

# Animal Rahat



ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2025

**Happy New Year**  
from Animal Rahat's sanctuary residents!

"The animals at Animal Rahat's sanctuaries have been rescued from terrible situations, including being experimented on in laboratories or forced to perform in circuses. Some were rescued just minutes before slaughter, and others were being forced to haul heavy loads of steel or sugarcane. But with us, the safety, comfort, and happiness of the rescued animals are paramount."

—Dr. Naresh Upreti, Chief Operating Officer, Animal Rahat



*Hiren relaxes with caretaker Sagar.*

Read more about the animals whose lives we improved this quarter. 

# Lightening the Load for Working Animals



## ◆ Donkeys

Team members tended to **514** ailing donkeys and vaccinated **323**, shielding them from the deadly onset of tetanus.

## ◆ Bullocks

Staff tended to the aching limbs and sometimes soccer ball-sized blisters of **1,377** exhausted working bullocks and persuaded owners to retire **eight** of these weary souls.

## ◆ Horses

Ponies and horses forced to work carrying goods and passengers through busy traffic on rutted roads were suffering from colic, extremely sore limbs, and other problems. The team provided free veterinary care to **271** of them.



# Educating and Liberating



After watching rescue videos of Animal Rahat helping animals with their heads stuck inside plastic containers, **1,555** students from **26** schools committed to improving trash disposal at their own homes. Ahead of Diwali, **18,009** students from **100** schools signed a pledge never to use firecrackers, recognizing how these loud explosives terrify and potentially harm animals.



Before the Bail Pola holiday—a celebration of working animals—our staff held **71** meetings to explain the harmful effects of celebrating in the wrong way: shearing bullocks' horns and putting cancer-causing dyes on animals' skin. During the festival, we were present in **59** areas to stop these painful practices. As a result, **11,480** bullocks, cows, buffaloes, and other animals were spared suffering and given a humane celebration.



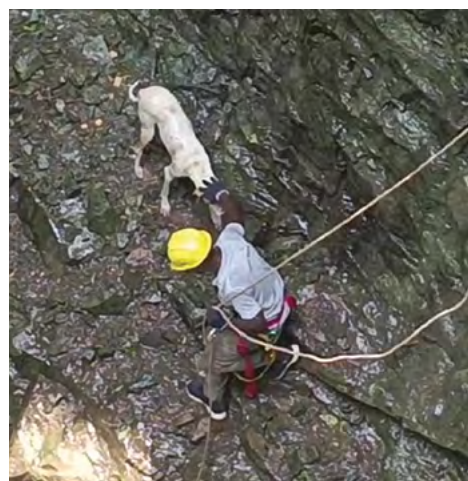
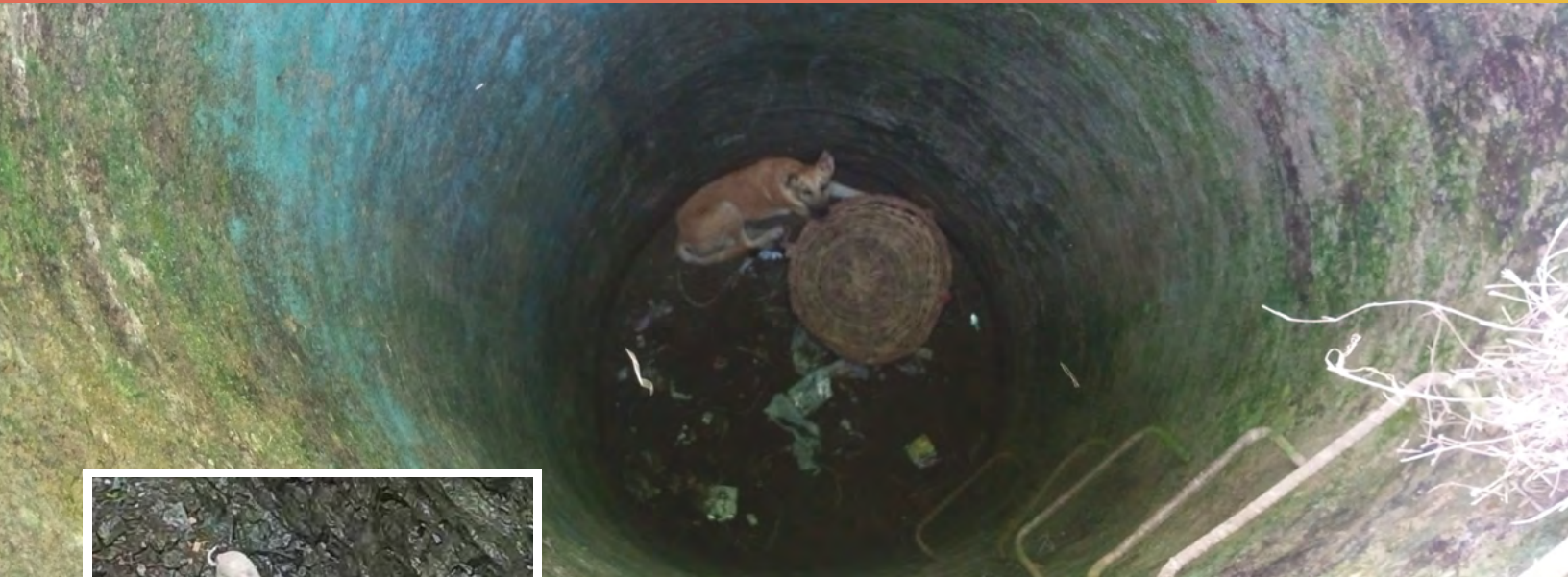
Our teams also conducted **65** meetings with villagers, providing hundreds of animal owners with information on replacing their bullocks with motorized vehicles, proper hoof cleaning, and the benefits of early, painless castration instead of methods that cause animals to endure agony. Staff discussed the importance of spaying and neutering and preventing cruelty to village dogs and cats.



# Animal Rahat to the Rescue! Our Rescuers in Action



# Sterilization: Pain-Free and Preventive



It's hard to imagine how terrified one tiny kitten was after she was ensnared by a barbed-wire fence surrounding the second-story ledge of a building and left dangling several feet above the road. Her mother's plaintive cries alerted an empathetic person, who promptly phoned our team. Rushing to the spot, we found that there was only a narrow gap between the prickly fence and

the wall behind it and that the surface was covered with large pieces of debris. Reaching the kitten was a difficult task, but our vet made it and gently extracted the sharp wire from her skin. Not wanting to upset her mother by taking her to the office, we treated her minor injuries on the spot before the relieved parent dashed her baby off to a safer location.



On call 24/7, our teams saved **47** animals from seemingly hopeless situations, restored birds' ability to fly, removed embedded wires from dogs' snouts and limbs, pulled animals from drainage canals, and more.

No one was sure how a village dog in Kuroli had survived a 50-foot plunge down a well into 10 feet of water and found his way to a sharp, rocky ledge. They just knew he had—and that he needed help. One of our rescuers zipped down the crumbling chasm to secure the dog safely in a net. Staff at the top slowly hoisted the pair, trying not to injure them on the cliff face. Amazingly, the dog hadn't sustained serious injuries, so after a few days of rest at the field office (along with sterilization surgery and vaccinations), staff released him back on solid ground.



After we shared information at our village meetings, staff provided **13** young bullocks with painless castration surgeries, preventing their testicles from being crushed between rocks without any pain relief. Thanks to our vets, another **24** cats and **157** dogs won't be reproducing, preventing thousands of animals from being born to scrounge on the streets. They also vaccinated all of them and provided other essential care.





*Vikas was retired after 18 years of hard labor.*



forced to haul heavy loads while also heavily pregnant! They were able to give birth in the tranquil calm of our lush surroundings and are raising five beautiful foals who sweeten every day with their antics.

One of every staff member's greatest joys is dismantling a cart that an animal was forced to pull so that it will never be used again. During this quarter, we helped **18** bullocks and **27** donkeys leave their labor to tractors that won't mind the long hours.

Every rescue is thrilling, but our excitement was multiplied when we convinced many brick kilns to mechanize. Now, **23** donkeys are living in peace at our Sangli sanctuary and their former owners are zipping around the kilns in tractors. Five of the donkeys were being

After years of being whipped and made to haul tongas (passenger carts) through rutted, congested streets, **Mohini, Meghana, Ram, Sundar, and Shyam** bore the evidence: badly neglected hooves, aching legs, and jutting ribs. It took some time to convince their owners to switch to modern, non-animal means. Still, the efforts were well worth it when the "Fabulous Five" entered the Sangli sanctuary, greeted by treats and flower garlands. The ponies' surprise turned to contentedness as they strolled the grounds, rested, enjoyed gentle brushes, and, of course, ate and ate.



In addition to celebrating festivals like Diwali and Independence Day in style, our sanctuary residents enjoy fun enrichment activities – playing with new swinging tires and gym balls, licking mineral blocks, relishing fresh grass from hanging barrels, relaxing under new shade trees, test-driving new grooming mats attached to trees and pipes, and listening to the relaxing music that is played for them every day. Staff are installing new irrigation

systems to ensure more fresh grass for grazing, constructing new stalls and sheds, building more feeding troughs, and welcoming our latest arrivals, including little **Arjun**. His mother, **Laxmi**, and her first kid, **Raj**, were rescued from a circus, and soon after they arrived, we were surprised to discover that baby would make three! The family enjoys the climbing structures staff built for them and diving headfirst into bowls of fresh treats.



On behalf of the more than 550 bullocks, buffaloes, camels, horses, ponies, goats, dogs, cats, rabbits, chickens, roosters, and rats who call one of our three sanctuaries home, *thank you!*

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