



A Network of Sanctuaries

Providing permanent placement with high quality care



The Wildlife Rescue Network consists of multiple sanctuaries across the United States that provide lifetime care to large exotic animals, with an emphasis on big cats. IFAW works closely with sanctuaries that do not breed, buy, sell, trade, exploit, or allow public contact with the animals in their care.



About IFAW

Founded in 1969, the International Fund for Animal Welfare saves individual animals, animal populations and habitats all over the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW provides hands-on assistance to animals in need, whether it's dogs and cats, wildlife and livestock, or rescuing animals in the wake of disasters. We also advocate saving populations from cruelty and depletion.



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Wildlife Rescue Network



Introducing a Rapid Alert System



A unique resource for law enforcement agencies, local animal shelters, state veterinarians and others.



Overview

Introduction

IFAW's Wildlife Rescue Network is a rapid response structure that supports enforcement agencies, local animal shelters, state veterinarians, and other organizations dealing with privately owned dangerous large cats like lions and tigers. We recommend suitable placement solutions (temporary or permanent), and provide multi-level logistical support, to include coordinating transport of seized or surrendered animals to legitimate sanctuaries. Wildlife Rescue Network participating sanctuaries are screened to ensure they meet the definition of a True Sanctuary and provide good welfare for their animals.

What is a 'True Sanctuary'?

There are hundreds of facilities in the United States that call themselves sanctuaries, but only a fraction provide adequate shelter and care to abused, neglected, abandoned or

confiscated wildlife. True Sanctuaries provide quality lifetime care and do not buy, sell, trade, or breed animals, allow public contact or take their animals off property unless justified for medical or emergency reasons. This means that confiscated or surrendered animals stay out of private hands and DO NOT become a recurring public safety hazard – exactly what you are trying to prevent.

Resources Available

We are experts in screening sanctuaries and can coordinate rescue and transport of big cats, either individuals or large groups. We help prevent or mitigate bad press, assure a positive outcome for the animals, and prevent the recurrence of nuisance animals as public safety hazards. Our involvement in the rescue process is based on your needs. We provide services ranging from locating True Sanctuaries with space for the animals you need to place; providing expert, on-the-ground logistical support when multiple animals or sanctuaries are involved in a rescue; or anything in between. The Wildlife Rescue Network has a 100% success rate in safely and efficiently executing exotic large feline rescues.

The Sanctuaries

Our network includes sanctuaries from across the United States. Many jurisdictions require confiscated animals be turned over to sanctuaries accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS). All of our participating sanctuaries are either GFAS accredited or verified, or have undergone screening by IFAW to ensure that they meet our definition of a True Sanctuary. One call to us puts you in touch with the majority of GFAS sanctuaries that accept large carnivores.

FAQ

What kinds of animals can be placed through the network?

The network was originally set up for big cat placement and is most effective for exotic felines. Many of the sanctuaries we work with care for other species, such as bears and wolves, so attempts can be made to place those animals through the network.

What type of information should I provide in a request?

Initial information requested includes number of animals, species, approximate age (adult or juvenile), location, circumstance, and urgency. We will follow up with you or the animals' owner later to determine additional details such as sex, reproductive and health status, whether animals live together or individually, whether they have been declawed or teeth filed, and other pertinent information.

What if the animal needs transport?

Many of the sanctuaries are able to provide their own transport; however, IFAW will provide transport when needed.

How much does it cost?

Our services are funded by our donors and are provided to you free of charge.

Whom do I contact?

To get started, call the IFAW Wildlife Rescue Hotline at 508-744-CATS (2287). You will be directed to leave a message, and we will return your call the same day. You may also email us at WildlifeRescueNetwork@IFAW.org