



annual  review

PETA
ANIMAL RAHAT
2015



Dear Friends,

Since its founding more than a decade ago, Animal Rahat has become a truly powerful force for animals in trouble throughout the Sangli, Satara and Solapur districts of Maharashtra.

In 2015, Animal Rahat helped alleviate the suffering of more than 16,000 working animals, including more than 2,600 emergencies responded to at all hours of the

day and night. Our scouts and emergency responders freed crows entangled in glass-coated kite string, rappelled down deep wells to rescue fallen dogs, captured and safely released snakes from homes and came to the aid of donkeys hit by cars on busy roadways. We also rescued many bullocks – and even camels – from a life of toil and gave them the chance for a brighter future and a peaceful retirement.

The Animal Rahat team operates under the simple principle that teaching kindness is essential, so it strives to sensitise animal owners, authorities and young people to animals' needs and interests and help them replace cruel practices with humane ones. In the following pages, we share just a few of the highlights of our educational and hands-on work. We are grateful to our supporters, whose financial backing fuels our work. Without you, these victories for abused, injured, sick and overworked animals would not have been possible.

For all animals,

Dr Manilal Valliyate
Director of Veterinary Affairs



Changing Minds, Changing Practices

The Tractor Project, which Animal Rahat established four years ago, is gaining steam, helping to alleviate the daily hardship endured by bullocks in the sugar factories. A single sugar factory uses the draught power of approximately 1,200 bullocks, who work for months on end carrying crushing loads of sugarcane. The objective of the project is to offer subsidised mini-tractors to replace bullocks and, in so doing, improve the lives of farmers and animals alike. **To date, the project has resulted in the replacement of 13,408 bullocks in 22 sugar factories in Sangli, Satara and Solapur with 3,348 mini-tractors. Lokmangal – one of the most prominent sugar factories in Solapur – signed an agreement with Animal Rahat promising that by 2018, it would be 100 per cent divested of all bullock carts!**



This year, the Tractor Project began expanding to helping donkeys working in brick kilns by offering tractors at a subsidised cost in exchange for the retirement of the animals. In nearly 350 brick kilns in the Sangli district alone, donkeys are forced to carry backbreaking loads of bricks in extreme heat, with insufficient food, water and rest. Animal Rahat staff explored the possibility

of mechanisation at the brick kilns, and as a result, **one kiln was able to retire 22 donkeys to a sanctuary.** Some of them were pregnant, and their foals will now live out their lives with their mothers in the lush Nilgiri Hills.

Animal Rahat staff devote much-needed time and effort to intervening on behalf of animals in fairs held in Maharashtra throughout the year. Many villagers ride their bullocks and horses to the distant fairs or have them pull carts loaded with their families and belongings for hundreds of kilometres, often with no rest. **This year, the community development team was able to persuade the residents of 29 villages travelling to the Chinchali fair to let their animals rest at home and instead take other modes of transportation, such as buses, trucks and taxis, sparing 1,606 bullocks the gruelling journey.** The vehicles were paid for entirely by contributions from the communities. We set up two camps at that fair, and **our teams were able to offer rest to almost 1,500 bullocks and 250 horses who had been forced to make the journey, in addition to giving free veterinary treatment to more than 300 animals** for conditions such as lameness, stomach maladies, eye problems and open wounds. We are grateful to the involvement of police constables who ensured that animal owners who breached The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, were fined. To help educate fair-goers who brought animals, we set up a poster gallery, which they



were all required to view, outlining illegal treatment of animals and vital humane-care techniques.

We were also present at the Sangola fair, where, as a result of our intervention last year, **sheds were constructed to shade animals from the intense sun and ramps were provided for loading and unloading animals.** At the Karthiki fair, the fair organising committee had **planted trees to create shade, per plans that we initiated last year.** At the Karthiki and Siddheshwar fairs, **our veterinarians treated more than 250 animals** and also set up poster galleries and held street plays to educate fair-goers further and encourage them to be kind to their animals.

While the Animal Rahat team was attending to the veterinary needs of animals at the Pusegaon fair, we noticed that horn shearing was a prevalent practice among the bullock owners, who are from the very poor Belgaum district of Karnataka. About 700 people make their livelihood from horn shearing in that district, but while talking to Belgaum residents, we learned that they are open to leaving this traditional moneymaking source. However, they need financial and transitional assistance, so our community development unit is now working on plans to help them find alternative occupations.

In more good news regarding horn shearing, **our team helped protect more than 700 cows and buffalo at the Bail Pola festival from having their horns sheared and painted with oil paint.** We promoted the use of natural products such as turmeric powder to tint horns as a replacement to shearing and painting. We also displayed a poster showing the harmful effects of shearing and painting before the festival to draw awareness to the issue.



Turning the Tide for Animals



This year, Karnataka became the **fourth state in India to call for mandatory administration of anaesthetics to bulls during castration in order to eliminate**

their fear and pain. This progress follows a decision last year by the Commissioner of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, who, after hearing from the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), recommended that all states favour painless castration. **Animal Rahat's community development unit facilitated training sessions on field anaesthesia in cattle for more than 160 veterinarians with the animal husbandry departments in the Amravati and Solapur districts of Maharashtra.** All resident bullock owners were required to attend the painless-castration demonstration portion of these sessions, and as a result, **80 of their bullocks were humanely castrated** and other owners are now seeking this option and are taking our recommendation to have the procedure done at an early age, thereby making the animals tamer and easier to handle without using painful nose ropes. As always, we promote the use of morkees (face halters) in place of nose ropes as well as the grooming of bulls, a simple pleasure for these hard-working animals, which helps to form a better bond between owners and their animals.

There are approximately 125 bullocks used in the operation of sugarcane-crushing machines along the road from Shirdi to Shani Shingnapur in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. The machines, which extract juice sold to tourists and other travellers, are hitched to the necks of bullocks via a wooden shaft, and the bullocks are forced to walk in a circular path continuously for 12 hours. **Following Animal Rahat's intervention, two juice**

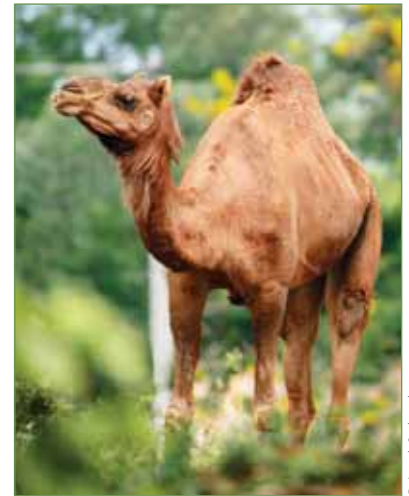
shop owners agreed to replace their bullocks with diesel-run machines.

By publicising these humane shops through billboards, posters and leaflets and continuing to educate other shop owners, we expect that all the shops will eventually switch to non-animal alternatives.



Training animals for the circus means violence, beatings and other horrors. But freedom from cruelty is finally in sight for animals used in circuses.

Following complaints filed against the Grand Circus, New Rambo Circus, World Champion Circus, Great Kamal Circus and Great Indian Circus by AWBI-authorized inspectors from Animal Rahat, the circuses relinquished the animals they had been using and became 100 per cent animal-free! **Animal Rahat ended up with 22 rescued animals, including four goats who had been forced to walk a tightrope and eight dogs, four camels and six horses who had been forced to perform other stressful tricks under threat of violence.**



Following PETA India's victory in 2014 in liberating an elephant named Sunder from a life of beatings and deprivation at a temple in Maharashtra, in 2015



we supervised the creation of India's first forested captive-elephant sanctuary at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), where Sunder now lives. The sanctuary is nearly 50 hectares,

harbouring more than a dozen elephants and allowing them to roam, swim and socialise in peace.

We also assisted PETA India at historic workshops it hosted in Bangalore and Delhi, conducted by international elephant experts Margaret Whittaker and Gail Laule, to train elephant caregivers from BBP and many central and state government wildlife officials on the principles of modern, humane protected-contact (PC) management of captive elephants, which does away with violence and punishment. Sunder and his closest companion, Lakshmi, are learning the PC system and responding to it beautifully.

Tragedy struck in 2015 when Ram Prasad, another "temple elephant" whose life we are working hard to improve, was taken out during a festival in January and went berserk, killing a woman and injuring several other people. Because of this incident, we and PETA India helped persuade the temple management to sign an affidavit to relinquish Ram Prasad to a sanctuary, where he is now being rehabilitated and can live the rest of his life free of chains and in the company of other elephants.

In big cities, municipal corporations are responsible for establishing systems for humanely controlling the dog

population, but for small villages that are not equipped to take on such programmes, Animal Rahat piloted the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme. Started in 2014 in Wadji village, this year it expanded to other selected villages throughout Solapur, Sangli and Satara that have a large number of stray dogs. Working with the help of village panchayats, Animal Rahat veterinarians visit these villages on a routine basis to spay and neuter dogs. And in a new strategy that has already been successful in one village in Solapur, we ask community members to contribute financially towards the sterilisation of their animals, which gives the programme more value. We have sterilised all 117 dogs in this village.



Animal Rahat began promoting PETA India's humane-education programme, Compassionate Citizen, this year to sensitise schoolchildren to the value and needs of animals and to try to stop the cycle of abuse caused by ignorance. Through this programme, we directly reached more than 3,500 students and 142 teachers in 32 schools in Sangli.



Financial Statement

REVENUES

Contributions	₹ 34,616,562
Other Income	₹ 1,486,381
Total Revenues	₹ 36,102,943

OPERATING EXPENSES

Programmes	
Community Development	
Services & Advocacy	₹ 4,202,203
Compassionate Citizen Project	₹ 555,611
Home for Retired Bullock Expenses	₹ 2,586,984
Special Projects	₹ 1,217,090
Medical Programmes	₹ 8,372,874
Management and General Expenses	₹ 5,817,412
Total Operating Expenses	₹ 22,752,174

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Net Assets Beginning of Year	₹ 17,311,522
Net Assets End of Year	₹ 30,662,291

OPERATING EXPENSE ALLOCATION

Direct Programme Support	74.43%
Indirect Programme Support	3.18%
Management and General Support	22.39%

The financial statement shown here is for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2015 and is based on our independently compiled financial statements.



Animal Rahat

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