

NACHO





SPECIES: Hoffmann's two-fingered sloth

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Choloepus Hoffmanni*

APPROXIMATE AGE: 3 years

WEIGHT (WHEN FOUND): 5.1 Kg

GPS LOCATION: 9°39'13.1"N 82°44'28.0"W

DATE FIRST COLLARED May 2021



LOCATION:
LIMON
PROVINCE
COSTA
RICA



Nacho is a feisty two-fingered sloth who can often be found **hanging out in the almond trees above a popular beach bar** in the South Caribbean of Costa Rica.

He has grown quite accustomed to being the center of attention, with visitors to the bar always stopping to take his photograph while **he snoozes on a low-down branch hanging right above the entrance.**

With his quintessential pink pig-like nose and a lush coat of thick blonde fur covered with green algae*, **he has become quite a local star.**

The owner of the beach bar (Tasty Waves Cantina) **named him Nacho after one of the most popular dishes** that they serve in the restaurant.

Unfortunately, Nacho's home is in an area of the South Caribbean that is undergoing rapid development. Roads, hotels, powerlines, and houses are springing up everywhere, and **Nacho's home is shrinking rapidly.**

One of Nacho's favourite trees directly overhangs the **dangerous main road that crosses in front of the beach bar.**



A HIGHLY URBAN SLOTH

Thankfully, the owner of Tasty Waves is a friend of Team Sloth and **has vowed to always maintain a haven of trees for Nacho to live in on his property.**

When he heard about our Urban Sloth Project, he knew that **Nacho could provide us with invaluable data** which could contribute to saving his species.

As soon as the Tasty Waves owner noticed Nacho snoozing peacefully in one of the perfectly manicured beach almond trees above the restaurant, **he called us immediately** and our research team came rushing to the scene.

Whilst **Nacho does not live in the center of town**, he is in an area that is undergoing rapid development and his environment will likely change dramatically over the next few years.

By following his movements, he will be able to teach us a lot about how sloths cope with environmental change.

Nacho has now become the seventh sloth (and the fourth two-fingered sloth), **to be fitted with a tracking collar** for our *Urban Sloth Project*.



Nacho after a bathroom break next to Tasty Waves



NAP INTERRUPTED

Although he was sleeping relatively low down, **Nacho did not make it easy for Team Sloth to get the tracking collar on him.**

To get him out of the tree in the quickest and safest way possible, the team decided that the best option would be to cut the branch that he was sleeping on and lower it gently to the ground using ropes and safety equipment.

This all went smoothly until Nacho reached head height. At this point, **he decided that he was not very happy** about the rude interruption to his day – and

he quickly let our research team know about it!

By 'poofing' his hair (to make himself look even bigger) and showing off his sharp teeth and claws, **he definitely gave us a fright!**

To minimize any stress to him (and to keep our team safe) **Nacho was anesthetized and fell into a deep sleep.** While he was sleeping, we fitted him with the tracking collar and took some vital measurements to assess his health.

INTO THE 'TICK' OF IT

While carrying out the health check, Team Sloth noticed that poor **Nacho** was suffering from a tick infestation.

Ticks are a very common problem in the jungle, but sloths living in healthy environments **are not usually bothered by blood-sucking parasites** due to their low body temperature and unusual blood vessel arrangement.

If they are found to have ticks, it tends to suggest that they **have been spending more time on the ground than usual**. Thankfully, the team was able to remove all the ticks while Nacho was anesthetized, and they gave him some **medication to protect him against future infestations**.

As the anesthesia wore off, Nacho slowly began to wake up and immediately started to **feast on the pile of fresh almond leaves** that Team Sloth had

collected for him. Once he had fully recovered, we were able to **release him back into his favorite almond tree** above the bar - exactly where we found him earlier that morning!



The team doing a thorough tick check. Luckily for Nacho, our ecology coordinator, Amelia, has a background in parasitology!



NACHO THE TRAVELER

It is normal for sloths to venture further than usual immediately following release and Nacho was no different! The next morning, **he had moved over 100 meters away** and was snoozing on top of a bunch of coconuts in a palm tree at the back of the property.

We assumed that he would hang out in that area for a while, but Nacho had other plans. He embarked on what can only be described as a sloth marathon. Over the next 2 weeks, **he traveled over 2 kilometers along the busy main road leading into town** – that is a long way for a slow-moving animal like a sloth!

He even crossed the road at one point and carried on going. We do not know where Nacho is headed or why he has moved so far, but we will soon find out!

While we are thankful that **Nacho did not use the powerlines to cross the road,** crawling on the ground leaves him very vulnerable to dog attacks** and collisions with vehicles.

We are working with the Costa Rican government to add **insulation to these dangerous powerlines,** and to **increase habitat connectivity** in the area by installing Sloth Crossing canopy bridges over roads.





Nacho has been found several times in situations like these.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Nacho has highlighted **the importance of community engagement and citizen science** in sloth research and conservation. The owners of the properties that Nacho has traveled through **are working side-by-side with us** to make sure that he stays safe.

The local community also helps to make our research team's difficult job a little easier by **visually tracking him and sending regular updates whenever they**

see him! This helps us to stay informed about what is going on in Nacho's environment.

We will be tracking Nacho every single day for the next 2 years and his data is going to teach us so much about how sloths adapt to changes in the environment. We will periodically recatch him for health checks and to fit him with a special Sloth Backpack.



THE URBAN SLOTH PROJECT



The Urban Sloth Project is a long-term investigation into **the impacts of habitat disturbance and rainforest urbanization** on the behavior of wild sloths in Costa Rica.

Sloths are slow-moving, habitual animals and are therefore **very sensitive to changes to their environment**. While trying to navigate an increasingly urbanized world, sloths are being electrocuted on powerlines, attacked by dogs, hit by cars, and exploited by humans.

This is made more problematic by a **massive lack of information on wild sloth behavior**, which makes it very challenging for us to develop effective methods to conserve sloths.

For this project we'll use radio tracking collars and 'Sloth Backpacks', a small,

made-to-measure harnesses that contains a micro-datalogger called a 'Daily Diary'. **It records 8 different parameters over 40 times a second**. That's almost 28 million data points a day!

Over the next 5 years, we will be tracking and monitoring **32 sloths**, and the results will be used to develop effective conservation strategies that will help **humans and sloths to peacefully coexist**.



Thank you for adopting Nacho and helping us to learn more about how sloths are coping with our quickly changing world!



NACHO FACT SHEET

* Sloths have an unusual method of camouflage – cracks in their hair allow **several species of algae and fungi to grow which makes them appear green.** Some species of fungi living in sloth fur have even been found to be **active against certain strains of bacteria, cancer, and parasites!** Sloth hair also provides a home to an entire ecosystem of invertebrates like the sloth moth.

** **Dog attacks are now the second leading cause of death to sloths** in Costa Rica. The chances of a sloth encountering a dog are high due to the number of dogs roaming around and the fact that human development is breaking up the sloth's habitat. **A sloth on the ground has no way to defend itself against a dog.**



A DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

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.

Sloths simply cannot adapt to this rapidly changing environment.

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.**

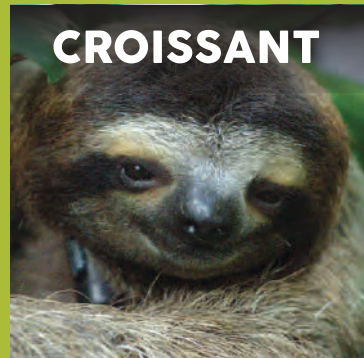
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THANK YOU FOR MAKING A BETTER WORLD FOR SLOTHS!

The Sloth Conservation Foundation (SloCo) was founded in 2017 by sloth researcher Dr. Rebecca Cliffe and is dedicated to **saving sloths in the wild through research and conservation initiatives.**



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