

Care for the orphaned, ill and abused

From migrating birds with natural injuries to wild animals rescued from an unnatural life in the pet trade, our affiliated wildlife rehabilitation centers and animal sanctuaries embody our mission to protect all animals.

Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, Murchison, Texas

Gustavo turned 15, a milestone birthday for a tiger who was obese when we rescued him in 2012. He was one of 11 wild animals The HSUS helped seize from a roadside zoo in Mississippi after our undercover investigator documented serious animal welfare issues and public safety concerns. Now, with proper care and room to run, Gustavo is fit and happy. He and almost 1,000 rescued domestic and exotic animals live at Black Beauty. The “Ranch of Dreams” is open to the public once or twice a month for small, prescheduled tours designed to respect the animals’ peace and privacy.

On the grounds of Black Beauty Ranch, the Doris Day Equine Center helps equine rescue groups better rehabilitate and rehome horses through the Forever Foundation training program. Well-trained horses are more adoptable, and boosting the rate of successful adoptions increases groups’ capacity to save lives.

Duchess Sanctuary, Oakland, Oregon

Some of our most popular video stars live at Duchess Sanctuary, an 1,120-acre facility that is home to formerly abused, abandoned, neglected and homeless equines. Rescued from the Pregnant Mare Urine industry, the 116 draft horses in our Big Herd now have nothing more strenuous to do than switch pastures every couple of weeks during the grazing season—and make the ground shake when they run. More than 70 other horses and donkeys also have permanent sanctuary. New this year are mares Birdie and Dorita, rescued from starvation and neglect by Douglas County Animal Control, and seven equines rescued by the Ark Watch Foundation. Diego, a Paso Fino; Sister, a Quarter Horse; and donkeys Mama Roana, Pepito, Theodore and Allie were all saved from slaughter. Angie, an Appaloosa, was suffering from starvation and pneumonia.

Cape Wildlife Center, Barnstable, Massachusetts

A nest fire—caused by power lines—is never good, but when you’re a young bird of prey who migrates in the fall, being

seriously injured in August is bad news. The osprey had respiratory problems from smoke inhalation and needed months of treatment at Cape Wildlife Center: oxygen therapy, supportive medications, fluids, nutritious food and more. But if the osprey stayed at the Cape to fully recover, it would be too late to migrate. In late November, volunteer Mike Koechlin drove the bird to South Florida Wildlife Center. There the osprey could finish recuperating, then either fly south or opt to winter in Florida.

South Florida Wildlife Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Providing skilled and compassionate care to orphaned, injured and imperiled wildlife for five decades, the center has grown to become the nation’s highest volume wildlife rehabilitation facility, caring for 13,000 animals annually. SFWC provides top-notch veterinary and rehabilitative care, including diagnostics, surgery and physical therapy; expert orphan rearing; and species-specific habitats designed to provide the optimal environment for healing and preparing animals to return to the wild. Our endangered species programs include gopher tortoises. Once a gopher tortoise has recuperated, we fit the tortoises with tracking devices. If our patient is a “waif”—meaning the home is unknown or destroyed—we use an approved waif release site.

The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center, Ramona, California

A bald eagle, near death when he was found, was one of the more majestic creatures to spend time at The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center this year—although, given the center’s specialty in native predators, he has competition for the title! One day the three-legged baby bear we cared for will be majestic, but unlike the eagle and most of our patients, who are rehabbed and released, the bear moved to a sanctuary. Spring rains caused a flood of patients, and the center had its busiest spring ever dealing with injured, sick and orphaned animals. By year-end, we had cared for some 800 animals.

Row 1: donkeys are a familiar sight at Black Beauty. Row 2: pelicans being released and an owl treated at SFWC. Row 3: the three-legged bear at FFAWC; Duchess horses in action during a photo workshop. Row 4: SFWC placed a tracking device on this tortoise; Gustavo the tiger at the ranch; a bald eagle ready for tube-feeding at FFAWC.

