



Animal Rahat *to the Rescue!*

In addition to **providing veterinary care to thousands of animals this year, Animal Rahat carried out 280 lifesaving rescues of animals of many different species**, including jackals, woolly-necked storks, monitor lizards, snakes, and bulls. These are just a few of their stories:

- A gentle village dog was struggling with a soccer ball-size cyst on her neck. The team's veterinarian drained five litres of fluid from the suffocating growth and spayed and vaccinated her. After three weeks of continuous care, she was transported home, where her caregiver was astonished by her transformation.
- The emergency line lit up after two ponies tumbled into a 2.5-metre-deep trench that had been carelessly dug and left uncovered. Rescuers hired a crane to lift the frightened but miraculously uninjured pair to safety and made sure the hole was promptly filled.
- A fruit bat was panicked after his leg and wing became tangled in a piece of discarded string. An Animal Rahat veterinarian carefully trimmed the threads away, and at nightfall, the team watched the beautiful bat fly free.
- An Animal Rahat rescuer rappelled 15 metres down a well to save a tiny kitten who was clinging to a rocky ledge. Astoundingly, she was unharmed, and after she had been sterilised and vaccinated, the team found her a loving adoptive family.
- After a camel named Anand was saved from slaughter at a meat market, Animal Rahat removed the peg someone had jabbed through his septum and tended to his maggot-infested wounds. Anand brightened as he was welcomed to the Sangli sanctuary with treats and kindness – likely his first experience with both.



Thank you to all of our supporters!

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

I feel incredibly fulfilled to be associated with Animal Rahat knowing that my support helps bring relief and a better life to hundreds of animals. Witnessing the positive impact on these animals eases my conscience and fills me with hope. It's heartening to see how Animal Rahat continues to grow and expand its reach, ensuring that even more animals are given the chance to live free from suffering. I wish the group continued success and offer my heartfelt blessings for their inspiring work.

– Nimesh Sumati

The Year in Numbers

| REVENUE | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Contributions | ₹ 9,12,38,390 |
| Other Income | ₹ 9,69,250 |
| Total Revenue | ₹ 9,22,07,640 |

| OPERATING EXPENSES | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Direct Expenditures | ₹ 7,02,76,570 |
| Staff Costs | ₹ 1,24,50,990 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | ₹ 46,78,710 |
| Other Expenses | ₹ 31,92,660 |
| Total Operating Expenses | ₹ 9,05,98,930 |

| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS* | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Net Assets Beginning of Year | ₹ 12,24,26,960 |
| Net Assets End of Year | ₹ 12,40,35,670 |

| OPERATING EXPENSE ALLOCATION | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Direct Programme Support | 93.97% |
| Indirect Programme Support | 5.16% |
| Management and General Support | 0.87% |

*Net assets include fixed assets of ₹11,62,22,480, of which ₹8,21,58,410 is land. It also includes ₹81,35,990 that Animal Rahat is holding in a fixed deposit account.

The financial statement shown here is for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2024 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



Cover Photo: Juhi Bhatt

Animal Rahat



Send all correspondence to: Animal Rahat, PO Box No 30, Sangli, Maharashtra 416416.

Registered address: Animal Rahat, Office No 305, Sikka Complex, Plot No 5, Community Centre, Preet Vihar, Delhi 110092 • AnimalRahat.com • Info@animalrahat.com

Dear Wonderful Supporter,

Looking back at our achievements from the past year, I'm so grateful to everyone who made them possible.

Emergency response teams were able to rush to the aid of thousands of animals, freeing them from wells and fences, removing barbed wire that gouged into their legs and prevented them from moving and plastic jars from their heads that stopped them from eating or drinking, and helping them heal from all sorts of debilitating injuries and illnesses. Our sterilisation drives prevented innumerable dogs and cats from being born only to eke out an existence on the streets. Our work to aid bullocks, donkeys, and horses forced into a life of hard labour resulted in improved conditions for tens of thousands of animals and a peaceful retirement for many.

Our sanctuaries swung open their gates and greeted newcomers, a few of whom you'll meet here. These animals will never again know hunger, thirst, or the sting of a whip or the pull of a nose rope. Among the newest arrivals at our Sangli sanctuary is our first female water buffalo calf, Draupadi. Rescuers pulled her out of a deep drainage ditch, her face barely visible above the mud and trash. She made fast friends with our five other buffaloes.

We're now operating a temporary shelter near Kolkata as we work to retire the malnourished horses used to haul carriages on congested city streets, which serves as a comfortable "stopover" for rescued animals. We tend to the horses' wounds and help them gain weight and strength before they join others in our equine family at The David J. Reuben Home for Animal Refugees in Gundlupet. One rescued mare was ready to give birth, and we are so glad we could allow her to rest, heal, and then bond with her newborn baby.

On behalf of all the animals you'll read about in this brief overview and so many others, thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr Naresh Upreti
Chief Operating Officer



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Hemant Jain



Dr Nandita Shah



Nigel Otter



Ensuring *Better Treatment* for Animals

In one year, Animal Rahat **provided urgent medical care to 30,189 animals**, including administering treatment for parasitic infections, lameness, gastrointestinal diseases, open wounds, and yoke gall – a painful inflammation of the neck often seen in animals forced to haul heavy loads.

Animal Rahat worked to **improve conditions in Maharashtra's sugarcane factories**, where bullocks spend long hours pulling carts loaded with up to 4 tons of sugarcane while struggling from lack of food, water, and rest. Its veterinarians **treated animals for yoke gall, abscesses, muscle and joint problems, and other ailments; educated owners on proper care; confiscated nose ropes, yoke spikes, and whips; and intervened in abusive situations**. They met with contractors, sugar factory managers, and bullock cart owners to encourage them to replace the animals with motorised vehicles. Those efforts paid off for **16,024 bullocks in 23 sugar factories, who gladly left the work to 1,462 large tractors or trucks and 1,082 mini tractors**. Since the programme began in 2011, Animal Rahat has saved 99,588 bullocks from 26 sugar factories and is **looking forward to its milestone 100,000th rescue**.

Animal Rahat's mechanisation efforts continue in India's brick kilns, where stacks of heavy bricks are piled on gentle donkeys' backs and the animals toil in the blazing heat. Animal Rahat provides the animals with veterinary care and works with owners and supervisors to help them retire the animals and begin using tractors and trolleys. During 2024, Animal Rahat **fully mechanised four brick kilns in Solapur, rescuing 23 donkeys**. The owners signed affidavits committing to never using animals again. **The donkeys were welcomed to the Sangli sanctuary, where five of them gave birth to foals who will never endure hard labour**.

Relief arrived for seven ponies and a horse who had been trudging through the streets of Pandharpur and Sangli hauling heavy loads in *tongas* (two-wheeled carts). The team **persuaded cart owners to replace the beleaguered animals with e-rickshaws or vending carts** and to sign affidavits vowing to remain animal-free. **The animals have settled in at the Sangli sanctuary** and discovered the joy of soft beds, plentiful food, and kind caregiving.

This year, Animal Rahat's work **spared 2,882 bullocks and ponies the ordeal of hauling heavy passenger carts to Maharashtra's Chinchali Fair** – the highest number since the project began. The fair attracts visitors from as far as 120 miles away, and animals forced to make the miserable journey are commonly deprived of necessities and veterinary care. But Animal Rahat again coordinated and subsidised other means of transportation, resulting in 117 buses, trucks, and other vehicles travelling from 66 villages.

For the bullocks and ponies made to haul carts, the team set up campsites that **provided 5,115 animals with respite, multivitamins, drinking water, groundnut cake, molasses, and green grass**. Animal Rahat veterinarians **treated 200 animals** for lameness, wounds, fevers, gastrointestinal issues, and other ailments. They **seized 203 torture devices**, including sharp wires and nails, whips, sticks, extra nose ropes and rings, spiked bits, and shock prods. Owners viewed its poster galleries outlining illegal practices and encouraging compassionate handling.

The Karwani and Bail Pola (or "Bendur") festivals are supposed to honour animals made to work. But these "celebrations" often involve harming them by shaving their horns and applying toxic bright powdered dye to their horns and skin. In the weeks leading up to the festivals, teams held community meetings and put up educational posters discouraging horn shearing and promoting the use of natural products such as turmeric in place of paint. This year alone, **more than 13,400 bullocks, buffaloes, cows, and calves in 131 villages and city areas were given a humane celebration**.

Teams also attended the Siddheshwar fair in Solapur, where they **conducted educational outreach and provided 67 animals used to haul passengers with medical intervention**. They also **confiscated a whip and a sharp iron saw**. Saws are used to perform illegal "horn rasping" procedures, in which a person who has brought a bullock to sell may remove layers of their horns to make them appear younger and more valuable. The animal's nerves can be damaged in the process. Working with police, Animal Rahat has seized many of these instruments and driven horn rasps out of fairs. Its efforts continued at the Kartiki fair in Pandharpur, where animals are bought and sold. In addition to **offering free veterinary care, Animal Rahat held sessions on responsible guardianship and staffers replaced five nose ropes with soft face halters**.

The **Compassionate Citizen humane education programme sparked discussions about empathy among 4,501 students and 263 teachers** in 78 schools in the Belagavi, Kolhapur, Sangli, and Solapur districts. In response to what they learned in the course, this year **more than 18,009 children from 100 schools pledged not to set off firecrackers** – which frighten animals – during the Diwali festival. Another **15,455 young learners watched the kindness-building video "A Bull's Life"**. Animal Rahat **sanctuaries welcomed 130 children and 21 teachers** to meet the residents and discover how every animal is a unique individual. And **more than 1,400 students from Belagavi, Kolhapur, and Sangli participated in a drawing competition** with the theme "Birds don't belong in cages."

Promoting *Compassionate Care*

Animal Rahat's Animal Birth Control programme provides vital spay/neuter and vaccination services in underserved communities. In the past year, the team's veterinarians **sterilised and vaccinated 1,062 dogs and cats, including 100% of the dog population in ten villages in the Sangli, Satara, and Solapur districts**.



Traditional castration methods are terrifying for bullocks, and the procedures are commonly performed by animal husbandry supervisors and government veterinarians without pain relief or consideration of the agony the animals endure. But dedicated Animal Rahat staff **trained 98 veterinarians with Maharashtra's Animal Husbandry Department on painless castration**. They also **provided the service free of charge for 133 animals**, most of whom were bull calves less than 6 months old. By convincing the bull calf owners in all of their intervention areas to have castration performed at an early age, they can **spare the animals the pain of their septums being pierced so that ropes can be driven through their noses and used to control them**. Instead, the team offers soft face halters and training on how to perform regular grooming to enhance the animal-human bond.

Be Kind to Animals

Staffers also **seized 3,280 torture devices**, including 1,949 nose ropes; 120 wooden logs that had been tied to buffaloes' necks while they grazed; 236 ropes that bound donkeys, ponies, and goats as they attempted to forage; 652 sharp nails, sticks, and whips; 321 spiked bits and neck chains; and two horn shearing sets.

