



The QATO Foundation 2023 Annual



Contents

- 3 Preface
- 4 About the QATO Foundation
- 5 Selected projects supported by the QATO Foundation in 2023
- 14 Around the world with the QATO Foundation



Cover photo: BradyCare

PREFACE

2023: Events of the past year at the QATO Foundation

2023 was yet another interesting year for the QATO Foundation. We continue to receive many applications that address problems never before encountered by the foundation. This makes it crucial for us to work across a wide field of animal welfare so it is possible for us to support important projects as we become aware of them.

This year, our support was again sent to animal protection projects in both Denmark and abroad. We like to say that we are keenly focused on animals living in human custody – be they pets, livestock in agricultural production, and wild animals which, for a wide variety of reasons, end up being cared for by humans.

This focus is well and widely reflected in the year's grants. One example is our support for LOKK – the National Organisation of Women's Shelters (*Landsorganisationen af Kvindekrisecentre*) so that women who are compelled to move into a crisis centre can have their pets cared for in an emergency. The pets are offered brief stays at one of the animal refuge centres run by Animal Protection Denmark. Another example of a project supported in 2023 is WWF, which received funding for their efforts to phase out tiger farms in Thailand.

Even so, we realise that there are instances in which the best way to help wild animals is by supporting projects that prevent them from ever ending up in human custody in the first place. This applies to situations in which conflicts between people and animals might result in the capture of wild animals, which end up being treated as pets or otherwise being harmed. In these instances, good projects can help both animals and the local population resolve their conflicts. This is precisely the aim of the Long-Tailed Macaque Project, which uses its 'Enough Coconuts for Everyone' (*Kokosnødder nok til alle*) project to support and improve co-existence between macaques and plantation owners.

The QATO Foundation frequently receives applications aimed at improving horses' welfare. This prompted us to

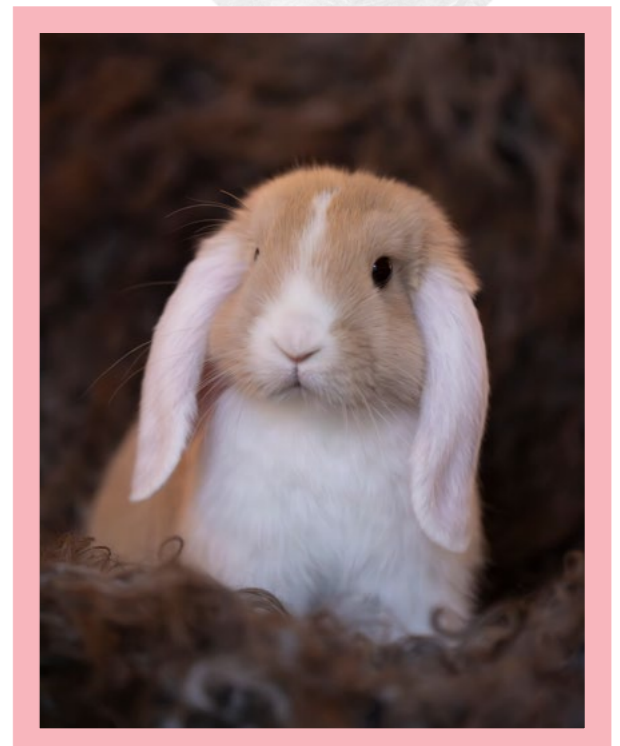
join forces with the Danish Equestrian Federation in early 2023 to launch a study aimed at identifying the living and working conditions of training horses at Denmark's riding academies. This overview will increase our understanding of whether improvements for these horses are needed and, if so, in which areas.

This annual provides further details about these and other projects supported by the QATO Foundation over the year.

Happy reading!

Christina Feveje Nielsen
Grants and Administration Manager

Signe Kirk Kristiansen
Chairperson, Board of Directors



We work to safeguard and promote animal welfare

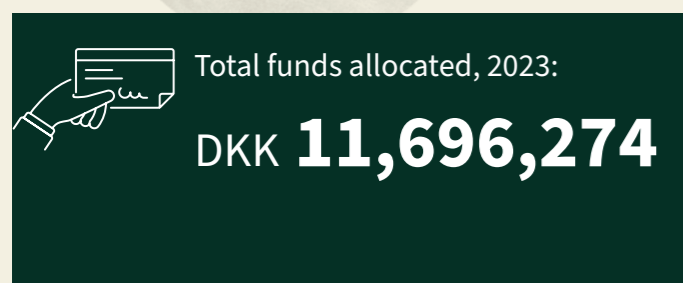
We believe that all animals deserve to live a good life and experience good animal welfare. And we pay special attention to animals not thriving in human custody.

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

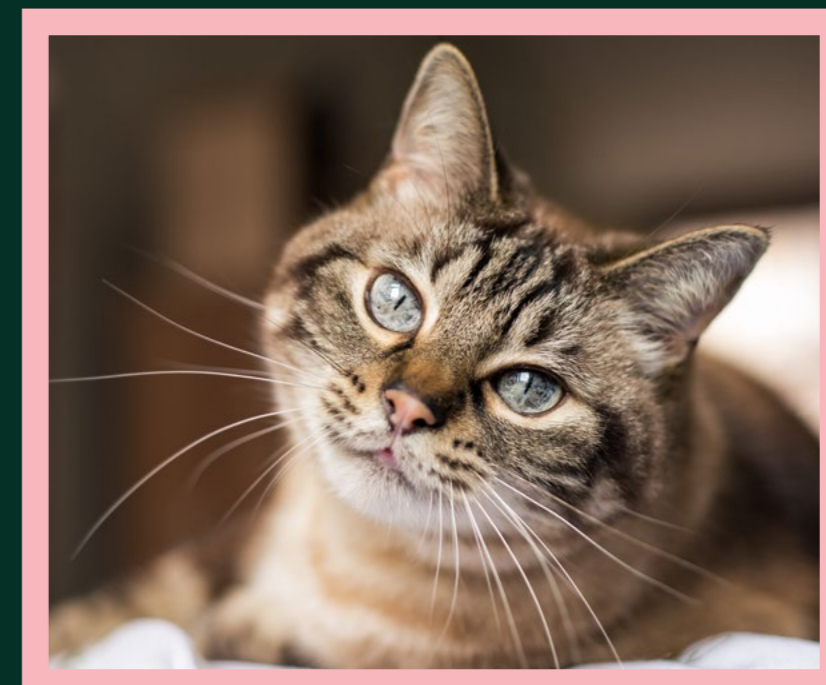
The QATO Foundation is a non-profit and charitable organisation founded by Signe Kirk Kristiansen and Thomas Kirk Kristiansen in 2012.

We support projects big and small that safeguard and promote animal welfare in Denmark and abroad. We also award study grants to students working in the same area as we do.

Statistics for 2023



Selected projects supported by the QATO Foundation in 2023



National Organisation of Women's Shelters

Emergency sheltering of pets

When women and children are compelled to move into a crisis centre to escape domestic violence, they rarely have the option of taking their pets with them.

For a number of years, LOKK – the National Organisation of Women's Shelters has collaborated with Animal Protection Denmark to ensure that pets are not left at home at the risk of being abused.

Some women even regard the pets as a barrier to seeking help because they fear what could happen to them if left alone with a perpetrator of violence.

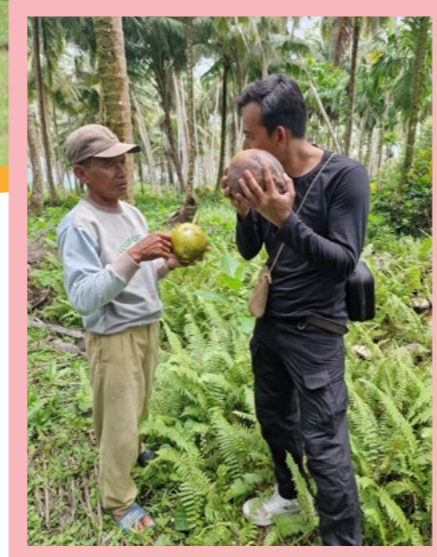
” Leaving a violent partner and seeking help and protection at a women's crisis centre can be a big step to take. And not being able to bring the family's pet can often be a significant barrier to doing this. If the woman and her children know that their pet is in safe hands, it'll be easier for them to focus on their stay at the crisis centre and the process of getting away from the violence. At LOKK we greatly appreciate the support from the QATO Foundation, because it makes such a big difference to the battered women, children and, not least, their pets.”

Laura Kirch Kirkegaard
Director, LOKK

The project provides temporary emergency sheltering at one of the animal refuge centres run by Animal Protection Denmark. The pets are safe at these shelters and get the care they need. With the support of the QATO Foundation, the scheme can continue in 2024.

ABOUT LOKK

LOKK – the National Organisation of Women's Shelters is the member organisation for most of Denmark's women's shelters. At the same time, it is also an NGO that lobbies to heighten awareness of, prevent and eliminate domestic violence and violence in close relationships.



The Long-Tailed Macaque Project

Enough Coconuts for Everyone

A unique sub-species of the long-tailed macaque lives on the Indonesian island of Simeulue, and it is unfortunately highly endangered.

As the macaques' natural habitats gradually shrink, they are forced to move into inhabited areas. The macaques are fond of eating coconuts, which explains why they enter coconut plantations – to the great dismay of plantation owners who defend their harvest.

In this project people from The Long-Tailed Macaque Project (LTM Project) and local Indonesian experts will engage in a dialogue with plantation owners to find viable solutions to the conflict. The objective is to enable the macaques and coconut plantation owners to co-exist without exposing macaques to poisoning, mutilation or capture and being sold into captivity.

” Before we can fix anything, we need to find out what’s broken. That’s why we listen to everyone involved, study the plantation’s workflows and find examples of areas where interaction between macaques and people works well. We involve local residents in finding solutions and support them in starting up local initiatives. They’re the ones who have to maintain and continue the initiatives in the long term, so we’ll never succeed without their acceptance and commitment.”

Nadja Ramseyer Krog, Director, The Long-Tailed Macaque Project

Accordingly, a key element of the project is to explore potential start-up initiatives that enable plantation owners to earn money from letting the macaques live and turning their presence into something positive. This is not an isolated project, as the LTM Project’s partners are working to restore the natural habitats of long-tailed macaques.

It is being started up on the Indonesian island of Simeulue, but if the right model

is developed, it will have great potential because of the large number of coconut plantations in Southeast Asia.

ABOUT THE LONG-TAILED MACAQUE PROJECT:

The Long-Tailed Macaque Project is a Danish organisation that works to maintain and improve the living conditions of the long-tailed macaque. Until recently, the species was overlooked despite the fact that it faces grave threats such as being sold to the pet and online abuse industry and the pharmaceutical industry as well as the loss of habitats. The Long-Tailed Macaque Project was started by Malene Friis Hansen, PhD, and professor Augustin Fuentes in 2021. They now have two employees and more than 90 partners all over the world.



WWF

Phasing out tiger farms in Thailand

More than 32 tiger farms, housing roughly 1,500 tigers all told, are registered in Thailand.

At the farms, visitors can have their photos taken with tiger cubs. In general, the tigers live in horrible conditions at these farms, and they are sedated so they can be handled during photo sessions.

When the cubs become adults, they are used as breeding animals or sold on the black market – alive or in parts. Particularly tiger skin and bones are worth a lot of money.

Technically, the registered tiger farms are legal, but the tigers’ awful living conditions and the selling of tiger parts are not. Failure to register the individual tigers makes it difficult for the authorities to enforce the law as they are unable to trace the origins of the confiscated tiger parts.

A new WWF project, supported by the QATO Foundation, aims to reverse this trend. The project builds on a pilot project in which WWF Thailand has joined forces with Thailand’s Department of National Parks,

Wildlife and Plant Conservation and begun setting up a DNA database of tigers at the tiger farms. The project aims to add 800 more tigers to the database.

” Tiger farms are a huge problem in Southeast Asia. They contribute to the illegal trading in tigers and help to uphold the demand for tiger products. The illegal tiger trade is problematic both because of how the tigers are treated in captivity and because these farms are one of the biggest threats to the endangered wild tiger. This is why the project with the QATO Foundation is crucial for shutting down the existing tiger farms in Thailand. Thailand houses the second-largest population of tigers in captivity, after China. And being able to address the tiger-farm issue in Thailand, in cooperation with the QATO Foundation, WWF Thailand and the Thai government, will result in valuable lessons that WWF will be able to draw on outside Thailand, too.”

Anton Thorsen, Senior Project Manager, WWF

It is crucial to embed the project with the relevant Thai authorities as well, because they help ensure access to the tiger farms and make sure that the new DNA database is used in confiscation cases.

In order to successfully improve tiger welfare, the DNA database alone is not enough, however. That’s why the project also includes a comprehensive campaign targeting the many people who visit tiger farms every year and often believe that the tiger farms are helping to support the wild tiger population.

Altogether, these initiatives aim to ensure the gradual phasing out of tiger farms, so that no tigers live in dismal conditions at Thai tiger farms in the future.

ABOUT WWF

WWF is the biggest independent nature organisation in the world. Since the 1960s, the foundation has been fighting for a world in which people live in harmony with nature. Today it is active in more than 100 countries and has more than 6,000 employees and five million supporters worldwide.



University of Copenhagen

Vaccines for the guard dogs of the Maasai people

Since 2018, the Mara North Conservancy Dog Project has made a targeted effort to help the Maasai people handle their guard dog population and the dogs' state of health. The project does this by neutering and vaccinating the dogs.

This effort primarily benefits the dogs themselves, as the vaccines protect them against the infectious (and often fatal) diseases of rabies, canine parvovirus and distemper. The neutering also benefits the dog population because an out-of-control population leads to food shortages, more dogfights, unwanted pregnancies and stray dogs hunting for food or mating partners. The large number of stray dogs also exacerbates the risk of spreading fatal diseases, both among the dogs themselves but also to wildlife and humans in connection with rabies. This risk emphasises the importance of keeping the dog population well-vaccinated.

The project will also benefit wildlife because the large number of hungry dogs desperately hunt and kill wild game or steal prey from other wild predators in the area. Fewer and well-fed dogs will address this problem.

Last but not least, the project will benefit the Maasai people themselves. They need the dogs to guard their cattle at night – not wandering the countryside in search of food or a mating partner – and they need dogs that are strong and healthy.

” When the Maasai people were initially presented with the idea of neutering and vaccinating their dogs, they were very sceptical and thought that their dogs would just be killed. Fortunately, the project's local veterinary nurse, James Nayetuni, has successfully promoted the project by giving talks at local schools and churches in a way that enabled the Maasai to see the benefits of the project, allowing their dogs to be neutered and vaccinated. You have to proceed carefully and constantly respect the local culture.”

Rikke Langebæk, Veterinarian and Associate Professor at the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, and Head of the Mara North Conservancy Dog Project

The project is being implemented by veterinarians and veterinary students from three universities: University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Nairobi (Kenya) and Tufts University (Boston, USA). They meet twice a year at the Maasai Mara National Reserve to perform neutering surgery and vaccinations and provide supplementary veterinary assistance as required. They also give talks about the project at local schools so the children can go home and explain to their families why it is better to have fewer but healthier dogs, than to have a lot of hungry, weakened dogs which constantly run away.

Every year, 600-800 dogs are born in the Mara North Conservancy, and the grant from the QATO Foundation enables the local veterinary nurse to vaccinate 1,500 puppies.

Danish Equestrian Federation (DRF)

Research project on the welfare of horses at Denmark's riding academies

The first encounter with horses and riding by many novice horseback riders takes place at riding academies where training horses and ponies greet expectant children and adults every day.

The riding academies encourage interaction with these wonderful animals, learning more about horseback riding in general and support the sense of community among the equestrians themselves.

But riding would not exist without horses and ponies, which is why it is crucial that these animals thrive in their role as training horses and live under good conditions.

The individual riding academies throughout Denmark have different physical settings, but the common denominator is that they want to give their

training horses the best conditions for a good life. Even so, the financial situation of many riding academies is occasionally constrained, which means that they cannot always keep their horses' living conditions up to standards they prefer.

The Danish Equestrian Federation has used the support from the QATO Foundation to launch a study that looks into the general quality of horse welfare at Denmark's riding academies. This study reviews all the relevant factors affecting the horses' well-being.

By means of a comprehensive questionnaire survey and visits to ten selected riding academies in Denmark, DRF's veterinary consultant Mette Uldahl and senior researcher Janne Winther Christensen, Aarhus University, will cooperate with DRF's development consultants to examine the training horses' health, stable and enclosure conditions, equipment, instruction, interaction with

instructors, riders, other horses and much more besides.

Altogether, this comprehensive study will provide knowledge on how training horses are doing at the riding academies and whether any areas of the horses' well-being need improvement.

” This is an area where we know that making the right intervention can make a difference to the horses. Now we just have to chart precisely what this right intervention is.”

Anne Silfwander, Head of DRF's Club and Sport Activities

The project was launched in 2023, and the first study subresults are expected to be ready during 2024, whereas the entire project will run until 2025.



ABOUT THE DANISH EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

The Danish Equestrian Federation is a specialised association under the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark (*Danmarks Idrætsforbund*). DRF was founded in 1917 and about 450 riding academies are currently members of DRF.



World Animal Protection Elephant ambulance in Laos

In Laos, some elephants live in the wild, whereas others live in human custody, and are typically used in the forestry and tourism industries.

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world, tourism came to standstill, and many of these elephants were moved from tourist cities back to the villages where they came from. Other elephants still live in traditional elephant camps. Unfortunately, elephant well-being is challenged in both locations. This is due to two factors; first of all, that elephant owners and keepers lack knowledge on how to correctly care for the elephants and secondly that there is inadequate access to qualified veterinary assistance.

Therefore, World Animal Protection has helped to establish an elephant ambulance

service that aims to improve elephant welfare. The ambulance drives out to the elephants to provide routine check-ups and emergency veterinary assistance. The veterinarians advise owners on feeding and care at the same time.

” As the veterinarians from the ambulance gradually build up a trusting relationship with the elephant owners they visit, they also start talking about animal welfare. It can be a rather sensitive topic, but using the elephants’ health as an approach, they open up for a positive dialogue.”

Stephanie Kruise Klausen,
Campaign Manager, Wild Animals
World Animal Protection

All elephants living in captivity in Laos are fitted with a chip so they can be identified. The elephant ambulance also makes sure to register the elephants in a new app

that can help veterinarians and Laotian authorities to gain an overview of the elephants’ state of health.

The QATO Foundation has supported the operation of the elephant ambulance.

ABOUT WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

World Animal Protection is a world-wide animal protection organisation that has been protecting animals against exploitation and maltreatment for more than 50 years. Today, WAP has departments in 14 countries. They use campaigns and projects to inspire people, organisations and governments to improve conditions for animals all over the world.

World Horse Welfare

New field shelters for horse refuge



When horses, ponies, mules and donkeys need a new home, for example in connection with animal welfare cases, World Horse Welfare is ready to take them in.

With four large rescue and rehabilitation centres in England and Scotland, the organisation offers a good home with professional care for the horses, until they have recovered and can be rehomed to a kind and loving family.

For World Horse Welfare, it is important to be able to offer their animals a life with plenty of space and self-determination. Therefore, during their time at the centres, most of the animals are kept outdoors in large fields and with shelters, so that they can seek shelter from wind and weather. At their rescue centre, Hall Farm in Norfolk England, World Horse Welfare had to realise that several of their field shelters were in

such bad condition that it was not worth repairing them any longer. However, the horses and especially the donkeys, who lack waterproof coats, cannot do without a field shelter in which they can seek shelter from rain, wind or scorching sun.

The lack of shelters in some of the fields meant that World Horse Welfare had fewer opportunities to use all their field shelters throughout the year. For an organisation that must be ready to urgently receive animals from animal welfare cases, flexibility is an important factor. Therefore, they had a great desire to have new, good shelters in the fields.

” The generous support of the QATO Foundation has made a real difference to the ability of Hall Farm to re-respond to larger welfare cases arriving and the ongoing battle against internal parasites as the new shelters have ensured greater flexibility in field use and resting.”

Eleanor Stourton, World Horse Welfare

With support from, among others, the QATO Foundation, World Horse Welfare was able to build three new, mobile horse shelters. The shelters are designed so that there is plenty of room to get in and out, even for the horses that are low in the ranking. The shelters are also mounted on a kind of ski, which allows the tractor to pull them from one field to another, providing maximum flexibility.

ABOUT WORLD HORSE WELFARE

World Horse Welfare is a British organisation that works to improve the lives of equines. This applies to horses in the sport as well as working equines around the world and horses rescued from welfare cases in the UK. For the horses in need, World Horse Welfare runs four rescue and rehabilitation centres, where more than 300 horses are returned to good health every year and rehomed.



BradyCare Learning platform for veterinarians

It can be overwhelming, and rather daunting, to neuter people's beloved pets or stray animals that cannot be offered long-term care after surgery. Veterinarians frequently have to cope with these challenges as part of their job.

BradyCare's new learning platform offers veterinarians access to a unique, interactive learning process that prepares them to make well-founded decisions before, during and after surgery.

The learning platform will eventually comprise ten modules and cover neutering surgery on both cats and dogs. Each module in the learning portal will comprise a number of short videos of particularly high quality that review the surgical process from first incision to final stitch. Each module will also include recommended practical exercises as preparation for operations, supplementary scientific material and final quizzes that enable vets to test their knowledge.

The platform targets all veterinarians, veterinary students and educators who perform surgical interventions on dogs and cats. NGOs involved in the humane control of stray animal populations can also benefit from the platform because all

their veterinarians – also those who provide their assistance temporarily – can take the course. In so doing, NGOs can ensure that everyone is working on the basis of the same high surgical standards.

” BradyCare will be helping animals by empowering people. When you find your purpose, the path becomes clear: We will make a difference for our animals and the people looking after them. I am convinced that compassion and care are as important as determination and persistence; for now, for the future, for the animals and for us.”

Dr Ursula Goetz,
Founder of BradyCare



In 2022, the QATO Foundation supported the development of BradyCare's first module of its learning platform. The module reviews the neutering of dogs and has served as a pilot module for trying out the model and testing the level of interest among the target group. The module was well-received, which is why the QATO Foundation decided to award another grant to the project in 2023. This time with the aim of developing the module on castrating dogs and bonus material on handling possible complications during castration and sterilisation respectively.

During 2024, it is expected that interested members of the target group will be able access the module on dog neutering.

ABOUT BRADYCARE

BradyCare is a Danish organisation that works to improve animal well-being. The organisation is keenly focused on boosting the technical and surgical skills and qualifications of veterinarians all over the world.

BradyCare was founded by Dr Ursula Goetz in 2022. Dr Goetz has been travelling the world for many years to teach veterinarians and veterinary students in small-animal surgery. Developing this learning portal has enabled her to reach even more recipients with her instructive approach to making complicated subject matter easily available. Ultimately for the benefit of the animals in need of surgery.



Other selected projects, 2023

Grant recipient	Projects
Bondegården i Brande (visiting farm)	More space for the rabbits New hutch and large enclosed warren for the farm's rabbits.
Colobus Conservation	New fencing for colobus monkeys New fencing for colobus monkeys in need of care at a monkey refuge in Kenya.
Veterinarians Without Borders	Help for stray animals in Ukraine Neutering, vaccinations and other veterinary assistance for stray animals in Ukraine.
The Fair Dog Association	Containers for dog food Approved storage of food that is donated to dogs all over the world.
Hestens Værn Fond – foundation for the benefit of horse protection	Help for horses in at-risk horse-keeping undertakings Volunteer equestrian experts help find good solutions for horses and owners in at-risk horse-keeping undertakings.
Dansk Ride Instruktor-Forening (Danish association of riding instructors)	Drafting of modern guidelines for good horseback riding Drafting of guidelines for good horseback riding that take account of horses' needs and well-being.
MG-Empire	Children's TV programme about projects for endangered animals Positive stories from Denmark and abroad about projects that aim to help resolve the climate and biodiversity crises.
North Zealand's Cat Assistance (Nordsjællands Kattehjælp)	Help for stray cats Neutering, vaccination, etc., of wild cats and release with cat keeper.
Globalteer	Help for dogs and cats in Cusco, Peru Operational support for mobile veterinary clinic that treats animals and teaches animal owners how to care for their dogs and cats.
The Long-Tailed Macaque Project	From cage to the wild Captured macaques on the Indonesian island of Karimun Jawa are confiscated and rehabilitated with a view to release in the wild.
WWF	Safeguards koalas against natural fires By combining the knowledge of Australia's indigenous population with modern drone technology, koalas are protected from natural fires.
University of Copenhagen	Research into rabbit well-being How do obesity and inactivity affect rabbits' pathological prospects?

Around the world with the QATO Foundation

From Peru in the west to Thailand and Laos in the east, and down to Kenya in the south, the QATO Foundation supports the efforts of organizations both in Denmark and abroad to improve conditions for animals worldwide. While our assistance reaches a diverse range of recipients, there is a clear emphasis on projects within our home country of Denmark.

The map highlights selected projects abroad over the years. In 2023, we supported projects in countries such as Thailand, Laos, Kenya and Australia.





QATO

Fonden

The QATO Foundation
Koldingvej 2
DK-7190 Billund

qatofonden.dk