



## Otter News No. 133, July 2022

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### News from The Sanctuary

We reported in our last newsletter of how the “summer” on the Isle of Skye hadn’t been very summery at all and, in fact, was one of the wettest in our memory. Since then, the weather has improved somewhat. We haven’t been offered the warm sunny days that the rest of the country has had but we have had some improved days and less rain than previously.



Storm hiding away

This was music to Bealltainn’s ears, who is a real lover of the dry and warmer weather. In the last short while she has been very independent and kept herself to herself. She has a safe, dry and sheltered spot that she loves beside the pool and we haven’t seen her in her sleeping box for a sustained period of time now. It is great to see her enjoying her enclosure.

Storm, the otter that is closest to release, is a big, beautiful otter and progressing perfectly towards his release which isn’t too far away!

Wally too is growing bigger and bigger, seemingly by the day. Over the months he has grown in confidence and is using the whole of his extended pen now with obvious signs of his digging and landscaping work that otters are so keen to do!



Wally enjoying his comfy nest

Baird continues to grow and is now up to 3 fish per day. His insatiable appetite continues to grow, and he is a very reserved character. He comes out to get his fish and then disappears to the safety of his sleeping quarters.

Finally, Cass, who is doing very well but is a very reserved otter. She is extremely nervous during feeding time and we have to make a concerted effort to check on her as she insists on hiding in the safety of her sleeping box or dense vegetation before finally emerging, which is perfect.



Cass not hiding away

*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 <http://www.ottershop.co.uk>*



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*



## A New Sleeping Box for IOSF's Otters

**We currently have five wonderful otters here at the IOSF Sanctuary, all at varying stages of life and rehabilitation.** To provide these otters with a suitable space, giving them the freedom to be happy and comfortable, takes up a lot of space and resources. Due to this we are looking to expand our enclosure base



Ben receiving the new otter sleeping box from Broadford's Men's Shed

and develop our existing enclosures, in order to make space for potential new arrivals. First on the list for additions to our sanctuary is a new otter sleeping box, and Broadford & Strath Community Company's - Men's Shed has answered the call for help!

The Men's Shed became the first of its kind in this area in 2018, and is one of many projects that is part of the Growers Hub which was enabled by The National Lottery Community Fund and open to everyone (not just men!).

The guys at The Shed could not have been happier to help us with this project, and not only have they taken the time to create the box, they have also donated their great work to us. We are truly grateful for this extremely kind gesture, and we can't wait to show the lucky first resident their new space. We think it's only right that the oldest member of the group gets the top spot on the guest list, and so hopefully in the coming

weeks we can get a photo of Cass enjoying her lovely new home!

Thank you very much to everyone at the Men's Shed for their work and, if you are local to Skye & Lochalsh and in need of something making/fixing, be sure to get in touch with them to see how they can help you! We can't recommend them enough!

## Concerns over Austin Aquarium

**PETA have recently launched concerns over an aquarium in Austin Aquarium and its treatment of the animals that they are exhibiting.** They're investigation centres around both physical and psychological mistreatment of a variety of species, including Asian short-clawed otters.

They are now campaigning to have these animals removed from the care of Austin Aquarium and into facilities that will appropriately care for them.

You can learn more about PETA's investigation at the link below and also steps you can take to help.

Please be warned that viewer discretion is advised when watching the video as some people may find this distressing.

[https://investigations.peta.org/austin-aquarium/?utm\\_source=PETA::E-](https://investigations.peta.org/austin-aquarium/?utm_source=PETA::E-Mail&utm_medium=Alert&utm_campaign=0722::ent::PETA::E-Mail::BREAKING%20Stressed%20Animals%20Denied%20Vet%20Care%20Dead%20Austin%20Aquarium:::aa%20em)

[Mail&utm\\_medium=Alert&utm\\_campaign=0722::ent::PETA::E-](https://investigations.peta.org/austin-aquarium/?utm_source=PETA::E-Mail&utm_medium=Alert&utm_campaign=0722::ent::PETA::E-Mail::BREAKING%20Stressed%20Animals%20Denied%20Vet%20Care%20Dead%20Austin%20Aquarium:::aa%20em)

[Mail::BREAKING%20Stressed%20Animals%20Denied%20Vet%20Care%20Dead%20Austin%20Aquarium:::aa%20em](https://investigations.peta.org/austin-aquarium/?utm_source=PETA::E-Mail&utm_medium=Alert&utm_campaign=0722::ent::PETA::E-Mail::BREAKING%20Stressed%20Animals%20Denied%20Vet%20Care%20Dead%20Austin%20Aquarium:::aa%20em)

**World Otter Day Event in Benin** (photo courtesy of The Human Nature Projects, Benin) **The Human Nature Projects – Benin implemented an awareness programme for World Otter Day in Abomey-Calavi, Benin, which was supported by one of the International Otter Survival Fund grants for 2021.** However, due to COVID-19 concerns within Benin the programme had to be postponed. It was decided that the event would be run on World Otter Day 2022, so we are delighted the HNP-Benin managed to achieve such a positive programme.





During the workshop, the participants received a presentation on the importance of otters in our environment, the different species of otters found in Benin, as well as threats that otter populations face and the different solutions envisaged for the safeguarding of otters in Benin. This was followed by an open discussion on what steps could be made to conserve otters in the area.



Furthermore, the participants discussed steps moving forward including how to involve more of the community, such as young people; government; potential hunters and other similar stakeholders. They all showed interest in doing more for otters, including using

education, and it is great to see such a positive response for otters in the future.



**This Team Otter report focuses on Peter MacKinnon who has been out investigating during his school holidays.** Peter is part of the Team Otter Broadford group and on a recent trip to Eriskay has been in search of our elusive favourite animal.

Peter, pictured at the causeway to Eriskay (right), found lots of signs of otter, but didn't manage to spot an individual. However, on his travels with his family, he did manage to see and hear lots of the amazing bird life that the island boasts.

It is great to see young people so engaged with nature and take so much joy in doing so!



**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)**

### Become an IOSF Life Supporter

Our supporters are always valued by us as a crucial source of support for the work that we are doing, and those of you that become life supporters are highly appreciated.

For a one-off payment of £350 you can become a Life Supporter and give your long-term commitment to help secure a better future for otters in the UK and around the world.

We will send you a certificate showing your life supporter status and you will continue to receive full updates in our newsletters, on all of the work that we are doing.  
<https://www.ottershop.co.uk/become-a-life-supporter-c2x9466694>

**A LEGACY IS A GREAT WAY OF GIVING TO SOMETHING CLOSE TO YOUR HEART** and every gift makes 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.



## Thank You...

for your continued generosity to help us in our work with otters.

We also thank: The Walker 597 Trust, Mrs. Patricia Harwood (bequest)

And, our Corporate Sponsors: Andrew Poplett Enterprises Ltd, The Fenn Bell Conservation Project, Nurtured by Nature, [holidaycottages.co.uk](http://holidaycottages.co.uk).

*You keep us moving forward*

## IOSF Otter Oscars

Here at IOSF we are very excited to announce that we are now accepting nominations for the IOSF Otter Oscar Awards 2022.

IOSF's annual awards for otter conservation give special recognition to those who have worked to help otters, and you can now nominate someone (including yourself) that is deserving of the award.

You can nominate someone under the following categories:

- Young Person (under 18)
- Community Achievement
- Group or Organisation
- Research
- Photography/Artwork (1MB minimum size please)
- Special Award



If you know of someone that is deserving of recognition and you want to nominate them, then please click here ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpBO7orWI\\_7ncmaYtIPL8EFnd1bEYUvzy2qM-YQixiYD-LvA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpBO7orWI_7ncmaYtIPL8EFnd1bEYUvzy2qM-YQixiYD-LvA/viewform?usp=sf_link)) We will be accepting nominations until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November and announcing the winners on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## 13 Weeks of Otters

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July saw the end to our first month of the “13 Weeks of Otters” series on our social media platforms, and we are really pleased with how it has been received.

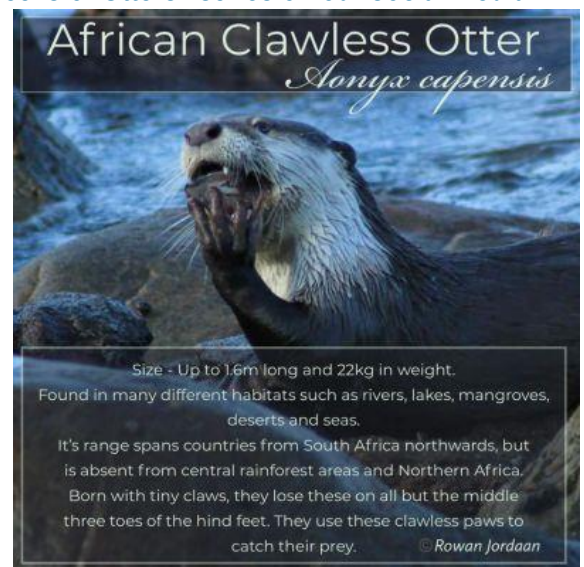
Giving focus to all otters, one species at a time, allows us to spread awareness of a variety of different issues surrounding their struggles, whilst also educating those who may not have come across the lesser known species very often. We appreciate that not everyone wants to read long informational posts on social media, and so we have created an infographic for each species that is light and easy to read.

So far we have put the spotlight on the Marine Otter, Giant Otter, Smooth-coated Otter and most recently the African Clawless Otter, reaching thousands of people in the process. Keep on the lookout for our Monday afternoon posts to see who will be next on the list!

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalOtterSurvivalFund/>

<https://twitter.com/IOSF/>

[https://www.instagram.com/iosf\\_otters/](https://www.instagram.com/iosf_otters/)



## theBigGive Christmas Challenge 2022

*One donation, twice the impact*

IOSF has been selected to participate in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2022 the UK's largest match funding campaign which last year raised over £22 million for participating charities... find out what it's all about here: <https://www.thebiggive.org.uk/christmas-challenge/>

We will be raising money for our project 'More Pens for Injured and Orphaned Otters'. Donations to this project will be matched for 7 days from 12 pm on 29th November, #GivingTuesday. **One donation, twice the impact.**

### What happens during the Christmas Challenge?

Donations made to our project via [theBigGive.org.uk](http://theBigGive.org.uk) will be doubled during the campaign. If you would like to support our work this year, this is a great opportunity to see your donation doubled and make even more of a difference to us.

Alternatively you might be interested in making a pledge which will be used as match funds to double online donations made to our charity during the campaign. Your commitment to funding might also help us to secure additional match funds via a Champion (sourced by the Big Give). You can do so by completing this online form by the deadline of **5 pm, Friday 2nd September**

<https://www.thebiggive.org.uk/s/pledge?campaignId=a056900002Nekf2AAB>

### Otter Shop Product of the Month

[www.ottershop.co.uk](http://www.ottershop.co.uk)

Take a look at our fresh new IOSF clothing designs, created in an eco-friendly way through our new clothing store, provided by Rapanui side company Teemill. We love them and are sure you will too.



Rapanui is a clothing company based on the Isle of Wight, dedicated to developing sustainable products in a way that has minimal effect on the earth. Items are made using organic materials, and are produced to order in their renewable energy powered workshop. The efforts Rapanui and Teemill have put in to the sustainability side of the company have led to them being certified as carbon neutral. Another added benefit of operating through Teemill is their weekend programmes, such as the "One Tee, One Kg" initiative they ran last weekend. This meant that for every item bought on the store over the weekend, they would remove one kg of plastic waste from waterways and shorelines.

We feel this is a perfect fit for us, as the otter is an ambassador species for a clean environment, and the more we can help to keep their habitats healthy, the more they can thrive!

If you would like to see what is on offer at our Teemill store, you can find it by following the link here! - <https://international-otter-survival-fund.teemill.com/>

### News in Brief

#### Otter photographed in Korea

In 2007 Paul and Grace Yoxon were in South Korea for an otter conference. Otters were once common in the country but populations had declined over several decades. However, they were still present in rivers and coastal areas and there was a concerted effort to create more otter awareness. The otter was portrayed as a





symbol of peace between North and South Korea and they were designated as Natural Monument No.330 in 1982 and Korean Endangered Species I in 2004.

In 2013 the Korea Otter Research Centre was established and built in Hwacheon-gun, where they carry out research, education and rearing otter cubs.

It was therefore interesting to see a photo published on 12 July of an otter hunting in the Namdae Stream in the eastern port of Gangneung.

<https://www.socialnews.xyz/2022/07/12/seoul-an-otter-searches-for-food-at-namdae-stream-in-the-eastern-port-of-gangneung-gallery/>

### Otters “captured” in Leusden, Netherlands

Otters were previously extinct in the Netherlands but since then a successful reintroduction process has taken place and the recovery of the Dutch otter population seems to continue.

Recently, there were reports of otter tracks in Leusden and now there are pictures, courtesy of Ellen van Noren, Mammal Society. Otters in the area are largely nocturnal and therefore they are seldom seen but the photo, taken at night, shows an otter in the area. Van Norren states that all the hard work and effort to create a healthy ecosystem have been realised thanks to the return of the otter. As you know, otters need healthy habitat, such as vegetation and good water quality, and an abundance of prey. Their return indicates this for the area.

They have also been careful not to share the otter’s location to reduce any disturbance on the individuals.

The following link is in Dutch.

<https://www.leusderkrant.nl/lokaal/dieren/802158/de-otter-is-terug-in-leusden>



### Couple find an otter on their bed!

Peter and Linda Goldie were in their holiday home in Skinburness, Cumbria, and found an otter asleep on the bed. Apparently it got in through a pet gate meant to stop their cat escaping. Before its snooze it ate the cat’s food and rearranged some of the furnishings.

*This is not the first time that we have heard about such an incident. Many years ago we were called to a house about a mile from us in the township of Waterloo, near Broadford. The owners had seen the cat come in through the catflap and go upstairs but when they went to go to bed they found it wasn’t their cat but an otter! Fortunately this one hadn’t done any damage and we were soon able to get it out through the porch and back to the shore where it belonged.*

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/19241211/couple-find-otter-asleep-bed/>

**CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP - WHETHER YOU OWN A BUSINESS OR ARE EMPLOYED, does the company have a green policy/ support conservation? Then perhaps the company would like to consider becoming a Corporate Member with IOSF and supporting our work with otters.**

You can find out more information on our website [http://otter.org/Public/HelpUs\\_CorporateSponsorship.aspx](http://otter.org/Public/HelpUs_CorporateSponsorship.aspx)



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

You can follow us on:



### 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

## 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>

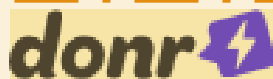


<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/iosfund/>



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

OR, scan and add our charity code  
**62575**



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.



<https://giveacar.co.uk/charities/international-otter-survival-fund/>

**GiveACar** - turn your old car/bike/van/caravan into cash for IOSF. With free collection, your vehicle will be auctioned or sold for scrap, depending on its condition, and the proceeds (minus service fees) raised going to support our work in otter conservation.

Find out more at <https://giveacar.co.uk> or call 020 7736 4242



*Have you enjoyed reading this? Then please **SHARE** it with 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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Charity Number SC003875

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

