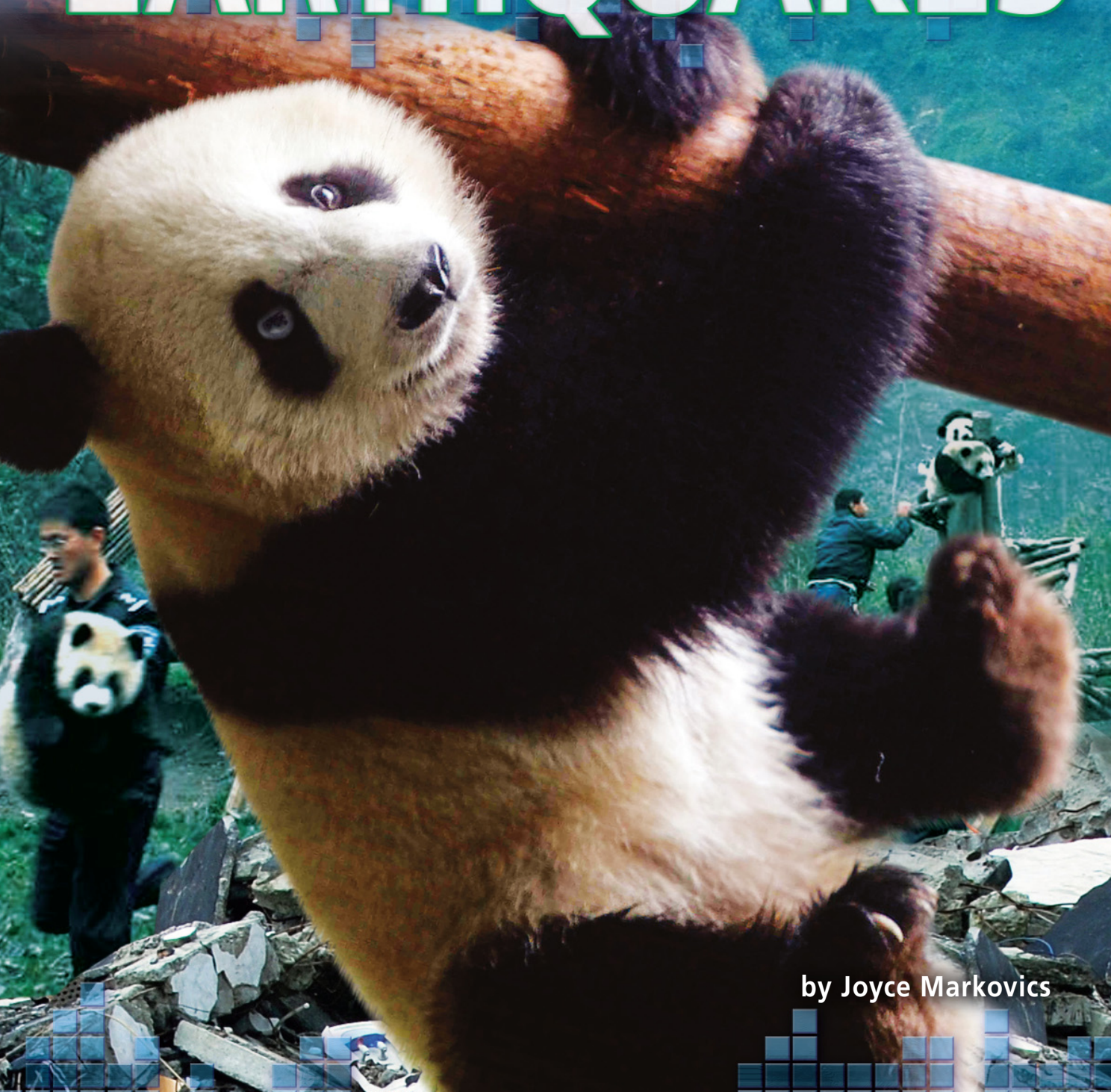


**RESCUING**Animals  
**FROM DISASTERS**

# SAVING ANIMALS AFTER EARTHQUAKES



by Joyce Markovics

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by Joyce Markovics

Consultant: Dave Pauli  
Senior Director, Wildlife Response  
Humane Society of the United States  
HSUS Animal Care Centers

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# CONTENTS

Dashing for Cover .....	4
A Bark for Help .....	6
Rescued Twice.....	8
On the Ground.....	10
Puppies in Need .....	12
Saving Farm Animals .....	14
Long-term Care .....	16
Panda-monium in China .....	18
Up a Tree.....	20
A Dog's Best Friend.....	22
Lending a Paw .....	24
Quake Dogs.....	26
Famous Earthquakes and Rescues .....	28
Animals at Risk from Earthquakes .....	29
Glossary .....	30
Bibliography .....	31
Read More .....	31
Learn More Online .....	31
Index .....	32
About the Author.....	32



# Dashing for Cover

January 12, 2010, began as a quiet day in southern Haiti. Then, just before 5:00 P.M., the earth suddenly began to rumble and shake violently. Two small dogs named Bella and Deiter were inside their owner's third-floor apartment in the city of Port-au-Prince (*port-oh-PRIHNS*) when the huge **earthquake** struck. The terrified dogs scrambled for safety as **debris** rained down from the apartment's ceiling.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital,  
before the massive earthquake





At the time of the massive quake, Paul Fowler, who owned Bella and Deiter, was outside the apartment building with his baby daughter, Victoria. "I saw the building swaying back and forth," Paul said. When the ground stopped shaking, there was debris and thick dust everywhere. Although badly damaged, the building remained standing. "It was like out of a movie set," Paul said about the destruction that surrounded him. "I thought for sure the dogs hadn't made it."



**The earthquake in Haiti was very strong, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale. It was so powerful that people in parts of Cuba, more than 200 miles (322 km) away, felt it.**

In about 40 seconds, the earthquake destroyed most of the buildings in and around Port-au-Prince.



The country of Haiti is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea.



# A Bark for Help

With Victoria under one arm, Paul raced upstairs to find his apartment completely destroyed. As he stumbled over debris, he desperately called out for his dogs. However, there was no sign of them. Paul was about to give up his search when he heard a familiar bark. It was Deiter!

There were very few buildings that did not collapse during the quake.





The sound was coming from an area near a bed covered in **rubble**. Paul carefully picked through the dusty debris that covered the bed. When he had cleared the debris away, he saw that both dogs were hiding under the bed. They were frightened, but unharmed. "I think the bed saved them," Paul recalled. "They must have run under there when they first felt the earthquake." Still holding Victoria, Paul scooped up the two dogs with his other arm and walked out of the building.

After the earthquake, many people searched through rubble and debris looking for their loved ones and for their personal belongings.

More than  
200,000 people  
lost their lives during  
the earthquake in Haiti.  
Nearly 300,000 homes  
were destroyed or  
damaged.



## INDEX

- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The (ASPCA) 12
- Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti (ARCH) 10–11, 12–13
- animal shelter 17, 22–23, 25, 26, 28
- antibiotics 13, 16
- bamboo 19
- Best Friends Animal Society 8–9
- cats 10, 14, 16, 22, 28
- China 18–19, 21, 22–23
- Costa Rica 28
- Cuba 5
- debris 4–5, 6–7, 11, 21, 23, 26
- dogs 4–5, 6–7, 8–9, 11, 12–13, 14, 16, 22–23, 24–25, 26–27, 28
- Emergency Response Team 9, 10
- endangered 18
- epicenter 19
- farm animals 14–15
- Fowler, Paul 5, 6–7, 8–9
- giant pandas 18–19, 20–21, 29
- Haiti 4–5, 7, 9, 10–11, 12–13, 14, 16–17, 29
- Humane Society International 14–15, 16–17
- Humane Society of the United States, The 14–15, 16–17
- Hurricane Katrina 8–9
- Japan 28
- medicine 11, 13, 15, 16, 28
- natural disasters 8–9, 29
- New Orleans 8
- Port-au-Prince 4–5
- rabies 16
- Richter scale 5, 28
- Sichuan province 18, 22, 24
- strays 13, 16
- supplies 11, 28
- survivors 22–23, 24, 27
- vaccination 16
- veterinarians 10, 16–17
- Wolong National Nature Reserve 18–19, 20, 29
- Yunlian, Chen 22–23, 24–25, 26–27

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joyce Markovics is an editor, writer, and orchid collector. She encourages anyone looking for a pet to consider adopting one of the many homeless animals living in shelters across the United States.



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RESCUING Animals  
FROM DISASTERS

# SAVING ANIMALS AFTER EARTHQUAKES

When disaster strikes, people aren't the only ones in danger. In January 2010, a huge earthquake hit southern Haiti. Two small dogs named Bella and Deiter were inside their owner's apartment. Amazingly, this was not their first time in a natural disaster. About five years earlier, they had been rescued from separate homes in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Would they be lucky enough to survive once again?

Look inside to meet the everyday heroes who found ways to save animals from the earthquake in Haiti, as well as other deadly quakes in other parts of the world. These brave men and women have managed to rescue not only pets such as dogs and cats, but also farm animals such as goats and sheep, and even endangered wild animals such as giant pandas—sometimes risking their own lives as they rushed in to help.

SAVING ANIMALS AFTER  
**EARTHQUAKES**

SAVING ANIMALS FROM  
**FIRES**

SAVING ANIMALS AFTER  
**FLOODS**

SAVING ANIMALS FROM  
**HURRICANES**

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