

## Animal Rahat *to the Rescue!*

In addition to providing veterinary care to thousands of animals this year, Animal Rahat carried out 395 lifesaving rescues of animals, including jackals, woolly-necked storks, turtles, birds, snakes, and bulls. Here are just a few of those rescues:

- News outlets that reported Animal Rahat's rescue of a terrified dog who had fallen into a water treatment plant's open chamber also joined the group in urging the facility to cover its chambers.
- Animal Rahat's founder was with a team that convinced a truck driver to give them a lone, frightened hen who'd been overlooked while being delivered to a slaughterhouse. The sweet girl named Janaki was brought to live at an Animal Rahat sanctuary.
- A rescuer used a jack to lift a car so that he could shimmy underneath it to extract a young pup whose leg somehow had become stuck in the undercarriage. After she was spayed and vaccinated, she was reunited with her mother.
- After a rescue team spent hours painstakingly removing hardened tar that had encased a Russell's viper, they released the snake into a safe habitat.
- Animal Rahat's veterinarians saved a softshell turtle's life by carefully removing a fishhook from her sensitive mouth and providing several days of post-operative care. She was released into safe waters.
- A rescue team borrowed a crane to help lift an exhausted bull out of the narrow well he had tumbled into.

And Animal Rahat's emergency teams saved more than 80 dogs from slow, certain death from rubbish by freeing their heads stuck in suffocating plastic jars and jugs or removing carelessly discarded bones that had become lodged behind their teeth.

## Thank you to all of our supporters!

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

*"Some of the most abused and neglected beings on Earth are animals. Thankfully, their cries have been heard by the wonderful organisation Animal Rahat. It cares for around 700 animals across four sanctuaries that are paradise on Earth! There, they feel no pain or fear - only peace, companionship, and dignity for the rest of their lives. This 'happily ever after' is thanks to the tireless work of the Animal Rahat team."*

– Rita Doctor

*"Meeting the animals at Animal Rahat changed something in me. You can look into their eyes and see trust, love, and the longing to just live. Animal Rahat is giving them back what was always theirs: freedom, dignity, care. I support their work because I believe in a world where no being is used, exploited, or forgotten for human gain. Support them. Stand by the ones who can't speak, so they too may be free."*

– Shreya Ghodawat

## The Year in Numbers

### REVENUE

Figures are in Indian rupees.

Contributions	₹ 121,961,770
Other Income	₹ 947,020
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>₹ 122,908,790</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Direct Expenditures	₹ 85,239,070
Staff Costs	₹ 9,047,210
Depreciation and Amortisation	₹ 5,437,980
Other Expenses	₹ 3,450,510
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>₹ 103,174,770</b>

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS\*

Net Assets Beginning of Year	₹ 124,035,670
Net Assets End of Year	₹ 143,769,690

### OPERATING EXPENSE ALLOCATION

Direct Programme Support	94.12%
Indirect Programme Support	5.27%
Management and General Support	0.61%

\*Net assets include fixed assets of ₹116,413,400, of which ₹82,490,410 is land. It also includes ₹8,646,280 that Animal Rahat is holding in a fixed deposit account.

The financial statement shown here is for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2025 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  
2025  
Annual Review

Cover Photo: Rohan Sampirya

Animal Rahat



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# Dear Wonderful Supporter,

What a year! Animal Rahat kicked off 2025 by celebrating a *major* milestone: we got the 100,000<sup>th</sup> bullock out of work in the sugarcane industry since the launch of the mechanisation project in 2011. That works out to an average of 18, sometimes more, of these gentle giants spared hard labour *every day*, 365 days a year (or 366 for the occasional leap year) during those 15 years. And more than 7,000 bullocks this year.

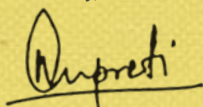
Many of these bullocks return to their owners' villages to plough fields or do other work, but some are retired. Our four sanctuaries welcomed those who were, plus dozens of other new residents, including 20 cats and kittens who now reside at the Sangli sanctuary after being rescued from a filthy, illegal breeding operation. They're enjoying specially built hanging swings, padded perches, climbing trees, sand tubs, and scratching posts. We are lucky to have enough room that everyone feels they can spread out and wander about, choosing to sit or walk where they want.

We had many visitors, including students, influencers, and, for the first time, a group of female community members who learned about Animal Rahat's programmes and essential care considerations to keep their own animals healthier and more comfortable – and they also got to meet some of the residents.

Our Instagram pages continue to grow (as does the number of our followers!), featuring photographs and videos of beautiful new arrivals, special celebrations, and daring rescues, of which there were several hundred this past year. Please keep reading for details about a few of them – and see many more on Instagram.

Animal Rahat's 24/7 work had a profound impact on the lives of tens of thousands of animals in 2025, opening the hearts and minds of students and community members, thanks in large part to your support.

Sincerely,



Dr Naresh Upreti  
Chief Operating Officer



## Ensuring Better Treatment *for Animals*

**Animal Rahat provided urgent medical care to 30,300 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 continued 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. Our 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. **In 2025, we helped to replace 7,128 bullocks in 23 sugar factories with 102 harvesters and 860 mini-tractors for hauling sugarcane, bringing the total to 106,716 bullocks saved from 26 sugar factories.**

Animal Rahat's mechanisation efforts also continue in India's brick kilns, where stacks of heavy bricks are piled on gentle donkeys' backs as the animals toil in the blazing heat. Animal Rahat provides veterinary care to the animals and collaborates with owners and supervisors to help them retire the animals and transition to using tractors and trolleys. **In 2025, Animal Rahat fully mechanised two brick kilns**, one in Miraj and the other in Pandharpur, and the owners signed affidavits committing to never using animals again. **Sixteen donkeys and a foal were welcomed to the Sangli sanctuary, where two of them gave birth, and their foals will never endure hard labour.**

**And relief arrived for two ponies who had been trudging through the streets of Pandharpur hauling heavy loads in tongas (two-wheeled carts).** The team persuaded the cart owners to replace the pony with a second-hand auto rickshaw and sign an affidavit vowing to remain animal-free. The ponies arrived at the Sangli sanctuary, where they were named Mukta and Rani, and are now enjoying a soft bed, plentiful food, the company of the other rescued residents, and kind caregiving.

Maharashtra's Chinchali Fair attracts visitors from as far as 120 miles away, and many bullocks and ponies who are forced to haul heavy loads of passengers on the miserable journey are deprived of necessities and veterinary care. **In 2025, Animal Rahat coordinated and subsidised alternative means of transportation for fairgoers, resulting in 111 buses, trucks, and other vehicles travelling from 69 villages, the highest number since this initiative began in 2006 – and so 2,990 bullocks and ponies were not forced to make the arduous journey.**

For the bullocks and ponies forced to haul carts, the team set up campsites that provided more than 5,000 animals with respite, multivitamins, drinking water, ground nut cake, molasses, and green grass. **Animal Rahat's veterinarians treated 220 animals for lameness, wounds, fevers, gastrointestinal issues, and other ailments – and seized 165 torture devices**, including sharp wires, nails, whips, sticks, and a battery-operated electric shock prod. Owners visited poster galleries that outlined illegal practices and encouraged compassionate handling.

**The Karwani and Bail Pola (or "Bendur") festivals are intended to honour animals made to work. But these "celebrations" often involve harming them by shaving their horns and applying toxic powdered dye to their horns and skin.** In the weeks leading up to the festivals, teams held community meetings and posted educational posters discouraging horn shearing, promoting the use of natural products such as turmeric in place of paint, and offering guidance on maintaining stable hygiene. Thanks to Animal Rahat's work, **more than 9,820 bullocks, buffaloes, cows, calves, and goats in 139 villages and city areas were given a humane celebration after their owners declined to shave the animals' horns or use toxic dyes.**

**Teams also attended the Siddheshwar fair in Solapur, where they conducted educational outreach, reaching 159 farmers and providing medical intervention to 24 animals used to haul passengers.** They also confiscated a whip and a sharp iron saw. Saws are used to perform illegal "horn rasping" procedures, in which a person who is trying to sell a bullock removes layers of their horns to make them appear younger and more valuable. The animal's nerves can be damaged in the process. Animal Rahat teams were also present at the Kartiki fair in Pandharpur, where animals are bought and sold. **In addition to offering free veterinary care to 124 animals, Animal Rahat held sessions on responsible care and set up information galleries, which were viewed by 900 visitors. Staff also replaced five nose ropes with soft face halters and seized three horn shearing sets.**

**The Compassionate Citizen humane education programme sparked discussions about empathy among 5,659 students and 302 teachers in 68 schools** in the Belagavi, Bulandshahr, Kolhapur, Sangli, and Solapur districts. In response to what they learned in the course, this year **nearly 18,000 children from 100 schools pledged not to set off firecrackers – which frighten animals – during the Diwali festival. Another 11,009 young learners watched the kindness-building video "A Bull's Life".** The Animal Rahat sanctuary in Sangli welcomed 63 children and seven teachers to meet the residents and discover how every animal is a unique individual. More than 500 students from seven schools in Belagavi, Kolhapur, and Sangli participated in drawing and essay competitions with themes related to freedom for birds, elephants, and other animals.

## Promoting *Compassionate Care*

Animal Rahat's Animal Birth Control programme, which launched in 2014, provides vital spay/neuter and vaccination services in underserved communities in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. In the past year, the **team's veterinarians sterilised and vaccinated 1,084 dogs and cats, including 100% of the dog population in eight villages in the Bulandshahr, Sangli, 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. **Animal Rahat veterinarians shattered the cruel tradition by providing free humane sterilisation surgeries for 121 animals, including 50 bull calves who were then spared the pain of their septum being pierced so that ropes could 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. **Staff also seized 2,623 torture devices**, including 1,525 nose ropes; 89 wooden logs that had been tied to buffaloes' necks while they grazed; 223 ropes that bound donkeys, ponies, and goats as they attempted to forage; 583 sharp nails, sticks, and whips; 199 spiked bits, neck chains, and a Y pole; and two horn shearing sets.



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