



# IFAW *in* ACTION

International Fund for Animal Welfare

## Enriching Life for Animals and People on Cape Cod

**IFAW helps preserve the Cape's woodlands, shores and wildlife for the benefit of both animals and people.**



Because IFAW's international headquarters is located on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, we have a special interest in protecting and enhancing the quality of life for both animals and people on this fragile peninsula.

### **Protecting Whales, Promoting Whale Watching**

As a world leader in whale conservation, IFAW helps protect the endangered North Atlantic right whales that feed in Cape Cod's waters each year. We've conducted population surveys, developed benign research techniques, and worked with government agencies, fisheries groups and other organisations to develop practical ways to protect "our" whales.

Based on this research, we've offered technical and policy solutions to prevent ships from striking right whales, a major threat to their survival. Our efforts helped bring about a federal *Mandatory Ship Reporting System* designed to help avoid ship-whale collisions at sea. In addition, IFAW has collaborated with the *Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association* and local fishermen to find ways to reduce the number of whales entangled in fishing gear, a primary cause of whale injury and death.

On Cape Cod and globally, IFAW promotes responsible whale watching as a sustainable, economically beneficial way to appreciate whales. We partner with local whale watch operators, help government agencies develop whale watching guidelines, monitor the socio-economic effects of the whale watching industry, and sponsor educational programmes to show that whales are worth more alive than commercially hunted.

As a founding member of the *Cape Cod Stranding Network* (CCSN), which provides hands-on assistance when whales, dolphins and other marine mammals strand on our shores, we've saved many lives. Trained IFAW volunteers are usually among the first to respond to stranding events. We mobilised to save 55 pilot whales in the largest mass stranding on Cape Cod in more than a decade and, in another recent incident, worked with other CCSN members to transport seven stranded dolphins to a safe release point.

### Protecting Land and Wildlife

IFAW is dedicated to preserving significant wildlife habitats on the Cape. We helped the *Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts* map and rank Cape wildlife habitats, from vernal pools to beach-dune systems, to assist town planners in selecting the most critical lands to purchase.

An IFAW-sponsored study of local coyote populations has helped increase our understanding of how these animals interact with our suburban environment. This research will lead to a more harmonious relationship between humans and coyote on the Cape and beyond.

Over the years, IFAW has protected hundreds of acres of land from development by helping to fund its purchase. We also supported the creation of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve on the northern 15,000 acres of the Massachusetts Military Reservation in order to conserve the Upper Cape's largest remaining contiguous area of wildlife habitat and its underlying aquifer.

### Caring for Companion Animals

Cape Cod's estimated homed cat population is 20,000, most of which do not wear identification. To increase the number of lost cats reunited with their families, IFAW—in collaboration with the *Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals* (MSPCA), *Animal Rescue League of Boston*, members of *Cape Cod Veterinary Medical Association*, and Animal Control Officers from five Cape towns—launched an innovative "Tag Your Cat" campaign which teaches owners how tagging can save lives and how to properly fit a cat collar.

### Contributing to the Local Community

IFAW staff regularly make presentations to local schools, churches and civic organisations on animal welfare, habitat conservation and related issues. Dr. Carole Carlson, for example, often inspires community groups with her talks about the wonders of whales. Several elementary school classes on the Cape take part in our annual *Animal Action Week* programmes to learn about wild animals and their significance. On the lighter side, IFAW has also participated in local village festivals in West Barnstable and Hyannis, the Brewster in Bloom parade, and other community events.

IFAW is proud to be based here, and continually strives to improve animal welfare, preserve our environment, and enrich the lives of all who live on Cape Cod.

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#### KEY FACTS

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- IFAW's headquarters has been located on Cape Cod since 1977. We now have offices in 15 countries and more than 1.8 million supporters worldwide.
  - Local campaigns include promoting whale conservation and whale watching, working with local groups to improve the lives of companion animals, and protecting habitat for indigenous wildlife.
  - Our promotion of whale watching tourism, 120-plus employee payroll, educational outreach programmes and funding of local land purchases contribute substantially to Cape Cod's economy and well being.
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**To learn more about IFAW's worldwide campaigns that benefit animals and people, visit our Web site at [www.ifaw.org](http://www.ifaw.org).**



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**Data collected in Cape Cod waters by scientists aboard IFAW's research vessel, *Song of the Whale*, are used to help save highly endangered North Atlantic right whales.**



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**IFAW staff are among the first to respond to marine mammal strandings on Cape shores.**