



Animal Rahat *to the Rescue*

This year, **Animal Rahat provided veterinary care to thousands of animals and our rescue teams saved 317 mammals, birds, and reptiles**, including a civet cat, a barn owl, cormorants, flap shell turtles, and snakes. Here are just a few of their life-saving rescues:

- Animal Rahat rushed to free a hawk who was trapped alongside two dead birds in a window cage two stories up. After a brief recovery at a field office, he soared off into the sky.
- A team was notified that a puppy had become covered in sticky coal tar, and after they sedated him, they painstakingly removed the tar with vegetable oil. After a quick visit to the office to be sterilized and vaccinated, he was reunited with his caregiver.
- Rescuers untangled a young pup who was ensnared in barbed wire and took him to a field office for follow-up care, including sterilization and vaccination, before returning him to his community.
- Four fieldworkers rappelled into a huge 55-foot-deep well to rescue a terrified blackbuck. After the team sedated him, they gently lifted him in a nylon bag and a veterinarian dressed a minor scrape on his knee before he bounded away into the forest.
- A team rescued a panicked cat whose neck was swelling up as he thrashed, desperately trying to free his head from a gate. They sedated the cat, then freed him from the iron bars, and after a day of rest at the office, he was sterilized, vaccinated, and returned to his village.
- Our rappelling experts had to borrow a crane to hoist an exhausted, abandoned cow out of a narrow, deep well. She now lives at one of our sanctuaries.

Thank you to all of our supporters!

Your dedication and generosity make Animal Rahat's work possible.

"Of all the many programs I support, I think the most gratifying to me is Animal Rahat. I love to see the videos of the rescues of vulnerable animals who have fallen into one of the dangerous open wells. Without Animal Rahat's rescue team, snakes, blackbucks, cows, buffaloes, dogs, and cats would suffer and die slow deaths in those wells."

—Kathryn Dalenberg

"As donkey caregivers, we have had the privilege and the pleasure of living with seven wonderful rescued donkeys. These amazing and affectionate animals are too frequently abused and underrated. To honor them, we support Animal Rahat, where they receive the love, attention, and respect they deserve but so often are denied."

—Laura-Ann Cammis and Jeff Schloss

Financial Statement

REVENUE

Donations and Legacies ₹ 132,368,050

Other Income ₹ 754,820

Total Revenue ₹ 133,122,870

OPERATING EXPENSES

Direct Expenditures ₹ 69,866,680

Staff Costs ₹ 9,999,670

Depreciation and Amortisation ₹ 3,116,830

Other Expenses ₹ 2,706,490

Total Operating Expenses ₹ 85,689,670

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS*

Net Assets Beginning of Year ₹ 74,993,760

Net Assets End of Year ₹ 122,426,960

OPERATING EXPENSE ALLOCATION

Direct Programme Support 95.62%

Indirect Programme Support 3.64%

Management and General Support 0.74%

*Net assets include fixed assets of Rs 113,921,660, of which Rs 82,158,410 is land. They also include Rs 7,659,220 that Animal Rahat is holding in a fixed deposit account.

The financial statement shown here is for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2023 and is based on our independently audited financial statements. Operating expense allocation percentages are calculated by management and reviewed by an independent third party.

Working To Protect Animalkind

ANIMAL RAHAT 2023 Annual Review

Cover photo: © Aneesh Sankarankutty

Animal Rahat



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Dear Wonderful Supporter,

Animal Rahat celebrated our 20th anniversary this year by rescuing animals from dire situations, helping to retire thousands of working animals, spaying and neutering community dogs, and inspiring owners, community members, and students to treat animals with kindness and respect. This review details the above and much, much more.

We welcomed 166 equines to our newest sanctuary, The David J Reuben Home for Animal Refugees, a wide-open space with a lush landscape that's nestled on the border of the southern Indian states of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

Newcomers to our Sangli sanctuary included 30 donkeys, ponies, and horses, retired after we persuaded their former owners to switch to mechanized hauling methods, plus three precious foals who were born after their mothers' arrival. We also welcomed two camels and seven dogs rescued from circuses and 31 roosters who were saved from a fighting operation and can now reveal their curious, trusting nature as they gently peck fresh fruits from their caregivers' hands.

At our Ranapur sanctuary, 10 horses, four bullocks, six ponies, a cow and her calf, and a puppy joined the family. They'll never again have to scavenge for scraps to eat, be whipped, or be forced to haul heavy loads in dangerous traffic. They'll receive only gentle touches from humans from now on.

Our work providing lifelong care to each of these dear residents, administering veterinary care to working animals, and carrying out urgent rescues of other animals—along with our programs to change minds, hearts, and attitudes—is made possible by your generous support and compassion. We are forever grateful.

Thank you for all you do for animals.

Dr Naresh Upreti
Chief Operating Officer



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Hemant Jain



Dr Nandita Shah



Nigel Otter



Ensuring *Better Treatment* for Animals

Animal Rahat veterinarians treated **27,781 animals** for various ailments, including skin infections, parasitic infestations, gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases, eye cancer, open wounds, and lameness.

We visited factories during the annual sugarcane season in Maharashtra, which lasts six to seven months, to improve working conditions and monitor the treatment of bullocks who are forced to haul heavy loads and subjected to overloading, inhumane handling, cruel methods of restraint, a poor diet, insufficient water, and inadequate rest. These animals commonly suffer from abscesses, muscle and joint ailments, and yoke gall, a painful condition that can be caused by exposure to constant friction, carrying extremely heavy loads, walking on uneven roads, or being forced to haul goods while paired with another animal of a different size.

Animal Rahat teams informed bullock owners about the importance of providing animals with nutritious food, water, and rest—and also promoted the overwhelming benefits of replacing them with trucks and tractors.

During this past sugarcane season, we helped replace **13,804 bullocks in 23 sugar factories with 1,162 large tractors or lorries and 1,127 mini-tractors for hauling sugarcane**, bringing the total to 71,246 bullocks saved from 26 sugar factories since we launched the mini-tractor program in 2011.

And in an exciting development, after Animal Rahat helped a local member of the Sangli district legislative assembly pen a letter to the chief minister and deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, the state government committed to offering financial assistance to all cooperative and private sugar factories in the state to help purchase up to 900 harvesters over the next two years. We're optimistic that this additional funding, coupled with our call to the sugar commissioner of Maharashtra and the chair of the Animal Welfare Board of India for increased mechanization in sugar factories, will help ensure a brighter future for many more bullocks. Stay tuned!

Animal Rahat veterinarians visited brick kilns to help working donkeys who are forced to haul backbreaking loads. We vaccinated the animals, treated their wounds, trimmed their hooves, and discussed with owners the many benefits of switching to mechanized modes of transporting the bricks, such as tractors and trolleys.

Teams rescued 18 donkeys from hard labor at five brick kilns by persuading their owners to replace the animals with tractors and sign an affidavit stating that they will never use animals again. The retired donkeys were transferred to our Sangli sanctuary.

And Animal Rahat persuaded cart owners at a stand operating tongas (two-wheeled horse-drawn carts) to replace nine beleaguered ponies and horses with auto rickshaws or vending carts—and the drivers pledged in writing to never again use animals. We transported the ponies and horses to our Sangli sanctuary.

While many fairs and markets were canceled due to the pandemic, the Chinchali Fair returned in 2023, so thousands of bullocks, horses, and other animals were forced to make the gruelling journey there. But thanks to Animal Rahat's tenacious outreach, attendees from 64 villages took non-animal transport, traveling on a total of 75 buses, trucks, and other vehicles to the fair—a record high since the initiative launched—and sparing 2,548 bullocks and ponies the exhausting trip.

Owners who did force their animals to haul loads to the Chinchali Fair couldn't miss our information galleries, which were prominently displayed at three campsites along the route. At the sites, Animal Rahat team members tended to 3,307 bullocks and ponies, offering them tasty and nutritious groundnut cake, molasses, green grass, multivitamins, drinking water, and a welcome resting place. And veterinarians treated 205 animals for various clinical conditions, including painful wounds, lameness, stomach ailments, skin infestations, and eye problems. Our teams also confiscated 138 torture devices at the fair.

Before the Karwani and Bail Pola (aka Bendur) festivals, Animal Rahat displayed posters in villages detailing the harm caused by painful horn shaving and painting animals with toxic paints. We also met with community members to discuss the detrimental effects on animals as well as safe alternatives before the festivals took place. As a result, more than 11,600 animals, including bullocks, buffaloes, cows, calves, and goats from at least 94 villages, were spared these painful, cruel practices.

With help from some of our valued volunteers, Animal Rahat shared the Compassionate Citizen program with nearly 6,727 students and 379 teachers in 80 schools in the Belgaum, Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, and Solapur districts. Plus, nearly 15,000 students pledged not to set off firecrackers, which terrify animals, during Diwali. And we shared the video "A Bull's Life" with more than 19,400 students this year.

We welcomed students to our sanctuary in Sangli—and for the first time, our Ranapur sanctuary was visited by students and teachers from a school in the Bulandshahr district. On the sanctuary visits, students met and groomed residents while our caregivers shared details about each animal's personality and specific needs, and they enjoyed a vegan lunch while learning how eating vegan demonstrates compassion for animals.

Promoting Compassionate Care

Animal Rahat's Animal Birth Control program provide free sterilization and vaccinations in small villages that have large numbers of community dogs but lack the resources necessary to implement these vital methods of humane population control and disease prevention. This year, Animal Rahat sterilized 1,548 dogs and vaccinated them against rabies, including 100% of the dog population of 10 villages in the Bulandshahr, Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, and Solapur districts.

Traditional castration is terrifying for bullocks, and it's performed without the use of anesthetics by traditional castrators, livestock supervisors, and some government veterinary doctors, with no regard for the suffering, stress, and pain the animals endure. But Animal Rahat senior veterinarians conducted painless castration training for 495 government veterinarians in 12 districts and 137 students and faculty members of a veterinary college in Maharashtra.

We also persuaded bull calf owners in all our intervention areas to get their animals castrated at an early age (6 months or younger) and start regular grooming sessions with them to help build a bond of trust. These practices can help ensure that comfortable cotton morkees (face halters) can be used instead of nose ropes, which require the painful piercing of the nasal septum and threading of a thick rope through the hole. As a result, more than 100 bull calves were humanely castrated and spared the lifelong agony of a nose rope. We also humanely castrated 59 bulls in the past year.

Additionally, we confiscated more than 2,784 torture devices, including 1,664 nose ropes, 351 ropes, 48 sharp bits, six horn-shearing kits, and 567 sharp nails, pointed sticks, and whips.

