



In this issue of Red Panda Network eNews, stop the illegal red panda trade, the start of conservation in Rolpa district, Red Panda Film Mini-Fest in Portland, OR, and a new red panda factsheet!

No Panda Pets!

Some at-risk species suffer from a lack of public attention and awareness. In the case of the red panda, too much misguided attention may be doing them harm by encouraging the black market trade of red panda pets.



Patrick aka Herjolf/Flickr

Recently, reports have surfaced of wild red pandas in cages, presumably captured for the exotic pet trade. In January 2018, [six red pandas were rescued from smugglers in Laos](#), and it's believed there are other instances of smuggled red pandas that have yet to be detected.

In September 2018, the Red Panda Network launched a comprehensive [campaign to halt the illegal trade of red pandas](#). In addition to exposing the illegal red panda supply chain, a critical part of this effort is educating the public on the reasons why wild red pandas must remain wild, and encouraging them to help us to spread the word so we can cease the demand for red panda pets.

Why red pandas shouldn't be pets



Mark Dumont/Flickr

Caring for a red panda is nothing like caring for a dog or cat, red panda expert and conservationist Angela Glaston explained to me in an email. Red pandas are wild animals built for life outdoors and their nails are made to stay sharp so they can climb and cling to trees. Since their nails don't retract into their paw pads like the nails of a cat, or quickly become blunt like the nails of a dog, "a red panda in someone's home or apartment would shred furniture, curtains, and clothes," Glaston said.

Life as a pet would be hard on a red panda's health too, as they have thick fur suited to their native habitat and highly specialized diets consisting mostly of fresh bamboo shoots and leaf tips.

"They would be too warm to feel comfortable," Glaston explained. "A private individual cannot really provide either the accommodation or the diet that they need. Their lives will be shorter and miserable as a pet."

Moreover, buying a red panda is illegal. "Red pandas are protected by law in the countries where they originate. They may not be captured or killed legally," Glaston said.

Red pandas are also protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This means a legal certificate must be issued before a red panda can be transported across international boundaries. A legal certificate will be issued if a red panda is going to a zoo as part of a breeding program, but not if they are to be sold as a pet, Glaston explained. "Therefore, any red panda you may buy is illegal."

[Read full article](#)

Friends in Portland, Oregon!

Come celebrate pandas, people and conservation with the premieres of two extraordinary films about the largely unknown red panda:



RED PANDA
NETWORK PRESENTS

RED PANDA FILM MINI-FEST



"RED PANDA: WORLD'S CUTEST ANIMAL"



"THE FIREFOX GUARDIAN"

CLINTON STREET THEATER

2522 SE CLINTON ST, PORTLAND, OR 97202

SUNDAY | APRIL 28TH | 2:00 PM

[Buy Tickets Online](#)

[RSVP on Facebook event](#)

Rolpa: A Future Hub For Ecotourism And Red Panda Conservation

Red Panda Network (RPN) is well into its second year of

expanding programs into Western Nepal and the local response has been encouraging as people begin to see the livelihood benefits of conservation.

The mountain forests of Western Nepal are particularly important as they constitute more than half of the habitat available to red pandas in the country. In 2017, RPN launched conservation programs in Jumla, Jajarkot and Kalikot districts and is now in the process of extending to Dolpa, Rukum (East and West), and Rolpa.

To kickoff efforts in Rolpa (Thursday, March 7th) RPN organized a workshop, 'Community-based Red Panda Conservation in Western Nepal'. The event was held in the district headquarters of Liwang and was coordinated in collaboration with the Human Rights Awareness Centre (HURAC-Nepal), RPN's local partner organization in Rolpa. In attendance were representatives from the local District Coordination Committee, Sunchahari rural municipality, Divisional Forest Office (DFO), HURAC-Nepal, Rural Development and Awareness Society, and RPN. Attendees shared project information and discussed objectives.



Participants of workshop in Liwang, Rolpa.

According to Singh, Jajarkot-and neighboring Kalikot district-are being used as a major transit hub for illegal wildlife trade, medicinal herbs, and logging. There are a host of reasons for this: ranging from the remote location of red panda habitat, poverty and lack of red panda awareness among local communities, and weak regulation and enforcement. In addition, the expansion and construction of a rural road network, is facilitating the illegal trade of wildlife and medicinal plants among these mountainous and remote locations.

Presently, forests are highly fragmented in Nepal's western complex. "The project will help to improve habitat connectivity through sustainable forest

management," said Saroj Shrestha, RPN's Project Coordinator. He stresses the need for more data on red panda distribution and status of habitat in this region.

[The first presence of red pandas in the Rolpa district](#) (along with a study on [parasitic infections](#)) was confirmed by RPN in 2013. [A national baseline survey conducted by RPN in 2016](#) estimated that nearly 53 percent of the country's total red panda habitat is located in Western Nepal. A total of 24 districts reported the presence of red pandas during the survey.

"Rolpa has the potential to become an ecotourism hub," stated DFO officer, Krishna Prasad Dhakal, during the inception workshop. Krishna continues, "if we protect the red pandas." He went on to state that the DFO is committed to cooperating in any way needed to achieve conservation goals.

[Read full article](#)

Raise red panda awareness!

Help spread the word by visiting our new awareness webpage and downloading a new red panda factsheet.

All About RED PANDAS

Ailurus fulgens, or the Firefox

What do Red Pandas look like?



CAMOUFLAGE FUR

The red fur matches the moss found on the trees where they live. The black on their stomach makes it difficult for predators to spot

FURRY FEET

The soles of Panda's feet are covered in fur to help keep them warm and grip onto slippery,

FLUFFY TAIL

The Firefox's tail helps them keep balance while climbing through trees. When it gets really cold, it is used as a

Front page of factsheet. Designed by Darby Minter.

[Download full version](#)

Red Panda Network is committed to the conservation of wild red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities.

See what's happening on our social sites

