

We protect ecosystems and their animals by empowering the local communities on the frontlines. To save animals and nature, we select and work with local partners for creative and practical solutions based on local needs.

## Globally

Darwin Animal Doctors treated over 4,000 animals globally in UNESCO areas, rebuilt schools, rainforests and wildlife reserves, educated youth and communities, directly supported National Park wildlife rangers, and amplified local efforts to build long-term solutions to biodiversity loss and protect animals and their habitats.



**Darwin  
Animal Doctors**

# GALAPAGOS

The Darwin Animal Doctors team treated 3,488 patients! The hardworking vets and volunteers provided sterilizations to humanely prevent thousands of unwanted domestic animals, they de-parasited animals to prevent the spread of deadly tick diseases, and they conducted lab tests to identify and treat diseases such as distemper, which can spread to wildlife.



*Darwin's Galapagos Clinic*



*Community Island Campaigns with ABG*

Importantly, we continued our partnership with the government agency, ABG, which handles all invasive species control throughout these extraordinary islands, to conduct veterinary and outreach campaigns in remote communities and underserved islands.

Vaccinating for distemper is a landmark victory since vaccines were previously banned from the islands. In 2018, we began providing vaccines to ABG, and in partnership with ABG, we helped get nearly 1,000 animals vaccinated, and held sterilization and vaccination partnership campaigns on the islands of Santa Cruz, San Cristobal and Isabela.

Thanks to our partners at IGTOA and Galapagos Conservancy, and the amazing hard work and dedication of ABG, we have begun something that will improve the future the Galapagos for many species. These services have been provided in areas without adequate access to veterinary care, extending our impact over the inhabited portion of the World Heritage Site. Finally, with ABG, we have set a new precedent that animals all over the Galapagos get vaccinated each year, in order to protect the crucial wildlife of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Protecting wildlife is one of our main priorities, and the Darwin team always welcomes the opportunity to assist the Galapagos National Park in helping save wildlife whenever possible.



*Dr. Carmen and Galapagos Owl*

Critical to the success of the Galapagos programs are the dedicated veterinarians and volunteers who come from all over the world. We welcomed back veteran Galapagos veterinarian Dr. Carmen Barba Claassens, new clinic assistant Kate Larson and volunteers who traveled from many countries and veterinary schools.



*Dr. Carmen and Kate showing a patient some love*



*Volunteer Maarten with newly sterilized pups*

When the youth have the will to save all in their community, no matter how different or furry, the future has the best chance. Dr. Carmen visited Naomi Hunt's class at the Unidad Educativa Tomás de Berlanga School in Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos! She taught our "A Piggy's Tale" humane education program, the children played fun and enlightening games, and everyone got Piggy's educational coloring book.



*Youth often visit the clinic and bring in their animals for treatment.*

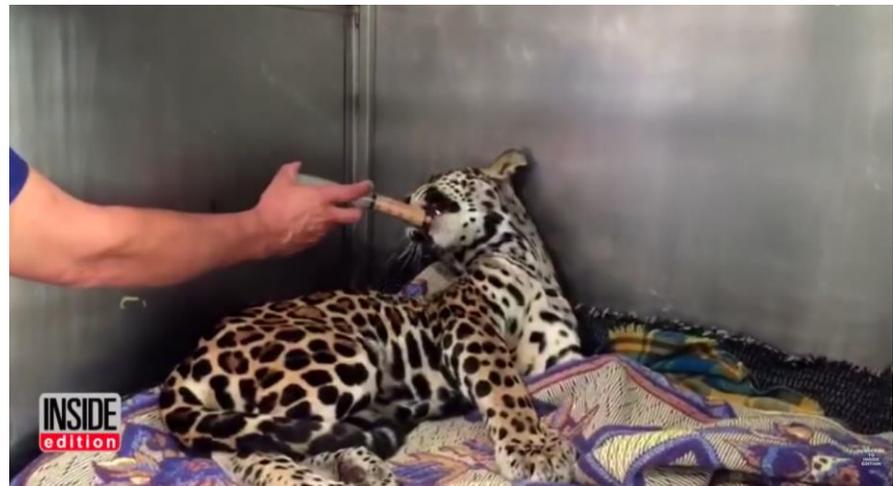
## HISTORY IN THE MAKING: D'YARIA'S RESCUE IN ECUADOR

### Baby Jaguar Shot 18 Times Released Back Into The Wild

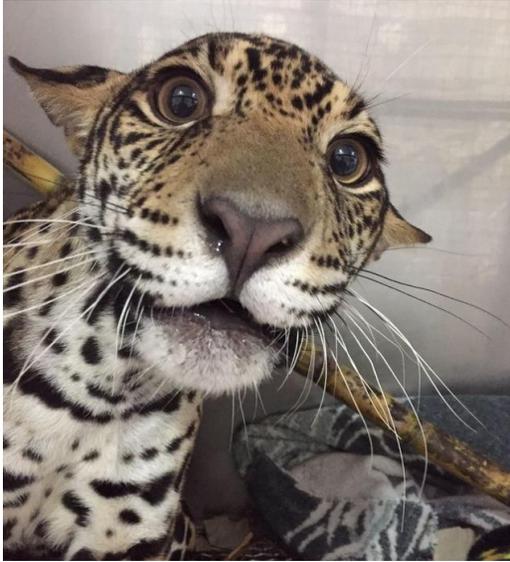
When D'Yaria was found on the brink of death after being shot 18 times, no one could imagine that she would be able to survive the incident, let alone ever be able to return to her jungle home.



A team of veterinarians, lead by Dr. Andres Ortega, performed two incredible spinal surgeries last year to remove the embedded bullets. Under the guidance of her primary veterinarian, Dr. John Castillo, and a small team of veterinarians including Darwin Animal Doctors' Ecuadorian vet, Dr. Cris Cely, D'Yaria began healing and improving. Before too long, D'Yaria was strong and healthy once again.



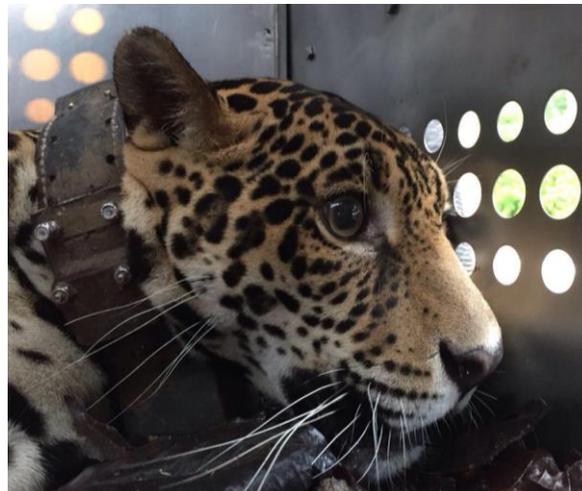
After the arrival of the satellite tracking collar that Darwin Animal Doctors provided, thanks to generous donations, the greatest hope for D'Yaria became a reality – she could go home. Groups came together from all over Ecuador to help support the release of D'Yaria – a moment that would change not only the life of this beautiful jaguar and help protect this endangered species, but would change history.



We spoke to Dr. Cely about D'Yaria's incredible release.

*DAD:* It has been a long road to recovery and to the final release for D'Yaria. As someone so involved throughout this process, how do you feel now that D'Yaria is released?

*Dr. Cris:* I am just extremely happy that she gets to feel freedom again; to feel the wind on her face, hear the sound of the leaves, smell the rain and see the rivers...



*D'Yaria sensing freedom*

*DAD:* Can you explain how the release day went?

*Dr. Cris:* I don't think there are quite words. I mean, everything went as planned. She just gunned out of the cage as we had all hoped!

*DAD:* Can you tell us a little about why this is such a big deal, not just for D'Yaria, but for the future of wildlife rehabilitation in Ecuador?

*Dr. Cris:* Well, this is the first time that something like this has ever happened. When she was found, it seemed she had no chance of survival – she was destined to die after being shot 18 times. She would never have survived if she hadn't gotten the top quality medical care that she did right from the beginning. **The medical team has made history.**



*D'Yaria's release back into the jungle with a satellite tracking collar for her safety*

**“We need to try, even if we think we will fail. We need to do our best to save this planet.” -Dr. Cristina Cely**

INDONESIA



## SUMATRA

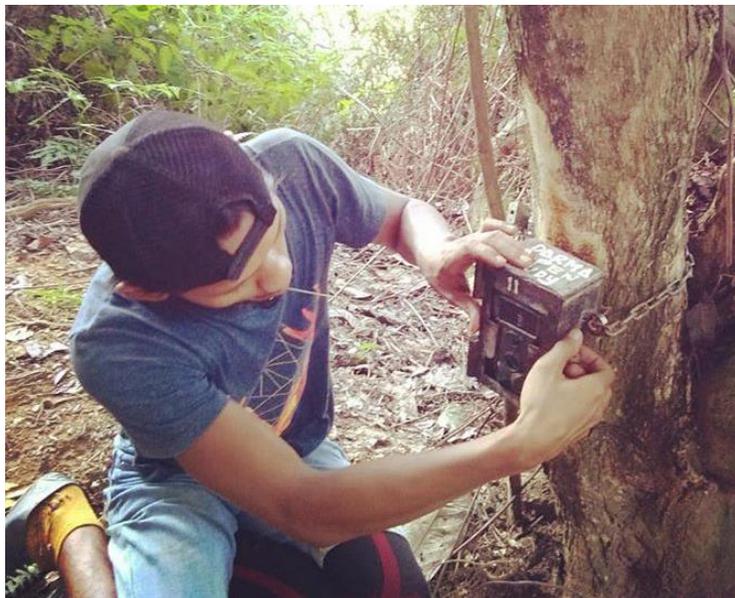
In 2018, Darwin's Sumatran program grew wings and truly began to spread through the Leuser Ecosystem UNESCO Site, as hope grew along with the popularity of our Animal Guardians program and "A Piggy's Tale" school curriculum. We collaborated with local communities and conservation groups, through building schools together, directly protecting wildlife, helping restore vital rainforests and reaching over 1,000 youths!

### Direct Wildlife Protection

Through local partner Stay Wild, we helped implement every phase of direct wildlife protection, from sponsoring rainforest patrols, to supporting wildlife camera trap programs to advocating for endangered species protection.

The cameras gather information as to which precious wildlife still exist in parts of the Leuser Ecosystem, so Stay Wild can propose that those regions be officially protected. Already, the cameras have documented many types of wildlife, including those thought to locally extinct such as the Muntjac (or Barking Deer), which weren't seen for almost 70 years!

As part of our partner patrol program, when poachers are caught, we have been lucky enough to sponsor their work retraining, if they have been found to be poaching due to poverty. Former poachers can become conservationists, patrolling the forests for good and using their forest skills to help find poaching snares, and install hidden wildlife camera traps so they won't be stolen.



## Direct Rainforest Restoration

This was the inaugural year for Darwin to restore precious rainforests. Through tree planting programs surrounding the rainforest village of Batu Katak, we created the local trust and relationships to work with the National Park, to restore nearly 8 acres of rainforest that was formerly illegal palm oil plantations near Batu Katak!

## Bukit Lawang Conservation Festival

Producing an annual conservation festival and roundtable of stakeholders in the Leuser Ecosystem, in partnership with local school partner The Bukit Lawang Trust, was certainly a highlight! In developing regions, personal and community values are most often shared and reinforced through community events.

We have been fortunate to be able to partner with the Trust, an on-the-ground education group which works with many local stakeholders and groups. To produce an annual festival to reinforce conservation values, and a roundtable of community, government, and NGO groups to encourage these Sumatran stakeholders to work together, share knowledge and learn from each other.

A huge reason why we co-host the festival is to introduce new children to conservation drama and English through workshops at the festival. This year, community developer Sarah Wang put on trainings throughout the festival, teaching new children through entertainment, movement, and laughter.



## Sustainability Education - Village of Batu Rongring

We began building a school together in cooperation with the community of Batu Rongring, a rainforest village in the Leuser Ecosystem. The community and its children wanted not just a school, but comprehensive conservation education that would allow them to avoid the pitfalls of working for palm plantations, and give everyone a chance at a sustainable future. In all of our Indonesian programs, replanting the rainforest is a standard part of our central mission of education through supporting and involving schools.



*Learning conservation and humane education through our humane curriculum*



*Directly replanting rainforests*

## Animal Guardians Teacher Training - Permata Bangsa School in Binjai

In the Sumatran city of Binjai, 30 professors from all over Sumatra gathered at the Permata Bangsa School, for workshops on implementing our sustainability education program, the “Animal Guardians” program, for their classrooms. Sarah guided them through multiple days of training, walking through the student experience, and lots of feedback to continually evolve the program.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive! Communities, schools, and multiple universities and primary schools have asked for us to train their teachers as well since then.

## Partnering in Education – Village of Kambung Batu

We are lucky that so many determined locals and partners want to implement the education program in villages throughout the Leuser Ecosystem. Together, the children and their communities can learn to rebuild and avoid the unsustainable industries that threaten the rainforest!



Darwin’s international education partner in Sumatra and Puerto Rico is [Harimau Conservation](#), working for sustainability in rainforests and rainforest communities around the world.



## State Education Partnerships – Village of Batu Katak

With Harimau Conservation bringing their teaching prowess to create education bridges with the state school in the village of Batu Katak, we demonstrated how rewarding it can be to learn how to protect the Sumatran ecosystem, and to directly clean up the forest ecosystem around the school.



## Ranger Partnerships – SOBAN School in Bohorok

The SOBAN School in the town of Bohorok is a conservation school system founded and run by National Park rangers. Designed to further the National Park's conservation goals, it gives the children living in Leuser a chance at a better future in balance with nature. We are honored to be able support these teachers directly, and grow their curriculum and infrastructure with programs and resources, giving the youth a broader education.

*"The Village Chief and Region Chief are very happy about this school program in Porli/Batu Rongring. It's good for the community and for the children, everyone is very happy about it and wants to learn! The children here have asked me to continue the lessons. After the lessons, we take the children to pick up rubbish, and teach them about rubbish. We would like to take the children to plant trees too."*

**Persadanta Sitepu, Batu Rongring school creator**

## UNITED STATES - MAINLAND

In the US, our humane education program created by teacher and curriculum expert Kim Diaz, has been steadily spreading to both public and private schools, to institutions for children with severe special needs, and into animal-oriented media!

Our program, "A Piggy's Tale," based on our humane education comics of the same name, is created to help give children of all ages and backgrounds a sense of power and agency, and teach them how to work together.

Always the inspiration and mascot, Piggy the Three-Legged Super-Pup, visited many schools throughout the year to bring his humane education program. He even visited the offices of The Dodo for multiple livestreams to shine a spotlight on those with special needs and to help everyone appreciate that being different doesn't mean you're any less than anyone else, it just means you have a different super power!



*Piggy at the Dodo*



*School visits! What could make class more fun than a visit from a 3-legged super pup?*

UNITED STATES - PUERTO RICO



Hurricane Maria's effect on Puerto Rico cannot be understated. It was a disaster on every level, for both the human population and animal population that is vital to the island ecosystem's long term survival.

Thanks to the incredible support of LUSH, A Seed of Change and A Well Fed World, we embarked on ambitious programs to rebuild schools, rainforest ecosystems, and sustainable community training for Latin America with Puerto Rico as our flagship rebuilding effort.

### **The Rebuilding Project**

We chose local partner Rayo de Luna because Rayo de Luna was community based and understood needs, values, and concerns of the local population. Our efforts focused on school rebuilding and sustainability education and the restoration of the Morovis Wildlife Reserve, also a local partner.

The wildlife reserve at Morovis, Las Cabachuelas, is a huge reserve in the center of Puerto Rico, with a network of large caves, forests, rock walls, and countless wildlife. Hurricane Maria downed trees, broke fences and scientific structures in the reserve.

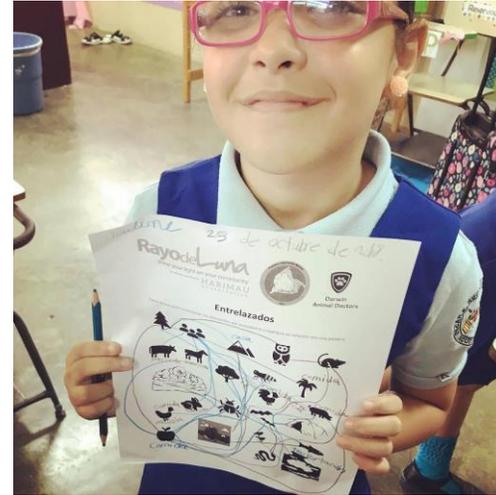
In addition to rebuilding the reserve, replanting trees and making tree nurseries, our program also started building butterfly nurseries to restore the native fauna.



*Experiential learning: Youth engage in the curriculum by planting and being in nature with outdoor ecology programs.  
Photos courtesy of Harimau Conservation, Rayo de Luna, and local teacher Adiris Roman.*

## School Rebuilding and Education Program

We began rebuilding schools around Morovis, starting with three pilot schools and implementing the humane education curriculum.



## Sustainability and Advanced Skills for Youth

Critical thinking skills are essential for students to tackle future challenges like future climate change. Cooperative project skills teach students to work with others whom they would not normally have paired up with, learning the value that everyone can contribute no matter how different, and teaches them not to marginalize others.

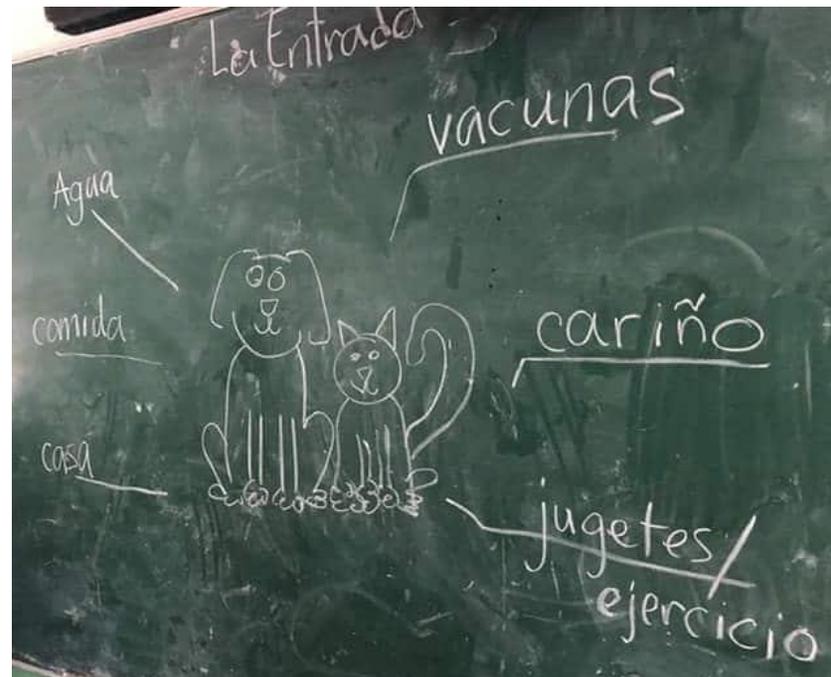


The project's influence is gaining traction! For each school we reach, many more schools approach us asking for the program.

# Dominican Republic

Humane education star, Piggy the three-legged super dog, is originally from the Dominican Republic, specifically, the Cabrera region in the north. Piggy never forgot his roots, and in 2018 we began to bring Piggy's program back to where it all started!

Our local partner in the Dominican Republic is the group Proteccion Animal Cabrera (PAC), a local NGO that brings veterinary care and humane education to the Cabrera region. They had their work cut out for them even before the hurricanes devastated the region, destroying most of the infrastructure that helped the animals.



In Cabrera, we work with PAC bringing our "A Piggy's Tale" and Animal Guardians programs to schools there. In 2018, they implemented pilot programs for both in the schools where it is needed most - and where the animals needed the most help from humans!

In 2019, we can't wait to do more in the Dominican Republic and aim to transform entire schools!

# Colombia

In Colombia, we began collaborating with our local partner, Mascotas Colombia, an NGO that advocates for animals and has the goal of bringing veterinary care, microchipping, and humane education to the entire country. We began with a pilot education project.

Our international humane educator, Michelle Green, converted our “A Piggy’s Tale” humane curriculum into Spanish with activities for use throughout Latin America, and has implemented this program in the local schools. So far, we can say the feedback from the children is very encouraging! We cannot wait to help Mascotas Colombia spread humane education to as much of Colombia and beyond as we can!



*Classroom excited to have A Piggy’s Tale educational coloring book in Spanish!*

# Humane Education Advisory Board



*Photo from [themainemaq.com](http://themainemaq.com)*

Welcome Zoe Weil!

We were excited to welcome our newest Board Advisory member, Zoe Weil, who began the humane education movement in the United States. A friend and colleague, her experience and wisdom have shaped most of our recent campaigns.

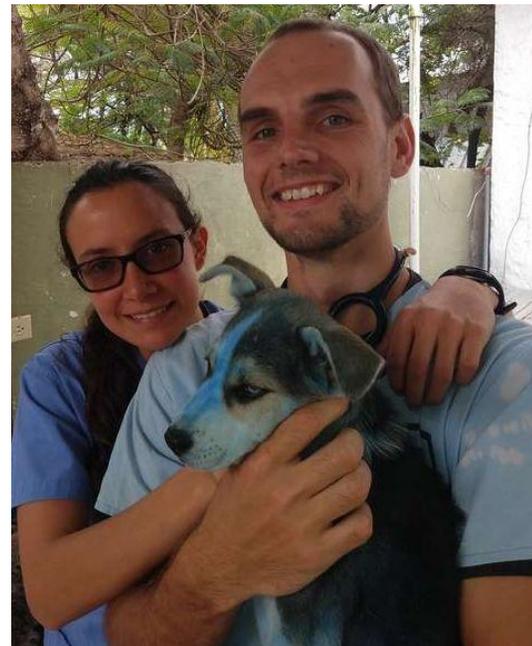
As an academic, Weil studied global crises, from war, to famine, to unsustainable factory farming, to social inequality, and beyond. She concluded there was one institution, where if we invested in optimizing it, that the investment would pay off in solving all the other crises. That institution was education.

Raising children who can think critically, approach problems creatively, and view their universe compassionately is the key to a kinder future for all.

## Patient Story: Blue Puppy Turns Up at Vet Clinic and Surprises Everyone

By Elizabeth Claire Alberts at the Dodo

“A volunteer came in with a weird face, saying that there was a blue puppy outside,” Zoe Hawthorne-Loizeaux, social media manager Darwin Animal Doctors, the group that runs the clinic, wrote on Facebook. “The vets didn't really know what she meant ... a puppy with a blue tongue? Blue eyes? A new kind of dog maybe? So they all went out to actually see in front of them a puppy ... painted blue.” Surprisingly, the owner hadn't brought the 5-month-old husky, named Taylor, into the clinic because of the blue paint — instead, she'd brought her in because she wasn't eating and had been “a bit down for a couple of days.” But the vet team immediately realized these symptoms had to do with the paint.



“Taylor was apparently playing with a bag of blue paint mix before her owner found her completely blue and throwing up paint,” Tod Emko, president of Darwin Animal Doctors, told The Dodo. “Thus, even though the pup's name was Taylor, the clinic bestowed [on] her the nickname Smurf.” Despite Taylor's amusing appearance, the vet team was actually very worried about her health.”

“Smurf came to us two days after the blue paint incident, which was a bit concerning because she had been throwing up blue paint for those two days,” Emko said. “No one is sure what kind of paint it was, but as you can imagine, it's never good to eat paint.” The vet team gave Taylor medication to help her get better, and asked her owner to wash her.



“Smurf's human family washed her several times with dog shampoo,” Emko added. “However, although it's most people's instinct to scrub off the paint, we advised the owner not to — only to wash her gently and give her as many showers as it would take to get it all off, until she looks like a husky again.”

A few days later, Taylor returned to the clinic for a follow-up exam, and the vet staff were impressed by her speedy recovery. “She passed her physical exam with flying blue colors, the staff all started taking pictures of the miracle baby,” Emko said.

We're excited to share our successes in 2018 with you, and to make 2019 an even better year. We know we can create a better world – one community at a time. We have saved lives, seen the changes - and that gives us the hope and drive to keep going – every day.

Thank you to our steadfast supporters, partners, volunteers, veterinarians and educators who made 2018 a special year for expansion and growth – always for the animals!



Darwin  
Animal Doctors

**LUSH** FRESH  
HANDMADE  
COSMETICS

