

## 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 National **X** Wildlife Day



## NATIONAL Wildlife Day

National Wildlife Day is celebrated every year on **September 4**. The day's purpose is to raise awareness about endangered species and their habitats, which need to be protected and rescued. It is also a day to recognize the work that some animal sanctuaries and zoos do to help preserve wildlife and to educate their visitors about the dangers that animals face and how they can help

## Background

National Wildlife Day was founded in 2005 by Colleen Paige, with the intention of bringing awareness to the problems that the planet's wildlife faces. In September of 2006, the world lost one of its best wildlife experts and conservationists, Steve Irwin. In his honor, Paige dedicated National Wildlife Day to him and his work, and added the date of February 22, Steve Irwin's birthday, as the second observance of National Wildlife Day.

This is a day when preservation organizations and sanctuaries can get attention to promote their work and teach people about how crucial it is that we keep endangered animals and their habitats safe. Animal extinction often happens because of human actions, so it is important to educate people on how they can help at preventing this. Many animals are defenseless and count on our help to survive, this day should inspire us all to do good and take action.

## What to do on National Wildlife Day

If you have a special interest in animals and conservationism, check with zoos and sanctuaries near you to see if they need any volunteers. If you are unable to donate your time, or you have no animal sanctuaries near you, set up a monthly donation to a zoo or preservation organization, or sponsor one of their animals.

Wildlife isn't just about animals, but also about nature. Take this day to go for a hike or a camping trip and try to escape the busy city life and connect with the nature around you for a bit, exploring the great outdoors. While you're at it, keep the environment safe for animals by cleaning any trash that you find left behind from other people before you.