



Otter News No. 142, May 2023

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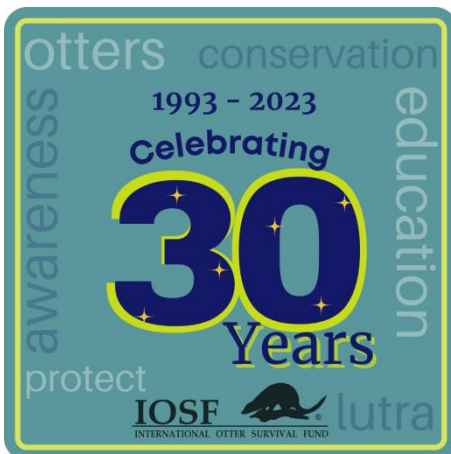
What another fantastic World Otter Day, and we just want to say a massive THANK YOU to all of those who got involved. We were inundated on social media with otters everywhere – the best day! From social media posts to events in 40 different countries, the effort was massive.

Of course, **World Otter Day** is a great chance for us to speak about our work, and raise money for this, but the main focus is always to raise awareness for all otters and to put their stories in places they don't always reach. We have been overwhelmed with the amount of social media tags and posts highlighting these wonderful animals (with **#WorldOtterDay** trending on Twitter!) and, with this, we feel fuelled up and ready to reach even further next year, in the hope of a positive future for otters!

The **IOSF World Otter Day** webinar was a great success and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our otter expert speakers for their time and efforts in making it so successful and enjoyable.

Our next e-update will be fully dedicated to everything that happened during **World Otter Day** but for now, we just want to say **THANK YOU!**

Can You Help IOSF for Our 30th Anniversary?



As you know this year is our 30th anniversary and we want as many people as possible to know about this.

You will find a press release about the anniversary at this link https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fP9G4k-qPU1_t8Dm_acv47sTZz4H1Ja/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105747327753795859287&rtoref=true&sd=true and we would ask you to send it to your local papers or possibly post in libraries, etc.

We want more people to join with IOSF to help the world's otters.

Good News from Germany

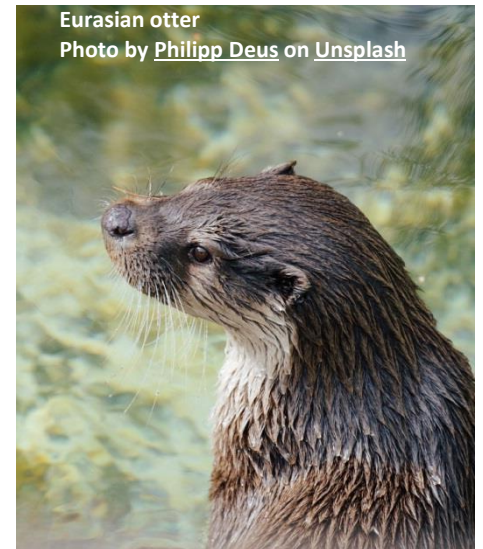
We have been extremely worried about the very real threat to otters in Germany from a proposed cull. Now we are delighted to report that this has not been given permission to go ahead.

The district government had given permission to kill otters at fish ponds in the Upper Palatinate but conservationists from the Bund Naturschutz had taken this to court and the permission was rescinded. The Free State of Bavaria appealed against this only for the Bavarian Administrative Court (VGH) to support the conservationists once more.



The chairman of Bund Naturschutz said "The court has once again confirmed the strict protection status of the otter and criticised the fact that the killing was approved, although there is no proof that damage to the pond economy can be prevented as a result. We very much hope that this will finally take the issue off the table, that the state government will withdraw the new otter culling ordinance passed at the end of April, and that measures to preserve pond management with otters will finally come to the fore again."

This is indeed great news and hopefully it can set a precedent in other areas where otter culls are proposed. Thank you to Heidi Davis for keeping us updated on this.



Hairy-nosed Otter Rescued in Thailand (Photos ©WFFT)

We recently heard from Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) that they have rescued two otters being kept as pets and that one of them is a rare hairy-nosed otter! The two otters had been kept for about six years and finally the owner decided they needed a better home and handed them over to WFFT.

The Hairy-nosed otter is called Oreo and his best friend, an Asian small-clawed otter, is called Bacon. They are both males and inseparable, which is amazing to see in two totally different species.



Oreo



Bacon

Some of you may remember Neary, another Hairy-nosed otter, who is in care at Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre in Cambodia. As far as we are aware, these two animals are the only two members of this species in captivity although, of course, there may be more being kept as pets.

Tom Taylor from WFFT told us "Yes we have indeed received a Hairy-nosed otter this week. He was kept as a pet for 6 years, he was bought from a wildlife trader in Thailand and that is literally all we know about his history. He and his 'brother' are both settling in well. We are hoping to build a special enclosure for them this month."

If you would like to donate towards the care of Oreo and Bacon you can donate at the Otter Shop here: <https://ottershop.co.uk/products/donate-to-iosf?variant=40608764100767>



Dangers of Pet Otters

We often stress how important it is for the wild populations, not consider otters as pets, but it is also important to reiterate that they are not suitable pets to have around the house.

Just like any wild animal, otters are defensive, noisy and smelly – not the perfect pet to have around! People are becoming more tempted, given how cute otters are, to keep them as pets but it really is important that we understand that they don't make good pets, are difficult to look after, and the exotic pet trade is having major issues on their wild populations.

The article (see link below) states that Asian small-clawed otters are caught up in the pet trade, but you can see from recent events in Thailand that all species are found, including those which are incredibly rare. As a group of otter lovers, we must do our best not to share, or like, anything that connects to pet otters, and encourage people to focus their love of otters on wild populations and their conservation.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230601/p2a/00m/0li/020000c>



Otter Sightings in Ireland



The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in Ireland is looking for otter sightings to help in their national survey of otters across the region. They are calling for members of the public to get involved in the survey by offering their sightings to the study.

The NPWS are going to be out surveying for otters but are hoping that a combination of their surveys and citizen science can help fill all gaps on one of Ireland's more elusive species.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/fe6b3-spotted-an-otter-lately-the-national-parks-and-wildlife-service-wants-to-know/>

News from The Sanctuary

Over the last month the Isle of Skye, and the sanctuary, has been enjoying some great weather, with a sustained dry period. This has allowed much of the ground to dry out so wellies aren't so much of a necessity at the moment.

Our otters are all doing really well and continue to progress through their rehabilitation.

Winston and Eden are a charismatic duo and enjoying their time together. Eden is the more reclusive of the two and is rarely seen, as he doesn't choose to come out from under his bedding. Winston, however, stands guard and makes sure everything is in order and that they are undisturbed and safe. It is when we have gone that they choose to come out and use their whole enclosure.



Dòbhran (right) continues to grow and is a strong, healthy lad! He has taken advantage of this better weather to



enjoy his fish, and the occasional octopus treat, outside.



Bealltinn

Bealltinn, as mentioned last month, is passed her three-year anniversary in our care. She still enjoys relaxing in the sun, her food and a quiet life.

We were recently contacted about an otter in distress in Lochaber. The otter had been seen throughout the day and had settled in Isabel Isherwood's garden, who contacted IOSF. Once we had seen photographs, we feared the worst for this otter but, with a little bit of rest, small amounts of food and hydration from Isabel, the otter was gone in the morning. Isabel did see an otter in the water nearby but we'll never know if it was the same individual!

Keeping her eyes peeled, Isabel has not seen the otter for a few days, so we hope that no news is good news, though will probably never know.

Let us all hope this was a positive resolution for the little otter, and thanks to Isabel for her care in helping it out.

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



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*

Otter Shop Product of the Month

www.ottershop.co.uk

Snuggle up to your cosy cushion dressed up in one of these fantastic otter design covers from Perkins & Morley. Made in a beautiful linen/cotton mix fabric and designed in the UK.



https://ottershop.co.uk/products/exciting-otter-design-cushion-covers-perkins-morley?_pos=1&_sid=4b09ffc6f&_ss=r



Thank You...

to all of you out there who continue to send in donations, create fundraisers on Facebook, use various platforms for fundraising events and earn free donations with your online spending. We appreciate every penny.

Big Wild Thought and Old MacDonald's Farm.

And, to our Corporate Sponsors: Andrew Poplett Enterprises Ltd, Nurtured by Nature, holidaycottages.co.uk.



As you will have read in our last newsletter, IOSF's education officer, Ben, was planning a visit to Lochgoilhead and to the Isle of Mull to talk all things otters.

Ben started his few days on the road in Lochgoilhead, a small community in Argyll and Bute. Here he visited the 28 children attending the Lochgoilhead Primary school and spent the whole day with them. The school is split in to 3 classes, pre-school, the 'Wee Class' (primary 1-3) and the "Big Class" (primary 4-7). The pre-school kids were given a fun, interactive introduction to otters. They learned how to identify otters, what they eat and where they live before spending time colouring in their otter masks and creating their very own species!

As the day went on, Ben, visited the 'wee class' and 'big class', at separate times to deliver his introduction to otters and their conservation.



The children learned all about what makes otters unique, why we need to protect them and what they can do to help!

Following their respective talks, the younger group spent time colouring in their otter masks, while the older group took their newly-learned skills to the test. We took a walk and searched for otter signs along the River Goil, finding some

under a bridge – a common hotspot for otter spraint.

Lochgoilhead Primary School have also chosen to adopt Eden, so helping to look after his care, and joined us for World Otter Day, which you will read about next month.

We would like to thank Lochgoilhead Primary school and community for welcoming Ben to their village and also Tracey and James Copley for looking after him during his stay there.

Ben then headed to the Isle of Mull, where he was joined by Mull Otter Group, for an "Otter Workshop" with the Isle of Iona Primary School. The Iona pupils travelled to Craignure on Mull, where they were given an introduction to otters and told about what makes them so special. There were also different 'stations' set up where they could learn about various aspects such as threats to otters and how to reduce them; what to do if you find an otter you believe is in trouble; as well as finding otter signs with an otter-walk with Nigel, of Mull Otter Group, and Ben.



A huge thanks to Iona Primary School for joining us for the session!

So this month Ben visited Broadford Primary School, along with Whale and Dolphin Conservation and using their new “inflatable whale” to help deliver a project on whales, dolphins and ocean conservation. Although not directly otters, it is important for children to understand the whole network of biodiversity and to keep engaged with the many species we share the planet with. This event was well received across the school and a massive thank you to Eilidh and Lorna from Whale and Dolphin Conservation for visiting Skye, and Broadford.

We were delighted to see, over the numerous sessions, the passion and knowledge that the children have for the environment, wildlife and, of course, otters!



Team Otter Broadford is still working towards its 30 for 30 fundraiser. You can check out their progress here and please donate if you can! - <https://www.justgiving.com/page/team-otter-broadford-1676536990827>

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

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

News in Brief

Otter footbridge installed in Denmark

Some time ago Aksel bo Madsen was involved in the installation of pontoons under bridges to allow otters to follow the waterway no matter the height of the river. Otters, for some reason, don't like going under bridges, so they will often go up the bank and cross the road or railway. They will use solid otter underpasses but these end



up under water in times of flood whereas pontoons move up and down with the water level.

Now a 10m long pontoon has been installed by Banedanmark under a railway bridge carrying the line to Ribe over the River Tved. The company's biodiversity project manager Sigrid Kistrup Ilsøe said "We can now give the otters a safer way past the train traffic. We are very happy about that. We have to look after the animals that live in the areas where the railway is located."

Well done Banedanmark

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/infrastructure/otter-footbridge-installed-in-denmark/63868.article>

Sea Otter Reintroduction gathers pace

We have reported a few times about the plans to reintroduce otters in to the Bay Area, California. It is well documented, the importance of sea otters to their ecosystem and also how their populations are beginning to recover. However, in some areas, they have had difficulty recovering and there have been feasibility studies in the Bay area of California, close to San Francisco, about the possibility of reintroducing them.



Despite a generally positive response,

the next steps in this programme lie with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to approve these plans for otter to be slowly reintroduced.

<https://sfist.com/2023/05/28/sea-otter-reintroduction-plan-gains-momentum-in-bay-area/>

Vote for IOSF at

Cast Your FREE Vote **discount promocode** **to Help the International Otter Survival Fund to Win a Donation** this June

in the Discount Promo Codes charity poll!

Every month, the money saving website Discount Promo Codes donates 20% of their profits to charity. However, they need help deciding which good cause to donate to, which is why they host a monthly poll where 3 charities compete to win the donation.

Throughout the month, the public vote for the charity that they want to see win, and the charity with the most votes wins 20% of Discount Promo Codes profits for the month!

This month, The International Otter Survival Fund is one of the lucky charities hoping to win this donation - but we need your help! If you have a couple of seconds to spare and want to help IOSF to secure a donation in just 2 clicks of a mouse, then read below to see how to vote.

How Can I Vote for The International Otter Survival Fund?

Voting for the IOSF is super simple, 100% free and there is no need to sign up or enter any details. All you need to do is:

1. Visit the Discount Promo Codes website - <https://www.discountpromocodes.co.uk/>
2. Scroll down until you see the poll on the right hand side [Please note that the poll appears at the bottom of the page on mobile devices]
3. Vote for The International Otter Survival Fund!



Voting opens on 1st June 2023 and closes at midnight on 30th June 2023. Everyone gets 1 vote so make sure to share the poll with your family and friends!

How Will My Vote Help?

If IOSF wins the donation, then we can use the funds to further our fight for the conservation, care and protection of otters all over the world.

What Is Discount Promo Codes?

Discount Promo Codes is a website which hosts daily updated voucher codes to help online shoppers save money. They work with top retailers to bring the best deals on everything from holidays to handbags; and the best part is that they give 20% of their profits to charity every month. That means that every time you use a voucher, you help to raise more money for a good cause.

Please vote for the International Otter Survival Fund this June and help us to support the conservation and protection of this incredibly important, at risk species.

Thank you!

Photo of the Month

This month our image comes from Andy Coventry – “Otter in Waves”

This photo was taken on the River Don near Aberdeen and Andy tells us that it is of a young male otter he has been following since birth. The photo was actually taken a few years ago, not long after mum had chased the young otter off to fend for himself. He spent around four weeks regularly fishing at two weirs nearby, catching mostly eel and trout. Andy noticed that the youngster broke his lower left canine as a pup, so this made him easy to identify when seen at close quarters.



If you would like to submit a photo for our Photo of the Month please send it to Ben@otter.org together with the credit for the photographer.



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

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

You can follow us on:



Give a Little Extra Help

YOU can raise FREE donations when you shop online...

It's simple and costs no more than what you spend:

Donate – one-off or regular


<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





<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=630>


<https://donate.justgiving.com/donation-amount?uri=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGutYXBpLmp1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS99kb25hdGlvbnMvZjZiMjIxODIyZjE5NGZkZjhlMGM4YWYzMDQzODYyYzU=>




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




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



Vehicle Disposal – yes, even your old vehicle can earn great donations whether it's scrap or auction (fees apply)



Annual Adoption Renewal 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 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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Email: enquiries@otter.org
Tel/Fax: ++(0)1471 822487



Charity Number SC003875

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www.otter.org

The International Otter Survival Fund
Working to Save the World's Otters

