



Otter News No. 130, March/April 2022

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IOSF #WorldOtterDay 2022

Not long now!

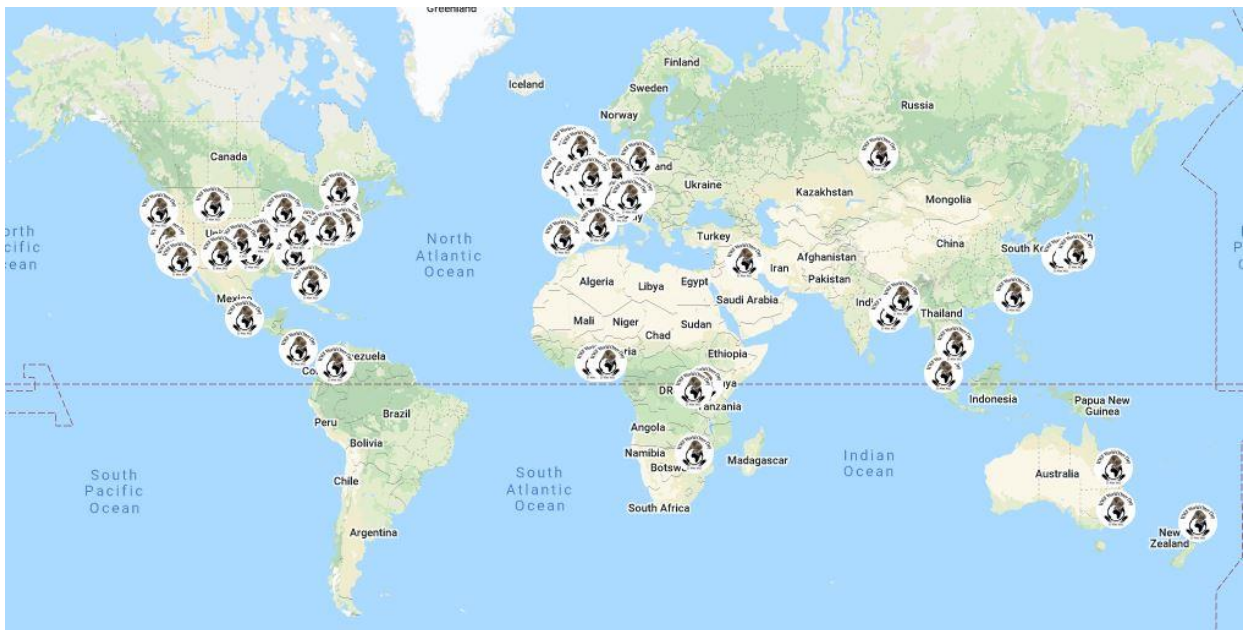
World Otter Day is almost upon us and we would love for you to join us with an event, raising awareness on social media or any other ways you want to help otters.

Use that hashtag... #WorldOtterDay

Events Map

There are currently 71 events on the map. Your event could be there too if you contact us with some basic information about what you have planned (Ben@otter.org).

See our map here: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=14bwLPiHYuKmNXrES8yZh81V-r1fNLmUb&usp=sharing>



Resources

Find our World Otter Day Resources on the IOSF website

(<https://otter.org/Public/MediaAndResources/Resources/OtherEducationalResources.aspx>).

Webinar

World Otter Day 2022 will see our second webinar following on from the success of last year. This has shown to be a great way for anyone from around the world, interested in otters and their conservation, to come together and listen to presentations from a variety of fascinating projects. We believe it is important to showcase otters and the amazing work being done globally and this provides that opportunity. So far we have over 140 people signed up to attend.



The Webinar will take place on Wednesday 25 May (World Otter Day) and there will be two sessions with different speakers in each. The sessions will take place at the following times:

Morning Session - 09.00 - 11.30am (UK Time)

Evening Session - 17.00 - 19.30 (UK Time)

We are delighted to announce 10 new topics and speakers for this year's event. Please note, presentation titles may differ from the outlines below:

Morning:

- * Dr Paul Yoxon – "Otter Spraint Surveys and Spraint Analysis - and Limitations"
- * Dr Eleanor Kean - "Unexpected results from a nation-wide otter survey of Wales"
- * Mohan Shrestha, Nepal - "Eurasian Otter in Nepal- Unveiling the presence after three decades"
- * Frederick Kistner – "What you can learn by looking at otter footprints—An introduction to the Footprint Identification Technology (FIT) for Otters."
- * Klaudja Koci/Bledi Hoxha - "An overview of European Otter research and monitoring in the Prespa Lakes, Albania"

Evening:

- * Adriana Belen Vallejos - "The distribution of Neotropical Otters and the climate crisis: A study case in northern Argentina"
- * Ana Maria Montes Ferro – Giant otters and communities
- * Javier Trivelli and Valentina Diaz Savaria - "Chungungo: Re-Ottering Chile"
- * Nicola Okes – Otters in South Africa and the increase in "urban" otters.
- * Heather Barrett, Sea Otter Savvy - "Being Sea Otter Savvy"



The Webinar is free of charge so that as many people can attend but if you would like to make a donation to support our event please use this link - <https://ottershop.co.uk/products/donate-to-iosf-world-otter-day-webinar>

If you are interested in joining the Webinar, then please complete the form here - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciYpLYHZnzWbagg1dJhNpCPB6ExiLQloh1u2PvQg0IR0kcjiA/viewform>

Let's enjoy celebrating otters together this May!

News from The Sanctuary

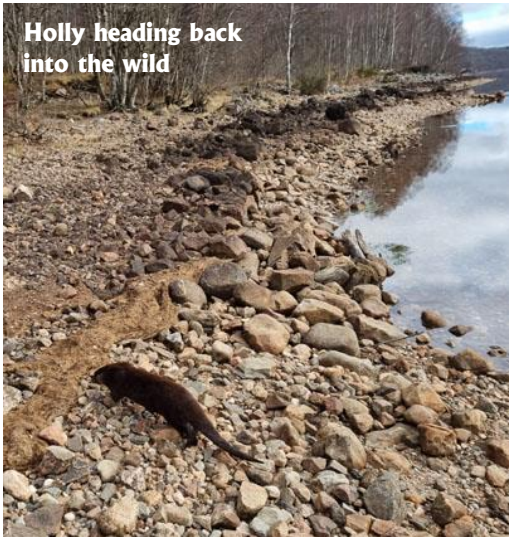
In late March a sanctuary cycle was completed, as Holly was successfully released back into her natural habitat. Holly displayed and retained good wild instincts and behaviour during her development teaching us a lot on the way. As the door was open to her new life, she didn't waste time in returning. Holly ran out her box amid the excitement of the natural world and didn't look back as she set off to explore!



Holly

Thank you for helping us get Holly back where she belongs, we could not have done it without our sponsors and supporters.





In early April, Wally (above right) made the giant leap from the otter hospital up to the croft, to be the new neighbour of the already resident young male Storm. Initially this was much to his annoyance, and he made sure his feelings were known to those who were tasked with the big move, however he soon settled into his new surroundings. With more space to move and grow, this is a big step for any young otter that is with us for rehabilitation. Since the move, Wally has progressed well whilst continuing to be very wary of the humans who drop him a couple of fish off a day, often waiting for them to leave and be far from eyesight before venturing out for a nibble. In recent days, he has shown a braver side to his blossoming personality, popping his head out from his sleeping quarters to see what's on the menu of the day as it is being delivered. By the empty box a little while after delivery, we are assuming he is quite happy with the offerings.

Another happy customer on the fish front is Storm (left), who continues to develop and grow week on week. The boisterous juvenile has increased his daily food intake recently, and is showing great natural signs of progression, often digging around his cage (and creating a mess in the process) and making use of his pool for both swimming, and hiding!



The upturn in weather was very pleasing for the sanctuary's only current female. Bealltainn appears to be a big fan of sunbathing, often seen (at a distance) in the last weeks lapping up the warmth in her favoured corner of her pen. We believe this may be her spot of choice as not only can she sit and enjoy the sun, she can also make use of the surrounding long grass to hide. Do you have the detective skills to find her in this image?



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:
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New Otter Hospital

Work began on our new otter hospital in early April, starting by a complete rip out of the old internal walls/plasterboarding and windows as well as the old external sheeting. The new framing is in place and the new metal sheets have arrived, allowing us to get the building enclosed once again.



We will be sure to keep you updated with progress on the build as it happens.

Otter Shop Product of the Month

www.ottershop.co.uk

Delightful new cushion cover designs from Perkins and Morley [HERE](#) at the Otter Shop now... made from high quality cotton/linen, zip fastening and printed on one side.

Dry clean or handwash only.
Hand made happily in UK.
Size: 45x45cm



<https://ottershop.co.uk/collections/at-home/products/exciting-otter-design-cushion-covers-perkins-morley?variant=42088150696095>



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

donr 

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

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

Thank You... your continued support through direct donations, our Facebook Fundraisers, sponsored challenges is so inspiring.

And to Trusts and organisations:

Action for the Wild, Animal Friends, Arnold Clark, The Humane Society, William Haddon Charitable Trust, Ian Mactaggart Trust, Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, Skye Films, PJF Storrs Charitable Trust, Neil and Pauline Pettefar Charitable Trust.

Corporate Sponsors: Travel Chapter

We can't do it without you.

News in Brief

Canadian rescued otter released

We have received an update from our friends in Canada about a rescued male North American River Otter they have been caring for.

Remember this little otter? When he came into Wild ARC, he was scared, thin, and covered in puncture wounds. His first days in care were quiet, and we thought he would be in our care for a long haul. However, once his wounds were healed, he was given access to our specialized pool pen, giving him a place to practice all his natural behaviours and get his strength up.

We were shocked by how quickly he perked up! It's amazing what a few days of specialized nutrition and professional care can do. He was a VERY healthy eater, and managed to gain nearly 2 kg in care – this is a lot



for an animal who would normally weigh (at most) 14 kg.

It wasn't long before this rough-and-tumble teen was ready for release. It was a quiet day and the water was calm. He took his time leaving the kennel, but once he did, there was no turning back! Staff watched him eagerly wander off and swim confidently back out into the wild near where he was found.

Detroit otter!

We have told you many times of how the North American River Otter was hunted to the brink of extinction during the height of the fur trade in the area. Considerable conservation efforts across their previous range have allowed the species to “rebound” but they still haven't reclaimed all of their previous territories.

One such place was the Detroit River. The river, which forms part of the border between the US and Canada (and Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario) is a small stretch of water which connects Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie. It is believed that otters have not resided in the river since the early 1900s but this has since changed.



**North American river otter in the Detroit River
(credit: Eric Ste Marie)**

Otters expanded across much of the region but hadn't been confirmed to be back in the Detroit River. A few anecdotal sightings from citizens were never confirmed, aside this sighting and picture, by Eric Ste Marie, at the end of April which is the first confirmed sighting of otters in the area for around 100 years!

It is always great to see otters regaining their old areas.
<https://www.greatlakesnow.org/2022/04/river-otters-detroit-river/>

Golden Doodle rescues otter cub

When vets found cancer in Gus, the Golden Doodle, it was going to be tough for the dog. He had one of his back legs amputated and is undergoing chemotherapy to help his condition. Nevertheless, this hasn't stopped Gus being the happy, bouncy dog he always has been. Furthermore, it hasn't stopped Gus from being a hero and rescuing a young otter in need.

During a walk on Easter Sunday, Gus clearly had something on his mind and in his sight. He took to the water and returned with something in his mouth. Gus seemed to know that the little otter needed help as he took it straight to his keepers who managed to get the little otter to a rescue centre as soon as possible.

The rescue centre stated that Gus' actions are likely to have saved the otter cub's life and it was unlikely to have survived without Gus' intervention.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/three-legged-dog-cancer-rescues-otter/>



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 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 will take you to our dedicated web page concerning making a Legacy.

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



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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

All other countries:

Adult: £30.00 per year
Child: £15.00 per year
Family: £40.00 per year

Life Membership (all countries): £350.00

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

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The International Otter Survival Fund
Working to Save the Worlds Otters

