

April 2023

Maharashtra, India
www.resqct.org

RESQ NEWSLETTER

Helping animals, people and the places we call home, since 2007.

Monthly Newsletter

#186 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) © RESQ Charitable Trust

“As climate changes, so does the natural disturbance regime.”

The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events has been increasingly affecting scores of wildlife over the last few years. Just in the month of April 2023, we've admitted over 150 birds in RESQ Centre due to the cacophony caused by climate change.

🦋 Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

Statistics: April 2023, RESQ provided aid to 2,253 animals.

We received **1,364** calls on the RESQ helplines from public and governmental departments for animal-related cases and our RESQ ambulances travelled **29,139** kilometers across different regions of Maharashtra to provide aid for them and conduct awareness programs. We attended to **622 wildlife** (367 birds, **115** mammals, **140** reptiles) and currently we have **285** wild animals admitted under medical and rehabilitation care. We conducted community outreach - awareness, education and training programs for **1,250 individuals from the community** this month and provided support to **1,558 community animals** viz. large animal feed, rescue and medical aid, and mass vaccination drives to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and infections.



 [Click to view video!](#)

Updates

RESQ team on field



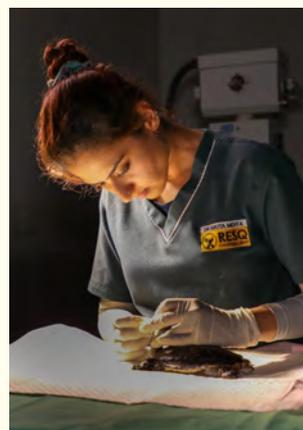
Good bi-son!

A gaur was safely transported to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve by the RESQ team and Satara Forest Department after it was found limping near a busy road.

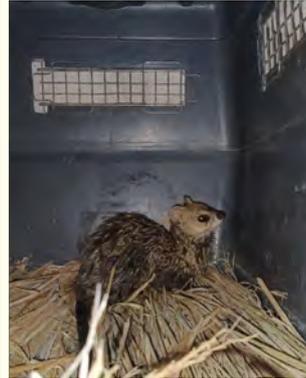
A sensitive animal whose translocation required careful planning and teamwork, thankfully, he stayed cooperative as we managed to trick him into a large camouflaged vehicle using a modified boma technique.

He seemed relaxed and calm through the journey and if we can say so, quite thrilled once he was out as he began to explore his surroundings and eating as soon as he was released.

A turtle mess! The Bhor Forest Department was approached by a temple who reported that there were many turtles in the pond structure inside their temple and that recently they had noticed several were dying. When the forest guards checked, they realized that there were multiple species of turtles inside and they appeared injured or sick. The FD requested our team to help them rescue the turtles from the pond and after spending several hours fishing them out one by one, we had recovered 99 turtles from it. They were a mix of Indian/native species and exotic species - red eared sliders. Worse still, our native species were in far worse condition, as they had taken a severe beating from the tough exotics. How did these turtles get there? Probably irresponsible pet owners who had abandoned their pet turtles. All the turtles were suffering from wounds and several looked very sick.



All were admitted to RESQ, segregated and given a proper health check. They are still in their quarantine period, and we are waiting for the Indian flapshell and Leith's softshell turtles to make a full recovery so they can be released soon into a suitable habitat.



Summer = surge in well rescues!

The summer has all our teams scrambling to pull multiple animals out of wells in different areas. Depending on the location, the Pune HQ, ECO-RESQ Daund, RESQ Baramati and RESQ Nashik Division teams have conducted multiple technical rescues for multiple animals - 4 jackals, 2 small indian civet and 1 chinkara. Luckily, none of them sustained major injuries, all were given a clean bill of health after primary stabilization and safely released immediately or under 24 hours. A few days ago, a young dog who fell inside a well near Sinhgad, Pune was pulled out to safety too.

An injured spotted deer, in and out under 24 hours. They are sensitive ungulates - when attacked or injured, they often succumb due to the shock and if they survive that, the infectious nature of untreated deep wounds caused by free-ranging dog attacks lead to their painful slow death. Luckily, once reported, it was responded to quickly and treated quickly for its laceration injuries (tears fixed up with absorbable sutures and long-acting antibiotic to cover for any infections) and released once fully alert and awake. With just emergency treatment and medication to take care of potential complications, a simple procedure to alleviate self-healing, animals such as these are best released at the earliest, as they heal faster in a stress free habitat familiar to them.



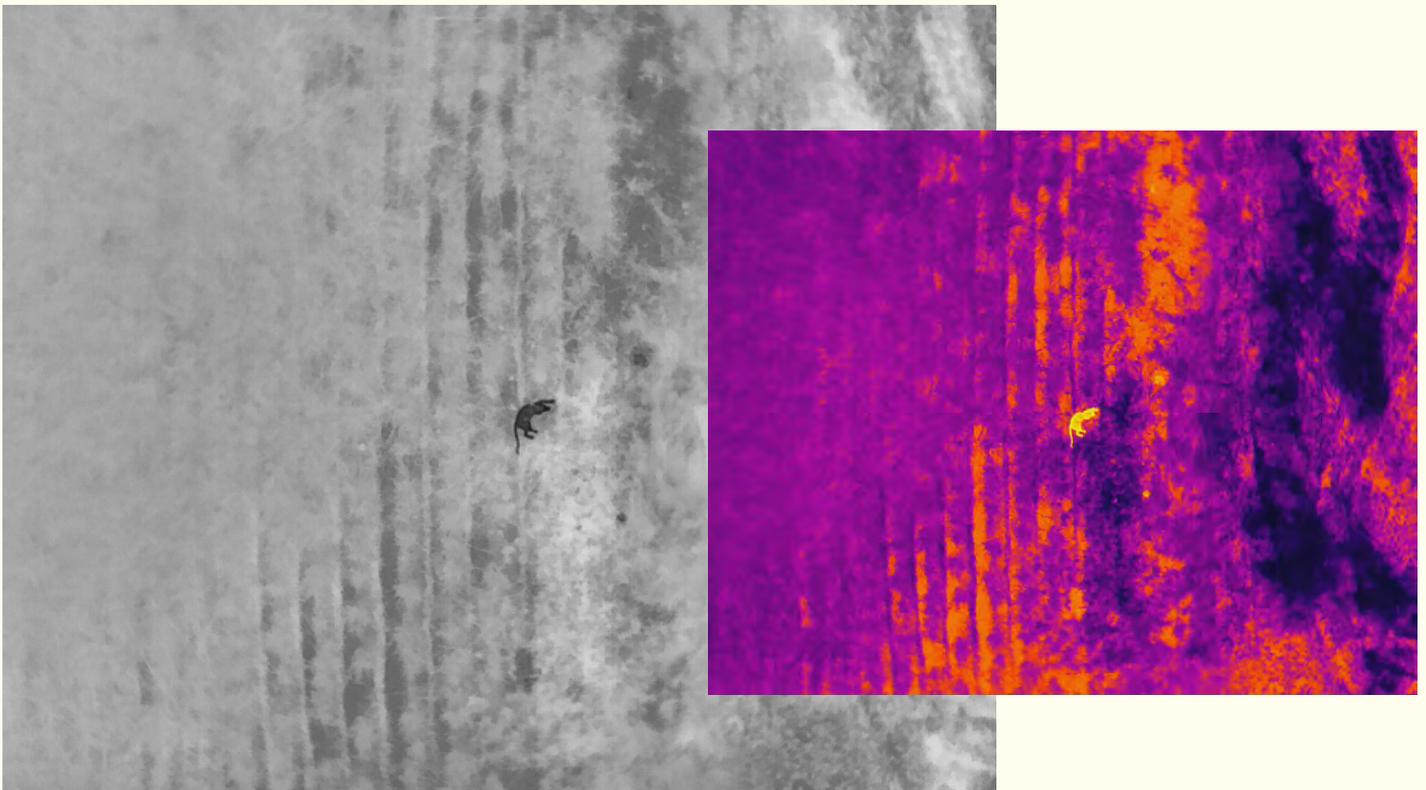
A young female sambar was reported injured in a dog attack from near Pune by the Pune Forest Department. She was admitted with a broken jaw and a few other external wounds. Upon admission, she was immediately stabilized and her jaw was sutured. After which she was moved to an ex-situ enclosure where she recovered rapidly, exploring her large enclosure and chomping on the tender greens. Soon after she fulfilled all her rehabilitation milestones, she was released back to where she belonged.



A young leopard mother reunited with her cubs near Daund! It took this young leopard mom under 45 mins to show up and reunite with her cubs once our set up was complete. She fetched the first cub up in broad daylight and then in under 5 hours she fetched the remaining two cubs whisking them away to safety! RESQ ECO-Daund team x Pune Forest Department.

Releases of the Month!
 Several animals have been reintroduced to their own, natural habitats this month. For us, watching an animal fly, hop, slither, sprint, swim out of their transport crate into the wild, is the biggest reward which keeps us motivated to continue doing the work we do without giving up on any animal #speciesnobar.

Eyes in the sky! There have been multiple leopard-related injuries and deaths in the Trimbak, Nashik area since the last few months. Due to the terrain, not a single pugmark was found nor was the animal appearing on the multiple camera traps set up by the Nashik Forest Department and our RESQ Nashik Division team. A committee was put together to deliberate the incidents, strategize and determine next steps for tracking this leopard's activity.



We sent some eyes in the sky with our thermal UAV and located him after some news of suspected sightings received from locals. While there have been no more attacks there, educating the community about safety measures is the most important thing along with tracking this leopard, as there are definitely multiple large wild cats that frequent and live in the area.

61 birds rescued after a century old banyan tree came crashing down. A century old banyan tree came crashing down in Solapur due to stormy winds and along with that hundreds of birds - painted storks and herons nesting on them. The RESQ team and Solapur FD worked together to extract as many as possible. Some adults, older fledglings and sub-adults made their way to safety but many perished, and many suffered injuries or are now orphans. There are ones beyond help, but there are over 50 who have a great chance of going back post rehabilitation.

Animals are resilient, they will (and have no choice but to!) adapt with changes in the environment over time. But for the ones that are still coping now - the goal for now is to rehabilitate and reintroduce!



No free rides here! An attempt to hitch a free ride, didn't really work out for this rat snake who was hiding inside a bike. Swiftly rescued and released right away by the RESQ Squad in a safe habitat nearby ensuring less handling and minimal stress to the snake.



undergoing a meticulous wildlife rehabilitation at the RESQ Wildlife TTC where they were brought in as orphans. On release, they appeared extremely comfortable in their new surroundings as though they had finally arrived home!



A Russell's Viper treated and released! Reported from a road accident, this Russell's viper was admitted with an injured jaw and eye. Thereon with minimal handling its treatment was carried out and as soon as its wound was treated, it was released back into its familiar habitat which we know is the best place for them to achieve full recovery.



Herons back in their habitats! These two grey herons have gone back to a suitable habitat after



At the RESQ Centre

It's a parliament of spotted owlets! Three spotted owlets and one sub-adult are currently at the RESQ Centre after being rescued - all of them were found lying flat on the ground, no nest in sight and one of them had a wing injury.



They're being captive raised and two out of three juveniles have already progressed to self-feeding. The older one with a wing injury has made a full recovery and will be released as soon as he ticks off his rehabilitation milestone list!



Hit by a heat stroke. This incredible raptor, a crested serpent eagle, was found severely dehydrated and in shock is now under treatment and rehabilitation at RESQ Wildlife TTC, Pune.



A challenge to treat because it despises any form of handling, he's giving our vets and rehabilitators a tough time. While they have devised ways to minimally handle it, he's making a good recovery and we await the day we release him back to where he belongs!

The side effects of illegal captivity. This rose-ringed parakeet was seized from illegal captivity and admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC in this horrific condition where it can be seen to be missing more than half of its feathers. Species like parakeets, when subjected to captivity, tend to pluck their own feathers under stress. Apart from the external effects, the parakeet was also diagnosed with an array of other underlying medical issues.



It has been undergoing treatment for its array of conditions and is now under rehabilitation. We are looking at a slow recovery but hopeful for a complete one.



Rescues that can get one too many. Over 56 black kites were seized in Mumbai by the Thane FD from a person who had kept them in appalling housing poor housing conditions with unattended medical conditions. 47 of them were transferred to RESQ Pune. Many are in septicemia due to untreated open fractures, necrosed wings and deep wounds. A few have passed away and several are under medical rehabilitation. There is very little hope, but we are doing our best to save as many as we can.



A peacock gets some colour back in its life. Satara FD rescued this peacock who was found with an injury and lying in a dull and dehydrated condition. Once admitted to RESQ, he was given a cocktail of fluids to bring back some colour in his life and a wrap on his injury to suit his style. We're happy to report, he looks better and vibrant as he should and will be released shortly!



A peek into our ungulate enclosures, where young ones that are lost and fawn-d are raised to be wild.

The Baramati FD rescued a chinkara fawn who was sitting scared and stressed in a villagers field for a very long time. It was admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for orphan care, as it was unsafe there due to a large number of free-ranging dogs in the area. Currently doing well in the ungulate enclosures at RESQ, it has begun foraging, hiding on approach and behaving deer-ly! Once it achieves its growth milestones, he will join the other two chinkaras under rehabilitation with us. The other two also came from the same area, one orphan came dull and recumbent post an attack from free-ranging dogs and the other orphaned after his mother passed away due to the same. Once they are socialised and ready, they will all be released in a safe habitat.



A barking deer fawn which was being chased and attacked by dogs near Paud village was thankfully spotted by passerby who instantly responded by warding off the predators and brought the injured deer to the RESQ Wildlife TTC where it was immediately given emergency treatment. It is currently under observation and will be released soon.

Primate care at RESQ Wildlife TTC. Growing up without a troop or their mothers (who have passed away due to electrocution, accidents or free-ranging dog-bite wounds) is tough, but when orphan young langurs get admitted to RESQ, we give them all the rehabilitation support they need in their early days until they are ready to abandon us and join a troop of their own.



This young girl came to us just a few days ago and is smaller than the other two girls who are being raised in the wildlife nursery.



This one is a slightly older grey langur who came in with a head injury. We are hoping to introduce the three girls to this fellow when they're a bit older and can hold their own fort. When releasing primates, together is always better!

a wing pinning procedure. While she is making a speedy recovery, her baby is growing up fast too. They will both soon be released back to where they belong as soon as the vets and rehabbers deem them fit to go.



Bat-ting for their lives

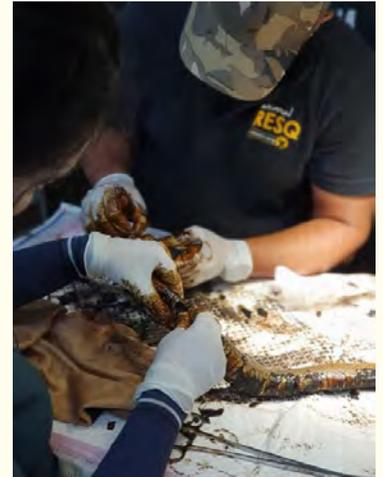
A female greater short-nosed fruit bat was found with a broken wing along with its little baby clinging onto it. The RESQ Nashik Division rescued it and admitted it to the TTC where the mother underwent

A stitch in time saved this jackal!

When the RESQ Baramati team was enroute Pune to admit an injured animal, they spotted a jackal, lying presumably dead, on the side of the road. When they stopped to check, it was still alive. It was quickly brought to the RESQ Wildlife TTC, where an x-ray revealed a crushed jaw. Our vets performed a fixative surgery right away, and after a few days in ICU, its now shifted into an outdoor enclosure and showing great progress.



A routine combat gone awry. A rat snake duo's routine combat took a sticky turn when they got trapped in fresh tar! Thanks to quick-thinking onlookers, the RESQ Nashik Division came to the rescue. Sadly, one snake didn't make it, but the other was meticulously cleaned and cared for at the Wildlife TTC in Nashik. Once it fully recovered and was tar-free, it was released back to its original location, just in a safer and cleaner spot!



A similar scenario, an Indian spectacled cobra stuck in tar was brought to the RESQ Wildlife TTC in Pune in a near dead state. One set of hands were cleaning its tar up whereas the vets stuck their hands into emergency treatment to stabilize it from the shock and effects of the condition. It's under recovery now, and we're hoping to release it back as soon as we observe normal movements and responses.

A slow decline, but still seemingly unending tortoise tales!

We released back to their natural 60 Indian star tortoises early this year after they completed their quarantine and rehabilitation journeys with us. But once again, we have 22 of the same species admitted - all from illegal captivity. 12 of them were transferred from the Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park Rescue Centre while the rest were admitted through the seizures the forest department has done. Their rehabilitation journeys are long and several don't make it, but the ones that do, are worth all the effort.



Community Outreach & Education



SAFE Snakes - an awareness session was conducted for SRPF training camp members in Daund by Nachiket Awadhani and Aniket Tupe from the ECO-RESQ Daund remote squad. Attended by over 60 trainees, the session was focused on prevention and appropriate response to snake bites.

The same was conducted for 46 MCF Cadets under 14 years of age

by Naresh Chandak and Aakash Raut from the Pune HQ team. The kids were fully engaged in the session and had a series of questions which were patiently answered by our team members.



On the occasion of Global Safety Week, a 'SAFE SNAKES' awareness session was conducted for Dhoot Builders on their construction site. The session was conducted by Nachiket Utpat and Shreenath

Chavan for 40 workers on the site, as they have very frequent encounters with snakes and needed guidance on how to respond appropriately.





Illegal Wildlife Trade Webinar for Fujitsu Global - SD15 focused webinar for over 340 employees from different countries, our founder, Neha Panchamiya, delivered this eye-opening session on how the illegal trade affects each one of us and what can be done about it on an individual level.



'All connected' Founder Neha Panchamiya conducted an awareness talk with the Rotary Club of Mumbai Coastlines about several wildlife-related issues including the illegal pet trade, responsible behaviour towards wildlife etc. It was an eye-opening session for many to understand the efforts being put into combatting the direct aftermath of our daily actions like feeding wildlife and encouraging the trade unknowingly.



Coexist: Living around wildlife - awareness session conducted by Nachiket Awadhani, Shreekanth Deshmukh, Aniket Tupe from the ECO-RESQ Daund for a local group of 40 individuals who wanted to learn more about peacefully coexisting with wildlife around them.

बबित्या वैरी नाही शेजारी 'Living safely around Leopards' Community Awareness Programs focused on educating the local community on leopards that live in agricultural landscapes and how to live safely around them was conducted for over 380 villagers in Nayphad, Mandoshi and Tambade Wadi in Junnar. The sessions conducted by Nachiket Utpat and Kiran Rahalkar were interactive and extremely well-received.



'The Future is yours' - an AWARE India module was conducted for Grade 4 children at the Symbiosis International School, Pune. The session conducted by Jessica Roberts and Sonia Gandhi Limaye was based on career possibilities in the animal-related sectors which resulted in a score of questions from the children who were in sudden awe of the choices they now felt were available for consideration.



Training Programs for State Level Training Centre (SLTC), Pune. Multiple training programs were conducted at the SLTC, Pune for 60 veterinarians (Livestock Development Officers) of the Animal Husbandry Department. These included the 'Role of Veterinarians in management of Human-Wildlife

Conflict', 'Management of Infectious Diseases in Wildlife', 'Laws governing animals and the role of a veterinarian in its implementation'. These were conducted by Nachiket Utpat, Dr. Kalyani Thakur and Neha Panchamiya respectively.



Additionally, a field visit to the RESQ Wildlife Centre was conducted where they learnt about first aid, stabilization and transport and wildlife anesthesia protocols while handling wildlife emergencies. Another module covered was conducting species specific post-mortem procedures and reporting, a procedure they are often tasked with on field.



"On earth there is no heaven, but there are pieces of it"- Jules Renard. We celebrated the theme for World Earth Day #2023 'Invest in our Planet', by spreading awareness about planting native trees and educating our networks about what animals live and depend on them!



Human RESQ'ers for Animal RESQ'ers! Dr. Sunil Bapat and Dr. Shital Dixit from Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital conducted a first aid, stabilization and CPR training session for all the field rescuers and management at RESQ. While our team takes every safety measure to prevent mishaps during our rescues, we often encounter situations where humans stuck around us also need help in difficult situations. Thanks to these amazing human doctors, we feel empowered to take care of basic responses for our own team members and for anyone around us. While knowing these important life saving skills is important for us, learning what to do and most importantly 'what not to do' is valuable knowledge we gained thanks to the time spent by these incredible doctors on a Sunday morning.



RESQ VOLUNTEER



RESQ TEAM MEMBER

Performing at their maximum potential, lauded for their dedication innovation and hardwork, here's our **RESQ stars for the month.**

Features & Articles

Click  to read!

Maharashtra: Jackal Falls Into Well in Satara, Here's How Animal Was Rescued (Watch Video)

The trap was lowered into the well and the jackal was allowed to prod. The cage was pulled up after the animal entered inside. Soon, the jackal was taken to a safe space and released into the wild.

Pune: Over 70 cases of dehydration in animals reported over last 2 weeks

By Gayatri Vajpeyee

Apr 14, 2023 11:39 PM IST

Last year, over 250 animals were admitted to the RESQ TTC between April and May whereas this year, due to rising temperatures, over 70 animals have been admitted to the centre in the beginning of April alone. Most of these animals have been admitted for dehydration

ThePrint

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Why was a sarus bonding with UP farmer? Media glorified friendship that shouldn't have existed

Anf was definitely well-intentioned in helping an injured bird, but it is obvious that a farmer cannot be equated with an experienced rehabilitator.

MEHA PANCHAMIA | 28 March, 2023 10:23 pm IST

Pune Times Mirror

Finally, 40 pc tax sop restored

Over 5.6 lakh property owners stand to benefit while over 8.82 lakh leasing out their properties will get a 15-pc exemption

RESQ team rescues 61 feathered friends trapped under their 'home'

Yes, they'll fly again!

The birds, mostly painted storks, are being treated in Pune, to be released back into their habitat soon; were trapped under big banyan tree that fell due to the recent rain and strong winds in Karmala

