

# WHY ANIMALS ARE IMPORTANT IN DISASTERS



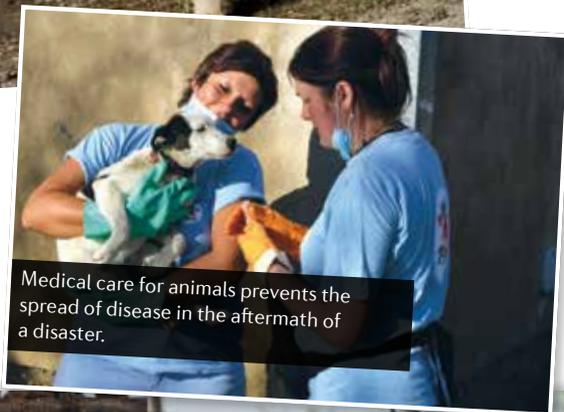
HOW THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
WHEN FOUR PAWS HELPS ANIMALS

More Humanity towards Animals



Personal disaster preparedness planning for you and your animals would benefit your own safety and security. During disaster missions we work to prevent the spread of disease, support civil protection/defense efforts, ensure economic livelihoods and work in disaster risk reduction activities to help build resilient communities. This is why our priority in every disaster relief mission is to care for farm and companion animals and respond to affected wildlife as needed. These goals are in line with our motto:

*“Saving animals, helping people!”*



Medical care for animals prevents the spread of disease in the aftermath of a disaster.

## **FOUR PAWS focuses on three areas of disaster relief work:**

**Public Health** – Healthy animals are part of a healthy community. FOUR PAWS provides food, water and medical care to pets and farm animals to safeguard both people and animals. FOUR PAWS also responds to affected wildlife, protecting the community and helping reduce the risk of human wildlife conflict.

**Civil Protection** – When people are prepared for disasters, the work of civil protection personnel is more effective. FOUR PAWS encourages people to have plans in place for caring for their animals, whether staying at home or evacuating early, which helps authorities in their response.

**Economic livelihood** – Many communities rely on animals for their livelihoods and by protecting the animals the communities can recover quickly after a disaster. FOUR PAWS helps people care for their animals in the wake of a disaster so that livelihoods and animal lives are not lost.



FOUR PAWS helps ensure community health and safety.





FOUR PAWS provides food, water and medical care to pets and farm animals.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

The health of a community's animals has a direct impact on the health of the people in that community. By caring for sick animals during and after disasters, FOUR PAWS helps ensure community health and safety.

- ✓ When animal health is enhanced, public health is protected.
- ✓ Providing veterinary care, helps safeguard animal health, reducing the risk of their spreading disease to people in affected areas.
- ✓ Aiding wildlife affected by a disaster to be returned to their habitat and provide intervention for potential injuries when the animals are forced into contact with local communities.
- ✓ Disasters often have serious impacts on the local ecosystem. Aiding wildlife can be part of reducing those impacts and restoring the environment, which helps both people and animals.

## Animals are an important part of rebuilding after a disaster.

- ✓ Farm animals are important to the economy of the local communities. Keeping these animals healthy allows the community to recover after a disaster.
- ✓ Companion animals play an important role in helping their owners cope during a disaster, and recover once they are able to return home.
- ✓ As people begin the recovery process, pets provide reasons for their owners to work toward returning life to normal as quickly as possible.

**Community means people  
and animals!**



FOUR PAWS encourages people to have plans in place before a disaster strikes.



In the wake of a disaster FOUR PAWS helps people care for their animals.

## CIVIL PROTECTION

Animals are an important part of people's lives, important enough that many people are willing to risk their own lives, and the lives of others, to stay with their animals, despite Civil Protection advice to evacuate.

- ✓ Sometimes these people need rescuing when resources during disasters are already strained, putting rescue personnel and others impacted by the incident at greater risk.
- ✓ Costs to the community increase when resources are strained in this way.

FOUR PAWS believes that proactive planning of disaster policies and practices that are inclusive of animals increases the safety and wellbeing of animal owners and others.



Fresh food and water for over 1,700 animals were provided in the aftermath of cyclone Komen in Myanmar.

## ECONOMIC LIVELIHOOD

Animals, particularly farm animals, are an important part of rebuilding communities in the aftermath of a disaster.

- ✓ When animals become ill or die, recovery for those dependent on the animals is dramatically slowed as it becomes difficult to earn a living and feed the community.

By ensuring the welfare of animals, FOUR PAWS is working towards improving the safety and security of affected communities.

## MAKING THE DIFFERENCE – AN EXAMPLE CASE

In August of 2015, Myanmar was struck by Cyclone Komen, which caused severe flooding. Over 1.3 million people and animals were affected by this disaster.

FOUR PAWS was able to provide food and water for over 1,700 animals. Many of these animals, who were crucial to the economic sustainability of the community, were isolated on the temporary islands created by the flood and could only be reached by boat.

In addition to food and water, FOUR PAWS provided veterinary treatment to those animals in need, helping the communities to recover following the disaster.

# ABOUT FOUR PAWS

FOUR PAWS is an international animal welfare organisation with headquarters in Vienna, Austria, and offices in 11 other countries. Founded by Heli Dungler in 1988, the organisation strives to help animals in need with sustainable campaigns and projects.

FOUR PAWS focuses on animals that are directly under human influence, for example stray dogs and stray cats, farm animals, companions animals and wild animals kept in inappropriate conditions. FOUR PAWS aims to help animals in need directly and quickly. [www.four-paws.org](http://www.four-paws.org)



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