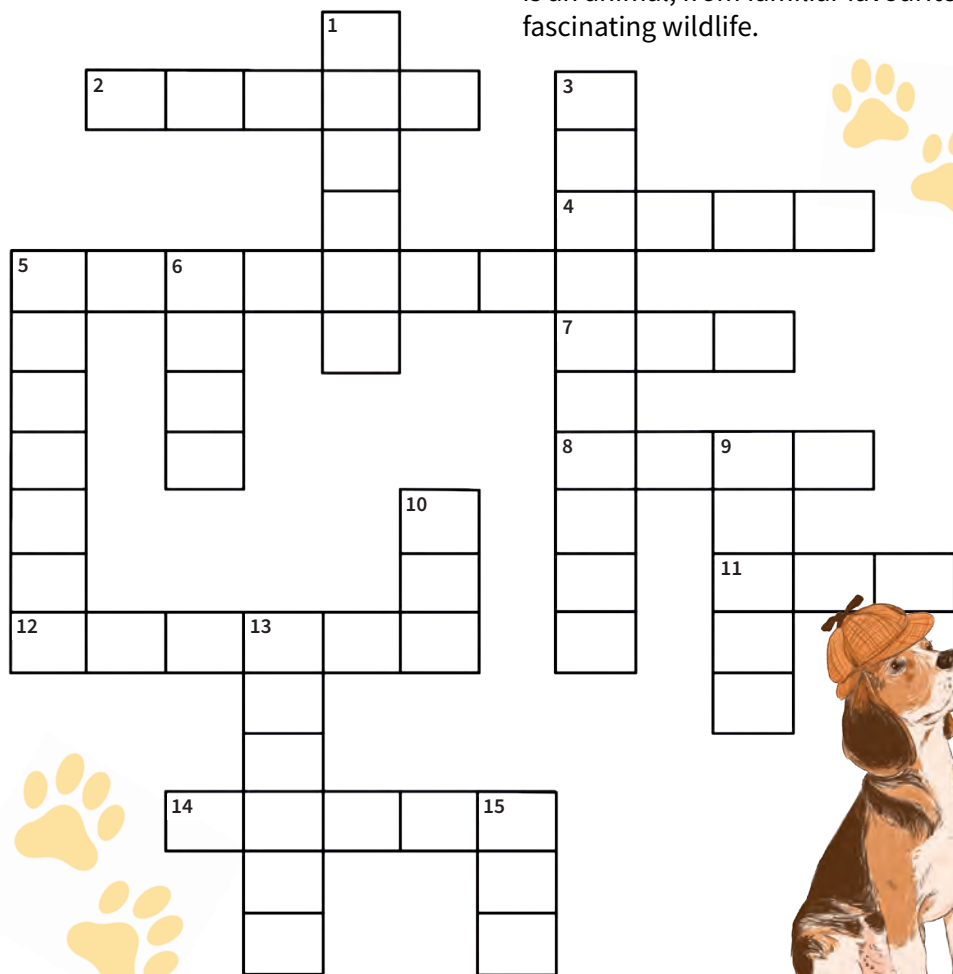
To support you in planning ahead, Naturewatch Foundation offers a free will writing service through *The National Free Wills Network* with qualified solicitors – giving you expert guidance



to create or update your will, at no cost to you. To find out more, call us on 01242 252871 or visit our website at naturewatch.org/leave-a-legacy

IT'S PUZZLE TIME!

Put your animal knowledge to the test with this fun crossword! Every answer is an animal, from familiar favourites to fascinating wildlife.



GET INVOLVED!

Animals need you to be part of the team too – *your involvement is crucial!*

There are many ways you can stand with us and make a real difference:

- Support our campaigns and sign petitions
- Share our work on social media
- Recycle stamps, jewellery, and printer cartridges
- Host a fundraiser or community event
- Please support our work with a one-off or regular donation at naturewatch.org/donate or by calling us on 01242 252871.

Every action helps strengthen our voice for animals and together, we can achieve far more.

We can provide posters and other resources to help you spread the word. Call us on the number above or email info@naturewatch.org and we'll be happy to help.

Thank you for being part of this work; together, we can create a kinder world for animals.

DOWN

1. A key figure in The Battle for Toad Hall (6)
3. Halcyon days (10)
5. Champion wheel-racer (7)
6. In the headlights (4)
9. Snakes and Ladders (5)
10. Favourite feline companion (3)
13. Six-legged Fab Four (6)
15. Famous chef, "Remy" (3)

ACROSS

2. 2026 Winter Olympics mascot (5)
4. Salamander, eft (4)
5. Sega's Sonic (8)
7. Robin Hood (1973) (3)
8. Waterfowl royalty (4)
11. Man's best friend (4)
12. Naughty Peter (6)
14. Sea creature known for holding hands while sleeping (5)

(Answers on page 5.)

GET IN TOUCH: Email info@naturewatch.org or call 01242 252871.

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