

RESCUINGAnimals
FROM
DISASTERS

SAVING ANIMALS FROM VOLCANOES



by Miriam Aronin

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SAVING ANIMALS FROM **VOLCANOES**



by Miriam Aronin

Consultant: Dessy Zahara Angelina Pane
Animal Friends Jogja (AFJ)

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative and Kim Jones

Photo Researcher: Mary Fran Loftus

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Aronin, Miriam.

Saving animals from volcanoes / by Miriam Aronin.

p. cm.— (Rescuing animals from disasters)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-291-2 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-291-X (library binding)

1. Animal rescue—Juvenile literature. 2. Animals—Effect of volcanic eruptions on—Juvenile literature.
3. Volcanic eruptions—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL83.2.A76 2012

639.9—dc22

2011014176

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

072011

042711CGF

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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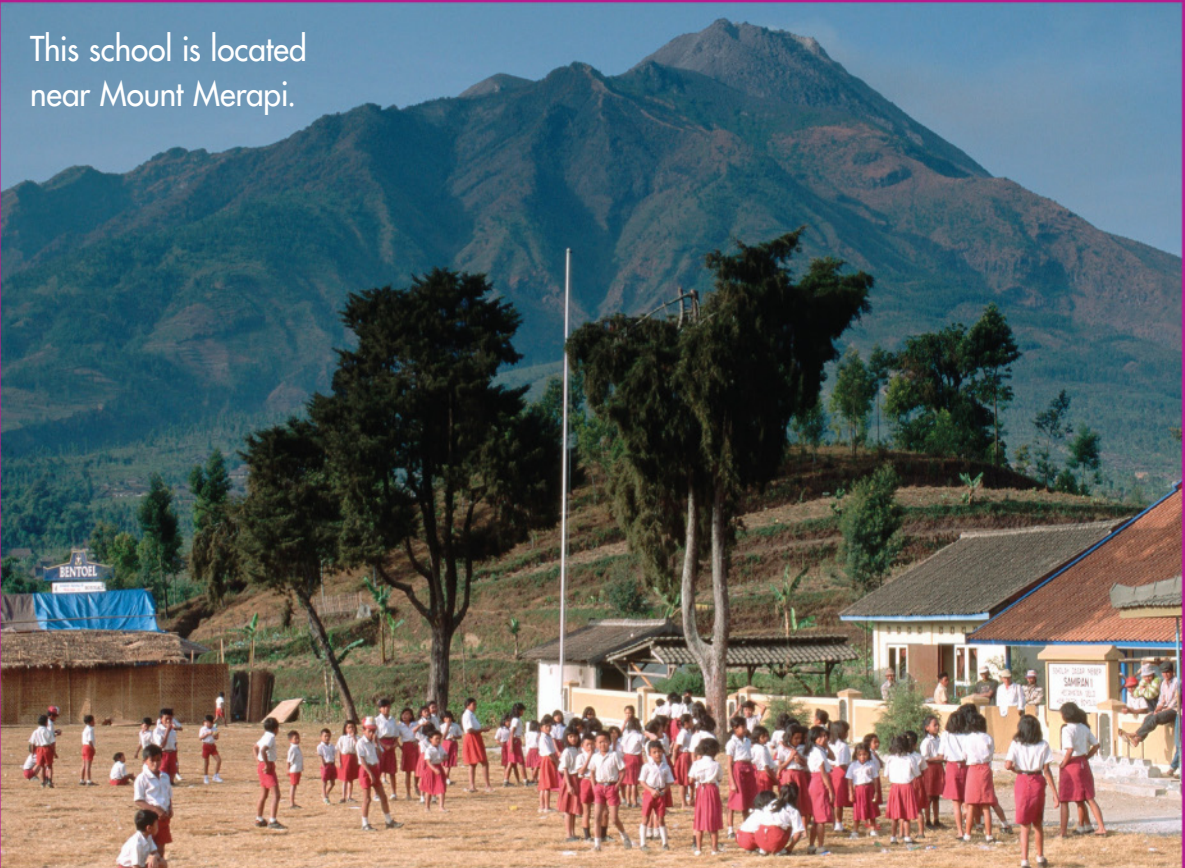
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A Mountain of Fire

In October 2010, scientists made a frightening discovery. Mount Merapi, a powerful **volcano** on the island of Java in Indonesia, was about to **erupt**. Thousands of farmers, villagers, and animals lived within 15 miles (24 km) of the volcano. Soon their homes would not be safe.

The government began making plans to **evacuate** everyone. “This is high **alert**,” warned volcano expert Dr. Surono on October 25.

This school is located near Mount Merapi.



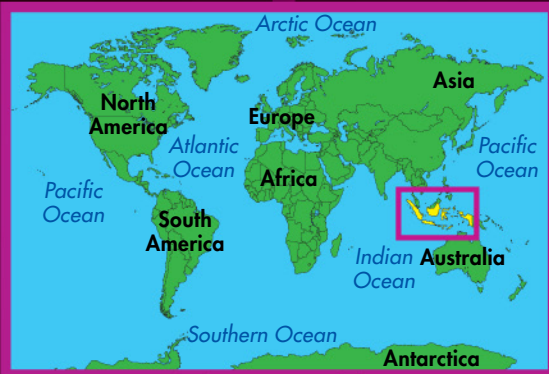
That day, Mount Merapi erupted. Hot gases and **ash** shot 16,400 feet (5,000 m) into the air. People rushed to flee their homes. Many had no time to take their pets and **livestock** with them. Would anyone come rescue the animals?

Before Mount Merapi erupted, very hot liquid rock built up under the ground. It then burst out of an opening in the mountain, along with blasts of hot gas and ash.

Merapi
means
“mountain of fire”
in the Indonesian
language.

Land of Volcanoes

Volcanoes such as Mount Merapi have been erupting in Indonesia for thousands of years. In fact, scientists believe that the largest volcanic eruption on Earth happened there about 75,000 years ago. Today, Indonesia has more than 75 **active volcanoes**, more than any other country in the world.



Indonesia is made up of more than 17,500 islands in Southeast Asia. Mount Merapi is on Java, one of the larger islands.

When one of these volcanoes erupts, the result can be deadly for humans and other animals. For example, hot gas and ash can easily fill the lungs and make it difficult for the victims of the volcano to breathe. When plants that many animals depend on for food are killed by hot **lava** and ash, the animals face starvation.

Mount Merapi
erupting in 2006

Though no one knows for sure, scientists believe that volcanoes have erupted in Indonesia more than 1,100 times since the third century A.D. Mount Merapi erupts about every four years.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Miriam Aronin is a writer and editor. She also enjoys reading, dancing, knitting, and playing with her friends' pets.

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RESCUING Animals
FROM DISASTERS

SAVING ANIMALS FROM VOLCANOES

When disaster strikes, people aren't the only ones in danger. In October 2010, Mount Merapi, a powerful volcano on the Indonesian island of Java, erupted. Hot gases and ash shot into the air. People had to flee their homes right away, and many did not have time to take their pets or their livestock with them. Would anyone be able to come to the animals' rescue?

Look inside to meet the everyday heroes who have found ways to save animals from deadly volcanoes. These brave men and women have managed to rescue not only pets such as dogs and livestock such as cattle, but also wild animals such as rabbits, birds, and monkeys—sometimes even 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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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-291-2



9 781617 722912