



# The QATO Foundation 2022



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Cover photo: Itaso Velez del Burgo, Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Centre

## PREFACE

# 2022: Events of the past year at the QATO Foundation

The QATO Foundation celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2022. This gave us an opportunity to look back on the preceding decade. Starting from our tender beginnings up to the present where we have forged strong collaboration relationships with stakeholders big and small within animal welfare in Denmark and abroad.

We have always focused on working across a wide spectrum, and over the years we have supported projects benefiting a wide variety of animal species all over the world, not least in Denmark.

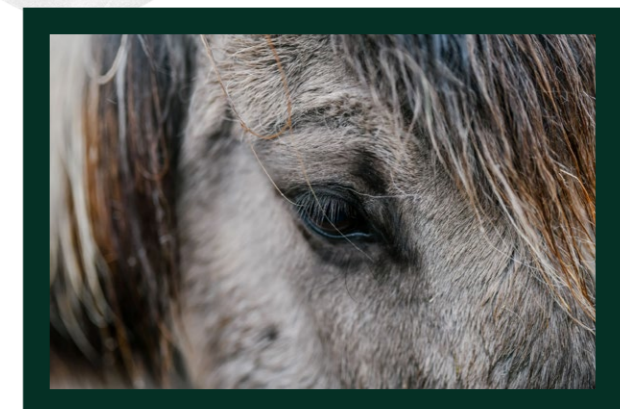
Our wide scope of activity gives us the opportunity to quickly adapt to the needs and conditions we find in different communities. This turned out to be a real strength when the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world, requiring both urgent and long-term interventions to help animals. The same was true in 2022 when Ukraine was invaded, which resulted in people and animals fleeing.

We chose to celebrate the anniversary year by allocating funds to a special project. We joined forces with the PASA organisation to launch the building of a new sanctuary for chimpanzees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The purpose of the project is to give chimpanzees, rescued from the illegal pet trade, etc., the best prerequisites for growing up and living a healthy life with other chimpanzees and preparing them for a new life in the wild.

You can read more about this and other rewarding projects from the past year in our annual.

**Christina Fevejle Nielsen**  
Manager - Grants & Administration

**Signe Kirk Kristiansen**  
Chairperson, Board of Directors



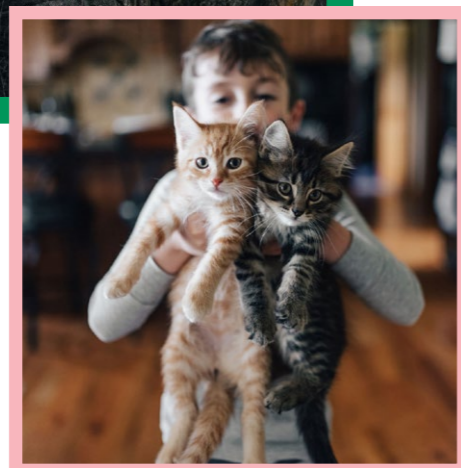
# We work to improve animal welfare

We believe that all animals deserve to live a good life and experience good animal welfare. And we pay special attention to animals not thriving in human custody.

We strive to ensure that animals can lead better lives, are treated with respect and are given the opportunity to exhibit their natural behaviour.

The QATO Foundation is a non-profit and charitable organisation founded by Signe Kirk Kristiansen and Thomas Kirk Kristiansen in 2012.

We support large and small projects that work to improve animal welfare. At the QATO Foundation, good projects come in all sizes and shapes.




# 2022 in figures

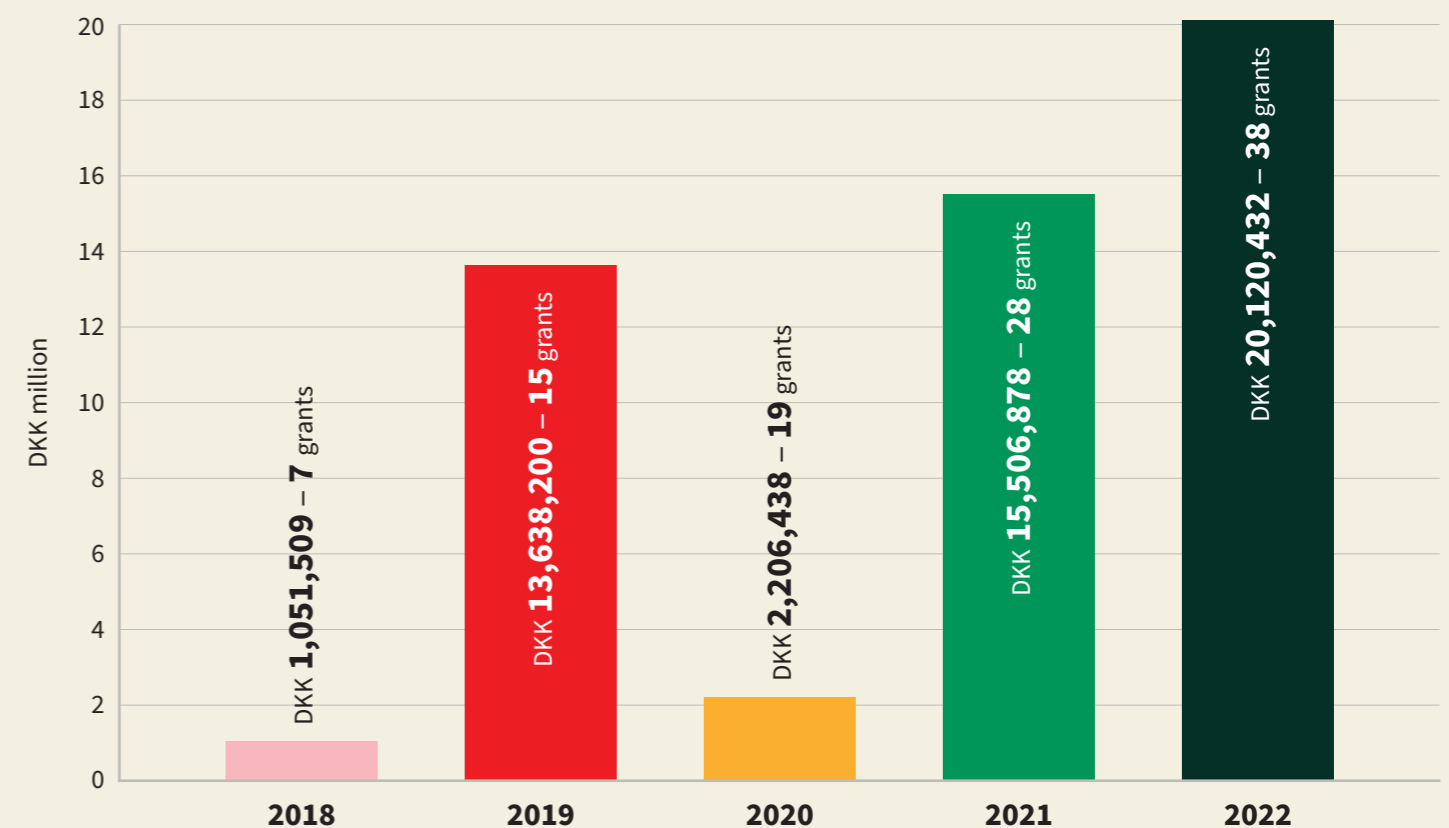
 Total funds allocated, 2022:  
**DKK 20,120,432**

 No. of projects supported in 2022:  
**22** projects supported

 No. of countries reached by the foundation's support in 2022:  
**10** different countries

 No. of student grants awarded in 2022:  
**16** student grants awarded

Allocation level and total no. of grants, 2018–2022



# 10 years with the QATO Foundation

2012

**The QATO Foundation is founded** on 12 September 2012 with the purpose of providing non-profit, charitable support to improve animal welfare, living conditions, health and well-being.

The foundation is named after the founders' dearly beloved family dog, Qato, and a three-member board of directors is appointed.



2015

**The foundation's first grants** are allocated to the Flying Anvil Foundation and World Animal Protection.



2016

**The QATO Foundation goes online** with a website.



2018

**The QATO Foundation enters into long-standing cooperation for the first time**, when the foundation, together with several stakeholders, supports a PhD project aimed at providing new knowledge about the state of health of stray cats in Denmark.

2018

**The QATO Foundation sets up a small secretariat** and hires its first full-time employee.

2019

**New home for elephants.** This project is the foundation's first initiative for wild animals in captivity that have become homeless. The elephants' new home is established at Knuthenborg Safaripark. Initially, the facility will house four retired Danish circus elephants. This marks the beginning of a recurring cooperation with Knuthenborg Safaripark and Animal Protection Denmark to secure good conditions for rescued animals, as new enclosures for tigers and primates follow in its wake.

The QATO Foundation celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. Join us on a tour of several selected events over a decade of the foundation's work and learn more about some of the activities that have shaped the foundation as we know it today.

Since 2012, the QATO Foundation has supported more than 100 projects around the world in cooperation with organisations in Denmark and abroad.

2020

**The QATO Foundation's student grant is awarded for the first time** as part of responding to the many good applications received by the foundation from students pursuing an education in the field of animal welfare.



2020

**The QATO Foundation supports its first COVID-related project.** An application from Save the Orangutan is rushed through in hopes of keeping infection away from the orangutans at a Borneo rehabilitation centre. The initiatives can be launched immediately for the benefit of both the local community and the orangutans.

2021

**The QATO Foundation becomes a Founding Partner by supporting SEA LIFE TRUST'S beluga whale sanctuary in Iceland.** This is the world's first sanctuary for beluga whales, and Little Grey and Little White are its first occupants, transferred from a Shanghai aquarium. Support from the QATO Foundation is used to ensure that the whales get off to a good start in their new home.

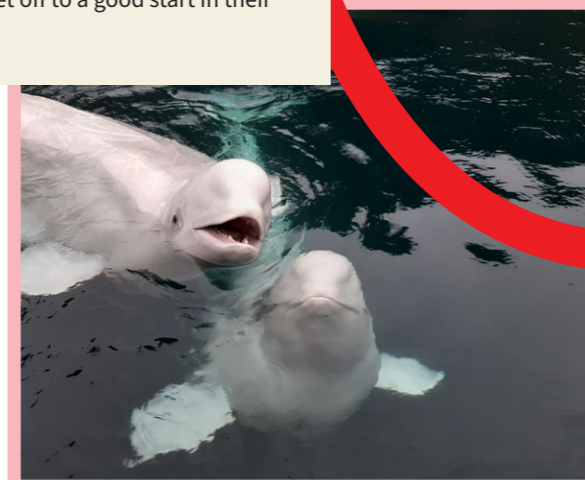


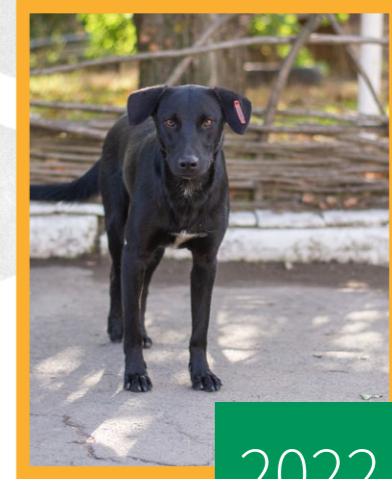
Photo: Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Centre

2022

**Anniversary project.** PASA's efforts targeting Africa's primates are supported by a comprehensive project. A brand-new sanctuary is being established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for chimpanzees rescued from the illegal pet industry, among other things.

2022

**The QATO Foundation celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary** on 12 September 2022.



2022

**The QATO Foundation helps animals impacted by the war in Ukraine.** This includes supporting Animal Protection Denmark's efforts to set up a temporary animal shelter and a reception centre in Przemyśl near the Ukrainian border where a veterinarian and a field coordinator help pets which families have brought with them when fleeing the war.

# The QATO Foundation's support reaches around the world

27 countries since 2012. This depicts the breadth of the QATO Foundation's support: from Iceland in the north to the African continent in the south. The vast majority of projects – large and small – are in the foundation's own country, Denmark, however.

## Selected projects since the establishment of the foundation



Photo: Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Centre



Photo: Animals Asia Foundation



Photo: Niels Dierick

# Anniversary grant



Photo: Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Centre

## The QATO Foundation's anniversary grant will secure a safe home for chimpanzees rescued from the wildlife trade

We celebrated the anniversary year at the QATO Foundation by supporting a special project benefitting chimpanzees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), adult chimpanzees are often hunted to be sold as 'bush meat', while juvenile chimpanzees are sold illegally as pets.

When juvenile chimpanzees are confiscated by the authorities or found in the wild, they require immediate professional assistance, as they are often traumatised, both physically and mentally. The organisation **PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance)** works to protect Africa's primates. PASA's member organisations in the DRC are experts in rehabilitating rescued primates, but their existing sanctuaries have reached maximum capacity.

This project establishes a brand-new chimpanzee sanctuary that can secure a safe home for up to 120 chimpanzees. The sanctuary will be established on a large 66-hectare island covered by natural forest and led by J.A.C.K., a PASA member

organisation. It will have space for five large fenced-in areas where it will be possible for chimpanzees to live in family groups and supplement their provisioned supply of food with food they can find in the forest. This will help give them important skills necessary for hopefully being released in the wild in the future.

In addition to the large enclosures on the island, facilities will also be built for the rescued infant chimpanzees who initially require a lot of help and care. A veterinary clinic and staff lodgings will also be set up.

The new sanctuary is an important part of a new comprehensive programme being initiated by PASA to increase the protection of primates in the DRC.



Photo: J.A.C.K Sanctuary

# Examples of projects supported by the QATO Foundation in 2022

## Emergency assistance for animals affected by the war in Ukraine

The invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 prompted millions of people to flee their homes, many of whom took their pets with them on their journey.

This created special needs at major border crossings, but also at several cat and dog shelters in Ukraine and in several neighbouring countries.

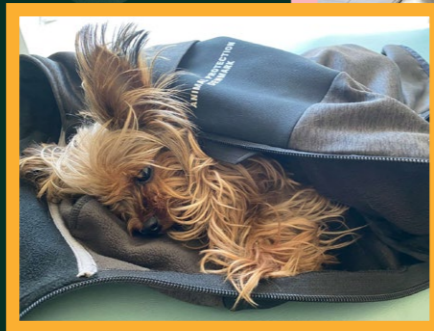
This is why the QATO Foundation chose to react promptly. As a result, we began the year 2022 by supporting several projects benefiting pets and stray animals in Ukraine.

### Animal Protection Denmark helped animals at border crossings

One project was carried out by **Animal Protection Denmark**, which dispatched a veterinarian and a field coordinator to busy border crossings between Poland and Ukraine. They initially provided assistance at a temporary animal shelter in Medyca. The shelter had been set up by a Polish animal protection organisation to take in any animals that were unable to continue travelling with their family, or which came from other animal shelters in Ukraine.

After this, the team moved on to a reception centre in the Polish town of Przemysl near the Ukrainian border. They provided any veterinary assistance necessary to Ukrainian refugees' pets from a mobile veterinary clinic. They also provided pet food, pet cage carriers and warm blankets.

It is estimated that Animal Protection Denmark, with the support of the QATO Foundation, helped a total of 1,000 animals – primarily dogs and cats, but also birds, polecats and pet rats.



## Focus on working animals

Over the years, the QATO Foundation has supported various efforts aimed at helping the world's working animals, and 2022 was no exception.

### Veterinary assistance for working animals in Mali and Mauritania

With support from the UK-based international organisation, **SPANA (Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad)**, the QATO Foundation has helped increase the number of working animals that have access to veterinary help going forward. Two

collaboration projects with SPANA were ongoing in 2022.

In the town of Ségou in Mali, the QATO Foundation supported the construction of a new veterinary centre, at which SPANA expects to be able to treat 60,000 animals a year. The centre will provide necessary assistance to the animals, no matter if this involves the treatment of minor injuries or if surgery is needed. The project will also focus on training working animal owners in how to correctly tend and care for their animals to prevent injuries and illnesses.

The QATO Foundation's second area of support to SPANA was dedicated to the purchase and operation of a new mobile veterinary clinic that will serve southern Mauritania, Africa. The clinic can access

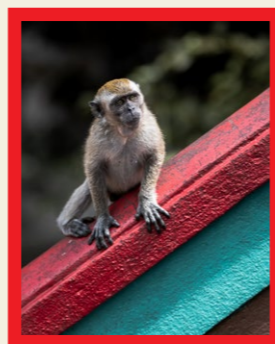
animals that would otherwise not have the option of veterinary help because they live in remote regions. The mobile clinic is expected to reach more than 7,000 working animals annually.

In 2022 **FAF (Flying Anvil Foundation)** was also supported by the QATO Foundation. FAF is an organisation that works to ensure that working animals have access to qualified farriers who can give them correct hoof care. It is crucial to the welfare of these animals that their hooves are healthy and well-maintained, and FAF's efforts focus on training locals to become qualified farriers so new expertise can be infused into local areas for the benefit of animals and owners alike. FAF has a strong presence in Rajasthan, India, and Cairo, Egypt, where their training centres are located.

**Working animals** include horses, donkeys, and mules and live in some of the poorest countries in the world. Every day, these animals help their owners earn a living.

Even if the families are totally dependent on their animals, it is not always possible for them to help the animals if they fall ill or get injured, because the closest veterinarian may be far away.





Photos: Niels Dierick

## When people and wild animals share habitats

It is not unusual for conflicts to arise when wild animals lose their natural habitats and are forced to live close to human settlements.

Conflicts occasionally arise between people and macaques in Malaysia and Indonesia. This has led to instances of the monkeys being poisoned or captured in order to resell them.

In 2022, the QATO Foundation has supported the animal protection organisation called **the Long-Tailed Macaque Project** which supports the local populace and long-tailed macaques in their efforts to live together without conflicts – and ensures the survival of the macaques.

The project draws on both new and recognised methods to prevent conflicts. In urban areas, this involves, among other things, locking refuse bins and hiring

‘monkey guards’ tasked with ensuring positive co-existence between monkeys and people.

In rural areas, the Long-Tailed Macaque Project will test new methods for improving and securing fences so that the monkeys do not climb over them and take the farmers’ crops. In both areas, project participants are involved with communication in the form of information campaigns, meetings and educational programmes for schoolchildren.

The local residents’ opinions of the monkeys are surveyed before and after the project to determine whether the actions have paid off.

## The QATO Foundation supports the world’s first Beluga Whale Sanctuary



Little Grey and Little White – two beluga whales – performed at a tourist attraction in Shanghai, China for several years. When Merlin Entertainments took over the aquarium, they joined forces with **SEA LIFE TRUST** to rehouse the whales in a more natural environment.

In 2019, they were taken to their new home: a beluga whale sanctuary situated in a bay off the south coast of Iceland – the first of its kind in the world.

SEA LIFE TRUST is behind the project and works at global level to protect the oceans. In 2021, the QATO Foundation entered into a partnership with the organisation and supported the project with a three-year grant.

The purpose of the sanctuary is to secure the best possible welfare for the whales by gradually introducing them

to a more natural environment with better possibilities of exhibiting their natural behaviour.

The aim of the project is for the sanctuary to eventually rehabilitate more of the beluga whales that are currently living and performing in amusement parks around the world.

The first two out of three grants from the QATO Foundation will be used to building a reception basin in the bay itself, which is an important step towards ensuring that the transition for the whales to a more natural life will be as good as possible.

### Other selected projects, 2022

Grant recipient	Who are the recipients of the QATO Foundation’s funds?
Dyrenes venner (Friends of the Animals Society), Greenland	<b>Translation of pet care guidelines</b> To promote pet welfare, care guidelines for the six most common pets in Greenland were translated into Greenlandic.
Bradycare	<b>Development and testing of an e-learning platform for veterinarians</b> An innovative e-learning platform is developed and tested to prepare existing and future veterinarians for neutering stray dogs under various conditions.
Kattehjælpen Aabenraa	<b>Helping stray cats in Denmark</b> Stray cats receive necessary veterinary assistance, neutering, etc., and are offered new homes or released with a feeding host.
World Animal Protection Denmark	<b>Support for elephant sanctuaries in Asia</b> The project aims to support elephant sanctuaries that provide the highest welfare for elephants until tourism can once again support the operation of these venues.
Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)	<b>Repairs of fencing at a bonobo sanctuary</b> The non-profit organisation Lola Ya Bonobo takes care of distressed bonobos and offers them a permanent home or the possibility of being returned to their original habitat over the years. To maintain security for bonobos and employees, Lola Ya Bonobo had to make some repairs on their fences.
Research project, Aarhus University	<b>Conflict behaviour in show and sport horses</b> A research projects aims to study the correlation between conflict behaviour and oral ulcers in show and sport horses within various disciplines.





# QATO

## Fonden

The QATO Foundation  
Koldingvej 2  
DK-7190 Billund

[qatofonden.dk](http://qatofonden.dk)