



Trophy hunters prize the horns on elands such as Emma. Fortunately she joined the herd at Black Beauty Ranch instead of at a captive hunt facility.

SWIMMING LESSONS

THE HEART-WRENCHING

wails of a tiny, terrified river otter caught the attention of residents in Chatham, Massachusetts. Believing her to be orphaned, they captured the otter and brought her to a rehabilitation facility, which contacted the Cape Wildlife Center for help.

Estimated at just 2 months old, the little otter was too young to survive on her own. Center employees built a customized habitat where she thrived for six months, growing muscular and glossy-coated. They taught her natural behaviors by providing enrichment, and she delighted them with her enthusiastic acceptance of tunnels and ramps, and the stuffed items she'd drag immediately into a pool.



"At first she would run along the habitat fencing, following caregivers who went by. But as she grew, her interaction with people was heavily restricted," says center director Deborah Millman. "By the time she was 6 months old, she would hide from and often growl at people who got too close to her habitat."

At the advice of experts, staff decided the best time to release her would be in winter. At press time, she was expected to begin her new life in the wild in late January.

LANDING ON THE SAFE SIDE

EMMA, AN APPROXIMATELY 1,100-pound eland, will confidently eat out of a human's hand. Nigel, a majestic male nilgai, often sticks his nose through the fence to greet visitors.

At Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, these exotic animals face no threats. But under different circumstances, these behaviors would mean certain death.

Elands, native to Africa, and nilgai, native to India and Pakistan, are members of the antelope family and prized by trophy hunters for their special horns. Fortunately, Emma, Nigel and other exotics found sanctuary at Black Beauty when their previous owners could no longer care for them, escaping the tragic fate of being sold to captive hunt operators.

At captive hunt facilities, customers pay thou-

sands of dollars for the chance to "hunt" an animal trapped in an enclosure. Animals killed in captive hunts are frequently hand-raised and bottle-fed, so they've lost their natural fear of people.

That "makes them basically a sitting target," says Ben Callison, Black Beauty Ranch director. "It's why captive hunt facilities can guarantee kills. These animals literally will walk up and stick their nose into the barrel of a gun because they don't know any better."

An estimated 1,000-plus captive hunting facilities operate across the country, including some 500 operations in Texas alone. For \$5,000 to \$10,000, beautiful Emma could have ended up as someone's "trophy"

Instead, she and Nigel enjoy low-stress lives at Black Beauty, free to roam 35 peaceful acres.

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*Operated by HSUS affiliate The Fund for Animals

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Barnstable, MA 02637
fundforanimals.org/cape

*CLEVELAND AMORY
BLACK BEAUTY RANCH
12526 County Road 3806
Murchison, TX 75778
fundforanimals.org/blackbeauty

*DUCHESS SANCTUARY
1515 Shady Oaks Lane
Oakland, OR 97462
fundforanimals.org/duchess

*THE FUND FOR ANIMALS
WILDLIFE CENTER
18740 Highland Valley Road
Ramona, CA 92065
fundforanimals.org/wildlifecenter

SOUTH FLORIDA
WILDLIFE CENTER
3200 S.W. Fourth Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
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