Annual Review
A year on the front line for animals: campaigns, investigations, research, rescues and more in 2016

Animal Defenders International
ad-international.org

Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research
ldf.org.uk

National Anti-Vivisection Society
navs.org.uk
2016 was one of our most challenging years; campaigns running across Europe, the UK, US and Latin America conclusion of a massive rescue mission in Latin America – we were certainly stretched! Our small teams in the UK, Latin America and the US pursued campaigns with local partners on animals in circuses, animals in research and protection of wildlife. We also worked at international level, during the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) bi annual Conference of the Parties in South Africa in October 2016.

Operation Spirit of Freedom, the rescue of over 100 animals in Peru and Colombia was concluded at the end of April with the rehoming of 33 lions to South Africa. We had homed bears, monkeys and other animals to sanctuaries in their natural habitats and Hoover the tiger found his forever home at a sanctuary in Florida. Spider monkey Pepe and his new family, the other monkeys, coati mundis and kinkajous were taken to forest sanctuary homes, courtesy of the Peruvian Air Force and the President’s office. Our three spectacled bears Chollita, Lucho and Sabina, James the macaw and several of our other monkeys went to another forest sanctuary home. James and some of our monkeys are now back in the wild!

Our year was dominated by the size of the rescue, our mission, to permanently empty Peru of all of its circus animals and take the first nine lions following Colombia’s ban (the Government of Colombia has asked us to assist further, with over 70 wild animals). Our resources and fundraising focused on flights, trucks, construction work, veterinary care, food, much dental work for the lions, to repair the damage inflicted by the circuses. We completed the final natural bush habitats for our lion families in the first half of 2017. However, we had to return to Peru to finish the work – taking Dominga, another bald lady bear, to join the other bears; then our Peru team raided another circus to take spider monkey Zumba, now with Pepe’s crew. This project was a huge reach for such a small group of people!

Financially, the past two years have been extremely tough, as we stretched ourselves to complete this massive, important rescue and at the same time, push forward our campaigns on replacement of animals in research, circus campaigns in the UK and US, and wildlife issues, such as lion bones and trophy hunting. Although we work in partnership with local advocates, I am proud of our small, but determined and focused ADI teams around the world, we made a difference.

Our report for 2016 makes it clear that we have made a difference on many levels and our campaigns are effective, but as always there is still much to do. The challenge for 2017 and beyond is to increase our effectiveness along with our revenue to both sustain momentum and reach further to achieve more.

As always, our grateful thanks to our supporters, for standing with us and defending the animals, all over the world.
ADI works for long-term protection of animals used commercially, such as the entertainment industry (film, TV, advertising, travelling shows); animals used in research and their replacement with advanced non-animal techniques; exploitation of wildlife and wildlife protection for example animal trafficking, ivory, trophy hunting, lion bone trade.

Our current primary areas of activity are animals in research and the alternatives, and animals in entertainment. Our evidence led campaigns employ scientific, legal and economic research; detailed studies, empirical evidence, investigations to inform our education and awareness campaigns and these are often the catalyst for change and improved legislation to protect animals.

Our reports have been used by officials to inform regulations and legislation and our evidence of behind-the-scenes animal abuse has been used to secure convictions for animal cruelty.

As our aircraft carrying 33 lions touched down at Johannesburg airport at the end of April 2016, all circus animals in Peru had been removed. The culmination of a decade’s intense start-to-finish work from evidence-gathering and research to production of reports, films, educational materials to secure local and national action. The campaigns aim to provide a complete solution to enactment and enforcement of new laws to protect animals. Operation Spirit of Freedom in Peru and Colombia saw the benefits of this joined-up work.

The focus of our work on animal experimentation is the promotion, awareness, development and introduction of advanced, non-animal alternatives to replace animals. We explain how misleading results from animal tests have resulted in harm to human volunteers or patients, and suggest how such risks can be avoided through the use of advanced, non-animal methods. Through the Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research, we both promote new non-animal research techniques.

In 2016 a new charity ADI Foundation, was formed to take over the animal rescues, humane education and the work of the Lord Dowding Fund, promoting and funding non-animal scientific and medical research.

In London, ADI shares office space with the National Anti-Vivisection Society, the ADI Foundation and Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research; we have small satellite offices in Colombia, Peru and France. ADI US is a registered non-profit, headquartered in Los Angeles with satellite offices in Florida and Pennsylvania.

ADI educates and creates awareness to seek protection for animals. Through scientific and economic research, field work and investigations we press for legal protection.

When new laws are passed, we assist governments with practical solutions – including rescuing animals.
Animal Experiments

World Day for Laboratory Animals 2016

We exposed cruel monkey tests including a vaginal gel tested on female monkeys; monkeys being electrically masturbated during tests of a cancer drug; bolts and chambers screwed into the heads of monkeys; the gums of monkeys cut into and cavities created in teeth to test dental filling materials; monkeys suffering fever, lethargy and severe damage to the liver, spleen and lungs after being forced to inhale bacteria. We showed how disastrously misleading these tests were by highlighting the differences in response between species and the other methods of researching the data being sought.

Brexit, Laboratory Animals and Review of the current EU Directive on Animal Experiments

As a member of Eurogroup for Animals ADI’s science team attended a meeting in Brussels to discuss EU animal protection and the next revision of the European Directive. The following day the UK voted to leave the European Union, by a small margin. The impact on animals is potentially huge, as UK law on animal research, and other animal protection laws, are derived from EU Directives.

EU Directive 2010/63 shapes the British legislation and has been one of our major campaigns for decades. In Europe, we won measures such as a ban on wild caught monkeys in laboratories, formal reviews following animal experiments to find out exactly what happened to the animals, among others. Europe was also the focus for the Cosmetics Directive, which bans cosmetics testing on animals, as well as the import of cosmetics tested on animals into the EU.

Our immediate position has been to ask the government and all political parties to commit to retaining all existing animal protection measures. There must be no downgrading of welfare or regulations because of Brexit. As part of the Eurogroup For Animals ‘Brexit Task Force’ of leading animal protection groups we co-presented a ten point plan to the House of Lords, and more is to be done.

ADI works to secure protection for laboratory animals worldwide, so we will continue to work in Europe, especially as the process of reviewing and revising Directive 2010/63 begins. The European Commission invited ADI’s input on the review of replacement, reduction and refinement of animals in research, and transparency, within the Directive. We submitted that the rise in animals used, in itself, indicates a failure in implementing replacements. Transparency is a serious concern; secrecy surrounding applications to experiment on animals prevents a thorough examination of available alternatives and excludes those with the greatest commitment to suggesting non-animal methods.

The ongoing and systematic review of specific animal tests was an ADI initiative that won support from the UK Home Office and was included in the Directive. We have presented the European Commission with an outline of how to implement the ‘thematic review’ concept. This could enable systematic elimination of specific animal experiments, area by area, throughout Europe.

Unlock the Labs: Transparency and Accountability

2016 was the 30th anniversary of the notorious Section 24 secrecy clause in the UK legislation on animal experiments; it is an offence to release information from laboratories and S24 shields them from the Freedom of Information Act (this is at odds with the EU Directive and was due for reform). Public access to animal experimentation licence information would allow scientific challenges to experiments before they take place. Directive 2010/63 calls for greater openness and three years ago the government held a public consultation on Section 24 – the response remains unpublished.

ADI’s research team therefore trawls through Home Office ‘Non-Technical Summaries’ of animal use Project Licence Applications from researchers (highly selective, poor information). We then submit FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests for more detail. We have exposed failures and bias in the evaluation of licence applications, including: out of date evidence accepted by officials to justify continued use of animals; incomplete information provided on dosing which caused suffering; legal requirements being accepted as evidence that animal experiments are safe, contrary to scientific evidence. If the government published full details of Project Licence Applications, we could properly assess the proposals and suggest non-animal alternatives, or other sources of the information being researched.
One of our rescued laboratory monkeys looks up, intrigued – the world is full of wonder – but this is stripped from animals in captivity.
Kick Animal Testing Out of the House

Three companies attempted to bring cosmetics products containing ingredients tested on animals into the European market, but were stopped in their tracks by the EU Court of Justice. This was an important win, and also a reminder that we must always be vigilant, even when progress has been made. The heartening news that the EU ban held firm was followed by Australia and Taiwan committing to ending cosmetics testing on animals. We continue to press for legislation to be passed in the US. However, we do not know how Brexit will affect measures like the import ban in Britain – will the UK be prepared to continue to block animal tested cosmetics from China or the US as it attempts to strike its own trade deals with those countries? We must press to retain the import ban.

ADI US is working for The Humane Cosmetics Act, which would prohibit animal testing for cosmetics in one year and the sale/transport of products so tested after three. We are opposing the Personal Care Products Safety Act; it purports to encourage cruelty-free methods, it does not prohibit animal testing.

Save The Primates

In addition to exposing monkey experiments for World Day for Laboratory Animals, we submitted our evidence and arguments on replacing primates with non-animal methods to the European scientific committee, SCHEER, for their review of primate research policies. We covered the ability of primates to suffer, the failure of primate use in toxicology studies, infectious disease and neuroscience research as well as potential alternative methods. We stressed the importance of a timetable to phase out primate use – as backed by the European Parliament in Written Declaration 20/2007.

In the US, we continue to campaign against plans for new primate breeding facilities in Florida, which has become a hub for the industry. During our shocking investigation of Mauritian primate breeder Biodia, we exposed both the brutal treatment of the animals and plans by their trading partner Prelabs to expand in the state.

Research Without Animals

Our priority in 2016 was increasing awareness about replacement methods and their practical application to eliminate animal experiments; our research team attended meetings and conferences; produced articles and publications; discussed and worked with researchers as well as talking to regulators through bodies such as the Preliminary Assessment of Regulatory Relevance network.

We attended the European Commission conference ‘Non-Animal Approaches the Way Forward’. The event was held as one of the Commission’s four actions in response to the ‘Stop Vivisection Citizens Initiative’ and resulted in a set of recommendations such as the need for investment in non-animal methods and international co-ordination on the uptake of alternatives.

ADI is a member of the ECVAM Stakeholder Forum (ESTAF) which acts as a collaboration between the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (EURL ECVAM) and stakeholder groups, continuing to push for replacement methods as the main strategy to replace the use of animals with advanced, scientific techniques.

The Lord Dowding Fund has been incorporated into the new charity, the Animal Defenders International Foundation, to expand the educational and grant work and benefit from charitable status.
There is a sadness in the eyes of this monkey at a laboratory supplier in Spain. Our task is to ensure the torment of these animals is ended.
Stop Circus Suffering

The campaign continues to sweep the world raising awareness and securing laws. National restrictions on performing animals in circuses have been enacted in 37 countries. The scientific consensus was strengthened in 2016, with a large scale analysis by Professor Stephen Harris at Bristol University for the Government of Wales, which concluded that “Life for wild animals in travelling circuses…does not appear to constitute either a ‘good life’ or a ‘life worth living’”.

The flight of 33 lions rescued by ADI to a new life in South Africa marked the end of our Operation Spirit of Freedom in Peru – every circus had been raided and all the animals saved, just as we had done in Bolivia in 2011. We look forward to being able to do the same in Colombia, with your support. The positive response to these actions sees the number of bans increasing in Latin America, with Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, passing a ban on circuses, bullfights, and dog and cock fights.

Iran effectively banned wild animals in circuses, after the Department of Environment said no more permits would be issued following the runaway success of a campaign by Animal Rights Watch supported by ADI, securing bans in 21 states in just four months.

ADI’s Stop Circus Suffering Norway campaign with NOAH, launched in 2005, saw government regulations effectively end the use of wild animals in circuses. In Estonia, wild animal bans were passed in Tartu, Pärnu and Tallinn, and Nikulin circus announced it would replace its animal acts. In France, Circus Bouglione ditched trainer Lars Holscher after ADI undercover video appeared in French media of the abuse of elephants by Holscher and his groom. Surviving elephant, Vana Mana, was later “retired” to Elefantenhof Platschow in Germany. Following the Netherlands circus ban in 2015, one of the country’s elephant acts went to the Republic of Ireland. Facing protests and outrage, it packed up and left less than two months into a nine-month tour. Dublin City banned wild animal acts.

In the United States, over 20 years of declining popularity finally caught up with Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus, which closed in early 2017. Local bans on wild animals in circuses continue to be secured, with more passed in Cambridge and Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Plattsburgh, New York; Bergen County, Cumberland; Jersey City and Passaic County, New Jersey. There are now partial or full bans on circus animals in 71 jurisdictions across 27 US states. San Francisco was overtaken as the largest city with a ban when New York banned ‘wild animals acts’ in 2017. After the disappointment of a weak bullhook measure only a few years ago, Los Angeles looks set to finally ban wild animal acts. At State level, bans are under discussion in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and others. In November, we introduced to Congress the Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act (TEAPSPA) with Reps Ryan Costello (R-PA) and Raul Grijalva (D-AZ); this got the bill set for its major launch in March 2017, with the support of TV’s CSI stars Jorja Fox and Eric Szmanda, with Bob Barker, Ed Asner, Moby and a dozen other celebrities in our new ‘Reluctant Entertainers’ video.

The UK, once the world leader on this issue and where public support for a ban is higher than anywhere else, has fallen woefully behind. UK local councils began banning animal circuses in the 1970s and there were over 200 bans by the end of the last century. The UK Government claims to remain committed to a ban. With ADI support, two MPs again kept the issue before Parliament with Private Members Bills, but these were blocked. It will take a Government bill to resolve this, so we must press hard. Meanwhile Bromsgrove, Cheshire and West Chester passed bans.

ADI submitted evidence to the Scottish consultation for a ban, which saw 98% of respondents support a wild animal ban. Scotland has now published a bill and is expected to pass this before Westminster acts. Our thanks to our supporters who joined in the consultation.

Despite an ‘all-island approach’ being favoured by the assembly in Northern Ireland, the DUP, Sinn Fein and Alliance parties, representing 74 of the 102 seats, gave support for a ban on wild animals in circuses. Councils in Derry and Strabane added to the bans passed in Northern Ireland.

In Wales despite pledging a ban, the assembly is considering a weaker registration system to include mobile animal exhibits – although the scientific report they commissioned from Prof. Stephen Harris unequivocally condemned the use of wild animals in circuses.
In the circus

Rescue

Loading in Peru

Recovery

First step into new world

Arriving in Florida

Hoover’s journey

Bathing beauty at Big Cat Rescue
Fur Stop

We continue to expose the suffering on fur factory farms and to alert the public and the fashion industry with our videos, leaflets and our special cards to hand to fur wearers. Figures from Kopenhagen Fur showed falling global demand for mink fur from an estimated 72 million animals to 54 million in 2016. Giorgio Armani went fur-free, announcing "Technological progress made over the years allows us to have valid alternatives at our disposition that render the use of cruel practices unnecessary". We also created awareness of the fashion trend for passing off real fur as "fake", with tips to identify real fur.

Conservation

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) operates through a biannual Conference of the Parties (CoP) with the 183 countries which are signatories to the treaty; the CoP decides which species will be protected and which will not. In 2016, CoP17 was held in Johannesburg, South Africa and ADI focused on several key issues. In the preceding weeks, Joanna Lumley, Ricky Gervais and Moby joined us, calling on governments to support our campaigns on trophy hunting, lions, elephants, primates and others. Our team met with delegates, participated in meetings and distributed our briefings. We co-ordinated efforts with other animal protection groups, as part of the Species Survival Network (SSN); at the end of the CoP, the SSN reported 73% of the proposals went in favour of our objectives.

On the opening day, ADI joined the tens of thousands of people around the world Marching Against Extinction with particular reference to lions, elephants and rhinos; we took part in events in Johannesburg, London, Los Angeles and Bogota.

Sadly, our efforts to secure Appendix I protection for African lions and all African elephants were defeated – the status for these animals remains the same. Worse news came for Cape Mountain Zebras, the American Crocodile, Florida Panther and Eastern Cougar where protections were reduced. However, we will return to these issues in future CoPs.

The big wins saw an end to international trade in Barbary macaques, all Asian and African Pangolin species, and the African Grey Parrot; increased protection for Helmeted Hornbills (killed for the ivory trade); a proposal by seven African nations to end all trade in live elephants will now be studied; proposals from Zimbabwe and Namibia to remove restrictions on commercial trade in elephant products and Swaziland’s plea for rhino horn trade were defeated. Botswana voluntarily committed to Appendix I protection for its elephant populations, and later in the year, banned elephant rides.

Following the CITES conference, work continued to secure national measures to protect wildlife: The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced a ban on the import of trophies taken from captive-bred lions in South Africa; Netherlands banned the import of lion, white rhino, elephant, cheetah and polar bear hunting trophies; Romania banned trophy hunting of brown bears, wolves, lynxes, and wild cats. In Florida the annual bear hunt was paused while humane approaches are considered, championed by ADI while addressing the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. ADI also supported the US bill ‘END Wildlife Trafficking Act’ which passed into law, helping to protect wildlife from poaching/trafficking – sadly this has since been overturned by the Trump administration. The US government announced a near-total ban on the domestic commercial trade of African elephant ivory – the US market is second only to China. Hong Kong announced a plan to end its domestic ivory trade within the next 5 years. A resolution also passed overwhelmingly in the European Parliament calling for an immediate EU-wide ban on all ivory and rhino horn. In the UK the government has only promised action.

The need for worldwide action was vindicated by the decision of the Zimbabwe High Court to drop charges against Theo Bronkhorst, the guide who lured Cecil the lion out of Hwange National Park so that US dentist Walter Palmer could shoot him. Despite global outrage no one was held to account.

ADI opposed the export of eight wild elephants from Swaziland to three US zoos and of 37 elephants from Zimbabwe to China; urged Yahoo! Japan, the world’s largest internet ivory seller, to halt its elephant ivory sales; called on Nissin Foods to cease production of its Cup Noodle soup containing softshell turtle.
Despite enormous public awareness many of the world’s iconic species are on the brink and commercial interests continue to lobby for their exploitation.
The badger cull in England was expanded to seven new areas, with 10,886 lives lost in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Somerset. More than 5,000 badgers were killed by shooting (rather than cage trapping), a method not supported by the British Veterinary Association. ADI continues to oppose the killing and joined the wounded badger patrols in the Dorset cull zones.

### My Mate’s a Primate

For International Primate Day musician Moby teamed up with ADI to help save the Barbary macaque, Europe’s only native primate species. Illegal traders tout the animals as pets and photo props. A month later, at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, ADI and others secured a resounding victory with the prohibition of international trade in Barbary macaques.

### The Andean Bear Pact

When we rescued Cholita, the Spectacled/Andean bear cruelly mutilated by a circus, it threw a spotlight on their suffering; ADI has now rescued three more bears – Lucho, Sabina and Dominga. The bears have legal protection throughout their range – Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela – but are still extremely vulnerable. The killing of a spectacled bear in Colombia where the animal’s paw was left with a threat to kill more led ADI Latin America to step up our awareness campaign. On World Animal Day, we launched The Andean Bear Pact, gaining signatories for a collaborative pact between governments, local authorities and public to protect Latin America’s only bear species.

### Animals in Entertainment

Dirk Arthur’s Wild Magic show, the last Las Vegas act featuring wild animals, “abruptly closed” just a few months after ADI exposed how the exotic cats are kept – confined for six hours a day in tiny travel cages and prop boxes barely larger than their bodies and in small cement and chain link cells when not performing. The controversial show, pulled from the Westgate Las Vegas Resort, had a history of animal welfare violations.

Increasing awareness of the suffering of animals in entertainment is resulting in legislative and corporate policy changes. A bill to ban orca breeding in California was signed into law while SeaWorld announced it would end its orca breeding and theatrical programs. We also learned that their famous orca Tillikum was reportedly suffering a bacterial lung infection; his death was announced earlier this year. Baltimore National Aquarium announced it would create a sanctuary for its dolphins noting a changing tide in public opinion, while TripAdvisor vowed to stop selling tickets to attractions involving physical contact with wild animals and endangered species, including elephant rides, lion and tiger petting, and swimming with dolphins.

### No Fun for Elephants

Our No Fun for Elephants campaign celebrated more victories – Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in California ended their elephant rides contracted with the notorious Have Trunk Will Travel (HTWT), filmed by ADI violently and routinely beating their elephants with bullhooks and shocking them with stun guns. This was HTWT’s last major contract in the state and we thank local citizens who joined us in speaking out against the rides over the years. The city of Surprise in Arizona also cancelled an appearance of HTWT elephants and they will not have elephants at future events.
Sabina pauses in the forest to eat from a basket of fruit. Enrichment is vital to our rescued animals.
Rescues

Rescue work in 2016 continued to be dominated by Operation Spirit of Freedom, the ADI mission to enforce legislation in Peru and Colombia banning wild animal circus acts and provide assistance with wildlife trafficking enforcement.

Having relocated most of the native bears, primates and other animals, it was time for the remaining animals to go to their forever homes – and to make plans to rescue Dominga, another bald female spectacled bear who was confiscated from traffickers and placed in a remote zoo as a cub, with no other options available.

Capuchins Spirit and Bigotes were taken to a rehabilitation programme at Tamushal, a rescue centre located in 150,000 hectares of pristine rainforest in Peru. They were released back into the wild with other capuchins. Military macaw James, rescued from a restaurant, was relocated to Taricaya Ecological Reserve in the Amazon, where he now flies wild and free.

Hoover was the sole survivor of a group of 12 tigers; it had taken eight months to track down the circus that held him after they slipped through the net. Sick and emaciated when we first saw him, Hoover thrived in our care. Relocated to Big Cat Rescue in Florida, Hoover celebrated his 12th birthday exploring his wonderful woodland habitat with a lake, in which he loves to swim.

Our 33 rescued lions went home to Africa – on a huge cargo aircraft chartered from ethical vegan cargo company Priority Worldwide Services, the biggest airlift of its kind. A logistically challenging journey began with the ADI team loading nine lions in Bucaramanga, Colombia which headed by road to Bogota where they boarded the Spirit of Freedom Flight. Simultaneously in Peru, 24 lions were loaded into travel crates at the ADI temporary rescue centre, a convoy of trucks took them to Lima airport, where they joined the Spirit of Freedom Flight on arrival from Colombia. There was a heart-stopping few hours in Brazil due to a computer problem as the aircraft changed crews and refueled, then it was onwards to Johannesburg. The lions travelled well and received regular water and snacks from ADI’s Jan Creamer, Tim Phillips and veterinarian Eva Chomba.

The lions all roared their arrival as the aircraft touched down in South Africa, and then it was onwards by road with two huge trucks kindly donated by Ibubesi transport - who even painted the lions’ names on the cabs! Seven hours later, released into a series of bonding camps at Emoya Big Cat Sanctuary, for the first time the lions could feel the African sun and the soil beneath their feet, enjoying the simple pleasure of rubbing against a tree.

Next came our biggest ever sanctuary construction project with ADI fully funding a series of camps where the lions can be fed, monitored and separated if necessary, attached to eleven huge natural bush habitats covering more than 30 acres. By the end of the year, more than half of the lions were in their new habitats and by March 2017, thanks to ADI supporters the final funds were released to complete all of the remaining habitats by the end of April.

Steadily, the lions have flourished in their natural habitat but it has taken a huge ongoing veterinary programme funded by ADI to address the problems of a lifetime in the circus. Many of them suffered smashed teeth and infected gums, most have had their toes cut off their front feet to remove their claws, as well as eye and neurological problems from abuse. These battered animals cannot return to the wild, but we are giving them a life as close to what nature intended as possible.

In addition to the huge search and seizure costs, caring for the animals in our temporary rescue centres, relocating the animals, building habitats at the sanctuaries, ADI is paying for the veterinary and care costs of almost all the animals we rescued in Peru (our thanks to BCR for taking on the care of Hoover). We currently support animals in sanctuaries in Peru, South Africa and the UK. ADI does not receive donations from visitors to the sanctuaries or relief on food or other bills when people donate directly to the sanctuaries. Therefore your responses to our appeals, our posts on facebook, and our ADI Rescuer adoption scheme are absolutely vital to supporting these animals.

ADI is securing laws and eliminating the abuse. There are no more circus animals in Peru and Bolivia. But we will not be able to continue this vital work, that saves individuals AND changes the world for future generations of animals, without your help.
Leo having fun in the ADI rescue centre a month before take off!

Loading 33 lions begins in two countries.

Lima Airport, the ADI team have worked all night to have the lions ready.

A very relaxed Simba during the flight

In flight catering by Jan and ADI veterinarian Eva over the Atlantic.

The first lion leaves the aircraft in Africa.

At sunrise the lions arrive at their new home.

Dental work by Dr Gerhard Steenkamp to repair the damage by the circus.

Lions back to Africa

No wonder he’s smiling, Leo in his wonderful 5 acre habitat and reunited with his mate Muñeca and daughters Kiara and Africa.
Investigations

Our evidence is used worldwide to educate the public, media, regulators, legislators, and is often the catalyst to legislation. The importance of this long-term work cannot be underestimated and often only the pictures and videos can tell the true story for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Without this work we would not be seeing bans on animals in circuses spreading across the world, and we would not have been able to rescue all of the animals from circuses in Peru and Bolivia, nor would the realities of the secret world of animal experimentation reach the outside world. Whether it is circuses, fur farms, animal trainers or laboratories the work begins securing the evidence from behind closed doors.

Our footage of Lars Holschler and his groom beating and tail-twisting the elephants as they toured the UK with the Great British Circus has followed him across Europe. The footage, shot with hidden cameras concealed in the elephant tent when the abusers thought they were alone, appeared last year on French television and led to Holschler being promptly dropped by Circus Bouglione.

The ADI Watchlist keeps footage in the public eye of abuse with the likes of elephant ride suppliers Have Trunk Will Travel and Trunks & Humps. In 2016 we exposed the lives the animals endure with Dirk Arthur’s exotic animal magic show in Las Vegas. The show was cancelled soon after, but he will remain on our ADI Watchlist.

Our harrowing footage from inside the Mauritius laboratory monkey factory farms continues to be used in the campaign to stop the expansion of facilities run by the same company in Florida.

Some projects require long-term embedding inside businesses using animals, others focus on gathering information (our investigators were vital for tracking down circuses in Peru in order for us to raid them), so this work is varied and challenging, but vital to bring about change for animals.

No circus industry has been more scrutinised than that in the UK, ADI exposés saw the demise of Mary Chipperfield Promotions (and convictions of the owners and their groom) and the closure of Chipperfield Enterprises lion and tiger breeding operation, and the cruelty conviction of the owner of Anne the elephant. But it means the circuses have their guard up. There are just three circuses left in Britain with wild animal acts and in 2016 we secured footage behind the scenes of two!

Inside the remote winter quarters of Peter Jolly’s Circus we revealed appalling overcrowding, fighting between animals, a worker spitting in the face of and tormenting a camel, ponies tangled in short tethers. Another surveillance operation showed the daily routine for the lions and tigers of Thomas Chipperfield living in cages on the back of a truck between two busy main roads in Staffordshire.

Lion Ark

The award-winning film Lion Ark, charting ADI’s mission to rescue every circus animal in Bolivia, has now been broadcast in over 20 countries including China, the Czech Republic, South Korea, Iran and repeatedly throughout South America (dubbed in Spanish and Portuguese). Hundreds of Lion Ark cinema screenings, many with Q&As with our rescue team generated awareness, engaging people with the work of ADI and raising vital funds. These included a gala showing at the Screen Actor’s Guild in Los Angeles and during the CITES conference in South Africa, Lion Ark screened in Cape Town and Johannesburg. A whistle-stop tour in November saw special Q&A Lion Ark screenings in ten states in the US, bringing the total number of states screened in to over 20 and a special screening at the US Congress. We now include a short film and slideshow during these events about the Peru rescue. Lion Ark was released on DVD in November, with a host of extra features including deleted scenes of other animals rescued and a tribute to ADI veterinarian Dr Mel Richardson. It can be purchased on our website – www.ad-international.org/store
From a circus in Peru to the African bush. Muñeca sitting pretty in the habitat built by ADI supporters in South Africa, with Leo in the background.
Supporters & Finances

All of the work outlined in this report is only possible thanks to the wonderful, loyal support we receive from each and every one of our donors and volunteers. Thank you so much. A third of our support came from bequests in Wills and these people receive special thanks on the back cover.

Our online outreach continues to grow and is an important area of support, with our social media providing an extra insight into our work – our lion flight had a huge following. Our print publications have reduced in size but remain important. The merchandise range was revitalised for Christmas and we expanded our T-shirt range (with the promotional help from Moby, Ricky Gervais and Sarah Pascoe). Special fundraising events took place in the US and South Africa and Lion Ark continues to draw crowds and support (see p16). If you want to help spread the word and raise funds, with a coffee morning, a restaurant event, Lion Ark screening, or sponsored event of any kind, please get in touch.

The Operation Spirit of Freedom rescue remained the biggest challenge of 2016. The enforcement mission itself, tracking down and raiding all of the circuses took over 18 months and then we needed to relocate and build habitats for over 100 animals we had rescued – we continue to fund the care of most of these animals. Hoover the tiger was flown to Florida and then we had the huge Spirit of Freedom flight transporting 33 lions to Africa from South America, followed by the challenge of building 11 enclosures (a construction programme costing $340,000 that was completed in 2017). ADI supporters made it happen, helping to fund the travel crates and the air fares for the animals and as we flew to Africa the lion crates were covered in acknowledgements of those who had got involved.

Lion Air Fare sponsors Bob Barker and DJ&T Foundation; Dr. Lo Sprague & Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord; GreaterGood.org; Lion Lovers Facebook Group; Oakland Zoo; June & Julian; Spurlino Foundation; William C. Bannerman Foundation. Lion Air Fare co-sponsors: Steven Bardack; Charlene Burrow; Colette Carr; Arthur Rice; Kathryn Barnard; Shelly Ross; Shirley Crow; Julia Campion; Keelin Meenan Lion & Tiger Travel Crate sponsors: Dr. Lo Sprague & Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord; Ellie Price; Anna Kythereotis; Elise Zoli; Lion Lovers Facebook Group; Dr. Jason Berlingen; Marion Charest; Carol de Frange; Christine & Mike Schroeder; Alan & Jennifer Tanaka; Julia Campion; June & Julian; James Clayton; Mr & Mrs M Mills Travel Crate co-sponsors: Pat Cuiuilli & Deniz Bolbol; Jennifer Heaver; Valerie Lang Waldin; Notch’s pride; Youssif Pirasteh; Debra Anne Roberson; Alan & Jennifer Tanaka; Carol & Peter Tracey; Anne & Christopher Weiland; Joyce Allington; Joanna Bacon; Claudia Bejar; Jan & David Brichton; Grant Brooks; May Cheng; Deborah Claassen; Dr. Peter Emily and the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dentistry Foundation; Paul Fichot; Christin Fowler; Michael Glen; Kathy Gliosten; Sue Harding; Elizabeth Howell; Letizia Kornberg; Nancy Lanning; Peace Fur Paws; Keon Robertson; Kelly Shatat; Jeanne Trizzino; Mary Yonts; Shelly Ross; Annie Marston.

Other Operation Spirit of Freedom support from Foundations: Bob Barker and DJ&T Foundation; Animal Friends Insurance; The Awareness Fund; The Michael Testler Charitable Foundation; Miss Edith Mary Sage Charitable Trust; The Persula Foundation; Save Me Trust.

Rescue work is supported by ADI Foundation. However, it remains a major challenge providing the ongoing funding to sanctuaries for the care of the animals.
Bliss: Almost bald, spectacled bear, Dominga raises her face to the sky and basks in the sunshine - she's home.

Returning these animals to their natural habitat is how we put right a terrible wrong.
MISSION:

ADI MISSION: To educate, create awareness, and promote the interest of humanity in the cause of justice, and the suppression of all forms of cruelty to animals; wherever possible, to alleviate suffering, and to conserve and protect animals and their environment.

NAVS MISSION: To raise the conscience of humanity to the iniquity of painful experiments on animals; to raise awareness that millions of animals suffer and die in cruel, unscientific, and futile experiments, which are unreliable, unethical, and unnecessary.

LDF MISSION: To support and fund better methods of scientific and medical research for testing products and curing disease, which replace the use of animals; to research and publish information to demonstrate that animal experiments are unnecessary and harmful.

We are opposed to violence or intimidation whether directed at humans or other animals.

Animal Defenders International
National Anti-Vivisection Society
Lord Dowding Fund

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Roll of Honour

Legacies left to us in their Wills by our supporters, remains our greatest source of income. The investigations, science research, publications, videos and Lord Dowding Fund non-animal research projects, all rely upon this vital funding.

The consideration and forethought of these supporters has left a lasting legacy for animals and helps to bring closer, the day when animals are free of suffering caused by humans. Here, we honour and thank the wonderful people who have given so much to our cause:

A S O’Dell    M FWise
B A Wills    M G Thorne
B Swift    M L Snashall
D A Gadd    M Taylor
D Baker    M W Pratt
D J Kelly    N Laurens
E Preston    R JCaring
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L A Upton    W E Boulding
M E Sherratt

Where there's a WILL there's a WAY to help suffering animals

Millions of animals suffer and die, hidden from view. We speak for them, expose the facts, bring about change; we educate and rescue. Making a bequest to help animals is one of the most important things you can do. And making a Will is also the most important thing you can do for your family. Ask for our guide on making your Will, call 020 7630 3340. Please consider including us in your Will:

Animal Defenders International
National Anti-Vivisection Society
Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research

It is important to state the full name and address of the organisation you wish to benefit, we can give guidance on this, so that you can make a lasting difference. Thank you.

ADI rescued Lucho from this zoo cage and took him home to our forest sanctuary.