



# JACK BIO

**SAVING SLOTHS IN THE WILD  
THROUGH RESEARCH AND  
CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**





# JACK



**SPECIES:** Hoffman's Two-fingered sloth

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Choloepus hoffmanni*

**APPROXIMATE AGE:** 10+ years old

**WEIGHT (WHEN FOUND):** 7.2 kg

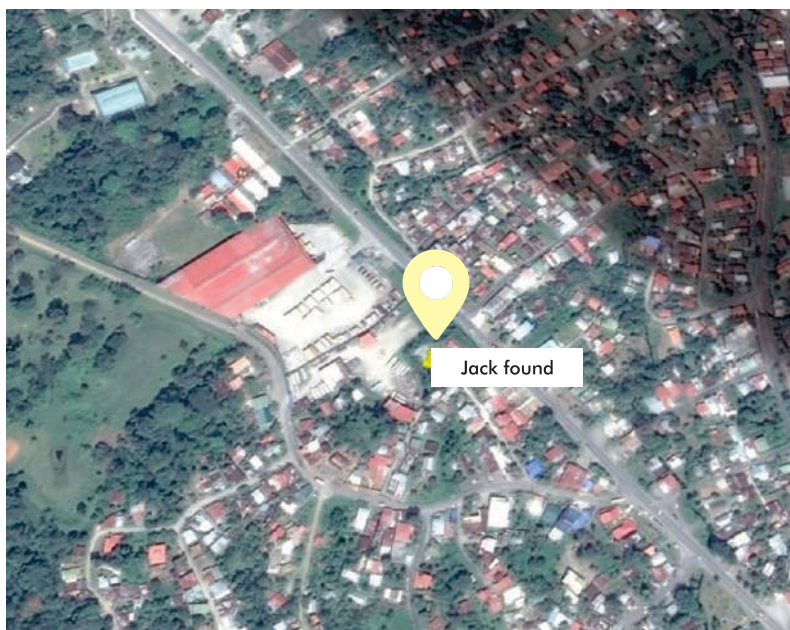
**GPS LOCATION:** N9° 59.044' W83° 03.411'

**DATE FOUND:** December 2nd 2013



In December 2013, the Costa Rican fire service was called out to the Caribbean city of Limon where **reports were coming in of a badly injured two-fingered sloth**. The government and emergency

services in Costa Rica are frequently required to assist with the rescue of imperilled wildlife, and although many different species are dealt with, **sloths are some of the** most common victims.



**LIMON  
DOWNTOWN**

N9° 59.044'  
W83° 03.411'



# AGAINST ALL ODDS

Concerned locals had also made calls to a local rescue center, and although they were on standby waiting for the fire service to deliver the injured animal, it never arrived.

As darkness fell, staff at the rescue centre **assumed the worst – that the sloth hadn't survived.** They were wrong.

Three days later, the rescue centre received another phone call. Against all odds, **the sloth was still alive and in desperate need of immediate medical attention.** Not knowing what had happened or what to expect, staff rushed to the scene and were able to quickly pinpoint the **harrowing scene.**

Sloths are forced to use power lines to move above urban and rural areas due to deforestation.





## SEEKING REFUGE IN A DANGEROUS PLACE

Sitting on top of a large electricity meter in the middle of a university campus was a large, badly burnt two-fingered sloth. **He was in a terrible state.** He had apparently climbed onto the power lines and received such **an enormous shock it temporarily knocked out the power to the surrounding area** (approximately 20,000 volts).

He had fallen onto the concrete below, and after regaining consciousness, crawled across the ground

and up the nearest tree.

Unfortunately, the sloth preferred to seek refuge on the nearby electricity meter, rather than staying in the safety of the tree. Horrified onlookers had called the fire service for help, but upon arrival the servicemen **decided that rescue was pointless** as the sloth's injuries were almost certainly fatal. What they didn't realise is just how **strong and resilient sloths can be.**

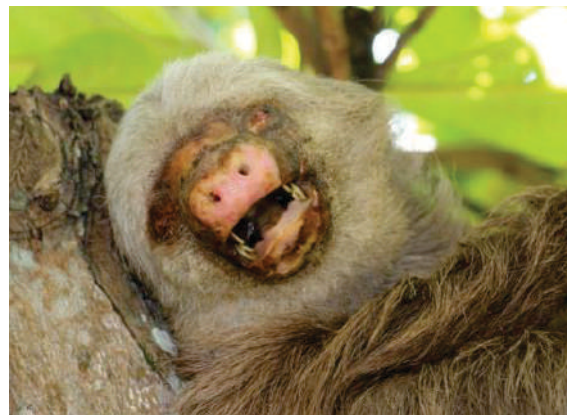
## A FULL RECOVERY



It can sometimes be difficult to portray just how tough sloths can be when faced with awful injuries, but this story is the perfect demonstration. **The electricity had passed through the sloths' left arm and out of his nose.** His skin had been burnt off and his eyes were sealed completely shut. Upon rescue, staff fondly named him Jack.

Back at the centre **he received world-class medical care**, and after a lot of attention, careful monitoring and countless

bandage changes, Jack began to heal. His ferocious appetite for almond leaves, calm nature and strong will to survive were all of the essential ingredients necessary for a full recovery!



The mortality of electrocuted sloths is very high, almost 70%.





## LOOKING FOR A BETTER HOME

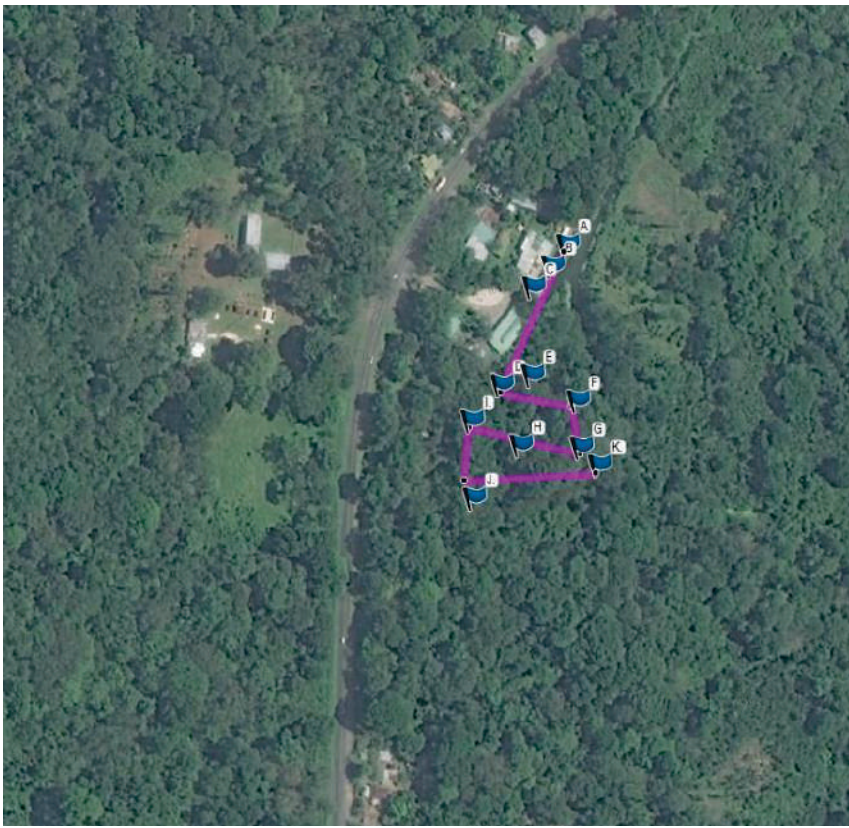
After 8 weeks of treatment and careful rehabilitation, **Jack was deemed fit and healthy for release.** Due to their finely balanced energy budget and highly specific diet, sloths do not adapt well to change.

Therefore, **translocating a sloth away from the area in which it was found is never a decision which is taken lightly.** In Jack's case, however, the highly urbanised university campus on which he had been living was no place for a sloth.

Trees were scattered few and far between, separated by roads, buildings, electricity wires and fences.

Releasing him back there would have been a death sentence. The decision was taken to **release him within a protected forest reserve, far away from civilization.**

The home range of a male two-fingered sloth is about 10 hectares.



N9° 47.955'  
W82° 54.853'

## NEW HOME RANGE

To ensure his safety post-release, **Jack was equipped with a 'sloth backpack'** containing a 'Daily Diary' data logger (to record his behaviour) and a VHF radio transmitter so that biologists could carefully monitor his movements.

After a rather sporadic adjustment period, during which he travelled vast distances every day, **Jack has since established a new territory for himself** and can regularly be seen visiting his favourite Almond

tree on the bank of the Rio Estrella.



The use of radio tracking devices like the one in this picture help scientists to collect behavioural data.





# A LESSON TO LEARN

## **Sloths do not adapt well to an urban environment.**

They have evolved over a staggering 64 million years to be perfectly at home in the rainforest canopy, but humans are now encroaching on their habitat much faster than they can adapt. **The key to a successful future lies in education and raising awareness of these**

**issues.** We need to learn from what happened to Jack - to protect what remains of the sloths rainforest ecosystem and to develop targeted and effective conservation strategies in order to **prevent more sloths from suffering a similar fate.**

There are more than 3000 wildlife electrocutions every single year in Costa Rica, and the country is thought to have lost approximately 50% of its arboreal mammal populations as a result (Sánchez 2007).

50% of all  
electrocuted  
animals in  
Costa Rica are  
sloths



## SLOTH CONSERVATION: **THE PROBLEMS**

Sloths are perfectly adapted for life high up in the canopy of tropical rainforests. However, roads, farms, **towns and cities now dominate the landscape**, cutting the once

continuous forest into smaller and more isolated segments. **The sloths simply cannot adapt to this rapidly changing environment.**



- **LOSS OF HABITAT**
- **GENETIC ISOLATION**
- **POWER LINE ELECTROCUTIONS**
- **DOG ATTACKS**
- **POACHING**
- **ILLEGAL PET TRADE MARKET**
- **ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS**
- **EXPLOITATION FOR TOURISM**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Saving these incredible animals from extinction therefore requires innovative and long-term conservation solutions that will target both the human and sloth

populations, with the goal of **developing sustainable ways in which humans and sloths can coexist.**



# A DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

**Thank you for your support!** Symbolic adoptions such as yours are a huge boost to our work with **100% of this donation going towards supporting our sloth conservation efforts.**

**SloCo has developed a range of strategies and**

**programs** which aim to achieve our conservation goals in Costa Rica. These range from increasing habitat connectivity in urban areas to educating children in local communities and conducting high quality scientific research.

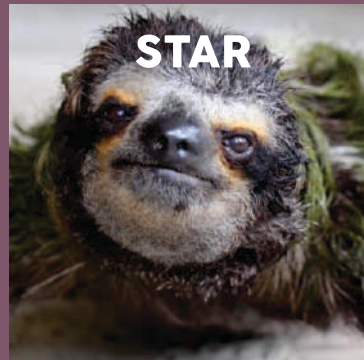
## MEET OTHER SLOTHS YOU CAN HELP AT:

[slothconservation.com](http://slothconservation.com)

**ALI & JESSICA**



**STAR**



**BECKETT**



**QUATRO**



**BOJANGLES**



**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A  
BETTER WORLD FOR SLOTHS!**



The Sloth Conservation Foundation (SloCo) was founded in 2016 by sloth researcher Dr. Rebecca Cliffe and is **dedicated to saving sloths in the wild through research and conservation initiatives.**



Photo credit: Suzi Eszterhas



**SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH**



**REFORESTATION  
IN URBAN  
AREAS**



**POWER  
LINE  
INSULATION**



**WILDLIFE  
BRIDGES**



**EDUCATION  
OUTREACH**



**RESPONSIBLE  
TOURISM  
& ILLEGAL  
PET TRADE**

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