

Fundación Con Garra

Annual Activity Report 2024





Fundación Con Garra

Fundación Con Garra is a non-profit organization that was established on March 23, 2023 in Puerto Varas, Chile.

In 2024, Fundación Con Garra made significant achievements, at times exceeding our own expectations. This year was marked not only by the fulfillment of our objectives, but also by an **important institutional growth, valuable lessons and strategic alliances.**

Through these advances, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the conservation of Chile's native wild cats, reinforcing our mission and expanding the impact of our actions.



- We envision a world in which human activity is not an obstacle to the development, survival, and evolution of native wild cats and their habitats.
- We work for a life in coexistence where native wild cats are recognized as an essential part of the socio-ecological system to which mankind belongs, and where they are intrinsically valued.





- Fundación Con Garra aims to develop and implement strategies to **mitigate the threats faced by the seven wild cat species native to Chile.**
- Our work is based on **dialogue and collaboration with the community.** We seek to provide the necessary tools to support decision-making that allows for the harmonious coexistence between humans and wild cats.





➤ We are Melanie Kaiser and Patricio Muñoz Peña, veterinarian and sociologist, respectively.



My motivation to get involved in the conservation of native wild cats arises from my desire to actively contribute to the protection of biodiversity. By now, I confirm without any doubt that everyone can contribute and make this world a better place – for everyone. One of my tasks at Con Garra is to bring a little order to my partner's creativity 😊
We complement each other very well.



I am the creative mind behind Fundación Con Garra. With innovative ideas we have shown that creativity can transform challenges into opportunities, inspiring hundreds of people to join our cause to build a conservation legacy that lasts over time. 💡



How we work

- There are a number of universal threats to native wild cats, *i.e.*, they affect most, if not all, of the seven species that inhabit Chile. All of them are of anthropogenic origin, caused by humans.
- For some of these threats, **practical and effective short-term solutions** have been suggested and implemented:
 - Chicken coops and corrals that keep out wild cats help prevent retaliatory killing.
 - Vaccinated and dewormed domestic cats and dogs are less likely to transmit infectious diseases to native species.
 - Road signs indicating the presence of wildlife on the road may help mitigate the risk of roadkill.
- Nevertheless, we have found in the field that the efficacy of these measures does depend on people's attitude: Some poultry farmers reject the use of hen houses even though they are in good condition, and a significant proportion of drivers simply ignore the signs that are installed. In the case of vaccines and antiparasitic treatments, the efficacy of the measure can be enhanced through responsible pet ownership.
- That's why **Con Garra goes one step further**.



View from a secure corral to the outside



The extra step

- Every collaboration starts with an initial assessment, where **we take the time and listen to people**. This allows us to establish trusting relationships.
- We provide the necessary tools so that people can take better decisions regarding their coexistence with native wild cats.
- We seek to help them understand the reasons for the conservation measures we adopt together.
- And finally, we work for a change of attitude.
- We do not always obtain the desired results. In particular, any change in attitude is extremely difficult to achieve. However, we are convinced that this way of dealing with human-wildlife conflict yields better results in the medium and long term. And if we succeed in inspiring a change of attitude in one person, this person can become the seed of the change we ultimately want to see in the community.
- Since **all beneficiaries and collaborators have their own stories to tell**, this report will give an account of the work carried out by Fundación Con Garra during 2024 – and some of the stories we heard and lived.



Threat mitigation strategies

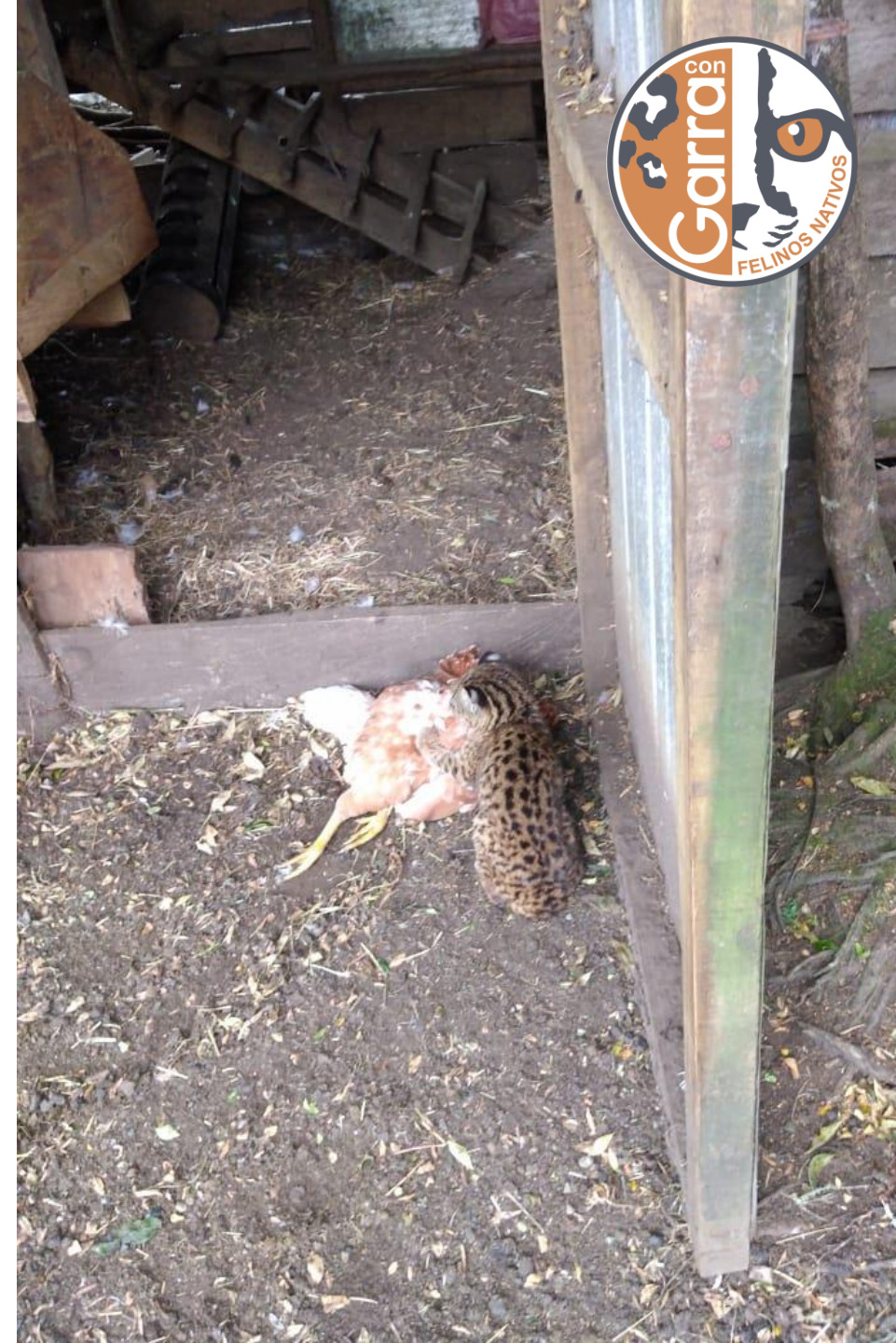
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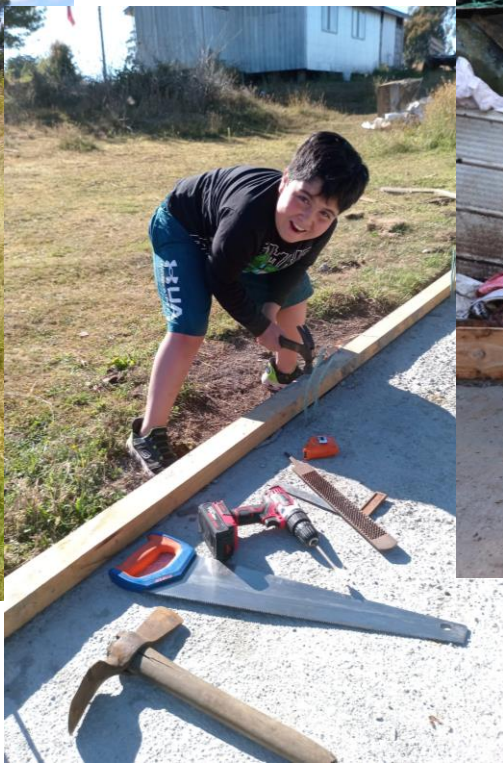
1. Improvement of chicken coops and corrals to prevent retaliatory killing



Retaliatory killing

- The **killing of predators attacking poultry, the offspring of ruminants and other farm animals** is a common and widely accepted practice in rural communities.
- Farmers who lose their animals – a source of food and economic sustenance – do not distinguish between protected and unprotected, native, exotic, and domestic predators.
- Throughout the year, we met people who commented that they had killed güiñas, Chiloé foxes and American minks, as well as free-roaming dogs.
- Fundación Con Garra assists in the **repair and construction of poultry infrastructure** to resolve the underlying conflict, thus eliminating the potential trigger of retaliatory killing.







*Raúl's Story:
New Friends*



Mr. Raúl lives in Chiloé, on a beautiful farm that he shares with his wife, two dogs and 25 domestic cats, as well as güiñas, Chiloé foxes, and pudúes.

He is a small-scale farmer, raising cattle, pigs, chickens and geese. He is most concerned about the latter, as he has lost birds to attacks by native carnivores on several occasions. Moreover, he comments that güiñas and Chiloé foxes have been killed in the area because they are considered a threat to poultry and egg production.

In July 2024, he seeks help to resolve his conflict with native carnivores.



Together with our collaborators from the Center for Biodiversity Conservation Chiloé Silvestre, who are currently engaged in a project to monitor the movement of güiñas and Chiloé foxes, we visited Mr. Raúl at his farm, performed an initial assessment, and formulated a plan of action – each step of which required the collaboration of all parties involved, most importantly of Mr. Raúl.

Monitoring with trail cameras to confirm the presence of güiñas and/or Chiloé foxes on Mr. Raúl's farm

- Multiple visits on site
- Presence of carnivores as an incentive to receive additional help in resolving the conflict
- Work on the basis of trust and friendship

In case of confirmed presence of güiñas and/or Chiloé foxes, attempt to capture and place satellite collars



We found them! Güiñas and Chiloé foxes. And we tried to capture them. Only one of the two species was going to fall into the cage trap ... but for Mr. Raúl, the experience was going to be unforgettable.



Camera ID: CGAR15

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MOULTRIE



CAMERA 1

31 AUG 2024 11:36 pm



Mr. Raúl took care of “his little fox” during the whole procedure and was also present when we released this little guy, whom he now considered (almost) a friend, back into the field at his farm. We still had to take care of the second part of our job: **We had to convince him that, in order to take care of his new friend, he should have a predator-proof chicken coop.**



Educational work, proposal
for the construction of a
chicken coop
(initially rejected by Mr. Raúl
and his wife)

Proposal accepted.

Construction of a chicken
coop preventing attacks by
güiñas, Chiloé foxes, but
also American minks and
free-ranging dogs





While Mr. Raúl's story awaits its next chapter, 15 more families can now rely on their predator-proof chicken coops to protect their poultry, on which they depend for food and income. Their smiles speak of satisfaction, pride and most of all gratitude.





Chicken coops and corrals improved in 2024

# COOPS/CORRALS	COMMUNE	REGION	WILD CATS PRESENT IN THE AREA
6+1	Ancud, Chonchi	Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i>
6	Pozo Almonte	Tarapacá	<i>L. garleppi, Puma concolor</i>
3	Fresia, San Pablo	Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna, Puma concolor</i>
1	Ancud	Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i>
TOTAL: 16+1			

*To learn more about the +1 coop, please go to page 26.



Chicken coops and corrals – milestones 2024



- As Mr. Raúl's story demonstrates, **we expanded our collaboration with the Center for Biodiversity Conservation Chiloé Silvestre**, which we initially supported in constructing a safe enclosure for the long-term rehabilitation of güiñas. Today, we also join forces to mitigate the threats of retaliatory hunting and roadkill.

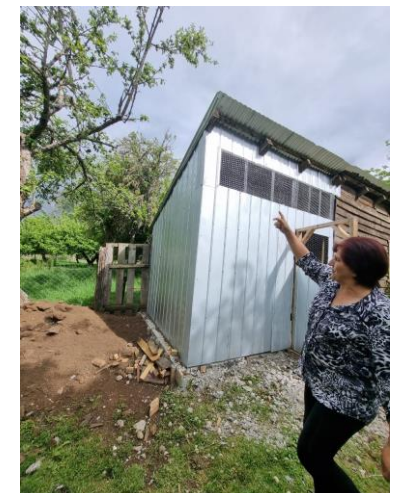


Chicken coops and corrals – milestones 2024



- **We started to collaborate with the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG)**, the governmental entity in charge of promoting the development of livestock farming and the control of invasive exotic species, among others. SAG leads the state program to control the American mink (*Neovison vison*), a carnivore species present in most of southern Chile. This program is based on a close collaboration with farmers who have ongoing conflicts with the invasive mink. These farmers receive technical support and are equipped with live traps to capture the exotic species – but sometimes a native wild cat gets caught.
- Fundación Con Garra and SAG work together to provide assistance to those families where the potential for conflict with native wild cats is greatest, and who are interested in taking an active role in resolving this conflict.

In this series of photos we see Mrs. Yolanda, who, using a mink trap provided by SAG, captured a güiña near her chicken coop. Since this coop was in a very bad condition, we decided to build a new one.



Chicken coops and corrals – milestones 2024



- Based on the encouraging experiences with concrete conservation actions carried out by Fundación Con Garra, in 2024, our partners at Flora y Fauna Huatacondo specifically requested financial support from the TECK mining company to support our joint conservation actions.
- Thanks to their financial support we were able to build larger coops with materials that are more resistant to both predators and inclement weather conditions.



Bonus track: chicken coop +1





- Los Lagos Region, which is situated in the southern part of Chile and constitutes one of our main areas of action, has **only one wildlife rehabilitation center** that operates continuously: the Center for Biodiversity Conservation Chiloé Silvestre.
- Within the region (and possibly beyond), any güiña that is injured in a chicken coop, in a vehicle collision, during an attack by dogs or under any other circumstances, is referred to Chiloé Silvestre.
- Notwithstanding, by the end of 2023, Chiloé Silvestre was **not properly equipped to provide long-term care for güiñas** and prepare them for release.
- Hence, Fundación Con Garra sought to support Chiloé Silvestre in the **construction of an enclosure dedicated to the rehabilitation of güiñas**.
- We used funds designated for the improvement of a chicken coop to fulfill this objective, but we reversed the purpose: Now we needed a “coop” that the cat could not get out of.



- We planned, we got quotes, we bought some materials ... but someone else beat us to it.





*The Story of Whom Has No Name:
A Place Like Home*



- Residents of Ten Ten, a rural area on the outskirts of Castro, Chiloé, alerted to the presence of a güiña hiding under a cabin.
- Apparently, it was still a kitten, but unfortunately it was trapped, surrounded by free-roaming dogs: It could not get out of its hiding place, and if its mother was nearby, she could not get close to the little one.
- The decision was made to rescue the **güiña kitten** and refer it to Chiloé Silvestre, where it was found to be a **female, about 6 weeks old**.
- She would require **several months of rehabilitation** to develop all the necessary skills to survive in her natural habitat.



Due to her young age, she was initially kept in an indoor heated cage.

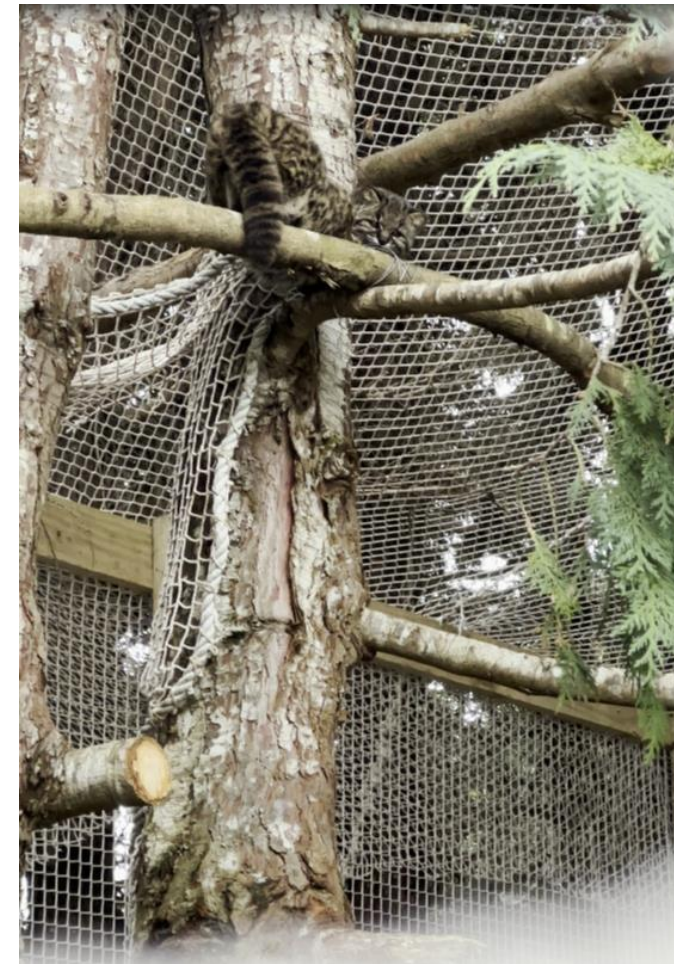


In the meantime, work progressed on the enclosure where she was to grow and learn.





Credits: Chiloé Silvestre





Until the day came to leave the enclosure – and return to freedom.





Credits: Eduardo Arrieche



Support of wildlife rehab center – milestones in 2024

- **Construction of a new enclosure specifically designed for the rehabilitation of güiñas**, which allowed the successful rehabilitation and subsequent **release of a güiña kitten**. Of note, shortly after the release of this cat, another güiña kitten was referred to the rehab center from the continent.
- We improved the diagnostic capacity of the rehabilitation center by facilitating the purchase of a **microcentrifuge** for blood and urine samples, as well as a **glucometer**.
- We co-financed the purchase of an **ultrasound machine**, much needed for the diagnosis of internal injuries.
- The purchase of **surgical instruments** will benefit patients who are admitted with injuries that require extensive wound care and other surgical treatment.
- To facilitate the transport of injured güiñas and other patients to and within the rehabilitation center, **transport boxes** were acquired.



2. Prevention of infectious disease transmission from pets to native wild cats



Infectious diseases that may be transmitted to wildlife

- Bacterial, viral and fungal diseases
 - Distemper
 - Parvovirus
 - Respiratory disease complex (herpesvirus, calicivirus)
 - Feline immunodeficiency and feline leukemia (FIV, FeLV)
 - Leptospirosis
- Parasitic disease
 - Sarcoptic mange (*Sarcoptes scabiei*)
 - Toxocariasis (*Toxocara spp.*)
 - Gurltiosis (*Gurltia paralyzans*)

... and many more

Spotlight on Chile: Sarcoptic mange

- More common in dogs, but may affect a wide variety of domestic and native species, as well as humans
- Cats are more resistant to infestation, but become susceptible in case of stressful environmental conditions and/or concomitant disease
- Easily transmitted by direct contact, but also by permanence of mites in the environment
- Clinical signs: severe dermatitis, pain, and extreme pruritus → animals no longer hunt and die
- **High prevalence is reported for fox populations in central Chile**, and the disease has also been observed in the lesser grisson (*Galictis cuja*), which share their habitat with several native wild cat species, such as *L. colocola*, *L. guigna* and *Puma concolor*
 - increased environmental pressure
 - increased risk of transmission to native wild cats

Proposal for mitigation:

Expand the scope of our vaccination and deworming campaigns, **including specific measures for the prevention of sarcoptic mange** in native carnivores.



Parasitic myelopathy due to *Gurltia paralysans*

- Parasite lodges in the spinal veins of cats → spinal cord compression → chronic disease progressing from ataxia to severe paraparesis
- Life cycle of the parasite is poorly understood; it is unknown how the disease is transmitted and how cats, domestic or wild, become infected
- Recent cases occurred in domestic cats with scarce veterinary care, living in rural areas, having outdoor access and potential contact to native wild cats and/or intermediate hosts
- Current hypothesis is that domestic cats are accidental hosts, with small wild cats native to South America being the definitive hosts
- Regarding the most evident clinical sign, the weakness of the hind limbs, farmers tell that their “domestic cats go out to the forest and encounter wild cats who try to mount them and break their spine” → traditional knowledge also links the disease to direct contact with native wild cats

Proposal for mitigation:

Expand the scope of our vaccination and deworming campaigns, **including specific measures for the prevention of gurltiosis** in native wild cats.



Prevention - the best remedy

A jaguar is perched on a bare tree branch on the left side of the slide.

Reduced risk of disease transmission to native wild cats

Improved health status of domestic cats and dogs
Lower prevalence of pathogens potentially transmissible to native wild cats
Less exposure of native wild cats to domestic cats and dogs

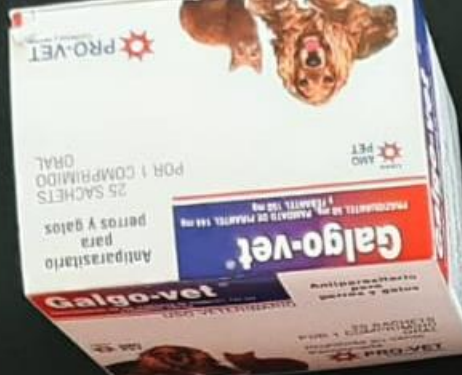
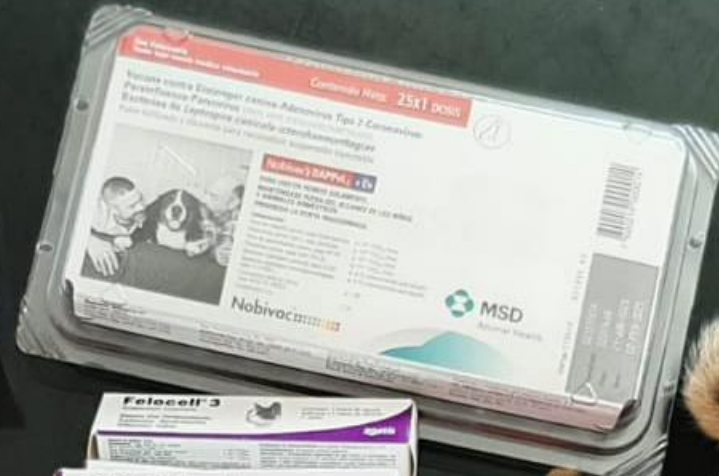
Reliable prevention of major infectious diseases of domestic cats and dogs through **vaccination**

Antiparasitic treatment to eliminate existing infections, interrupt the reproductive cycle and/or prevent new infections

Control of domestic cat and dog populations through **spaying and neutering** of owned and unowned pets

Education on **responsible pet ownership**, preventing pets from roaming free





CERTIFICADO DE VACUNACION ANTIRRABICA
N° 2296551

Nombre Propietario:	Telefono:
Direccion:	Sexo:
RUT:	Color:
Nombre Animal:	Tatuaje:
Especie:	
Raza:	
Edad:	

RABGUARD
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Zoetis de Chile S.A.

Serie N°





Vaccinations – milestones in 2024

- During 2024, we carried out 4 vaccination and deworming campaigns, attending a total of 35 cats (C) and 186 dogs (P).
- We want to emphasize that the preventive actions taken in the municipalities of Pirque and Río Ibáñez were of direct benefit to the populations of native wild cats living in the Río Clarillo and Cerro Castillo National Parks.
- The administration of Río Clarillo National Park has reached a special agreement with the talajeros, local muleteers who have historically guided their livestock from one place to another to make better use of the available resources. These people traditionally go on horseback and are accompanied by dogs. Out of respect for their culture and tradition, each talajero has been allowed to enter the park with their livestock, horse, and a maximum of two dogs per person. These dogs were vaccinated and dewormed in our campaign.
- Cerro Castillo National Park is home to up to four species of native wild cats. We vaccinated and dewormed dogs living on adjacent farms.

# VACCINATIONS	COMMUNE	REGION	WILD CATS PRESENT IN THE AREA
19 C + 21 D	Pozo Almonte	Tarapacá	<i>L. garleppi</i> , <i>L. jacobita</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
14 C + 15 D	Puerto Montt	Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
12 C + 50 D	Pirque	Región Metropolitana	<i>L. colocola</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
100 D	Río Ibáñez	Aysén	<i>L. geoffroyi</i> , <i>L. guigna</i> , <i>L. pajeros</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
TOTAL: 35 C + 186 D			



Collaborative vaccination campaign
with the support of CONAF park rangers,
Cerro Castillo National Park



Credits: CONAF Cerro Castillo



Credits: José Llaipén



Spaying and neutering

- The control of domestic cat and dog populations is one of the pillars of preventing infectious disease transmission from companion animals to native wild cats.
- The need to prevent the uncontrolled reproduction of domestic cats and dogs encompasses all animals that roam freely. In Chile, this includes a major part of pets that do have owners.
- We at Fundación Con Garra have carried out **our first spay/neuter campaign** in the north of the country, in an area where *L. garleppi*, *L. jacobita*, and *P. concolor* are present. Initially, we performed surgery on 10 domestic cats, but **we managed to obtain the support of one of the local mining companies**, which committed to **double the number of animals** that will benefit from the measure. We are negotiating the continuation of the campaign beyond the second dozen of cats to be sterilized.



Spay/neuter, vaccination, and deworming campaign
in collaboration with Flora y Fauna Huatacondo
and the Municipality of Pozo Almonte

Credits: Flora y Fauna Huatacondo

3. We drive #LentoPorLaFauna to avoid wildlife-vehicle collisions



Hitting the road in early 2023

Patricio, we need to do something about roadkills.

It must be based on field work.

That's a great idea!

Let's call it: **Lento por la fauna. Slow for wildlife.**



We should launch a campaign that reaches many people.

What about installing 100 road signs throughout Chile?

We need a name.





Objectives of the campaign

- To emphasize the fact to drivers that they are crossing wild cat habitat
- To encourage drivers to reduce their speed and be more attentive to avoid wild cat roadkill
- To contribute to the conservation of other endangered species, which will also benefit from the measure
- Generate opportunities for dialogue with public and private stakeholders on the importance of focusing the debate on the need to implement wildlife crossings

Governmental backup

In January 2024 and after almost one year of work, the #LentoPorLaFauna campaign was officially joined by:

- the Ministry of Transportation together with the National Traffic Safety Commission (CONASET),
- the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG),
- the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF),
- and the Santiago Metropolitan Park.



An integral vision from the State of Chile



Ministry of Transportation and
Telecommunications



Human lives



Agriculture and Livestock
Service (SAG)



Farm animals



National Forestry Corporation
(CONAF)



Wildlife



Let's avoid accidents and protect everyone.
This way, we safeguard those behind the wheel and those who are on the road.



#LentoPorLaFauna webinar

The #LentoPorLaFauna webinar was organized under the wing of the Government of Chile, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications. Speakers:

- Moisés Grimberg (CONAF) comments on the study “Vehicle collisions affecting vertebrate wildlife within state protected areas”
- Melanie Kaiser (Fundación Con Garra) presents the #LentoPorLaFauna campaign
- Jorge Valenzuela (Center for the Study and Conservation of Natural Heritage) speaks about local experiences in the anticipation of conflicts between public infrastructure, territory, and wildlife
- Marcelo Riscal (Ministry of Public Works, Road Administration Department) and Valeria Rojas (University of Chile) summarize their work “Design of environmental measures to minimize the impact of ecological fragmentation caused by road projects”





ON-LINE

"INFRAESTRUCTURA VIAL Y ATROPELLOS DE FAUNA: DIAGNÓSTICO, ACCIONES Y RECOMENDACIONES"

Fecha:

miércoles

8 de mayo 2024

Horario:

18:00

#LENTOPORLAFAUNA



GOBIERNO DE CHILE

CHILE AVANZA CONTIGO

EXPOSITORES/AS



Moisés Grimberg

Estudio: "Atropellos de fauna vertebrada al interior de las unidades del SNASPE"



Melanie Kaiser

Hashtag LentoPorLaFauna.



Jorge Valenzuela

Experiencias locales en la anticipación a conflictos entre infraestructura pública, territorio y fauna silvestre.



Valeria Rojas

Estudio básico diseño de medidas ambientales para minimizar el impacto de fragmentación ecológica por proyectos viales.



Marcelo Riscal

Estudio básico diseño de medidas ambientales para minimizar el impacto de fragmentación ecológica por proyectos viales.

#LENTOPORLAFAUNA

GOBIERNO DE CHILE

CHILE AVANZA CONTIGO



Gobierno de Chile
gob.cl

Ministerio de Agricultura
Gobierno de Chile

Ministerio de Transportes y Telecomunicaciones
Gobierno de Chile



CONASET
Ministerio de Transportes y Telecomunicaciones

LADERA SUR



CECPAN
Centro de Estudio y Conservación del Patrimonio Natural

... and now, let's go out to the field.



*The Story of 250:
Together, We Make a Difference*

Minga por la Fauna - Minga for wildlife

Minga: from the Quechua word 'minka', a pre-Columbian tradition that consists of collective work for the good of the community



Installation of 25 road signs referring to güiña, Chiloé fox, and pudú, along the Greater Island of Chiloé in a single day

Will we be able to count on the necessary support from the community?





We send a **letter to the Road Administration Department**, informing of the severity of the threat to native wildlife arising from vehicle collisions on the road.

The competent authority grants **permission to install** 25 road signs referring to güiña, Chiloé fox, and pudú.



The 25 signs are printed and shipped to Chiloé.



The local company **Idini** donates **all the sign posts and assembly work**.

The local company **Servomar** donates **all the cement** needed to install 25 traffic signs.



With the **help of public and private entities as well as individual citizens**, we distribute the signs to neuralgic points in the north, center, and south of the island.

We set up **brigades of volunteers**, who are assigned the installation of 1, 2, or 3 signs. Each brigade makes the necessary logistical arrangements to get their road sign(s) and all the equipment required for the installation, in addition to engaging the local community.

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

*August 10
Minga por la Fauna*







We did it! 25 road signs for Chiloé

- The successful preparation of the Minga por la Fauna **would not have been possible without the invaluable support** of our friends from Ceja Negra Accesorios and Chiloe Silvestre, as well as Barraca de Fierros IDINI and Servicios Acuícolas SERVOMAR, who supported us from the very beginning and did not rest until all the signs were installed.
- No less important was **the selfless support of the teams** from Parque Tantauco, Chiloé Protegido, Acción Huillín, Sports Club Kimün Aukantün, Kokoy Tourism and Conservation, Fundación Pudú, Elementary School Padre Hurtado from Castro, Lafken Mapu Lemuy Scout Group, Chiloé Fauna, La Nave Ballena, the Agriculture and Livestock Service, and all the members of the local communities who were present during the day.

More than 250 volunteers gave everything. At the end of the day, they were very tired, but also very proud to have participated in the Minga por la Fauna.





Con masiva minga buscan evitar alza de atropellos de fauna silvestre en las rutas

CHILOÉ. Más de 200 voluntarios apoyaron la instalación de 25 señaléticas viales en distintos puntos del Archipiélago.

Con el objetivo de habilitar señalización que llame a la precaución de los conductores respecto al atropello de especies nativas de Chiloé, recientemente se concretó la iniciativa denominada "Minga por la Fauna", liderada por la Fundación Con Garra, Ceja Negra Accesorios y el Centro de Conservación de la Biodiversidad Chiloé Silvestre.

En la oportunidad, se logró movilizar a más de 200 voluntarios que, con entusiasmo y compromiso, apoyaron la instalación de 25 señaléticas viales en distintos puntos estratégicos del Archipiélago, particularmente en las comunas de Ancud, Dalcahue, Castro, Chonchi y Quellón.

Como se informó, estos le-

tereros que destacan la presencia de gato güiña, zorro chilote y pudú, buscan alertar a los automovilistas sobre la presencia de estos mamíferos en la ruta y reducir así el número de atropellos.

Según indicó Carolina Escobar, quien ofició como líder de la brigada en el sector de Notochu-Huillínco (Chonchi), este proyecto es "mucho más

que la simple instalación de letreros, lo que se vivió fue el verdadero espíritu de la minga, que es la colaboración desinteresada, así por ejemplo, una vez terminada nuestra labor de instalación y junto a mi pareja Manuel apoyamos al equipo del Parque Tantauco en otro sector".

Añadió que "al poco tiempo, se sumaron dos brigadas más y lo pasamos muy bien todos juntos instalando. Y si bien, estábamos todos muy cansados, terminamos el día con el corazón lleno y un gran sentimiento de hermandad".

Igualmente, Melanie Kaiser, cofundadora de la Fundación Con Garra de Puerto Varas y coordinadora de la Minga por la Fauna, destacó el espíritu de colaboración.

"Chiloé nos recibió con los



POR CINCO COMUNAS DE LA PROVINCIA SE DESGARON LOS VOLUNTARIOS PARA INSTALAR LA SEÑALÉTICA EN LA CARRETERA.

con el corazón lleno y un sentimiento de hermandad".

Igualmente, Melanie Kaiser, cofundadora de la Fundación Con Garra de Puerto Varas y coordinadora de la Minga por la Fauna, destacó el espíritu de colaboración.

"Chiloé nos recibió con los

Actualidad

Más de 200 voluntarios apoyaron la instalación de 25 señaléticas viales en distintos puntos del Archipiélago.

Redacción
comunicacion@laestrella.cl

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En la oportunidad, se logró movilizar a más de 200 voluntarios que, con entusiasmo y compromiso, apoyaron la instalación de 25 señaléticas viales en distintos puntos estratégicos del Archipiélago, particularmente en las comunas de Ancud, Dalcahue, Castro, Chonchi y Quellón.

Como se informó, estos letreros que destacan la presencia de gato güiña, zorro chilote y pudú, buscan alertar a los automovilistas sobre la presencia de estos mamíferos en la ruta y reducir así el número de atropellos.

Según indicó Carolina Escobar, quien ofició como líder de la brigada en el sector de Notochu-Huillínco (Chonchi), este proyecto es "mucho más que la simple instalación de letreros, lo que se vivió fue el verdadero espíritu de la minga, que es la colaboración desinteresada, así por ejemplo, una vez terminada nuestra labor de instalación y junto a mi pareja Manuel apoyamos al equipo del Parque Tantauco en otro sector".

Añadió que "al poco tiempo, se sumaron dos brigadas más y lo pasamos muy bien todos juntos instalando. Y si bien, estábamos todos muy cansados, terminamos el día con el corazón lleno y un gran sentimiento de hermandad".

Igualmente, Melanie Kaiser, cofundadora de la Fundación Con Garra de Puerto Varas y coordinadora de la Minga por la Fauna, destacó el espíritu de colaboración.

"Chiloé nos recibió con los

Con masiva minga buscan evitar aumento de atropellos de fauna silvestre en las rutas chilotas



POR CINCO COMUNAS DE LA PROVINCIA SE DESGARON LOS VOLUNTARIOS PARA INSTALAR LA SEÑALÉTICA EN LA CARRETERA.



APUNTA EL TRABAJADOR EN EL SECTOR DE NOTOCHU-HUILLÍNCO, EN CHONCHI.

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fatiga. Adicionalmente, la fuerte que "seguimos emocionados viendo en fotos y videos el brillo en los ojos de nuestros brigadistas y ayudantes, niños y adultos, quienes con toda razón se sienten orgullosos de haber sido parte de eso. Al igual que la minga, la conservación la hacemos todos".

MINGA. Con la realización de la Minga por la Fauna, se realizaron diversas actividades medioambientales y la creación de un mural en la Escuela Básica Padre Hurtado de Castro, donde participaron más de medio centenar de estudiantes.

La organización de este evento activo, agradeció a su vez la colaboración de las empresas acendadas Barraca de Hierro Mía y Servicios Acuáticos Sereno, que aportaron perfilados, mano de obra y cemento. Junto con ellos entró el apoyo del Servicio Agrario y Ganadero (SAG), ade-

más de particulares que ayudaron en el traslado de las señaléticas. De igual modo, se mencionó a profesores, veterinarios, guardaparques, vecinos y agrupaciones ambientales como Parque Tantauco, Chiloé Progreso, Acción Huillín, Club Deportivo Estímulo, Alcantarín, Koly Turismo y Conservación, Fundación Puñal, Escuela Básica Padre Hurtado de Castro, Parque Tantauco, Chiloé Progreso, Grupo de Scouts Lafien, Mapa Lemuy y la Nave Babel.

La jornada de instalación de estas letreros se extendió por cerca de ocho horas, con un hito significativo para la conservación de estas especies tan emblemáticas.

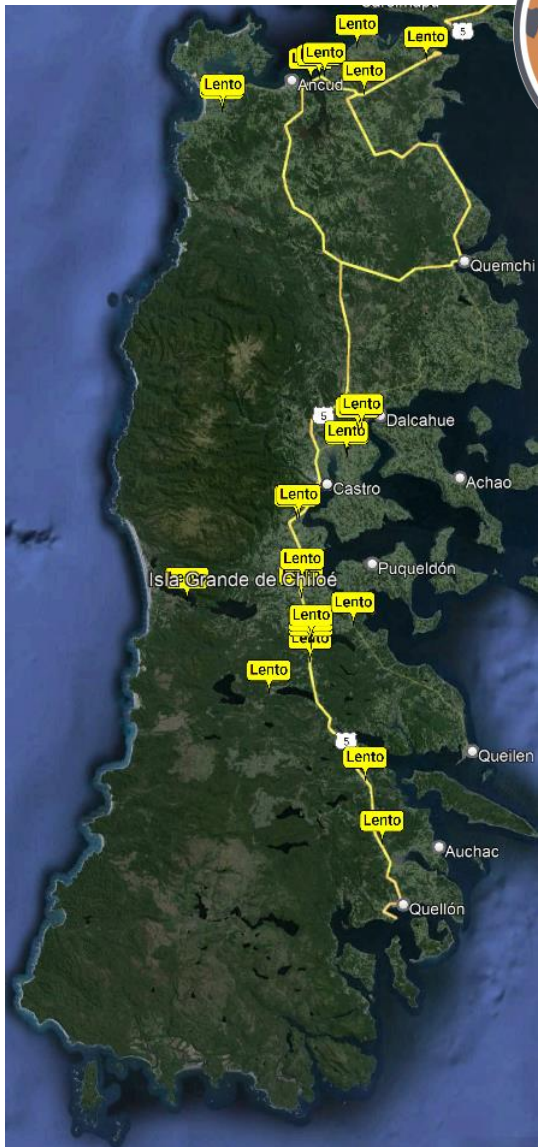
DISPOSICIÓN. Junto a esta iniciativa, hace algunos semanas, por parte de una gestión de la Dirección Provincial de Vialidad, se pusieron tachas en la localidad rural de Aucó,

distante a unos 18 kilómetros del radio urbano de Ancud, como una medida accedida en la Mesa de Protección de Fauna Silvestre de Chiloé, liderada por Delegación Provincial Provincial que nació a finales del 2023, después de que una presión preñada de medidas fuera atropellada.

"Hemos estado trabajando de manera de avanzar en el cuidado de nuestra fauna del Archipiélago. Se ha estado realizando en algunos puntos por Vialidad con señaléticas preparadas por ONG Chiloé Silvestre y Fundación Garra, seguimos avanzando en mayor señalización y diversas otras acciones que como menos trabajamos, igual, debemos seguir haciendo un llamado a la gente a manejar más atento al camino y a los deber de los conductores respetar", señaló el representante del Ejecutivo en la Isla, Marcelo Magallanes. □



CON UNA MASIVA MINGA INSTALAN SEÑALÉTICA PARA EVITAR ALZA DE ATROPELLOS DE LA FAUNA SILVESTRE







#LentoPorLaFauna – additional milestones in 2024

- **Support from civil society.** More than 1,000 volunteers from all over the country have been involved in the coordination and dissemination of the campaign, have contributed to the transportation and installation of road signs.
- **Visibility.** The campaign has been widely broadcast, including television, radio, print media, and social networks.
- **International acknowledgment.** Jane Goodall, United Nations Messenger of Peace, and the Jane Goodall Institute Chile joined the campaign.



- **International expansion.** The campaign was adopted by well-known conservation groups in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay.



#LentoPorLaFauna – additional milestones in 2024

- **Integration in intergovernmental programs.** Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park, Chile's oldest national park, relies on the campaign to move forward on its path towards becoming the first protected area in Chile to be certified according to the IUCN Green List Standard, for which we act as mentors.
- **Protection of emblematic species.** New signs were designed for the Chiloé fox and pudú, which have been installed in Chiloé during the Minga por la Fauna and can also be found on the mainland.
- **Integral solutions and enhancement of measures.** Our road signs have been reinforced by speed reducers in a critical wildlife crossing.



#LentoPorLaFauna – additional milestones in 2024

- **Training of professionals in the area of transportation and logistics.** In the context of the #LentoPorLaFauna campaign, a group of 100 employees of Buses Hualpén participated in a workshop on threats to wildlife and how to take preventive measures. In addition, Transportes Casablanca, who offer road freight services, and Transportes CVU, who are in charge of the transfer of personnel of Minera Caserones, also adhered to the initiative.



- **Collaboration with the private sector.** With the support of the interurban road concession operator ISA Vías, the campaign continues to grow and promote the idea that we are indeed sharing our roads with native wild cats and other wildlife.

#LentoPorLaFauna – additional milestones in 2024

- **Inclusion in education programs.** The issue of wildlife-vehicle collisions has been incorporated into the pedagogical plans of different educational facilities. Beyond studying in the classroom, students have gone out with their teachers and the Chilean Police to carry out road safety education campaigns.





Progress in road signs

SPECIES	# ROAD SIGNS	INSTALLED	DELIVERED
<i>L. colocola</i>	5	5	
<i>L. garleppi</i>	15	5	10
<i>L. geoffroyi</i>	15	10	5
<i>L. guigna</i>	61	43	18
<i>L. jacobita</i>	6		6
<i>L. pajeros</i>	6	2	4
<i>P. concolor</i>	25	14	11
<i>L. fulvipes</i>	6	6	
<i>P. puda</i>	8	8	
TOTAL	147	93	54

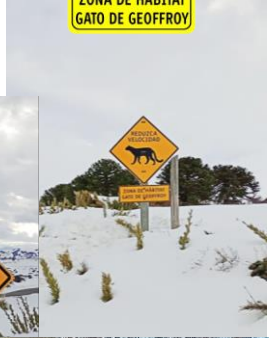
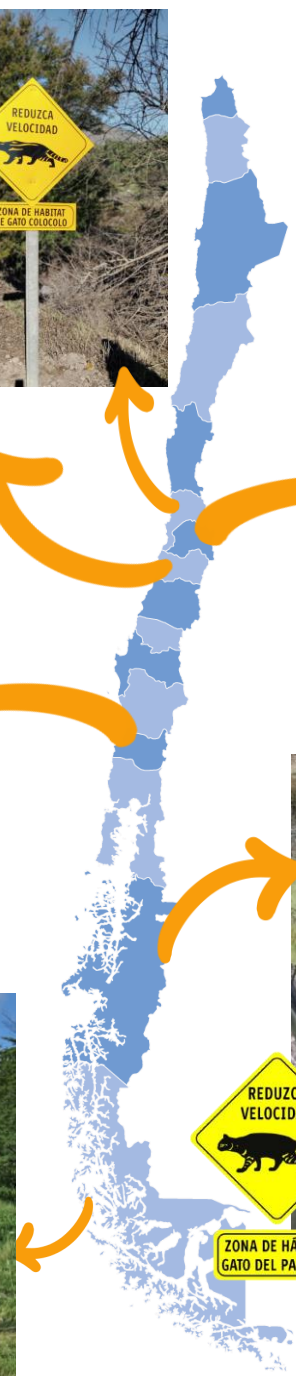




Progress #LentoPorLaFauna in numbers

- 93 road signs installed
- 54 road signs delivered
- Further installations are scheduled in different communes and protected wildlife areas throughout the country
- #LentoPorLaFauna road signs in 9/16 administrative regions of Chile
- Road signs installed for 6/7 native wild cat species
- More than 1,000 vehicles with #LentoPorLaFauna stickers





A world without frontiers

- Native wild cats do not know borders – and conservation should not have to worry about them either.
- Fundación Con Garra has been chosen as a mentor of the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park for the IUCN Green List certification process. In this context, we collaborate with the park in the implementation of measures that mitigate the threat of roadkill.
- At the same time, a strategic collaboration is in place between the National Parks Vicente Pérez Rosales (Chile) and Nahuel Huapi (Argentina). That agreement is referred to as “Parques Conjuntos” or “Joint Parks”.
- Moreover, the Chilean National Parks Vicente Pérez Rosales and Puyehue and the Argentinian National Parks Nahuel Huapi and Lanín form **a continuous protected area with a total surface of more than 1,300,000 ha**, which confers an enormous importance for the conservation of resident populations of güiñas, Geoffroy's cats and pumas.
- In this context, the Vicente Pérez Rosales and Nahuel Huapi National Parks have been chosen for the **first binational installation of #LentoPorLaFauna road signs**.





Together with the park rangers of Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park, we transported two road signs – a güiña and a Geoffroy's cat – by boat and pick-up truck to the international border between Chile and Argentina.

Meanwhile, a delegation from Parques Nacionales Argentina was on its way to attend the event.

We also received support from the Chilean Police.



Chile-Argentina border crossing

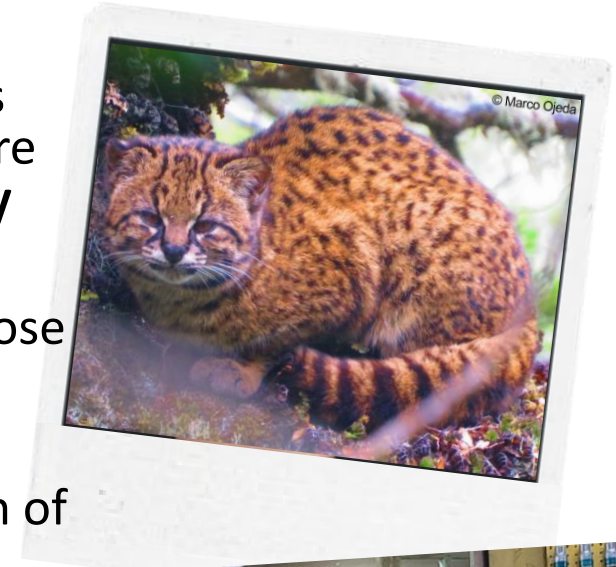


Together, we installed both signs at the border crossing, which is a major tourist destination in the region. The new signs inform those who travel **from Chile to Argentina** that they are entering the **habitat of Geoffroy's cats**, a species that is much more abundant towards the east of the Andes Mountains. Those traveling **from Argentina to Chile** encounter the **güiña sign**: The vast majority of this species is living in Chile.



#LentoPorLaFauna off-road

- In addition to the classic road signs, we work with a second type of sign: This one invites people to join the campaign and names a group of people who are committed to the cause, which is why we refer to these signs as “**community signs**”.
- Community signs display pictures of native wild cats that have been taken close to the installation site, hence, these signs do not only inform about the campaign, but also generate a **sense of pride and belonging**.
- They have been instrumental in engaging the community in the conservation of our native wild cats.
- They reinforce the message of caution and promote harmonious coexistence with our native wild cats.
- During 2025, we will expand this initiative by installing **50 new community signs in strategic locations**, such as neighborhood councils, sports centers, and restaurants near roads.



Credits: Marco Ojeda







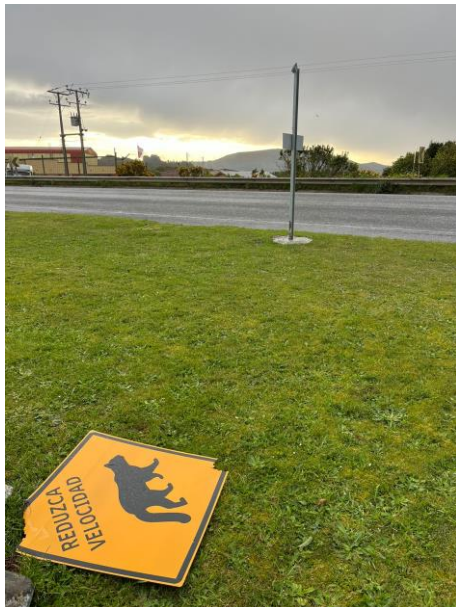
- To enhance the visibility of our work and the #LentoPorLaFauna campaign beyond the regions where we operate, **we took our native wild cats to the heart of Santiago de Chile.**
- We projected the images of cats that feature on our road signs onto iconic buildings along the Alameda, the city's main avenue.
- This luminous intervention did not only captivate passers-by and the media, but also highlighted, literally, the **message that we do share our roads with wildlife – even in urban areas.**



#LENTOPORLAFAUNA

Minor setbacks

- While the #LentoPorLaFauna campaign has found great acceptance in the community, we occasionally face challenges such as vandalism and accelerated deterioration of road signs due to extreme weather conditions.
- Despite these hurdles, we remain committed to protecting our native wild cats and are working on solutions to ensure the durability of our efforts.



Road sign damaged by heavy winds during a storm



Stolen road sign



Road sign with bullet holes

4. Participatory environmental education workshops



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela, 2003

Why invest in environmental education?

- **Participation, identity, and belonging.** Our environmental education workshops live from the participation of the attendees. Whenever possible, we seek to generate a tangible result, a concrete product. We emphasize that everyone can get involved in conservation, we show how to do it – and we put it into practice.
- **Instances of dialogue.** Many people with ongoing conflicts with native wild cats feel abandoned and complain that no one listens to their point of view. We listen before providing solutions.
- **Potential for multiplication.** There are only two of us. Even if we count our external collaborators, we are still too few and need all the reinforcements we can get. If we train wild cat ambassadors, we can reach many more people.
- **Acceptance of the message.** In our experience, people are more willing to receive advice from someone who is part of the local community, especially when it comes from a child.
- **Building the future.** Although environmental education will not yield tangible results in the short term, we are convinced that it is the only lasting solution to the conflicts we are trying to resolve.





*Joaquin's Story:
Park Ranger in Training*



“My name is Joaquín. I live in the village of Malalcahuello and this year, together with 139 classmates from the Ramón Ramírez School, we prepared to be sworn in as Little Park Rangers. This fun and important initiative is led by CONAF and supported by different organizations. Its purpose is to educate and encourage the local population to value, safeguard and conserve the protected wildlife areas of our country.”



Here we are installing the sign.



We remember it everyday, because we put up these pictures in my school.

“The guys from Con Garra have accompanied us during this process by teaching us about native wild cats and inviting us to participate in the #LentoPorLaFauna campaign. That's how we installed two road signs that warn about the passage of güiñas and pumas on the roads near our school, but we also learned about the importance of stabling our poultry and vaccinating and deworming our pets.”



"We recently inaugurated an outdoor amphitheater, and after months of learning, we were sworn in as Little Park Rangers. Our friends from Con Garra gave us a community sign for our school that shows a picture of a puma, which is precisely the puma that lives in the Malalcahuello National Reserve, the place we swore to protect. Hopefully, someday I will be able to see it in the wild. In the meantime, I can look at the sign, which is a recognition of the good work of all the Little Park Rangers from our school."



Malalcahuello



Besides Joaquín, more than 1,600 people learned with us in 2024. Together with all of them and throughout the year we have:

- organized a contest to imitate the sounds of native wild cats (with really astonishing results),
- trained future engineers in the installation of road signs,
- spoken to representatives of mining companies about how to diminish their impact on wildlife,
- seen students (and their parents) fall in love with our fluffy güiñas,
- educated school teachers on threat mitigation,
- discovered new designs (and designers) of roadkill mitigation traffic signs,
- equipped the first children's road safety education team to accompany the Chilean Police and spread the message #LentoPorLaFauna,
- had our first conservation workshop on roller skates,
- successfully captured cheetahs, lions, and other zoo animals in the city park, and
- painted a beautiful mural.

See for yourself how it went!



Road safety education in Puyehue National Park with the support of CONAF, SAG, and the Chilean Police



Súmate a la campaña

#LENTOPORLAFAUNA

Protege a quienes amas y a quienes habitan el territorio.

-  Prepara tu salida. Revisa el tiempo.
-  Maneja despacio.
-  Si vas a la nieve, lleva cadenas.
-  Maneja atento/a al entorno.
-  Calcula cuánto demorarás y sal con tiempo.
-  Cuida tu camino a casa para que todos lleguen bien.

Gracias por aportar a la conservación. Disfruta de tu estadía.



Fono fauna: +569 8819 7937

Si te encuentras con fauna atropellada o herida, avisa al SAG (Comunas de Osorno, Puyehue, San Juan de la Costa y San Pablo)

Search for exotic animals and other treasures in the city park, Puerto Varas



Presentation to representatives of mining companies,
workers and residents of Huatacondo



Children's Day,
Elementary School Padre Hurtado,
Castro, Chiloé



Summary environmental education I



# ASSISTANTS	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	COMMUNE, REGION	WILD CATS ADDRESSED
100	Introduction Little Park Rangers	Curacautín, La Araucanía	<i>L. geoffroyi</i> , <i>L. guigna</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
50	Presentation of the book “Gato Wiña” and workshop with school children	La Cisterna, Reg. Metropolitana	<i>L. guigna</i>
100	Presentation of the project to a broad audience	Pozo Almonte, Tarapacá	<i>L. garleppi</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
35	Collaboration with skating club “Freeskate Puerto Montt”	Puerto Montt, Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i>
95	#LentoPorLaFauna webinar	online	all
15	Field trip with school children	Puerto Varas, Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i>
15	Workshop and installation of road signs with school children	Panquehue, Valparaíso	<i>L. colocola</i> , <i>L. jacobita</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
25	Workshop and installation of road signs with school children	Pirque, Reg. Metropolitana	<i>L. colocola</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
500	Roadkill prevention campaign	Puyehue, Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
12	Workshop with school children	Puerto Varas, Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i>

Continued on next page →

Summary environmental education II



# ASSISTANTS	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	COMMUNE, REGION	WILD CATS ADDRESSED
10	Discussion on responsible pet ownership	Puerto Montt, Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i>
50	Children's Day with mural, storytelling, various games, etc.	Castro, Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i>
3	Training of teachers	online	<i>L. guigna</i>
20	Presentation at Chiloecofest	online	<i>L. guigna</i>
100	Presentation and workshops at Chilean Wildlife Day	La Granja, Reg. Metropolitana	<i>L. guigna</i> and others
200	Presentation at the Santa Monica Rock Fest	Padre Hurtado, Reg. Metropolitana	<i>L. colocola</i>
200	Children's road kill mitigation campaign	Castro, Los Lagos	<i>L. guigna</i>
100	Little Park Rangers' Oath	Curacautín, La Araucanía	<i>L. geoffroyi</i> , <i>L. guigna</i> , <i>P. concolor</i>
TOTAL: 1655			

- We realized **17 specific environmental education activities** throughout the year 2024.
- The audience of 9 activities was entirely or predominantly adults, while the remainder of workshops and presentations were directed at children and teenagers.
- In terms of the number of participants, we estimate a total audience of **more than 800 adults and more than 800 children and adolescents**.

Conclusion





Fundación Con Garra in the press I

- Lento por la Fauna: campaign calls to reduce speed to protect endangered species
Jan 5 2024, [National Traffic Safety Commission](#)
- Lento por la Fauna: slow down to protect species in danger of extinction
Jan 5 2024, [Agriculture and Livestock Service](#)
- Lento por la Fauna: Transportation adopts citizen campaign against roadkill of native animals
Jan 8 2024, [El Desconcierto](#)
- “Lento por la Fauna”: Government launches campaign that calls to reduce speed to protect native species
Jan 8 2024, [CNN Chile](#)
- “Lento Por la Fauna”: the campaign that seeks to prevent accidents on highways that involve wildlife
Jan 8 2024, [Futuro360](#)



FAUNA SILVESTRE AMENAZADA POR VEHÍCULOS

PATRICIO MUÑOZ | Cofundador Fundación Con Garra



Fundación Con Garra in the press II

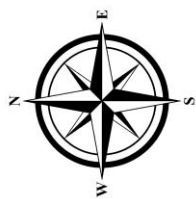
- “Lento por la fauna”: regional authorities join the campaign that seeks to prevent wildlife-vehicle collisions
Jan 28 2024, [CEI Noticias](#)
- No more wildlife roadkill! Chilean webinar to address the problem, in search of solutions
May 2 2024, [Ladera Sur](#)
- Bus drivers are trained to slow down for wildlife in Tarapacá
Jun 5 2024, [CONAF](#)
- Signs installed to protect native wildlife in Río Clarillo National Park
Jul 12 2024, [CONAF](#)
- Minga por la Fauna convened more than 200 people to protect native species in Chiloé
Aug 19 2024, [Diario Sostenible](#)
- Lento por la fauna: Slowing down on roads can save carnivores
Sep 21 2024, [La Nueva \(Argentina\)](#)
- Antofagasta: Campaign launched to protect animals on the road to La Portada
Dec 16 2024, [Diario Sol](#)





Thanks to all our collaborators!





Special thanks to all those who dedicate their daily work to the conservation of our natural heritage in the state protected areas, in particular to those who have opened their doors to collaborate in the mitigation of threats faced by the native wild cats calling these areas home.



Follow us ... but always #LentoPorLaFauna

Want to know more
about our work or
get in touch with us?
Check out our social
networks!



We invite you to
relive the best
moments of the
great Minga por la
Fauna and feel the
spirit of
collaboration!

Melanie Kaiser · Patricio Muñoz Peña
#lentoporlafaua

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Conservación de Felinos Nativos
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