



ANIMAL
RAHAT
2019

Annual Review

Dear Friends,

This year marks five years of freedom from abuse for Sunder, an elephant who was tightly chained and mercilessly beaten at a temple in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. After Animal Rahat helped rescue him, he went to the Bannerghatta Biological Park in Bengaluru, where he spends his days snacking on vegetation, splashing in a pond, and hanging out with his elephant friends. Even during musth, he remains chain-free.

Thousands of animals like Sunder are happier and healthier today, thanks to the work of Animal Rahat. **This year we treated nearly 18,000 animals** suffering from skin infections, gastrointestinal conditions, yoke gall, and other ailments and injuries, **and we rescued more than 200 birds, foxes, jackals, snakes, turtles, and other animals from life-threatening circumstances.** Some of them joined the **rescued buffaloes, cows, camels, dogs, bullocks, horses, and ponies who live at our sanctuary.** They'll enjoy the freedom to roam about and interact with whomever they choose.

As part of our humane education outreach, **we arranged for teachers and students from numerous schools to visit our sanctuary** so they could meet the animals and learn about their individual needs and personalities. **We also visited 54 schools with the Compassionate Citizen programme, reaching 3,555 students and 237 teachers** in Belgaum, Kolhapur, Sangli, and Solapur. **We persuaded more than 8,210 students at 49 schools to pledge not to set off firecrackers,** which frighten animals, during the Deepawali festival.

With help from our supporters, Animal Rahat is coming to the rescue of more animals every year. There's lots of good news in the following pages, and we're grateful to everyone who helped make this life-saving work possible.

For all animals,



Dr Naresh Upreti
Chief Operating Officer



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Ensuring Better Treatment for Animals

Animal Rahat's Tractor Project had one of its most successful years to date, **relieving bullocks from the back-breaking toil of hauling heavy loads of sugar cane by replacing them with humane, efficient tractors** in the sugar factories of Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, and Solapur. Through meetings with stakeholders, including *mukkadams* (contractors), sugar-factory managers, and bullock cart owners, we were able to replace 7,344 bullocks in 26 sugar factories with 922 mini-tractors and 457 large tractors or trucks, bringing the total to 24,742 bullocks saved since the programme began in 2011.

We worked with police to lodge more than 500 non-cognizable offences against bullock owners who were caught using spiked bits and other torture devices, beating animals with whips, forcing lame and injured animals to work, and more.

As part of a mechanisation project, **we also replaced five ponies who had been forced to haul tongas in Islampur** with auto rickshaws. The rescued ponies now live a life of leisure at the sanctuary of our partner, India Project for Animals and Nature (IPAN), in Tamil Nadu.

Forty-five donkeys, including two foals, are also relaxing at IPAN's sanctuary after Pandharpur police approached Animal Rahat for help placing the animals, who had been seized from people who were **illegally overloading them with heavy bags of sand.** Special thanks to Ugo Sap, a donkey's best "dad", who is sponsoring this group's care.

Animal Rahat stepped up our work to **reduce the suffering of the thousands of animals who are forced to haul families long distances to festivals and fairs** by promoting and providing alternative transportation and setting up animal rest areas. This year, we were able to persuade people in 46 villages to spare nearly **3,000 bullocks** by taking buses, taxis, tractors, trucks, vans, and other modes of transport to the Chinchali Fair, many of which were sponsored by the communities themselves. We set up three campsites along the route to Chinchali in Shedbal, Mangsule, and Ainapur, and the Karnataka Animal Husbandry Department set up an additional camp in Kudachi, where animals could rest and receive food, water, and medical treatment. **Over 2,500 bullocks and nearly 300 ponies came through the camps, and 133 animals were treated for lameness, indigestion, eye problems, wounds, and other health issues.** A mobile ambulance service set up by the Sangli district animal husbandry officer treated an additional

120 animals. Poster galleries set up at the camps informed animal owners about proper care and illegal treatment.

Animal Rahat joined forces with organisers of the Kartiki fair in Pandharpur, the Siddheshwar fair in Solapur, and the Sangola animal market and fair to set up shelter for animals and ramps for safely loading and unloading them and also arranged for security personnel to ensure that proper procedures were followed. There were also poster galleries and pre-recorded messages played over loudspeakers, giving hundreds of fairgoers vital information on proper animal care. **Our veterinarians treated 70 animals at the Kartiki fair, 47 at the Siddheshwar fair, and 66 at the Sangola fair.**

During the Bail Pola and Karwani festivals, we were able to use image-heavy posters to convey information about the harmful effects of shaving animals' horns and colouring them with toxic paint. As a result, **more than 9,000 bullocks, buffaloes, and cows in at least 108 villages were spared this cruelty.** Our teams also counselled animal guardians on the importance of regular grooming and stable cleaning, as well as of using natural dyes, such as turmeric, instead of toxic coloured powder.

After torrential floods devastated the Sangli and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra, an Animal Rahat team delivered food to more than 4,000 bullocks, buffaloes, cows, calves, ponies, donkeys, dogs, and cats. In addition, we treated sick and injured animals and assisted a donkey who was giving birth. We rescued 10 dogs and an endangered turtle who were surrounded by floodwaters as well as two dogs and a pig who were stranded on a roof, and we relocated 40 snakes who had sought shelter in people's homes.



Promoting Compassionate Care

Animal Rahat promoted our animal birth control (ABC) and anti-rabies outreach to panchayats in small villages not served by municipal corporations and therefore less equipped to establish spay/neuter programmes. This year alone, **we sterilised and vaccinated 519 dogs**, including 100% of those in four villages in Kolhapur and Solapur. We continue to encourage government agencies to take on a larger role in sterilising and vaccinating dogs in Solapur.



As part of our work to promote the humane castration of bullocks, **Animal Rahat held workshops for 45 Animal Husbandry Department veterinarians in the Osmanabad district**, as well as meeting with bullock owners to explain to them why traditional castration – which involves throwing animals to the ground, binding their legs, and crushing all functional connections to their testicles without any measures to prevent fear and pain – is cruel. We encouraged the owners of bull calves to have them castrated at 6 months of age or younger (in part to prevent them from later forcing the animals to wear painful nose ropes, which are inserted by piercing the nasal septa and running a rope through the hole) as well as to groom them regularly in order to form a stronger bond with them. **We were able to persuade all the bull-calf owners we met with to use humane methods of castration on their animals as well as to use morkees (halters) instead of nose ropes.** Altogether, we humanely castrated over 120 bullocks and calves.

In addition, **we confiscated more than 2,600 nose ropes and other torture devices**, including spiked bits, hobbles, tethers, and horn-shaving implements, from abusive animal owners and counselled them on humane care.



Animal Rahat to the Rescue

Animal Rahat staff members responded to hundreds of calls for assistance for animals in distress, most of which involved wildlife, **and treated nearly 18,000 injured and sick animals.** The following are just a few examples of the emergencies we responded to in 2019:

- Team members rappelled down four wells to rescue two dogs, a puppy, a jackal, and even a very frightened cobra who had been trapped for nine days.
- We gently freed a dog who had become hopelessly entangled in barbed wire. After giving her food, water, and medication, we released her back into her village.
- After we stopped some men who were forcing an exhausted pony to run behind a motorcycle, we saw that she had also been “sterilised” by having her vulva crudely stapled shut. So we confiscated her, surgically removed the staples, and welcomed her into our sanctuary.
- Security guards alerted us to a dog on a college campus who had gotten her head stuck in a jar. We sedated her and removed the jar then spayed and vaccinated her and trimmed her overgrown nails before releasing her back into her community.
- We rigged up makeshift scaffolding to rescue a pigeon who had become entangled in netting at an apartment building. After a few days of rest and recuperation, he was able to be released to rejoin his flock.
- We used a backhoe to rescue a pony who had been trapped in an underground storage pit for five days. When we discovered she had no owner and was blind in one eye, we brought her back to live at our sanctuary.

Financial Statement

REVENUE

Contributions	₹ 44,649,941
Other Income	₹ 797,787

Total Revenue	₹ 45,447,728
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OPERATING EXPENSES

Direct Expenditures	₹ 32,179,735
Employee Benefits Expenses	₹ 5,066,636
Depreciation and Amortisation	₹ 1,510,897
Other Expenses	₹ 3,206,144

Total Operating Expenses	₹ 41,963,412
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS*

Net Assets Beginning of Year	₹ 38,187,148
Net Assets End of Year	₹ 41,671,464

OPERATING EXPENSE ALLOCATION

Direct Programme Support	95.41%
Indirect Programme Support	3.60%
Management and General Support	0.99%

*Net assets include fixed assets of ₹31,230,895, of which ₹16,476,246 is land. They also include ₹10,474,848 that Animal Rahat is holding in a fixed deposit account.

The financial statement shown here is for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2019 and is based on our independently audited financial statements.

Animal Rahat



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