



## Otter News No. 120, February 2021

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### World Otter Day #WorldOtterDay

World Otter Day is just over two months away and it's time to start planning to celebrate the world of otters once again this year.

IOSF launched **World Otter Day** to raise awareness and much needed support for otter conservation across the world. In the past we have had individuals, organisations and groups engaging in a number of activities, which are all otter related - either with a view to raise awareness of otter conservation and IOSF, or to raise some funds to support the work we are doing worldwide.

In usual years, many events take place in many different countries; for example, in 2019 there were over 30 countries taking part which made it our biggest to date. Obviously, in 2020 it was very different and we had to make most events online and social media played a major part. And this was a success! We held online webinars around the world and all joined together to make **World Otter Day** an otter takeover online!

**World Otter Day** takes place annually on the last Wednesday in May, so for 2021, it will be 26 May. We are hoping that, for the health of us all, that we will be able to get back to some semblance of a normal **IOSF World Otter Day** by this point! This would mean that the world is through the worst of the current situation and we can celebrate these beautiful animals in style!

However, we still want to invite YOU to be a big part of **World Otter Day** whatever the circumstances! This can be by running an event, taking part in a fundraiser or simply posting on social media, using **#WorldOtterDay** and linking to IOSF's social media platforms! This all makes such a difference!

It doesn't have to be restricted to the actual date and we would encourage you to hold an event on any day that suits you or that will bring the biggest effect, such as a weekend. In the past we have had events that have lasted a day, a week or a month, whatever suits you!

Should you have any plans to hold an event we would love to hear more! Please contact [ben@otter.org](mailto:ben@otter.org) to tell us all about it or if you need any advice/materials. And remember, take photos to post on our website and encourage others.

### World Otter Day Grants

IOSF is accepting World Otter Day grants until 26 March! So if you want to run an awareness event you can apply for support from one of our three World Otter Day grants!

Simply follow the link to find out more -

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18qqSEcmndDkJvN6B4YhchP2YVroiJ3ITzA6fQNkf248/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18qqSEcmndDkJvN6B4YhchP2YVroiJ3ITzA6fQNkf248/viewform?edit_requested=true)

IOSF and partners Pledjar went live on Instagram on Thursday, 18 February. For anyone who missed it, you can watch it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKRaWqg1xXo>

Simply download the Pledjar app - use code **OSF001** and select **IOSF** as your charity of choice. You can then choose to round up your card payments and donate those extra pennies to help otters.

- **Android:** [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pledjar.app&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pledjar.app&hl=en_GB)

- **iOS:** <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/pledjar/id1504894760>

## Feral Dogs

**Sujita Dhakal is a member of Warriors of Nature which is a group in Nepal dedicated to all those who are doing their part to help conservation.** Recently she shared a post on Facebook from **Etologia & Sociobiologia** about the serious threat to wildlife by feral dogs. As well as otters, there are photos of birds, foxes and deer, all being savaged or killed by such dogs in India.



As human populations increase and spread into wilder areas our impact is not just by habitat destruction. Some domestic pets become feral and take whatever they can to feed themselves. Some of the native wildlife may not have encountered such predators and so do not know how to react. Young animals may be abandoned and unable to fend for themselves they die. Not only are dogs predators of wild and domestic animals but they can also transmit disease such as rabies and canine distemper virus into wild animal populations.

But these problems are not confined to countries like Nepal and India. George Bourouş and his colleagues have written a paper on the Urban Otters of Bucharest, Romania, which will be published in Issue 7 of OTTER, the IOSF Journal in May 2021. In this he reports that free-ranging dogs are also a threat to otters in Bucharest and IOSF has also had reports of otters, particularly vulnerable cubs, being attacked and sometimes killed by dogs in UK.

We all love our pet dogs and can't imagine that they would ever do anything like that. However, it is true that domestic pet dogs can also cause a lot of harm and damage to wildlife and also domestic animals. Here on Skye we have to be very careful that dogs don't worry sheep and this applies wherever there is grazing livestock. As pet-owners we not have a responsibility to make sure they are properly cared for but also that they do not disturb, harm or kill other species.



The problem of dogs and wildlife is important and we feel very under-estimated worldwide. Sujita is going to investigate this in more detail and so we would ask you to send any records you have of dogs attacking wildlife, particularly otters but also other species, to us at [enquiries@otter.org](mailto:enquiries@otter.org).

Please give as much detail as possible:

- Place
- Date
- Time
- Number of dogs
- Number of otters/other animals

- Outcome if known
- Did you witness it yourself or were you told
- Did you read about it in the media – if so can you give details

Please send any photos you may have.

We assure you that your name and personal details will remain confidential.

## Otter Poster

**What do you do if you find an otter cub on its own which looks abandoned? Or an injured animal?** It is always important that if you come across any wild animal which may appear to need help that you don't act too quickly. Your natural instincts may be to pick it up and help but, is that the right thing to do?

Sometimes there are reasons why young animals have been left alone and it's not always because of abandonment or injury to their mother. She may have gone to feed and then your well-intentioned actions have resulted in separation of the family and the young then have to be hand-reared, when the mother is always the best at knowing what to do.

Sometimes it is a sad fact that a mother may deliberately abandon her young because she knows that for some reason it will not survive due to some deformity which may not be apparent at first.

We always urge people to assess the situation before they act and, if ever in doubt, contact someone for advice, such as ourselves at IOSF. We always want to allow young animals to have the chance to be reunited with their mothers as they stand the best chance with



I MAY BE CUTE AND LOOK LIKE I NEED HELP BUT...

# THINK BEFORE YOU PICK ME UP

Otters often leave their cubs to go fishing. If you come across an otter cub then think **ECO** and follow these simple steps:

**E**valuate - Is it in immediate danger? Roads/dogs etc.

**C**all - call someone for advice, the International Otter Survival Fund is available at 01471 822 487 or 0758 258 9486

**O**bserve - keep an eye on it or come back in a couple of hours and see if things have changed

**OTTERS ARE WILD ANIMALS AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH, NEVER ATTEMPT TO PICK UP AN OTTER AS IT MAY DEFEND ITSELF**

Charity Number: SC003875 [www.otter.org](http://www.otter.org) 

their expert care!

So, when faced with a young/injured otter, we ask you to follow our simple "ECO" steps.

- **Evaluate** - is the animal in immediate danger or injured, such as roads/popular dog walking route/adverse weather.
- **Call** - If you are in doubt, call someone for advice. You can contact us on 01471 822 487 and if the office is unattended there will be an emergency number on the answerphone.
- **Observe** - keep an eye on the animal or come back at a later time. Give enough space and time for the mother to return and try not to allow your presence prevent her from doing so.

It is also important to remember that otters are wild animals. They may defend themselves if you approach so please, be careful. We do not want anyone to be bitten or injured as they try to help.

We have created this poster to make as many people aware of what to do if they find an otter. If you know of somewhere for this poster to be displayed please print it and pass it on. We would also ask you to share it on social media. These simple steps will help all the animals we want to help.

Thank you

## News from The Sanctuary

**Our sanctuary continues to be a hive of activity and currently we have seven otters in care.**

In our last e-update we introduced three little otters which arrived from Inverness weighing less than 500g. Sadly two of them died. The first one died soon after arrival and the post mortem revealed this was caused by a heart defect which had been present since birth. The other two, Hollie and Ollie appeared to be doing really well but then Ollie suddenly deteriorated and also died. At first it was thought due to be weaning problems; that the stomach wasn't able to adapt to the change in diet. However, the post mortem revealed the underlying cause was genetic – she had a blood clot on her brain which was again probably caused by a congenital abnormality. It appears that we could have done nothing to save these two tiny animals.

Holly (right) is still doing well but of course we are very wary and watching her closely. Initially, she naturally seemed to be saddened by the loss her siblings and so we had to make sure that she didn't become lonely and that her two sisters' legacy would live on through her. She is now eating trout on a regular basis and her weight has increased to over 1.4kg. We also have to balance the physical contact she needs with keeping her wild but she has started to give a hint of her future wildness by snapping and snarling when we go to pick her up. Hopefully this will continue!



Some of you may have seen the video of the cubs when they were tiny. They were so funny and it was very sad to lose two of them. However, this also shows the value of post mortems on any animals that die in our care. In this case, we could have done nothing to save them, but we have to know if we have missed something or made a mistake. In rehab we are learning all the time.



Louis and DJ (left) have finally moved outside. Like most of the UK, Skye was gripped by some pretty wintery weather during January and early February. Although we didn't get the snow, we were regularly treated to temperatures of around -10 degs! Thankfully, for the otters at least, milder weather came and these two young local otters have moved out into a larger enclosure. They are enjoying their new space but are quite a secretive duo! It has been a challenge to get a photograph as they shoot back into their sleeping box whenever we approach.

Bealltinn is continuing to develop. She has now taken to bringing large sticks into her nest box, which is more a sign of the wild animal we want her to grow in to. She really is a sun worshipper though and on some recent, lovely sunny spring days took to sleeping outside, but she does seem to like to keep her eyes covered!



particularly active when we are not around and spends most of its day digging and 'destroying' its enclosure! (below) Just as well the fencing is buried into the ground, but it also shows the maintenance necessary after an animal is released!



Effie and Reva are as charismatic as ever. Cleaning time is welcomed with a spit, a snarl and a quick scurry out of their sleeping box and up to the safe refuge of their pool! After cleaning, it is a busy time for them as they re-arrange the hay into the position they want it. You can watch them on our ottercam at

<https://otter.org/Public/OtterCam1.aspx>

February also brought a new otter to our sanctuary, named Laurie (below right). This otter was actually a skinny sub-adult obviously struggling to cope with feeding itself and had been taking ducks from a village on the Isle of Skye. It has some shallow scuffs to the face and we are taking the time to "feed it up". It is



**Why not Adopt an Otter at the Otter Shop...**

**IOSF Otter Adoption Gift Box – find them at the Otter Shop**



**If you would like to support our cubs in the Sanctuary you can send a cheque marked "Hospital" on the back or make a donation online at [www.ottershop.co.uk](http://www.ottershop.co.uk)**

**Donate to IOSF** <https://www.ottershop.co.uk/donate-to-iosf-c2x11601155>



Please support IOSF and help to ensure that important conservation and awareness work continues.

UK taxpayers:

*Increase the value of your gift to IOSF: giftaid it*

## Collaboration Results in Successful Otter Rescue

Some time ago we were contacted by Vivien Kent of the Otter Network, in the northeast of England, about an otter with a restriction around its waist believed to be either a cable tie or fishing line. If the animal wasn't caught and the cable tie/fishing line removed it would almost certainly suffer a long painful death.

There were several sightings in various parts of the Tyneside area and so it was a longer process than had been hoped and a licence also had to be obtained in order to catch the otter. Otters are naturally wary of traps and we didn't want it to be scared away, then have to searched for again. So, camera traps were used and the images taken showed the otter investigating the trap before it was actually set. You can clearly see the injury in the photo left.



On 26 February the otter was caught near Wallsend Hall and taken to the Vets4Pets Bedlington for treatment. The otter, a female, has a serious wound and is now recovering at Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre. Hopefully she will recover and be released soon.



We have mentioned many times the problems of litter and the threat to wildlife and unfortunately we have received casualties with injuries such as this which have been caused by cable ties, fishing line and also snares. Sadly, there isn't always a "happy ever after" and many animals and birds die as a result.

This latest incident also shows that organisations can and need to work together as this has been a collaboration between IOSF, the Otter Network, UKWOT, RSPCA and the vet. We do have to make a special mention of the Otter Network, which has just two volunteers, Vivien Kent and

Lizzie Ross, who have put so much effort into saving this animal.

## Wildlife Warning Reflectors on Orkney

We have been friends with Ross Flett of Orkney Seal Rescue for many years and recently he contacted us for advice on preventing otter road fatalities. There had been a number on the islands and local people were asking him how they could be prevented. Apparently there had been no fatalities at Echna Bay since reflectors were installed ten years ago and so they were considering using them at a couple of other locations in Orkney.

We have used such reflectors at various black spots on the Isle of Skye with similar success. They work by reflecting a car's headlights into the surrounding countryside to form a light "barrier". Any animal approaching will stop until the light goes or will turn back away from the road. They are a cheap solution and are easy to install. They are also effective in stopping other animals being hit on the road, such as deer. However, they can only be used on roads with limited traffic. Otherwise the animals become used to them and ignore them.



If anyone wants more information or advice on reducing otter road deaths contact us at [enquiries@otter.org](mailto:enquiries@otter.org)

## Update on Cubs in Care Abroad Democratic Republic of Congo

We told you last month about how Mboo, the characterful Spotted-necked otter in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was being prepared for his return to the wild, and that a release site had to be found which ensured the likelihood of him having human interaction was at its lowest.

On 16 February we received the following news from our friend, Rita.

*"Dear Otter Friends,*

*Mboo has graduated!*

*After providing us with many indications here at home that he was ready to go, and after some boys menaced him when he was out on his own one day, we decided that the risk of keeping him here any longer was too great, so we organized a "camping trip" downriver to a spot we thought might be suitable for him. Delphin and Sico took him down in a canoe and Mboo spent the time eating snails and playing with Delphin.*

*The large 1-2 km wide inland forested swamp fed at both ends by the main river where they took him, is not far from the mouth of the river where Mboo was born. The swamp is rich in fish and wildlife and infrequently visited by humans. Mboo began exploring immediately upon getting there. Caught a fish. He came back to the camp site twice the first day, but spent the night somewhere else. The guys waited around for him until noon the next day when they decided to move their campsite to a different location, but where they could still hear Mboo if he called. Nothing. It rained heavily early the next day, flooding their tents and campsite. They decided Mboo was doing well and that swamp living was best left to him, so left. Not a peep from Mboo, who we assume was perfectly enchanted with his new home.*



*Here is a picture I took of Mboo at the fishpond on the morning of his trip. He was lovely. Sweet and in great shape.*

*And, so ends another otter chapter here at Kikongo. Glen and I will be leaving Kikongo at the end of March for the US. We retire from our present work after a US furlough of 9 months. Our home after that will be in Santa Cruz, CA, where we can watch sea otters play in the surf from our wharf there and the nearby cliffs.*

*Love,  
Rita*

*We want to offer a massive thanks to Rita, Delphin and Sico of the Kikongo Otter Sanctuary for all their care in*

*rearing this lovely animal.*

Rita and Glen have done so much for the otters in Kikongo and indeed in the country. Their first otter, Mazu, became something of a "superstar" and even government officials came to visit. This all drew attention to the need for otter conservation and this had a big impact on the local community and their care of wildlife. Delphin and Sico will no doubt continue this great work and we are sure Rita will be happy to advise as necessary. She knows the conditions there but the Kikongo Otter Sanctuary will always be supported by IOSF.

We wish you both all the best for your retirement.

**Vietnam**

Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW) are very involved in caring for otters and other animals and birds rescued from the pet trade. Their aim is always to release whenever possible. Their latest update told us "After passing almost two thousand kilometres away from our rescue centre, on 18 January, six Sunda pangolins and three smooth-coated otters returned home safely. Yay! It's such a long time since we last swam in the nature (said the otters)!!

As you can see from the illustration right, SVW are also very active in crime prevention through their patrols and confiscation of traps and guns.



**Indonesia**

SUMECO's hairy-nosed otter now has a name!

A short time ago we asked you to help us to come up with a name for the three hairy-nosed otters in care with SUMECO in Indonesia. Despite SUMECO's dedicated care, two of the otters didn't make it - which, sadly, is the true cost of the pet trade.

Following some excellent suggestions, it was decided to name the remaining otter after otter-loving George Parkinson, aged 12, from London. The picture left of "human" George, with his many otter toys, was taken a few years ago.



**Team Otter**

This month's Team Otter brings a story of a very special otter lover, Laurie Simpson. We were contacted by Laurie's father who told us how Laurie had been inspired by our rescue centre. She has an otter family of cuddly otters which she cleans, dries and ensures are always cared for in the best possibly way!

The same day that Laurie Simpson contacted us about her care and love for her little otter family, we received our latest otter into the sanctuary. Now it was our turn to be inspired by her passion to help



her otters and so we named our new otter Laurie – a fitting name as we plan to care for our Laurie with the same dedication as Laurie does for her otters!

We are also delighted to say that one of our Broadford Team Otter kids has been featured by the RSPB in their community posts (<https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/scotland/posts/john-and-the-2020-iosf-otter-oscar-awards->). John Reeves-Womble (right), from Kylerhea on Skye, won an Otter Oscar 2020 in the Photography and Artwork section for his photo of an otter on his local beach:

John said that his neighbour, the late Andy Law, had taught him so much about nature and wildlife and his dad had encouraged him to develop his photography skills during lockdown.

It looks to us that he has a potential career in photography – so watch out all of you other wildlife photographers!



For more information on Team Otter, check out our website ([www.loveotters.org](http://www.loveotters.org)) or Facebook. If you are interested in forming your own Team Otter Club contact [Ben@otter.org](mailto:Ben@otter.org).

## IOSF Featured On TV

Recently there was a TV programme featuring Darcey Bussell visiting some of the Scottish islands, looking at places which were important to her Grandfather who grew up on the Isle of Bute. IOSF featured on the first programme on Skye and she joined Broadford's Team Otter doing a litter pick on the Sleat peninsula.



This was on the channel More4 and if you missed it you can watch it here

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/darcey-bussells-wild-coasts-of-scotland/on-demand/70743-001>

As More 4 is only available in the UK, and many of you have asked if you can access it another way, we have understand that you can view it on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwoqREn1Nts&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2Krp9jta\\_uNWQ1VA4F6Cdac4Frjypb3JH\\_pSYR\\_xNiFvjIwz6519IJcLE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwoqREn1Nts&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2Krp9jta_uNWQ1VA4F6Cdac4Frjypb3JH_pSYR_xNiFvjIwz6519IJcLE)

We hope you enjoy it.

*giftaid it*



**GIFT AID IS A SIMPLE WAY TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR GIFT TO IOSF - at no extra cost to you.** If you pay tax in the UK, IOSF can reclaim the basic rate tax (25%) on your gift. So, if you donate £10, it is worth £12.50 to IOSF.

It is a simple process to sign up to Gift Aid - all you have to do is make a Gift Aid declaration. If you are donating online, just select the "Yes" option on the Gift Aid box on the donation form. Alternatively you can download and print out the Gift Aid Declaration on page 13 of our Fundraising Pack which can be found at:

[http://www.otter.org/documents/IOSF\\_Fundraising\\_Pack.pdf](http://www.otter.org/documents/IOSF_Fundraising_Pack.pdf)

**LEGACY - A LEGACY IS A GREAT WAY OF GIVING TO SOMETHING** close to your heart and every gift will make a difference. After your family, have you ever thought of leaving something in your will to charity? Please consider remembering the International Otter Survival Fund in your will and help our work, protecting otters, to continue.

Including a legacy in your will ensures that your wishes are carried out, so it is important to discuss this with your solicitor. You can stipulate a specific restriction for its use, but remember that without restriction your legacy can be directed to where it is required most urgently.

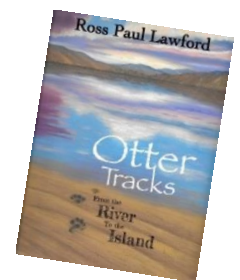
Should you choose to provide a legacy for the International Otter Survival Fund in your will, we thank you and appreciate your support in this way.

This link [http://otter.org/Public/HelpUs\\_Legacy.aspx](http://otter.org/Public/HelpUs_Legacy.aspx) will take you to our dedicated web page concerning making a Legacy.

## Otter Shop Product of the Month

Ross Paul Lawford's book "Otter Tracks – from the River to the Island" featured in last month's e-news, is available at the [Otter Shop](#)

Last month we told you about how otters and wildlife had helped amateur photographer Ross Lawford with his mental health problems. He has now published two books, "Otter Tracks from the River to the Island" and recently his second book "Otter Tracks: Wild Innocence".



## The Otter is the Animal of the Year

The German Wildlife Foundation has named the Otter as the Animal of the Year for 2021. The species is important to the biodiversity and ecological balance of an area and they made their decision to draw attention to their conservation status and the threats they face.

We are delighted that this will raise awareness for otters and their conservation around Germany. We also think that otters are always Animal of the Year!

<http://techzle.com/the-otter-is-animal-of-the-year-2021>

**ECO Otter made from 100% post-consumer recycled PET plastic bottles**  
[Otter Shop](#)



## News In Brief

### Smooth-coated otter dies in India

A smooth-coated otter has been found dead in Nalgonda, India, following an entanglement in fishing net. According to fishermen in the area there are 5-8 otters in the area and this is a sad ending for one of those.

<https://telanganatoday.com/smooth-coated-otter-struck-in-fishing-net-dies-in-nalgonda>



### Otters in Pennsylvania

A lucky photographer managed to get some amazing footage of three North American River Otters fishing in Pennsylvania.

The state was one of the regions that made major reintroduction efforts for the species and it is likely that these otters are descendants of that programme. North American river otters were hunted heavily for the fur trade and between that and habitat loss/pollution, populations were decimated. The species has since made a bit of a recovery both in Pennsylvania and across North America, but trapping is still allowed – begging the question – have we learned from our mistakes?

<https://www.pennlive.com/life/2021/02/photographer-captures-river-otter-trio-hunting-in-pennsylvania-stream-take-a-look.html>

### Otters in Wales

#### New survey project

The Countryside Service of the Vale of Glamorgan Council has launched “Project Otter”. They will work closely with the Cardiff University Otter Project, Project Splatter, and officers from Natural Resources Wales for the project which looks to get a better understanding into otters in their area.



The project will use citizen science from public sightings to understand the otters around the Vale of Glamorgan. Otters are known to exist in the area but they want to gain a better understanding of where, how many etc. and how they can improve the habitat for them to thrive in.

<https://cowbridge.nub.news/n/39project-otter39-launched-to-survey-population-in-the-vale>

### Artificial otter holt built in South Snowdonia National Park

The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) is a world-renowned eco centre nestled in the foothills of the South Snowdonia National Park and within the UNESCO Dyfi Biosphere. Their vision is a sustainable future for all humanity as part of a thriving natural world by inspiring, informing and enabling humanity to respond to the climate and biodiversity emergency.

They manage the habitats along the River Dulas in a sympathetic way and have now found signs of otters. So they have just built an artificial otter holt to encourage the otters to stay.

[https://www.cat.org.uk/in-otter-news-building-a-new-home-at-cat/?utm\\_source=Mailchimp&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Enews&mc\\_cid=f3c4bc8022&mc\\_eid=b144dd10d9](https://www.cat.org.uk/in-otter-news-building-a-new-home-at-cat/?utm_source=Mailchimp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Enews&mc_cid=f3c4bc8022&mc_eid=b144dd10d9)

### Otter Road Signs

Major efforts have been put in place to prevent otters and red squirrels being hit by traffic near a Scottish village. Concerns had grown over the increasing number of animals hit in specific areas near the village. Despite efforts



to encourage traffic to slow down in other ways, otter and squirrel signs have now been erected roadside to try and educate people about the dangers of driving quickly within these stretches.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Poppy Lewis-Ing and the Ullapool Sea Savers for their efforts in making this a reality and helping these amazing creatures.

<https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/signs-that-could-save-precious-wester-ross-wildlife-erected-228099/?cmpredirect>

## Thank You...

We'd like to thank all of you for your continued support in these very difficult times. We are very much encouraged by your generosity .....

Climate Action North - £50 from sales of t-shirts, Birthday appeals on platforms such as Facebook and JustGiving and, Caledonian MacBrayne and Henderson Charitable Trust.

*We can't do it without you.*

## CORPORATE SPONSORS



**holidaycottages.co.uk**

IOSF would like to take this opportunity to thank holidaycottages.co.uk for renewing their corporate sponsorship with our cause. We are grateful to them for being passionate and supportive of otters and IOSF.

If you are interested in corporate sponsorship of IOSF – please visit

[https://www.otter.org/Public/HelpUs\\_CorporateSponsorship.aspx](https://www.otter.org/Public/HelpUs_CorporateSponsorship.aspx)

## Events

**19/6/21 - Ross Lawford** is fundraising for International Otter Survival Fund ([justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com)) with a 24 hour walk along the Water of Leith in Edinburgh to raise funds and awareness of otters by talking to people he meets on the way. Please do support Ross and our otters:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ross-lawford-otter-1?fbclid=IwAR3SUQEsqjmqnOPwsnNEXICaWZQ9lj4-ZF7CTzq5KTcfNSVF-poWrOKRXU>

**26/5/21 - Have you given a thought to what you might do for #WorldOtterDay this May?**

[https://www.otter.org/Public/Events\\_OurCurrentEvent.aspx](https://www.otter.org/Public/Events_OurCurrentEvent.aspx)

<https://www.otter.org/Public/HelpUs.aspx>



## Otter Videos

**We have a couple of amazing otter videos to share with you!**

The first is from Josh Jaggard (you can check out his website - <http://www.wildlife-photos.co.uk/>)

Josh took this amazing picture of a Eurasian otter fishing underwater on **Shetland**. You can see how calm and graceful the otter is as it slips in and out of the seaweed.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oT\\_WzEt75Q&lc=UgzZafOCfKW5mpdyHoZ4AaABAg&ab\\_channel=WildlifeClips](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oT_WzEt75Q&lc=UgzZafOCfKW5mpdyHoZ4AaABAg&ab_channel=WildlifeClips)

In **Canada**, this North American river otter managed to dodge the impressive bald eagle. For the eagle, it got exactly what it came for as it flew off with the otter's fish!

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/otters-dodge-eagle-lose-meal-164514156.html>

Diana Limjoco shared these some underwater footage of an Asian short-clawed otter in the **Philippines** too!  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_rVZyqrVng&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1Kqn5ESq8Y73SuCo9xhRx58dNBy-HFJW4180gjzK3PmsLWfU4RRYnLMIQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_rVZyqrVng&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1Kqn5ESq8Y73SuCo9xhRx58dNBy-HFJW4180gjzK3PmsLWfU4RRYnLMIQ)  
[https://youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_rVZyqrVng&feature=share](https://youtube.com/watch?v=i_rVZyqrVng&feature=share)

You may remember Diana as she raised three tiny Asian small-clawed otters from tiny cubs, although sadly one died. The other two could not be released because of the threat of hunters and so they are still with her. The otters have as natural a life as possible, whilst still being safe and Diana always makes a point of why they shouldn't be pets. The otters swim in the local creek and in sea coves and in the two videos at <https://youtu.be/FthxvFKgNmk> and <https://youtube.com/watch?v=WnXzCWfWnfU&feature=share> you can see how well Oshka can hunt and how she uses her "fingers".

Diana's daughter, Alysha, is clearly following in her mother's footsteps and has set up her own video channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UctQtXC3G2hI7g3Az\\_iX9RSw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UctQtXC3G2hI7g3Az_iX9RSw)) to highlight the beauty and wildlife of her native island, Palawan, and to encourage people to protect it.

## Big Wild Thought

IOSF is delighted to have partnering with **Big Wild Thought**, who design animal-themed merchandise that helps to support animal charities. For each sale they donate 10% to animal charities, and their NEW

Eurasian otter design contributes to IOSF's work in otter conservation.



They have a variety of products including t-shirts, hoodies, bags, backpacks, and you can find out more here

<https://www.bigwildthought.co.uk/collections/otter>

With recycled and recyclable packaging, PETA approved - Vegan, 100% and blended cotton, what's not to like.

All photos are © to the name/s as indicated, otherwise ©IOSF

You can follow us on:



## Keep Us in Mind

Raise FREE Donations... when you shop online. It's simple and costs you no more than your shopping. Visit one of our charity pages to discover how easy it is for you to help otters even more:



<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/iosf>



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/iosfund/>



<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/international-otter-survival-fund/>

Regular and secure giving to IOSF and otter conservation... at your fingertips.  
Text OTTER 10 to 70085 to donate £10 (or change the amount to however much you wish to give)



You can donate monthly via our partners at the DONR giving platform that allows an easy and safe way method to give. This can be as little or as much as you can afford. Visit <https://www.donr.com/iosf> to find out more.

### Annual Supporters' Rates

#### UK and EEC Countries:

Adult: £24.00 per year

Child: £13.00 per year

Family: £34.00 per year

Life Membership (all countries): £350.00

#### All other countries:

Adult: £30.00 per year

Child: £15.00 per year

Family: £40.00 per year

*Have you enjoyed reading this e-newsletter? Then please forward it to someone else and spread the word.*

*If you are reading this for the first time and would like to receive all IOSF mailings, click [here](#) to sign up. Please be assured that we will never pass on your details to any other party and you will only ever receive emails from us.*

### Discover Ways You Can Help

There are many ways in which you can raise money and awareness to help the otters in our **Fundraising Pack** or find out what some of our supporters have done over the years in the online **newsletters**.

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Join our IOSF mailing list. Click on this link:  
<http://tinyurl.com/p3lrsmx>

[www.otter.org](http://www.otter.org)

**The International Otter Survival Fund**  
Working to Save the Worlds Otters