

International Animal Rescue Costa Rica, is Accredited by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries



February 4, 2026. The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, recently awarded Accredited status to IAR Costa Rica.

Accreditation means that IAR Costa Rica meets the criteria of a true animal sanctuary and is providing humane and responsible care of the animals. To be awarded Accredited status, an organization must meet GFAS's rigorous and peer-reviewed animal care

standards which are confirmed by a site visit and they must also adhere to a demanding set of ethical and operational principles. Accreditation also provides a clear and trusted means for the public, donors and authorities to recognize IAR Costa Rica as an exceptional organization.

“We are proud to announce the Accreditation of IAR Costa Rica, a vital rehabilitation and release center—as well as sanctuary—for native wildlife,” said Kristin Leppert, GFAS Program Director-Wildlife. “IAR Costa Rica reached out to us early in the process of building their new facility as they were committed to delivering the highest standards of animal care and they have made good on that goal. As the ongoing crisis of Howler monkey electrocutions continues without abatement, IAR Costa Rica is needed more than ever.”

“GFAS Accreditation is a milestone for IAR Costa Rica and a reflection of the dedication, professionalism, and compassion of our entire team,” said Dr. Francisco Sánchez, Veterinary Director of IAR Costa Rica. “At a time when wildlife electrocutions and other human-related threats continue to impact native species, this recognition reinforces our commitment to providing the highest standards of veterinary care, rehabilitation, and long-term conservation solutions.”



About Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the sole purpose of strengthening and supporting the work of animal sanctuaries, rescues, and rehabilitation centers worldwide. The goal of GFAS in working with and assisting these animal care facilities is to ensure they are supported, honored, recognized and rewarded for meeting important criteria in providing care to the animals in residence. GFAS was founded in 2007 by animal protection leaders from a number of different organizations in response to virtually unchecked and often hidden exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. The GFAS Board of Directors guides the organization's work in a collaborative manner. www.sanctuaryfederation.org.

About IAR Costa Rica

International Animal Rescue Costa Rica (IAR Costa Rica) is a wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, release, and sanctuary organization dedicated to protecting Costa Rica's native wildlife. Based in Nosara, Guanacaste, IAR Costa Rica provides emergency veterinary care, long-term rehabilitation, and lifelong sanctuary for animals that cannot be released back into the wild.

In addition to hands-on rescue and veterinary services, IAR Costa Rica leads national efforts to prevent wildlife electrocutions through advocacy, data collection, technical collaboration, and community education. IAR Costa Rica works closely with government agencies, local communities, and international partners to strengthen wildlife protection and promote coexistence between people and nature.