



International



Review 2008

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In 2008 the RSPCA Overseas Fund distributed more than £650,000 to projects in over 30 countries.



Introduction

During 2008 the relationship between human and animal welfare achieved greater international prominence. At the United Nations (UN) the discussion on integrating animal welfare into the UN's sustainable development programme took a step forward with the recognition of the importance of animal welfare by developing countries. The major UN grant body on farm programmes, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), held its first summit on animal welfare in food programmes and produced its first guidelines.



ABOVE: The report *With Welfare in Mind* details the links between improved animal welfare and human development.

In addition to supporting these initiatives, RSPCA International launched its own, related projects. First, working with other major, global animal welfare organisations such as The Brooke, Compassion in World Farming and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), we published a report, *With welfare in mind*, linking improved animal welfare with human development and reduced poverty in developing countries. The report also gave advice on measuring animal welfare in development projects.

Secondly, we started our first proactive programme in Africa. Malawi has many animal problems with clear implications for human development such as a large stray dog population and incidences of rabies. Key to our work was the establishment of the first animal welfare organisation there – the Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals.

Finally, we commissioned Oxford University to undertake a global overview of the relationship between animal welfare and human development in areas such as wildlife/human conflict. We are also supporting a project in Zambia, which is developing animal welfare-friendly techniques to protect people and crops from wildlife attacks.

In 2008 the first of two annual conferences was held with the European Commission to show the benefits to developing countries of improving farm animal welfare. In China the first conference on farm animal welfare heard that important scientific progress on research into farm animal welfare was being made at universities in the country. In Europe the first training courses on improving the slaughter of farm animals were held in Portugal and Spain. Improved slaughter and transport of animals have been clearly linked to higher meat quality.

RSPCA International has been closely involved in assisting countries entering the European Union (EU) to achieve EU standards of animal welfare and this year we held a joint conference with Eurogroup for Animals and the European Commission in Croatia for the seven candidate and applicant countries. Training and assistance were also given to the candidates, including Macedonia, which adopted its first animal welfare laws in 2008.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our programmes in more detail.

David Bowles
Head of RSPCA International

RSPCA International in Europe



RSPCA International continued to support its European partners as they pushed for stronger laws to protect animals across the region in 2008 – working with them in the field to develop the skills needed to ensure that improvements on paper translated into better animal welfare on the ground.

Animal welfare education

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The University of Sarajevo began the first year of a new project to hold a series of workshops introducing animal welfare education to 171 teachers and trainee teacher trainers. A teaching manual is being produced for distribution across the country in 2009.



GARETH THOMAS/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

ABOVE: A teacher trainer on the animal welfare education training course in Serbia improvises with soft toys. Forty-nine teachers will now deliver the course.

SERBIA

The Organisation for Respect and Care of Animals' (ORCA) three-day animal welfare education teacher training course continued with RSPCA support. More than 1,000 teachers across Serbia completed the course over two years and 49 teachers have now been selected to deliver the course as trainers. The course has been fully accredited by the Ministry of Education and elements of animal welfare are to be introduced into the national curriculum.

Companion animals

FYR MACEDONIA

For a second year, RSPCA International worked with Stray Animal Solutions and Skopje City Government to improve conditions at the municipal kennels, training catchers in humane methods of capturing, handling and kennelling stray dogs. A grant contributed to the production of leaflets promoting neutering to animal owners.

ROMANIA

Foundation for the Protection of Community Dogs (FPCC) received a grant from RSPCA International to neuter 1,000 dogs as part of a wider FPCC programme. The money has supported the work of their field hospital in Marghita and the work of the mobile clinic, helping communities with large numbers of unsupervised owned dogs on their streets.



GARETH THOMAS/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

LEFT: An FPCC mobile clinic treats stray dogs in Romania with the help of a grant from RSPCA International.

BELOW: A poster advertises free dog neutering in Romania. A grant from the RSPCA will pay for 1,000 procedures.



GARETH THOMAS/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL



ABOVE: Ian Macfarlane of the Kismet Account releases a cat back into the community in Granada after neutering as part of a programme to manage feral cat colonies more humanely in the region.

SPAIN

RSPCA International supported the work of the Kismet Account to help the municipal authorities and animal welfare societies in Granada manage feral cat colonies more humanely. We supported training in neutering and spaying techniques for vets working at local shelters, and held a workshop to promote the importance of neutering and responsible pet ownership to the veterinary community.



Farm animals

PORTUGAL

A two-and-a-half-year project, with Lusofona University and Animal Welfare Training at the University of Bristol, was launched to implement better standards of animal welfare at abattoirs.

The project will train 30 participants, the best of whom will become accredited trainers training other stakeholders across Portugal. This will vastly improve the enforcement of European regulations on slaughter and reduce the suffering of the thousands of animals reared for meat in Portugal every year.

SPAIN

Following two years of lobbying on farm animal welfare in a variety of regions, RSPCA International arranged for Animal Welfare Training, University of Bristol to deliver a course on animal welfare for veterinary inspectors and slaughtermen in Galicia.

In addition, we collaborated with Animal Angels on a joint campaign to improve animal welfare at livestock markets. They produced materials and posters in cooperation with the Association of Live Markets, which explain all the animal welfare regulations that need to be enforced, and distributed them across Spain. Animal Angels and Asociación Nacional para la Defensa de los Animales (ANDA) then made a series of presentations at selected live markets that underlined the importance of animal welfare.

Research animals

FYR MACEDONIA

A workshop was held at the University Congress Centre, Ohrid promoting alternatives to animal use in education and research. Attending were universities drawn from EU candidate and potential candidate countries in the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244), FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.

LEFT: A stray dog with her puppies in Romania. Managing stray populations is an important priority in Europe.

Wildlife

BULGARIA

RSPCA International continued to support Intimate with Nature Society's (IWNS) campaign to educate owners of exotic pets and restrict the sale of these animals. This year the National Assembly introduced stricter regulations for pet shops, while IWNS distributed its care leaflets to an additional 220 veterinary clinics and pet shops, and launched a new website educating people about the needs of exotic animals: www.exoticus.org



GARETH THOMAS/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

ABOVE: We have been working to restrict the sale of exotic pets in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Due to concerns about the exotic pet trade, RSPCA International supported the National Animal Welfare Council's decision to draw up revisions to the basic animal welfare law. These required tougher regulation of pet shops and compulsory training for all pet shop staff handling animals. We ran a training course in pet shop inspection and exotic pet husbandry for the national authorities.

ROMANIA

With the support of RSPCA International, the Romanian Alliance for the Protection of Animals (APAR) surveyed conditions at 14 circuses operating in the country and developed a campaign to raise public awareness of cruelty. The group continues to lobby for a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses, which neighbouring countries such as Hungary have introduced successfully.

Working with the EU in candidate countries:

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, AND FYR MACEDONIA

Countries wishing to join the EU have to adopt around 30 laws protecting farm animals, wildlife and animals used in research. Last year RSPCA International worked to promote new animal welfare law in FYR Macedonia and to demonstrate the need for animal welfare law in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Animal welfare law was subsequently adopted there in February 2009.

At the end of the year, RSPCA International, the European Commission and Eurogroup for Animals teamed up in Zagreb, Croatia to deliver a workshop on animal welfare at a conference for government and NGO representatives from all the candidate and potential candidate countries.

The conference launched a major new project to support universities in the Western Balkans in the creation of a formal network to promote animal welfare. Ss. Cyril & Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia has already decided to develop an animal welfare training centre within its veterinary faculty.

The university network will begin its first major project in 2009. This aims to improve animal welfare on farms and at abattoirs in the Balkans by collaborating with Bristol University to develop practical models of on-farm welfare assessment in Croatia and FYR Macedonia in line with European law.

BELOW: The dean of the veterinary faculty in Skopje opens a conference in Macedonia to promote new animal welfare law.



GARETH THOMAS/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

Training in Europe

ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION, GREECE

The third animal welfare education course in eight years in Greece was delivered in Crete to over 60 teachers in the towns of Iraklion and Rethymno. The course was led by our Mallydams Wood education trainer and given to a range of teachers from kindergarten to secondary school levels. RSPCA International funded the first education toolkit for Crete, which was launched at these courses. This contains educational games, books and ideas, and will be available for any of the teachers in the central Crete region to use in their schools.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE EU WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS, SPAIN

RSPCA International collaborated with the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) team at Heathrow Airport, the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Animal Health Department to deliver a course to SEPRONA, Madrid's green police, on identifying illegally traded items, such as ivory and skins, and investigating CITES cases. The Dutch association Stichting AAP also gave a presentation on the illegal import of Barbary macaques from Morocco into Spain, a topical issue in the country that generated a good discussion among the participants.

BELOW: Participants try to identify illegally traded items on a CITES enforcement course in Spain.



RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

DOG HANDLING AND ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGEMENT, PORTUGAL

In cooperation with the State Veterinary Service and with the support of the local mayor, RSPCA International delivered a three-day dog handling and animal shelter management course in Coimbra to 30 participants.

During a shelter visit, one of the shelter dogs was used to demonstrate good handling techniques and correct equipment use; participants then performed a constructive shelter evaluation exercise.

Groups used the course to develop ideas for the short-term and long-term promotion of their shelters to different groups, including the media and the local community.

ANIMAL WELFARE AT ABATTOIRS, BULGARIA

Animal Welfare Training, University of Bristol delivered a one-and-a-half day follow-up to the farm animal welfare course held in Bulgaria in 2007.

Participants viewed footage from abattoirs around the world and discussed specific issues in their abattoirs before writing codes of practice for them, putting what they had learnt into effect.

Following the 2007 course, many participants had already made changes to processes at their abattoirs and ordered new equipment, which was extremely encouraging.

BELOW: Brian Faulkner of Stray Animal Solutions demonstrates correct dog-handling techniques in Portugal.



KASIA KILINGTON/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

PET SHOP INSPECTIONS AND EXOTIC PET HUSBANDRY, CZECH REPUBLIC

New pet shop regulations are being drafted in the Czech Republic and this course aimed to support their enforcement by improving the current system of inspections by veterinary inspectors and wildlife officers, and encouraging closer cooperation between them in the process.

Seventy participants from across those services attended, along with some representatives from the CITES Management Authority and the Animal Welfare Council.

Presentations were given on the system of inspections in the UK, the voluntary system of minimum standards for pet shops, dangerous wild-animal legislation, transport regulations, health and safety issues, and the husbandry and welfare of animals in pet shops. Three Czech speakers presented more detailed, species-specific information on commonly kept exotic species.



DONNAMARIE O'CONNELL/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

ABOVE: Teachers in Rethymno show off jellyfish that they made from used plastic carrier bags at the end of the course.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, CROATIA

A follow-up course on law enforcement was attended by most of the participants of the 2007 course, along with around 30 additional veterinary inspectors from the regions, making a total of about 70 participants.

Topics included the Dangerous Dogs Act, dog fighting in the UK, and the RSPCA inspectorate training programme. A presentation was given by the State Prosecutor in Zagreb on guidelines for prosecuting cases of animal cruelty, and there were participant-led presentations on animal cruelty cases that they had worked on since the 2007 course.

Group work sessions encouraged cooperation between the national veterinary service and the police. The State Prosecution Service is also supportive of their work and, since the 2007 course, has been regularly in touch with the police and veterinary inspectors to advise them on cases.

Animal welfare and the EU

The RSPCA worked with Eurogroup for Animals on two major proposals in 2008.

In November, the European Commission published proposals for new legislation to regulate the use of animals in experiments. The process provides important opportunities for progress in improving the ethical evaluation of animal use and promoting the development of laboratory animal welfare across the 27 member states of the European Union.

The European Commission released a proposal in July to prohibit imports of seal products from countries where welfare is poor. This has already had a major effect on collapsing the price paid for seal pelts and some hunts have been cancelled.

At a major European conference last year, the RSPCA released a report looking at the results of financial aid programmes for cattle and sheep in Scotland. Scotland was the first region in the EU to propose funding streams for animal welfare and this scheme, in place since 2005, has resulted in improved preventative care for sheep and cattle farmers there.

ANDREW FORSYTH/RSPCA PHOTOLIBRARY



ABOVE: Funding streams for animal welfare in Scotland have stimulated better preventative care.

RSPCA International in East Asia



This year, governments in the region showed increasing interest in the welfare of farm and research animals. The RSPCA also responded to demand from education authorities and NGOs for teacher training on the values of animal welfare, such as responsibility, respect for life and kindness.

Animal welfare education

CHINA

RSPCA International continued its long collaboration with the Jane Goodall Institute with the launch of a project to produce an animal welfare education manual for teachers delivering the Roots & Shoots environmental education programme. Two workshops brought together experienced teachers from across China who will edit it.

Legislation and law enforcement

CHINA

RSPCA International funded a two-day international forum on animal protection legislation in China, hosted by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Law in Beijing. It was addressed by animal law specialists from around the world and attracted around 60 academics from law faculties across China, along with a further 30 officials, postgraduates and representatives from the media.

BELOW: The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Law hosts a two-day international forum on animal protection law in China.

The RSPCA is seeking to promote the study of animal legislation in law faculties in China and to encourage contact between them and the worldwide animal law teaching community. In December in Xi'an, a symposium was held to mark the opening of China's first Centre for Animal Law Studies, which is at the Northwest University of Politics and Law, one of the country's leading law institutes. This event attracted around 80 law academics and 50 students, and also included participants from international and local animal welfare groups.

Together with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), we are supporting a committee of environmental law professors to draft China's first general animal protection law in 2009–10.

CHINA, HONG KONG

A training superintendent from the RSPCA made a preliminary visit to Hong Kong to assess the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's (SPCA) requirements for law enforcement training. An SPCA training course focusing on evidence gathering and other investigation skills will take place in spring 2009.

Companion animals

MALAYSIA

A recent incident in Kuala Lumpur when a dog was shot dead indoors by control officers, highlighted the need for improved humane stray control and catching methods. RSPCA International sent an expert in capture techniques from Stray Animal Solutions to a conference organised in Kuala Lumpur for local authorities. While some authorities have set up humane dog-control techniques, there is still a need for better education on responsible pet ownership. The Selangor SPCA was given a grant to produce a televised promotion on responsible dog ownership to improve public understanding and reduce levels of abandonment.





ABOVE: Senior inspector Lau Kaiyin of the Hong Kong SPCA helps a homeless pet owner.

Farm animals

CHINA

In March the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Rural Development Institute hosted a two-day conference on the importance of farm animal welfare science to sustainable agriculture.

Jointly funded by the RSPCA, Compassion In World Farming, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Humane Society International and the European Commission, it attracted around 140 animal husbandry scientists, officials, producers, postgraduate researchers and representatives from the livestock trade media, from across China.

Thirteen leading academics from around the world and 14 Chinese specialists delivered presentations on sentience, pain and stress, behaviour, transport, slaughter, standards, training and education, and the influence of the consumer on farm animal welfare.



ABOVE: Freedom Food assessor John Newman and Linda Chou from Taiwan discuss pig welfare at a visit to a Freedom Food farm.

INDONESIA

In the world's fourth most populous country, RSPCA International funded a campaign to improve chicken welfare in Java. Information about chicken welfare was distributed in the main shopping centres in Surabaya and Malang, and talks were held with poultry farmers on improving their intensive poultry farming standards.

KOREA

In May three officials from the Animal Protection and Welfare Division (APWD) of the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service visited the RSPCA's headquarters and a number of Freedom Food farms in Norfolk, UK.

The APWD will work with other departments in the newly formed Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to develop standards for welfare inspection across Korea. The Korean government is interested in establishing a framework for a welfare-based farm assurance scheme.

TAIWAN

In September an official from the Livestock Administration Division of the Council of Agriculture (CoA) was in the UK on a fact-finding visit to investigate higher welfare farming.

A tour of Freedom Food pig and poultry farms was organised with an assessor from the farm assurance scheme. Further cooperation between the RSPCA and the CoA is planned in 2009.

Research animals

CHINA

RSPCA materials on the housing and care of 14 laboratory animal species were translated into Chinese by the Chinese Association of Laboratory Animal Sciences and were launched at the third Congress of the Asian Federation for Laboratory Animal Sciences (AFLAS) in September 2008, in Beijing.

The RSPCA's research animals department gave presentations on the role and responsibilities of ethics committees, and on opportunities for implementing the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement in animal use). We have been invited to participate in the fourth AFLAS Congress in Taipei in 2010.

KOREA

RSPCA International and Konkuk University launched a project on using alternatives to animals in veterinary education in March, which included the country's first major trial of alternatives to animal use. The UK organisation InterNICHE is advising on the setting up of a permanent library of alternatives to encourage Korea's 10 veterinary faculties to replace animals wherever possible in their training programmes.

At the annual meeting of the Korean Association of Laboratory Animal Sciences in November, Konkuk University's newly established Institute for the Three Rs organised an RSPCA-supported seminar to promote understanding of new legislation that incorporates ethical review into all laboratory animal use. The RSPCA provided an international perspective on the issue and outlined the importance of evaluating harm to animals versus benefit to humans when using animals, and other principles of the ethical review process. Konkuk also launched a companion animal blood and body donation programme in 2008 with a grant from the RSPCA.

PAUL LITTLEFAIR/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL



INDIA: PROJECT VET-TRAIN

The main method for controlling stray dog populations in India is through Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes. Stray animals are collected, vaccinated and sterilised, and then returned to the community, preferably under close supervision. RSPCA International provided support for Project Vet-Train, a series of intensive and specialised clinical training programmes for veterinary and animal handling personnel working on ABC programmes.



VETS BEYOND BORDERS

ABOVE: Project Vet-Train training in India

The project is being run by an Australian not-for-profit organisation Vets Beyond Borders, in conjunction with the National Institute of Animal Welfare, the Animal Welfare Board of India, and the Ministry of Environment and Forests in India. Preparations took place in 2008, including the refurbishment and equipping of the training centre, preparation of course materials and circulation of invitations to veterinary staff throughout India. The actual training will run from February to July 2009, consisting of six three-week training sessions for over 120 vets, para-vets and dog-catchers. It will cover current protocols for animal birth control surgery, pre- and post-operative management of surgical patients, and humane animal handling skills. The training will provide staff working in animal welfare and stray dog programmes with an opportunity to refine and develop their skills in order to enhance the quality of care they provide for animals.

LEFT: Vet professors and students show interest in InterNICHE's canine 'manikin' in Korea.

Training in East Asia

Animal welfare education

CHINA

RSPCA International and the consultancy Humanebeing jointly delivered animal welfare education training courses to around 200 teachers in a new initiative under the existing Ecological Experience Education programme, run by the China National Institute for Educational Research (CNIER). Under the programme, which has been running for more than 10 years with full Ministry of Education backing, a network of model schools has been developed in cities and provinces across the country that promotes the values of respect, kindness, responsibility, awareness of the environment, and good citizenship. The CNIER recognises that animal welfare education builds on these values and is compatible with the needs of China's curriculum.

and practical lesson ideas suitable for ages ranging from kindergarten to senior high school. A core team of the most experienced teachers has been selected to write animal welfare materials for children and guidance for teachers. The CNIER has now formally incorporated animal welfare education and plans to make it the theme of its 2009 annual conference.

INDONESIA

Our first training event in Indonesia was run in August when a course on animal welfare was given for the staff of the RSPCA's associated organisation ProFauna. ProFauna provides its own training courses at a humane education centre in eastern Java but until now these have been mainly centred on environmental education. The course showed the links between animal welfare and environmental education, suggested ways of incorporating animal welfare into the curriculum, and included a presentation on the importance of animal welfare in Islam.

TAIWAN

RSPCA International, Humanebeing and RSPCA-associate Environment and Animal Society of Taiwan led two animal welfare education training courses in Taiwan in January, following an invitation from the Ministry of Education. The first four-day course was held at the National Academy for Education Research near Taipei. Around 30 teachers from the Nature, Science & Technology (NST) national teacher training team attended and gave such positive feedback that the ministry decided to permanently incorporate

animal welfare education into the national teacher training programme, while extending the scope to include teachers from other subject areas in 2009 and beyond.

At National Kaohsiung Normal University in southern Taiwan we worked with the Environmental Education Association to deliver a similar course to 30 environmental education teachers and researchers.

PAUL LITTLEFAIR/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL



ABOVE: David Coggan of Humanebeing encourages animal welfare education course participants to see the world through an insect's eyes

The first RSPCA course was held in July in the north-eastern city of Harbin. A one-day forum followed in Beijing in November. The second teacher training course took place in December in Haikou, in the southernmost part of China, and was attended by 120 teachers and education officials. Both courses introduced animal welfare theory

Global and development issues



The RSPCA continues to play a leading role in ensuring that animal welfare receives the attention it deserves on the international stage.

Improving links with development agencies

In 2008 RSPCA International, along with three other major animal welfare organisations, produced its first report linking animal welfare and human development. The report gives human development programme managers practical advice on how to measure animal welfare in their projects and how to ensure that animal as well as human welfare is taken into account.

The FAO (the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization), which administers and funds farm programmes in more than 170 countries worldwide, held its first symposium on animal welfare last year, covering issues such as measuring animal welfare and animal welfare as a science. A report will be distributed to all FAO offices and countries where programmes are currently running. See it at: www.fao.org/ag/AGAinfo/home/en/news_archive/2009_animalwelfare.html

OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)

The OIE's second global conference on animal welfare was held in Cairo in 2008 and looked at enforcing its global standards. RSPCA International, along with WSPA and Humane Society US, works in developing countries to implement and enforce OIE standards through training courses, assistance with writing legislation and legislation enforcement. A report on this will be launched at the next OIE plenary in 2009.

World trade

A joint conference with RSPCA International, Eurogroup for Animals and the European Commission, held in Brussels in November, showcased trade opportunities resulting from improved farm animal welfare. Presenters from Brazil, Argentina and China showed how they were implementing improvements to their farming methods.

Linking animal welfare and human livelihoods in Africa

In August RSPCA International funded the establishment of the Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (LSPCA) in Malawi. The LSPCA's community veterinary programme provides rabies vaccinations and basic veterinary care to dogs in the poorest communities in Lilongwe. The programme aims to not only improve the welfare of the dogs but also reduce the incidence of human rabies from dog bites.

LSPCA and RSPCA International are also working together with the Ministry of Agriculture in Malawi to develop an animal welfare programme to help small-scale farmers improve the health and welfare of livestock and increase production for the benefit of the whole community.

We are also working to reduce the incidences of human-wildlife conflict in Zambia. Wildlife such as monkeys and elephants are regularly inhumanely snared by farmers to

prevent them from raiding their crops and destroying their livelihoods. Our project partner Awely is developing animal welfare-friendly deterrent methods that will protect crops and livestock, thereby safeguarding the incomes of poor farmers without harming wildlife.



LEFT: Malawian children show off their chickens, which were surprise visitors to the RSPCA's clinic to provide rabies vaccinations and basic veterinary care for dogs.

Emergency response



In 2008 RSPCA International provided aid in response to a range of emergencies around the world.

Costa Rica: Storm damage and flooding

After a severe storm caused damage to an animal shelter in Costa Rica in January, RSPCA International provided funding for materials and labour to make essential repairs.

In November the province of Limon in Costa Rica experienced the greatest floods in its history, with many farms and communities submerged for longer than two weeks. More than 100 communities were affected and more than 4,000 people required evacuation and shelter. It was assessed that more than 10 per cent of the animal population had died, while around 15,000 surviving animals were thought to be at risk and approximately 70 per cent of animal feeding pastures had been destroyed. The Costa Rican civil defence declared an emergency and requested international aid for the first time in more than 20 years.

RSPCA International funded the purchase and distribution of fodder and veterinary medicines for livestock. Hay, vitamins and mineral supplements were distributed to farmers and smallholders to prevent their cattle from starving, and antibiotics and wound dressings were administered in order to protect the health of surviving cattle. Other affected animals, such as cats, dogs, chickens and pigs, were also provided with food and treatments where required.

Myanmar: Cyclone

Cyclone Nargis left a path of devastation in Myanmar in May. More than 100,000 people were killed or injured and the UN estimated that 2.4 million survivors were affected by it. More than 50 per cent of the livestock in the worst hit area was killed and the rest suffered from severe injuries, trauma, stress, and sometimes near drowning.



WSPA

Local people were reliant on the remaining animals in order to rebuild their lives after the disaster, for example through the use of buffalo-drawn ploughs to replant essential rice crops. RSPCA International provided funding for emergency fodder and veterinary medicines, which were distributed as part of a multi-agency relief programme that delivered feed for more than 12,000 buffalo, veterinary treatments for around 500 animals, and vaccinations against disease for more than 3,700 animals.

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL



ABOVE: Orissa shelter in India received our help towards the cost of rebuilding after a tornado.

India: Tornado

RSPCA International provided funding towards the cost of rebuilding an animal shelter in Orissa that was almost completely destroyed by a tornado in May.

Oiled wildlife response training

In 2008 the RSPCA provided spaces for external participants from Ireland and Norway on its oiled wildlife training course. By making places available for wildlife responders from around Europe we hope to share the RSPCA's expertise and help responders become better prepared to deal with incidents in their own countries.

LEFT: Myanmar buffalo were some of the victims of cyclone Nargis. We helped to feed more than 12,000 of them.

Overseas Fund financial awards



The Overseas Fund is the RSPCA's grant-making trust for its international work. In addition to running training courses, conferences and other events, RSPCA International makes grants to animal welfare organisations to carry out consultancy, project work and service development.

During 2008 the Overseas Fund paid out grants totalling over £650,000, more than double the amount granted in 2007. Funding consisted of project grants to organisations in 27 countries and consultancy payments for long-term strategic activity in the Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, China, Taiwan and the Western Balkans. A further £165,000 was spent on training courses. Spending was divided 79 per cent to countries in the key regions and 21 per cent to other regions. Further details on grants, consultancy work and training in Europe and East Asia can be found in this review's regional sections.

Grant recipients in 2008

ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Bosnia and Herzegovina	University of Sarajevo – animal welfare education project
Bosnia and Herzegovina	State Veterinary Office – animal welfare seminar
China	Beijing Normal University – schools survey on attitudes to animals
China	Chengdu Roots & Shoots Centre – environmental education programme
China	China National Institute for Educational Research – animal welfare education project
FYR Macedonia	Ss. Cyril & Methodius University, Skopje – animal welfare conference
Greece	Zoofili Drasi – animal welfare education resources
India	Maitri Club – animal welfare education programme
Korea	Coexistence of Animal Rights on Earth – animal shelter survey
Korea	Konkuk University – alternatives in veterinary education
Nicaragua	Department of Agrarian Science, Universidad de Ciencias Comerciales – animal welfare education project
Serbia	Organisation for Respect and Care of Animals – animal welfare education project
Sierra Leone	Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary – animal welfare education programme
Taiwan	Humanebeing – animal welfare education training course
Turkey	Kutahya Doga ve Hayvan Sevenler Derneği – animal welfare education programme

LEGISLATION

China	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences – international law seminar
Serbia	Organisation for Respect and Care of Animals – legislation campaign

COMPANION ANIMALS

Clinic/shelter development

India	Animal Welfare Association – clinic renovation
Malawi	Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals – development of animal welfare society
Thailand	PhaNgan Animal Care – clinic/shelter development
Turkey	Cesme Doga Hayvan Se V. Derneği – shelter development and catching equipment

Veterinary equipment

Cameroon	Foundation for Animal Welfare Cameroon – veterinary equipment
Greece	Hellenic Animal Welfare Society – veterinary equipment
Greece	Skiathos Friends of Animals – veterinary medicines
Thailand	Phuket Animal Welfare Society – veterinary equipment
Turkey	Bodrum Hayvan Haklari Derneği – veterinary equipment

Stray animal control

China	Educational Group for Protection of Environment and Animals – book on rabies control
FYR Macedonia	Skopje City Government – neutering leaflets
FYR Macedonia	Stray Animal Solutions – animal handling work shops
Greece	Poros Animal Welfare Society – neutering programme equipment
India	People For Animals Bhubaneswar – adoption campaign
India	Vets Beyond Borders – veterinary training programme for animal birth control projects
Malaysia	Selangor Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – TV adverts for responsible pet ownership
Malaysia	Stray Animal Solutions – lobbying on stray dog management
Romania	Foundation for Protection of Community Dogs – neutering programme
Serbia	Organisation for Respect and Care of Animals – stray control programme
Spain	Kismet Account & Esipova – feral cat workshop
Sri Lanka	Kandy Association for Community Protection through Animal Welfare – dog-catching equipment
Thailand	Noistar Thai Animal Rescue – neutering programme



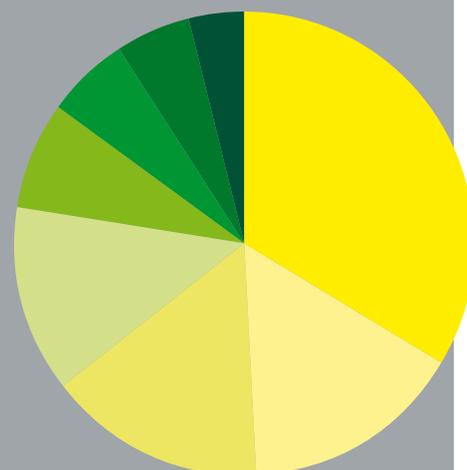
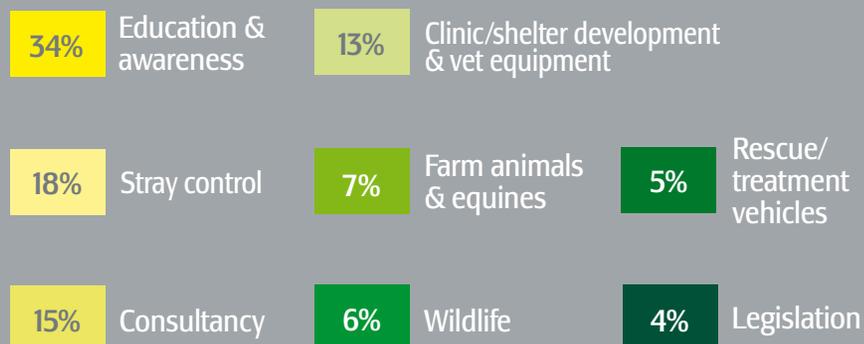
TACUGAMA CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY

ABOVE: Children taking part in an animal welfare education programme at the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

Animal rescue/treatment vehicles

Croatia	Savez udruga za zaštitu životinja grada Zagreba – equipment for animal ambulance
Greece	Friends of Animals Rethymno – animal collection vehicle
India	Parvathi Parameswara Environmental Animal Welfare society – mobile veterinary clinic
Kenya	Kenya Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Mombasa – animal rescue vehicle
Malaysia	Ipoh Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – animal rescue vehicle
Thailand	Thai Animal Guardians – animal rescue vehicle

Aid by area of expenditure, 2008



BELOW: The illegal parrot trade in Indonesia has decreased significantly as a result of strong local campaigning.

PROFAUNA



RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

ABOVE: Korean officials visit a Freedom Food pig farm in Norfolk.

FARM ANIMALS

- China** China Animal Health Publishing House – animal health journal feature
- Indonesia** Srikandi Animal Care – poultry welfare campaign
- Korea** Korean officials study visit to Freedom Food farms
- Portugal** University of Bristol & University of Lusofona – red meat training programme
- Slovakia** Sloboda zvierat – laying hen campaign
- Spain** Respect for Animals – live markets campaign

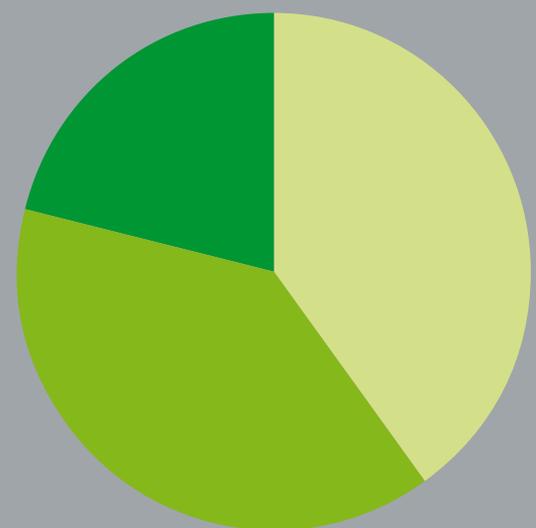
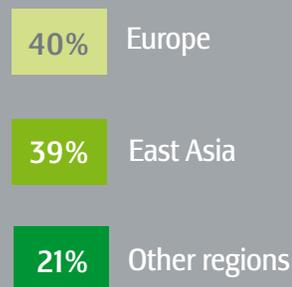
EQUINES

- Nepal** Society for Animal Welfare and Management – equine welfare research

WILDLIFE

- Bulgaria** Intimate with Nature Society – exotics campaign
- Indonesia** ProFauna – parrot trade research launch and lobbying
- Indonesia** Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme – monitored enrichment programme
- Lao PDR** ElefantAsia – elephant first-aid kits
- Namibia** Save the Rhino – shelter for camels used to monitor rhinos
- Romania** Animal Protection Association Romania – wild animals in circuses campaign

AID BY REGION, 2008



Publications

Please contact RSPCA International if you would like a copy of one of these documents.

Telephone: 0300 123 0059

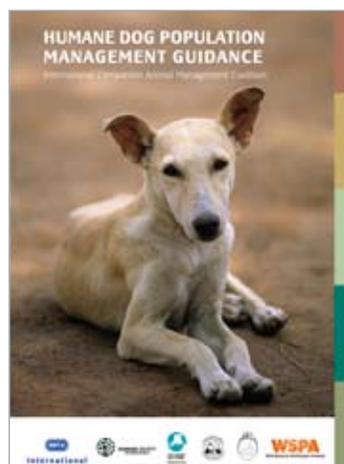
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Seals and trade rules: can they live together?



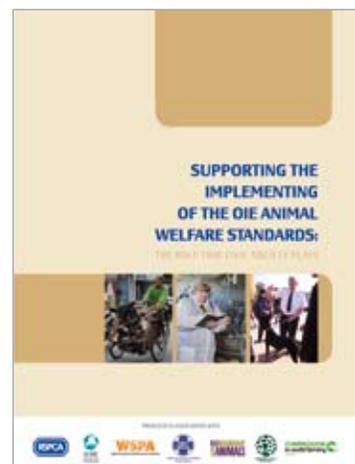
With welfare in mind: Animal welfare in international development programmes



Humane dog population management guidance (ICAM)



Guidelines for the design and management of animal shelters



Supporting the implementing of the OIE animal welfare standards: The role that civil society plays



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