



2020

WORLDWIDE VETERINARY SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

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**For a world
where every animal
receives the care
they deserve.**

From the CEO

The global pandemic stilled human activity worldwide – but it also left many animals without food, shelter, or veterinary care. We stepped in to provide emergency support around the world. We treated over 20,000 animals (up from 13,000 in 2019), set up feeding programmes to support starving animals on the empty streets, and so much more.

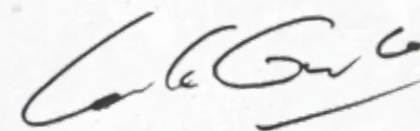
Through it all, our staff have worked incredibly hard. Not only did they make huge personal sacrifices to ensure that animals got the care they needed, but they also refused to let COVID-19 stop us from delivering our core mission.

Deemed essential by local government partners, our centres remained open and our mobile teams continued operating, covering for other local NGOs who were unable to. In Goa, India, our facility was the only NGO to remain open across the entire state and ensured that animals were not left to suffer.

In 2020, we adapted our surgical training courses and launched accredited Distance Learning courses, allowing us to train almost 700 vets, veterinary nurses, and para-vets virtually and in the clinic. Whilst in the field, we still managed to reach our life-saving targets to help animals worldwide, sterilising more than 16,000 animals and vaccinating over 222,000 dogs against rabies.

Thank you for sticking with us as we powered through another tremendous year.

Rock on!



Dr Luke Gamble BVSc DVM&S FRCVS

Founder & CEO

Worldwide Veterinary Service







Animal Welfare in a Pandemic

2020, a time where the need for animal welfare has never been greater.

All over the world animals are facing unbelievable hardship and lacking even the most basic level of care. The ongoing pandemic has only made things worse. More animals have been abandoned or struggled to find food. The veterinary profession has played a vital role in responding to the impact of the pandemic on people and animals.



20,721
TOTAL ANIMALS TREATED



222,008
VACCINATIONS AGAINST RABIES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
MISSION RABIES




459
ANIMALS REHOMED




401
PARCELS DELIVERED



Our work has never been more important than now.

Throughout the year, we've rescued and cared for animals who've had no-one else to turn to. We've expertly trained vets at our centres in India and Thailand, empowering them to do the same and reach even more animals in need – wherever they may be. We've shipped urgent veterinary supplies and equipment to frontline teams across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia to ensure our charity partners have everything they need to alleviate the suffering of animals during states of emergency, such as lockdowns and bushfires.

Read on to hear about our triumphs in a challenging year...



135
CHARITIES HELPED



16,552
ANIMALS STERILISED



693
VETERINARY COURSE PARTICIPANTS





2020: New Threats for Already Vulnerable Animals

As the world responded to the pandemic, many animals were stripped of their basic needs; food, shelter and care. It put animals who were already in a vulnerable position – living on the streets or with a family who struggled to provide for them – in a desperate and often life-threatening position.

BASIC NECESSITIES DISAPPEARED

With restaurants, cafes, and food markets closed in national lockdowns, animals starved. Homeless animals who once relied on discarded food scraps and hand-outs from the community, struggled on the empty streets.

INJURIES INCREASED

Stray animals were forced out of their normal territories in search of food, where they had to compete for the little that was left and were exposed to unfamiliar dangers. As a result, the number of injuries from fight wounds, uncovered wells, and plastic containers – where stray dogs often get their heads stuck – increased.

HELP JUST OUT OF REACH

Curfews and movement restrictions created problems for many charities and NGOs. In many places around the world, these hampered their capacity to reach animals in need and made even ordinary rescues challenging.

BASIC VET CARE PUT ON HOLD

To minimise the spread of COVID-19, many veterinary clinics closed their doors to routine check-ups and basic vet care – opening services only to emergencies. This delayed many animals from receiving vaccinations, sterilisation, de-worming, and more, and jeopardized the overall health of the animal population.



Our Life-Saving Solutions

Improvise, Adapt and Overcome – for animals everywhere.

Facing increased demand for veterinary treatment and care worldwide, we quickly adapted our way of working to protect animals against new threats emerging from the pandemic.

AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Whilst other veterinary clinics and animal welfare groups had to cease operations in lockdown, our centres across India, Thailand, and Malawi were deemed essential by local governments due to the wide variety of services we offer, and as such, never closed. With new travel permits in hand, our mobile rescue teams continued to reach thousands of animals in their moment of need, whilst our veterinary teams took on the huge upsurge in emergencies caused by the conditions on the empty streets and the lack of open facilities to treat and care for them.



A FEEDING TASKFORCE

Lockdowns emptied many streets overnight, leaving little food for the homeless animals. Alongside other NGOs and volunteers, our teams in India were enlisted to form a feeding taskforce to help starving and dehydrated animals survive the ongoing pandemic.

A NEW WAY OF WORKING

Our centres never closed but travel restrictions, curfews, and social distancing rules meant we had to put stringent preventive measures in place, work in new shift patterns and follow local government guidelines to continue to help animals in need. Without the availability of international and at times local volunteers, our permanent teams stepped up to meet the challenge head-on.





Lucky, the Not So Lucky Dog

Meet Lucky, a dog in Thailand whose heartbreakingly hard life has taken a toll on her.

We first met Lucky when her caretaker contacted our team in Thailand about the masses growing on her abdomen. They had ruptured and become infected ulcerated wounds, now impossible to ignore. Those masses were mammary tumours, one of the most common tumours diagnosed in unspayed female dogs.

Unfortunately, on top of her tumours, Lucky was also suffering from Ehrlichiosis, a disease that develops in dogs after being bitten by an infected tick.

Our veterinary team got to work immediately. They had to treat the infection, and the anaemia caused by it, before surgically removing the cancerous masses.

Lucky recovered quickly after her treatment began, and received not one, but two surgeries to remove the tumours. Within weeks, she'd made a full recovery and had rediscovered her spark for life. Lucky was able to return home soon after, ready to enjoy her life again, to the fullest.

If it weren't for the support of people like you, Lucky would not have received the life-saving treatment she desperately needed.

Lucky isn't the first dog with a story like this, and she won't be the last. Visit page 22 to find out how you can help us care for animals around the world.

Read more live-saving stories online:



www.wvs.org.uk/news

Vets Around the World

We provide veterinary support all over the world – wherever there are animals in need. In 2020, alongside our key project sites in India, Thailand, and Malawi, we supported projects in countries such as Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

Sterilisation outreach in hard-to-reach places

Our teams are experts in humane and sustainable canine population control. This is key to halting the ineffective and cruel culling policies that are tragically still used in many countries. In 2020, we undertook spay and neutering campaigns in several remote and isolated areas – everywhere from Buddhist temple settlements in the hills of India to populated islands in Tanzania – to safely and humanely sterilise over 16,000 animals.



16,552
ANIMALS
STERILISED

Mozambique:

Supporting Rural Communities

In Mozambique, donkeys are used by the most vulnerable members of the communities, their main role is to carry water a minimum of 14km a day and over 100 litres at a time. We operate through the

Veterinary Faculty of Eduardo Mondlane University to train and equip local veterinary professionals and students to deliver veterinary care in rural communities.

In 2020, we scaled up our efforts as the social-economic situation of people deteriorated rapidly. The mobile team of vets and students attended anything from 30-120 donkeys to 20-40 small and large ruminants, (such as sheep and cows) a day, as well as vaccinated the herders' dogs against rabies, to improve the wellbeing of the animals, and support the communities who rely on them.



Ethiopia:

Providing Expert Equine Training

Donkeys, horses, and mules are of huge importance for Ethiopia, but currently receive woefully inadequate veterinary care. In 2020, we partnered with the Ohio State Global One Health Institute to deliver their first Equine Ambulatory Medicine Module, designed to assist equine practitioners in treating working equines in Ethiopia. The module, delivered digitally due to the pandemic, reached over 800 participants with the aim to build capacity in Ethiopia for further One Health training.



India:

Responding to Emergencies

In southern India, tourist riding horses were amongst some of the hardest hit by the collapse of tourism due to the pandemic. Financial struggles meant some owners were unable to provide their horses with proper food, shelter, and care. Working in partnership with WTG e.V., our vets provided critical support to over 2,000 equines in 2020, treating everything from injuries caused by road accidents, plastic impaction colic from foraging for food, and providing routine and preventative care at our monthly clinics.





International Training Centres

The key to improving the standard of animal welfare globally.

It's important that the help we provide animals is both immediate and sustainable in to future. To achieve this, our International Training Centres (ITCs) deliver training to upskill veterinary and animal welfare professionals on the frontline across many countries and cultures.



New courses for 2020

As the world reacted and adapted to the global pandemic, so did we.

Equine ambulatory skills, UK

With the pandemic came a national shortage of practical placements for UK veterinary students overseas. To combat this, we launched a five-day crash course in collaboration with the Homing Ex-Racehorses Organisation Scheme (HEROS) to give students in the UK insight and practical experience in working with equines aboard. This knowledge will be a foundation for students seeking to work in areas with limited resources in the future, allowing them to treat and care for animals in great need.



Distance learning module, India

To ensure students and professionals could continue their veterinary training, our expert veterinarians in India developed and launched a new distance learning module, adapted from the syllabus of the ABC surgical course. Through a series of online videos, demonstrations, lectures, documents, assignments, and one-to-one support, we have been able to deliver the same expert training. The virtual module covers the theoretical component of the surgical course. When restrictions permit, each participant then completes the practical component at our ITCs or one of our approved clinics.

The online course reached vets and students from cities and states across India, including Delhi, Bangalore, Dehradun, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Karnataka.



Vet assistant course, Thailand

Veterinary nurses and assistants are vital to patient welfare, but currently there are no formal qualifications for these roles in Thailand. We launched a Veterinary Assistant course that teaches animal welfare best practice as well as provides hands-on experience. The participants will not only improve the care dogs receive at clinics across Thailand, but play a part in better managing free-roaming populations and reducing the incidence of zoonotic diseases in both dogs and humans.



Our core training

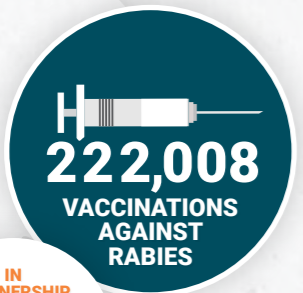
The Animal Birth Control (ABC) surgical course is an integral part of our ITCs, designed to provide participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to perform spaying and neutering surgeries, as well as respond to the broad range of cases brought into the centres for treatment.





So Much More Than Training

Our International Training Centres go beyond training, they also provide a base for incredible and often challenging veterinary cases – treating animals from both the local area and even further afield where no other care is available. On top of this, they routinely rescue animals in need – caring for them until they are ready to be re-homed with loving families.



A brand-new critical care unit

Our new critical care unit in Thailand couldn't have opened sooner as the pandemic led to a surge in the number of animals needing emergency treatment and specialised care. The new purpose-built facility has tripled the number of critical cases our veterinary team can manage. This means many more street dogs in Chiang Mai, who are often victims of deadly infections, road traffic accidents, and mistreatment, will get the expert help they desperately need.



Case study: Meet Murli

Murli, a German shepherd dog, was injured in a car accident in India. The collision left him with an open fracture to his left front leg, and without access to proper veterinary care in his hometown, Murli's condition only worsened. Two weeks later, the broken limb was now a very serious open, infected fracture, and amputation was needed to save Murli's life.

At our International Training Centre in Ooty, India, our vets have the skills and experience to treat and care for Murli, and as a training facility, Murli's case offered an opportunity for vets-in-training to learn how to do the same.

Under the guidance of our experienced vets, students and recent graduates learnt important skills through hands-on tuition; preparing and performing surgeries, and supporting the animal's recovery post-op. Thanks to their combined efforts, Murli's damaged leg was amputated expertly, and he has since recovered and adapted to life on three legs.



Learn more about our training programmes at

 www.wvs.org.uk/training





Sending Aid Worldwide

Sending veterinary aid parcels all over the world is at the core of what we do. Our offer of support is open to non-profit organisations working to care for animals, wherever they are in the world. All species, any condition, and every location – if we can help, we will.

In 2020, this support had never been needed more.

When travel restrictions were put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19, people were grounded but supplies, equipment, and other resources could still reach organisations on the frontline via the postal service. We worked together with our global network of animal welfare charities to ensure that animals received the care they needed throughout the pandemic.



Destination: Vietnam

Charity: Paws for Compassion

We packed boxes with gauze, bandages, and adhesives – everything a veterinary team needs for wound care – and sent them to Vietnam to support a local rescue group. They were used to treat and care for animals rescued from the streets and help them prepare for placement in a loving home, safe from the dog meat trade.

Destination: Italy

In March, we packed almost 50kgs of veterinary supplies, including anti-inflammatory pain relief medications, into parcels and sent them to charities in Italy that were some of the first impacted by national lockdowns.



Destination: Spain

Charity: Apyda Moxios De Manacor

On Mallorca, one of Spain's Balearic Islands, fleas, ticks, worms, and mites became rampant amongst the cat and dog populations during the summer. We urgently shipped treatment supplies to help local organisations protect street animals from parasites which can cause dangerous health issues, including anaemia, extreme weight loss, and blindness.

Destination: Tanzania

Charity: Elang'ata Agro

In Tanzania, basic veterinary care is often forgone due to the costs involved. By shipping flea treatment and other essential veterinary supplies to a local veterinary clinic, we were able to improve the health of pets and free-roaming animals.

Destination: Australia

Charity: Sydney Wildlife Mobile Care Unit

After the deadly bushfires swept Australia, a mobile rescue unit was set up to rescue, treat, and care for injured wildlife in remote areas. We were able to ship life-saving equipment – a microscope, nebuliser, and centrifuge – to support frontline teams with their disaster recovery work.





Science & Research

The WVS App is designed for effective data collection and team management in the field. First developed in 2014, it continues to be a powerful force for our teams and other organisations to conduct efficient field research to benefit both animal welfare and operational impact.

3 ways we used the app in 2020:



In India, we launched a project to research the population management of free-roaming dogs in Goa and provide much-needed sterilisations to combat overpopulation and the suffering it causes. Data collected using the app will be used to better manage humane population control across the state.



Across our International Training Centres, the app is being used to assess course participants' knowledge before and after each course – ensuring the best course content and structure. In India, the survey showed that 75% of past participants had improved decision-making around antibiotic use when they returned to their practice and in Thailand, 100% of past participants surveyed went on to volunteer for local animal welfare charities alongside their professional work.

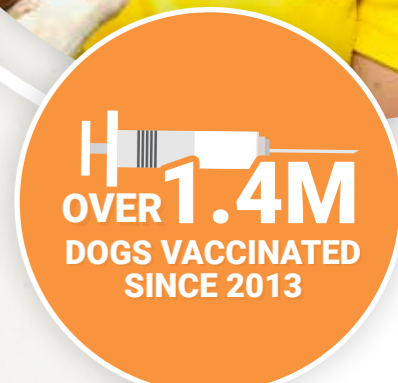


In Malawi, our sister charity Mission Rabies uses the smartphone technology to spot areas of low canine vaccine coverage in real time, helping the vets to halve the time it takes to complete dog inoculation programmes in the city of Blantyre.



Mission Rabies

Much of our fieldwork to eliminate rabies from the canine population and protect surrounding communities is conducted in partnership with our sister charity, Mission Rabies. In 2020, the World Health Organization prioritised rabies control during the pandemic to ensure local lockdowns, school closures, and stretched public health infrastructure did not lead to a spike in rabies deaths. As such, the charity's life-saving services were deemed essential by local governments and continued unabated.



Record-breaking vaccinations in Malawi

By adapting their way of working and implementing many safety measures, including hiring queue marshals to ensure social distancing and setting up hand-washing stations at the clinics, Mission Rabies were able to continue its large-scale vaccination programmes in Malawi. The tireless efforts of the team and increased involvement from at-risk communities led to their most successful year yet, vaccinating over 100,000 dogs and educating more than 500,000 children.



Emergency rabies response in India

In the Indian state of Goa, which has seen no human rabies deaths since the start of 2018, the sudden lockdown made food for street animals increasingly scarce. This resulted in more movement and conflict within dog populations which heightened the risk of rabies re-emerging. The teams stepped up surveillance efforts, responded immediately to reports of rabid animals, and also began daily feeds to prevent animals on the empty streets from starving. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, they vaccinated over 80,000 dogs against rabies and educated more than 200,000 children in rabies prevention across the state.





Supporter Spotlight

The support we receive from far and wide makes our life-saving work possible. This year, with the difficulties everyone has faced, the efforts of our fundraisers have been that much more extraordinary. Here are just a few of the amazing supporters who went above and beyond to lend a hand in a trying time.



Cycling for a cause, UK

William, a 9-year-old boy with a big heart for animals completed a 26-mile marathon cycle in his hometown, accompanied by his mother, and raised over £1,500 in donations for his efforts.



Two-wheeled adventure, UK

Justin, along with other MAMIL's (Middle Aged Men In Lycra), cycled all the way from Land's End in England to John O'Groats in Scotland, and in doing so, raising funds to help animals in need.



Running a half marathon, UK

The half-marathon that Christina was geared up to run didn't go ahead due to COVID-19, but that didn't stop her from running her own; 13.1 miles around her hometown and raising funds to support our veterinary teams worldwide.



Pawfect tea party for Charlie, UK

After Joy's beloved pet dog Charlie passed away mid-lockdown, she hosted a virtual pet-friendly tea party in his honour, and raised funds to help treat animals in desperate need of veterinary care.

Vet practice helping animals worldwide, UK

Streatham Hill Vets, a member of the DNA Vetcare Group, treat and care for animals every day, but the team wanted to do more – and for the world's most vulnerable animals.. Since 2019, they've been hosting fundraisers, donating to appeals, and when they can, taking part in volunteer trips abroad to assist us in providing expert veterinary care to animals worldwide.



You can fundraise too. It's easy, fun, and incredibly meaningful.

Simply email us at fundraising@wvs.org.uk and we'll get you started.



Look at the next page to learn about the many ways you can support our life-saving work, or visit



www.wvs.org.uk/support-us

Ways to Support

Join us. Be part of our life-saving work for animals in need, everywhere.

With the support of people like you, we can care for more animals around the world. Whichever way you feel able to support us, you'll be ensuring that every animal receives the care they deserve.

Become an Animal Champion

Set up a monthly donation to help us care for more animals around the world. Your regular gift will help ensure vulnerable animals receive the care they need, now and in the future.

Sign up as a Member

Sign-up as a Member of WVS and you'll get insurance to cover all your trips with us and be the first to hear about our volunteering opportunities. It's just £4 per month or £40 for a whole year.

Inspire a future vet

Do you know a critter-mad youngster? Could they be a caring and life-saving vet in the future? Spark their imagination and encourage learning through our Young Vets Club!

Created by professional vets and teachers, it's the perfect gift for all animal-loving kids.

Involve your whole vet practice

Do you represent a vet practice that's keen to make a life-changing difference to animals in need? Become a Vet Practice Member and receive 10% off two training trips for your staff, and access to our Vet Nurse Bursary – allowing one of your nurses to volunteer on a project for free.

Volunteer with us

We need passionate volunteers to help deliver our lifesaving projects worldwide. You'll be working on the ground providing crucial care to some of the world's most deprived animals.

To learn about the many ways you can support our life-saving work, visit



www.wvs.org.uk/support-us

Young Vets Club

2020 has been a busy year for Young Vets Club. Our members have taken part in the new at-home challenges, fundraised to help animals in need and sent in some amazing entries for the Schools Cartoon Competition. Read on to find out about the Young Vets Club 2020 Champions.

Kiki (aged 12), Young Vets Club Top Challenger

Kiki completed over 80 of our at-home challenges – everything from arts and crafts and research tasks to creative exercises, all focused on the welfare needs of animals and the environments in which they live – making her our Young Vets Club Top Challenger.

Jude (aged 8), Young Vets Champion of 2020

Jude took part in all things Young Vets Club in 2020, earning himself 3,900 points in the programme and the title of Young Vets Champion. Congratulations, Jude!

Esme (aged 11), Schools Cartoon Competition Winner

In January, we invited schools from all over the UK to enter our cartoon competition and illustrate the story of Ekari, an orphaned elephant who was rescued by our charity's vets in Myanmar after being snared by poachers. Esme's winning illustration was recreated by our Graphic Designer and published in the Young Vets Club magazine to help teach others about the threats animals like Ekari face.

If your child is an animal lover just like Kiki, Jude and Esme, sign them up to become Young Vets Club member. To learn how, visit:



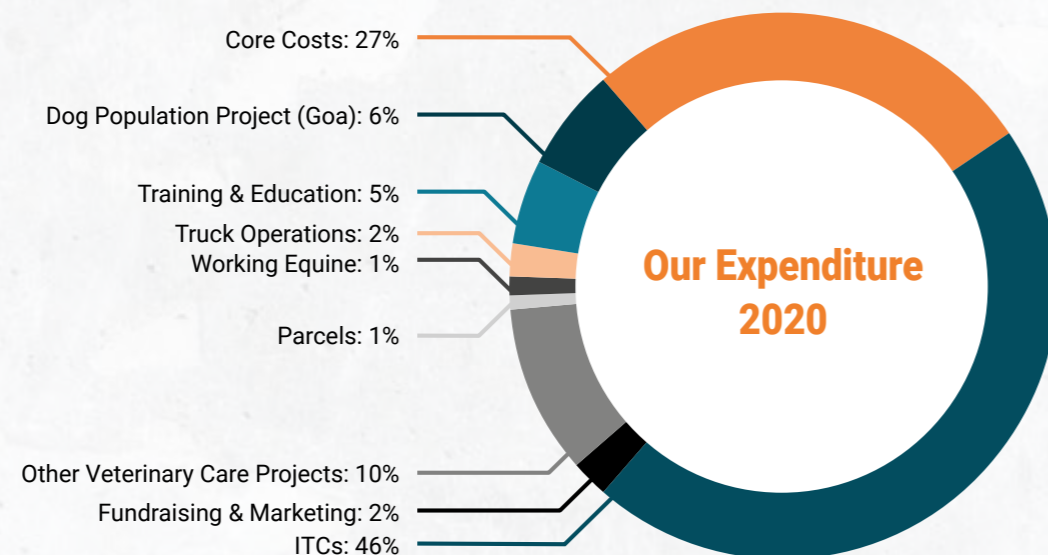
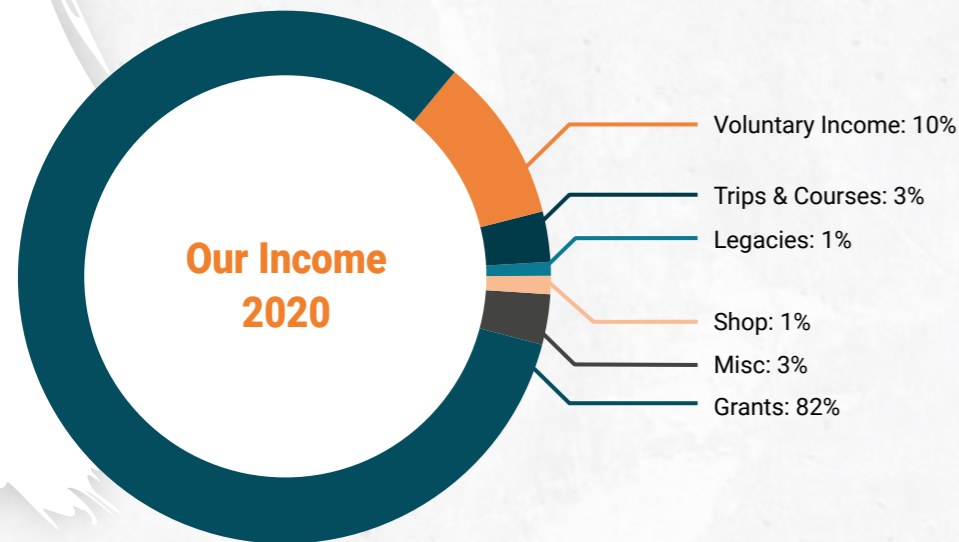
www.youngvetsclub.com



Finances

In 2020, Worldwide Veterinary Service spent £1,731,306 caring for and treating animals in need. This is an increase of just over 11% on 2019 – demonstrating our commitment to improving the lives of animals around the world, in spite of the challenging circumstances faced in 2020. We could not turn away the increase number of emergency cases arriving at our doors.

During 2020, WVS income dropped by 17% to £1,489,335, this was primarily due to the impact of the pandemic, meaning many trips and training courses could not go ahead as planned. Thank you to all those who donated and fundraised in 2020. Your support has never been more needed.



The Future: Increasing Care for More Animals in Need

Around the world, animals continue to suffer – missing out on the life-saving veterinary care they so desperately deserve. Many animals and people have felt the repercussions of 2020 and the ongoing pandemic. So for us, 2021 will be a year where we double down on our efforts, working harder, smarter, and more widely, to champion these animals in need.



Conservation through Vet Care

Veterinary care does far more than treat injuries and disease, it prevents ecosystems from being disrupted, diseases being introduced, and stops habitats from becoming overwhelmed and overpopulated. In 2021, in partnership with Pan Animalia Galápagos, we're opening a veterinary clinic on Santa Cruz Island to support the health and welfare of the domesticated dogs and cats on the islands whilst managing their growing population, to reduce the conflict with the existing endemic wildlife.



 www.wvs.org.uk/support-us/wildlife-appeal

Making expert veterinary training accessible, everywhere

In 2021, we're launching WVS Academy, an online platform to provide vets across the world with access to high-quality, engaging, relevant, and peer-reviewed resources to guide best clinical practice in any setting. In many countries access to Continued Professional Development (CPD) opportunities is limited, making life-long-learning difficult for veterinary professionals. WVS Academy will empower vets to reach their full potential through education. It will be a catalyst for change, raising standards of clinical practice, improving animal population management, increasing awareness of One Health, and making a real difference to the lives of individual animals.



 www.wvsacademy.com

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported our tireless work throughout 2020 to ensure any animal that needed us was never denied the treatment and care they so rightly deserve. It's only by working together that we can make a real difference. Put simply, you rock!

Proud to have made a difference in 2020 with our partners:



As well as all our amazing supporters, both individuals and organisations, who make our work possible.





WORLDWIDE VETERINARY SERVICE

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