

December 2024

Maharashtra, India  
www.resqct.org

# RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#206 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Indian spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) © RESQ Charitable Trust

## The graceful custodians of our wetlands..

The Indian Spot-billed duck reminds us that even the smallest splash can ripple through the ecosystem! With their striking yellow-tipped bills and distinct eye stripes, these two orphan ducklings are under rehabilitation care.

## Statistics December 2024



2,545 **Helpline**  
Calls Received



**Ambulances**  
Travelled **49,813** kms



**PUNE**  
45,880 kms



**NASHIK**  
3,933 kms



🚑 **Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.**

**752** **Wildlife** currently admitted  
under veterinary treatment &  
rehabilitation care in Pune TTC & Nashik centre.



**Awareness** sessions, education programs  
& training conducted for **7,350** individuals.

**995**

**Community** (large animals)  
provided support to viz. animal feed and vaccines.



**1,347**  
**Wildlife**  
provided aid to



**Wildlife**

**Birds**

**Mammals**

**Reptiles**

**Pune**  
Units +  
TTC



**1,253**

**517**

**196**

**540**

**Nashik**  
Division



**94**

**52**

**20**

**22**



# Updates

Click  to view videos!

## RESQ team on field



**Well-Spotted!** A sub-adult leopard was reported to have fallen into a well near Shrigonda. Along with the Forest Department, we successfully rescued the leopard by carefully lowering a trap cage and waited for him to get in. It was released back right after getting a clean bill of health by the veterinarians!



**In search of territory..** This tiger, born in 2022 at Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, has travelled from its birthplace all the way to Dharashiv and Solapur districts. Covering nearly 500 kms, this young tiger's search for a new territory underscores the need for connected landscapes. Our teams have been assisting the Dharashiv and Solapur Forest Departments on the ground in tracking and monitoring the tiger's movement, training Primary Response Teams, conducting community awareness and safety sessions to ensure the safety of both the tiger and local communities, with the hope of preventing negative human-wildlife interactions.





**Jackal reunion: a howling success!** Four jackal pups were discovered in a sugarcane field. Working closely with the Satara Forest Department, our team immediately set up a reunion site, hoping to reunite the pups with their mother. That very night, the mother emerged and successfully carried all her pups back to safety—a perfect outcome, as wild young ones are best raised by their mothers in their natural environment.



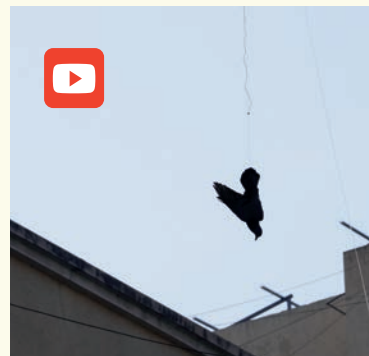
**Spotted and saved: rusty-spotted family reunites!** Three young kittens, discovered in a field during harvesting, were reunited back with their mother thanks to swift action by Pune Forest Department and our teams working in coordination.



**A close call:** Pangolins, though tough and resilient, face their greatest threat from humans. As their habitats become increasingly exposed due to development, sightings and incidents of exploitation have risen over the years. These elusive and enigmatic creatures still hold many secrets about their behaviour and ecology. Currently, the Forest Department and our team are focused on ensuring pangolins remain in secure habitats with minimal human interference, striving to protect these unique species and the ecosystems they inhabit. This one had a near-miss on a busy road, was rescued and released in a safe habitat nearby.

### Strings of doom: the deadly impact of nylon manja!

This year, the RESQ team has responded to over 700+ heartbreaking cases of bird injuries caused by nylon manja—with 125+ cases recorded in December alone! As Makar Sankranti approaches, the crisis worsens. The festival, synonymous with kite flying, becomes a nightmare for countless birds as they fall victim to this hazardous thread. Our teams work tirelessly to rescue hundreds of entangled birds, but sadly, not all of them survive. The danger doesn't end there. Birds often use nylon manja stuck in trees to build their nests, putting their chicks at risk of life-threatening injuries when they become entangled. This deadly cycle continues unless we take a stand. It's time to say NO to nylon manja. Choose safer, eco-friendly alternatives like cotton thread to celebrate responsibly. Fly kites, honour traditions, but let's do it the right way.





## At the RESQ Centres

**(Not) Crying wolf!** An Indian wolf was gravely injured in a vehicle collision and reported by the Dhule Forest Department. Our team swiftly and safely transported it TTC in Nashik where it was stabilized and treated for its multiple trauma injuries and vision impairment. Though the wolf remains in critical care, we remain hopeful for its recovery.



**Hyenas in Peril: Stories of Struggle and Survival.** Two recent incidents in Nashik highlight the growing threats faced by Indian striped hyenas. In one case, a male hyena was found severely injured in a canal, likely a victim of stone pelting injuries. Swiftly rescued by the Forest Department, it was brought to the TTC and is now receiving much-needed care. In another incident, a hyena was found injured by the roadside following a vehicle collision. Despite rescue and treatment efforts, it succumbed to its injuries. These incidents underscore the increasing dangers posed by negative human-wildlife interactions.

**Purr-severance of the jungle cat!** An adult jungle cat rescued by the Forest Department near Satara was brought to our care with a swollen face from head trauma and dehydration. Despite these challenges, the cat is showing remarkable recovery under intensive care. With the rapid progress been seen, this resilient jungle cat is expected to be released soon!



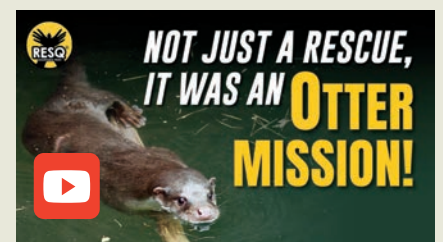
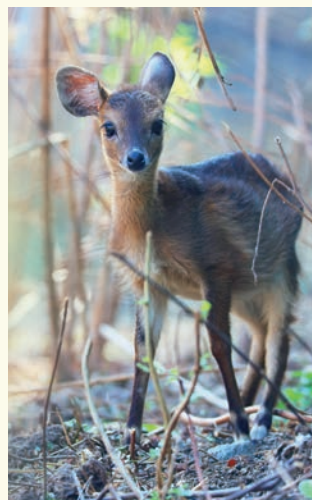
**Croc-a-mess..** An injured crocodile was found near the railway tracks in Chiplun by the Forest Department and was promptly brought to the Wildlife TTC in Pune for urgent care. It had suffered a devastating injury to its snout, likely caused by being run over by a train, resulting in the auto-amputation of its upper and lower jaw bones.

Our veterinary team worked tirelessly to stabilise and treat the crocodile, and the wound began to show signs of healing. However, despite these efforts, the crocodile ultimately succumbed to its injuries. While its loss is deeply saddening, we find solace in knowing that its final days were spent pain-free.



## Orphans of the Wild: A Journey to Independence

The Wildlife Transit Treatment Centre in Pune is currently home to several orphaned animals, including rusty-spotted kittens, jungle cat kittens, several primates and ungulates. Rescued from diverse circumstances—these animals arrive in vulnerable states, requiring intensive care and rehabilitation. While hand-raising is the crucial first stage, their journey to the wild involves an additional 5-6 species-specific stages aimed at fostering independence and minimising human imprinting. Despite the challenges captivity poses, their successful reintegration remains a hopeful and achievable mission. The ultimate goal — they must be prepared to thrive as nature intended, free and untamed, in their natural habitats.

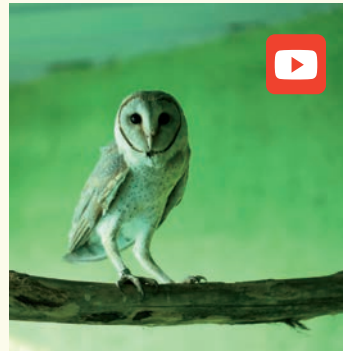
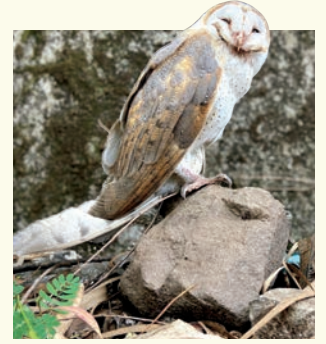


The rehabilitation and release process of an incredible **Eurasian otter** who was discovered post-rescue from a deep well in Pune District.



**It's a parliament!**

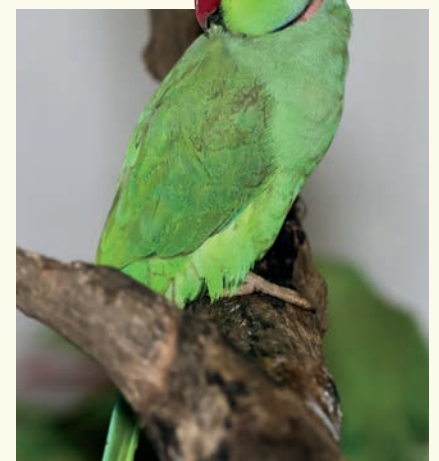
This month, our teams have provided aid for over 60 barn owls in need. With the breeding season for barn owls peaking between October and March, these birds are frequently seen near human settlements. They often choose to roost and nest in man-made structures, bringing them closer to people as they hunt to feed their growing families. Barn owls rely on quiet, sheltered spaces for roosting—crucial for conserving energy, staying safe from predators, and raising their young. Unfortunately, their choice of nesting sites can sometimes cause conflicts when these spaces are perceived as inconvenient or unsafe by humans. While our priority is to raise awareness about coexisting with these incredible birds and encouraging people to avoid disturbing them, for owls found in distress or unsafe situations, we respond by admitting them to our care, where they receive medical attention and rehabilitation until they are fit to return to the wild.



**Sticky predicament for the kingfishers!** Sticky predicament for the kingfishers! Two white-throated kingfishers were found trapped on glue traps in Pune and were carefully rescued by our team and admitted to the Wildlife Transit Treatment Centre, Pune. Rescues involving glue traps are particularly critical, as improper handling can lead to more severe injuries due to the intensity of the adhesive. Sadly one bird succumbed to the distress and its impact but the other one is under our care at the center, where it has been gently yet meticulously cleaned with coconut oil. It will remain under observation until deemed fit by our veterinarians for release back into the wild.

**Parakeets of a feather, free together!**

Four rose-ringed parakeets have been brought to us after being rescued by the Forest Department from illegal captivity. Although they appear physically healthy, they show signs of human imprinting, often vocalizing excessively. This behavior makes them vulnerable if released prematurely, as they are likely to seek out humans, putting them at risk of being recaptured. Additionally, their feathers are in poor condition, a common consequence of captivity. Under rehabilitation at the moment, we are hopeful that all four parakeets will regain their natural instincts and subsequent freedom in the wild soon.





## Community Outreach & Education

### Living together, thriving together: December outreach recap!

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on our community outreach programs that have achieved phenomenal milestones. Tailored for diverse age groups and communities, these initiatives have empowered people to better understand the wildlife around them, navigate the complexities of human-wildlife interactions, and play an active role in ensuring the safety of their families, livelihoods, and the animals we share our spaces with.

JAN-DEC 2024

**IMPACT**  
at **SCALE**

**67,700+**

**INDIVIDUALS EMPOWERED WITH  
WILDLIFE AWARENESS PROGRAMS**

*coerist*  
LIVING AROUND LEOPARDS AND TIGERS



135+ School students @ Shishuvan school, Mumbai



670+ School students @ Adivasi Secondary & Higher Secondary Girls Ashram School, Devgoan, Nashik



620+ School students @ Adivasi Secondary Ashram School, Dahalewadi, Nashik

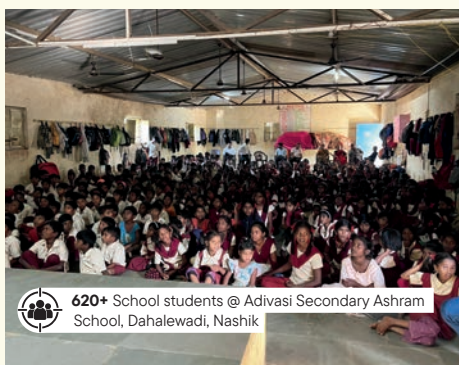


70+ individuals Maharashtra FD Team Yedshi WLS and @ Yedshi Wildlife Sanctuary, Dharashiv.

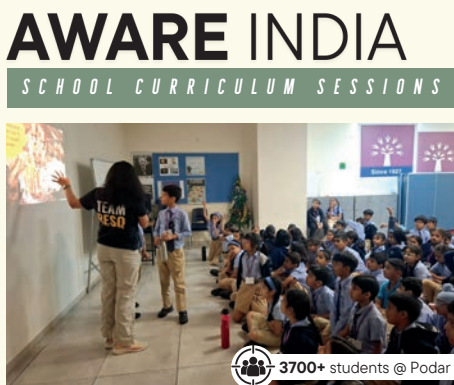


670+ School students @ Adivasi Secondary & Higher Secondary Girls Ashram School, Devgoan, Nashik

*coerist*  
LIVING AROUND SNAKES



620+ School students @ Adivasi Secondary Ashram School, Dahalewadi, Nashik



3700+ students @ Podar International School, Mumbai



Podar International School, Mumbai



450+ student @ Sacred Heart School, Mumbai



40+ students @ Shyamrao Kalmadi High School, Pune

## AWARE INDIA

SCHOOL CURRICULUM SESSIONS



## coexist

LIVING SAFELY AROUND URBAN WILDLIFE



## coexist

LIVING SAFELY AROUND BIRDS



## WILDLIFE

CASE STUDIES



## Capacity Building & Training

**Veterinary Approaches to Wildlife Emergencies and Human Wildlife Conflict @ SLTC, Pune and TTC, Bavdhan, Pune.** A training session on this critical topic was conducted by RESQ team members, Dr. Kalyani Thakur and Dr. Sushrut Shirbhate, for 70 Livestock Development Officers (LDOs) from across Maharashtra. They covered key strategies for responding to wildlife emergencies, handling conflict scenarios, and ensuring the safety of both humans and animals. Participants gained hands-on insights and practical tools to better equip them for field challenges, making this an impactful knowledge-sharing initiative.



**Rescue, On-Field Stabilization, Release and Human Wildlife Conflict @ Kundal Forest Academy.** A training session on these critical topics was conducted by Nachiket Utpat for over 33 foresters, primarily from the Pune, Kolhapur, and Thane circles. The session focused on effective techniques for wildlife rescue, temporary stabilization, and safe release, alongside addressing human-wildlife conflict scenarios.





## Features & Articles

### टिपेश्वरच्या वाघाचा सोलापूर जिल्ह्यात प्रवेश



Maharashtra Forest Department x RESQ CT, Pune

- वनतमाळमधील टिपेश्वर वन्यजीव अभयारण्यामध्ये जमलेल्या नर वाघाने स्थलांतर करत सोलापूर जिल्ह्यात प्रवेश केला आहे
- सद्यपरिस्थितीत हा वाघ सोलापूर जिल्ह्यातील बाशीं तालुक्यात आहे. हद्दीच्या शोधात वनतमाळमधून आपल्या प्रवासाची सुरुवात केल्याची शक्यता.
- आजवर त्याने ५०० किमीहून अधिक प्रवास केल्याचा अंदाज आहे.



#### वाघाची ओळख पटली

“भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान (डब्ल्यूआयआय) हे देशातील वाघांच्या गणनेचे काम करते. देशात सद्यपरिस्थितीत असलेल्या सर्व वाघांची छायाचित्र संश्लेषकडे आहे. त्यामुळे वेडशी वनक्षेत्रात कैमरा ट्रॅपमध्ये टिपलेले या वाघाचे छायाचित्र हे “डब्ल्यूआयआय”ला तयारपण्यासाठी पाठविण्यात आले होते. हे छायाचित्र टिपेश्वर वन्यजीव अभयारण्यात २०२२ साली जमलेला नर वाघाचे असल्याचे समोर आले आहे. अभयारण्यातील ‘T22’ असा सांकेतिक क्रमांक असलेल्या वाघांपोटी २०२२ साली या वाघाचा जन्म झाला होता. त्यामुळे आता दोन वर्षांनंतर या वाघाने आईपासून वेगळे होत, आपल्या नव्या हद्दीसाठी प्रवास केल्याची शक्यता आहे.

संकलन - अक्षय मांडवकर

### Coexisting with wildlife: Workshop at Choregule College teaches responsible rescue practices

On wildlife conservation. Upul, visiting Goa this week to conduct a workshop for students at Choregule College in collaboration with Goa Goa Dogs, says, “Take best leaders. For example, feeding wild birds can make them dependent on humans and erode their foraging instincts. Birds of different species eating together from feeders—a rare occurrence in nature—can also lead to disease transmission.” He says, “Instead, plant native, fruit-bearing trees to provide food and shelter sustainably.” The workshop aims to educate students about handling wildlife encounters responsibly, understanding when to intervene, and knowing when to contact for support. Engaging feeding and handling of wildlife often lead to long-term consequences. The programme will also raise awareness about ethical rescue practices and the importance of working documentation of certain animals and reptiles. Snakes, often misunderstood, are a case in point. “A snake in your locality is there because that access to food, water and shelter. Relocating it doesn’t solve the problem. Instead, it creates a vacuum likely to be filled by another snake, while the relocated one struggles to adapt.” Upul explains.

Shravan Mathur of Goa Goa Dogs emphasizes collaboration among private rescuers, NGOs, Forest Department officials, and the public to ensure peaceful coexistence with the animals that share their space with us. “Coexistence begins with understanding. Observe from a distance, support natural ecosystems, and seek professional help when in doubt.” Further advice: The hands-on workshop will take place at Choregule College, Margao, at 2.30 pm on December 12. Free of charge, but registration is required. Contact: goagoadogs@protonmail.com



अभयारण्य नैतिक अर्थिकात्मक सोप्यात आले

### विहारीत पडलेल्या बिबट्याला जीवदान

पुणे: पुणेमध्ये तालुक्यात वन्यजीव विहारीत पडलेल्या बिबट्याला जीवदान देण्यात आले. बिबट्याला जीवदान देण्यात आले. बिबट्याला जीवदान देण्यात आले.

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### Struggling wildlife | Sugarcane fields turn into refuge for wild animals in Satara

Rambhau Jagtap

Satara

The destruction of wildlife habitat due to human encroachment, including deforestation, intentional fire, and widespread hunting, is forcing wild animals to seek refuge in urban areas. As a result, many species are now living in fields near human settlements, struggling for survival. A notable example of this is the sugarcane harvesting season in Satara, which coincides with the breeding

season for several wild animals. During this period, newborns of wild animals, including leopards, wild boars, and wild cats, are often found in sugarcane fields. Last week, in Sugri village of Phaltan taluka, sugarcane harvesting workers discovered a group of five kits while working in the field of farmer Hasmukh Redkar. The workers quickly alerted Redkar, who informed the local forest department. The department immediately contacted Sachin Jadhav, an

animal lover and member of the Global Earth Foundation in Phaltan. Jadhav and his team arrived at the scene and decided to take immediate action to rescue the kits with their mother. “We placed the kits in a small plastic box at the spot where they were found and set up cameras to monitor the situation,” Jadhav said. After an hour of monitoring, the victim returned to retrieve her kits and safely led them to a secure location. The Forest Department has

urged the public to report any injured or stranded wild animals to the nearest office. “We encourage people to contact us or the Global Earth Foundation if they find any wild animal in distress,” said Sachin Jadhav, the forest range officer for Phaltan taluka. “This event is not an isolated case. As cane of various species are frequently found in the area during the sugarcane harvest season, Phaltan, known for its rich wildlife, is home to many species of wild

animals, including foxes, vultures, and leopards, which have been driven to seek refuge in agricultural fields due to the destruction of their natural habitats,” he added. For this particular rescue operation, the team included brothers Ragendra Aware and Rahul Nikam, along with Jadhav, all working under the guidance of Satara Forest Department’s Deputy Conservator of Forests Aditi Bhadargaj and Assistant Conservator of Forests Digambar Jadhav. “Our team

acted swiftly to ensure the safety of the cubs and to ensure their mother’s health,” said Jadhav. In light of the ongoing deforestation and forest fires, nature lovers and animal welfare advocates are calling for more protective measures. The forest department and the government must create a comprehensive plan to protect these endangered species and their habitats,” said a wildlife conservationist who was also involved in the rescue.

Representative image

Representative image

### Forest dept’s 468 rescued turtles find shell-ter at Pune rehab

Aditi Shekar@timesofindia.com

Pune: The Pune forest division’s wildlife wing recently rescued 468 turtles and tortoises from traffickers and illegal traders, mainly in Thane district, and brought them to the Bavdhan Transit Treatment Centre (TTC) for rehabilitation. The rescue highlighted the grave threats the reptiles faced from illegal trafficking and unlawful pet trade. They were temporarily housed in various locations and cared for by volunteers, local groups and NGOs.

All the turtles under the current rehabilitation programme are Schedule 1 protected wildlife species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Indian star tortoises, Indian



TOWARDS A SLOW AND STEADY RECOVERY



dian roofed turtles, Indian testudo turtles, black spotted pond turtles and brown roofed turtles were among the species brought in in two batches on Nov and 12.

Many of them endured prolonged periods of illegal captivity resulting in severe health conditions, including metabolic bone disease, chronic nutritional deficiencies,

inadequate ultraviolet light exposure and musculoskeletal issues caused by inappropriate substrates, said Neha Panchamiya, founder and president of RESQ Charita-

ble Trust and manager of Bavdhan TTC.

“Upon admission, each reptile was segregated based on size and gender to ensure optimal care and monitoring. While most successfully completed the quarantine phase, a subset remains under treatment. Rehabilitation efforts are focused on facilitating the transition from captive to natural diets and achieving climate acclimatisation,” she said.

Progress is being monitored through periodic tracking of weight, behaviour and activity levels, Panchamiya said. “A majority are showing significant improvement in diet adaptation and mobility. Prospects of their recovery and readiness are favourable,” she added.

Deputy conservator of forests Tushar Chavan said, “Most of the turtles and tortoises are from Thane, which has recorded many trafficking cases. We are working to nurture them. In coordination with the forest department of other states, we will release them into the wild in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Telangana and Maharashtra.”

Officials are building an online database of reptiles in different parts. They will co-ordinate with local departments and NGOs for their release to habitats in Maharashtra and other states.

### कोल्हाची पिले अन् आई यांची घडवून आणली भेट

लोकात नव्या नेटवर्क

फलटण : फलटण तालुक्यातील सोनी येथील शेतात अन् आई यांच्या घडवून आणली भेट.



फलटण तालुका वन्यजीव संपदेने समृद्ध

अन् आई यांच्या घडवून आणली भेट.

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### Global Spotlight on Neha Panchamiya at the Golden Star Awards 2024 by Worldwide Vets.

We are thrilled to share that our founder, Neha Panchamiya, was awarded the first runner-up position for the Golden Star Award 2024 from 36 change makers across the globe. This is a collective win for every life we strive to protect and every voice we amplify for the wild!



**Wildlife Frontlines: The Habitats Trust Partners' Meet, 2024.** Neha Panchamiya, Tuhin Satarkar, and Kiran Rahalkar participated in the The Habitats Trust Partners' Meet 2024, Noida. From engaging presentations by NGOs and researchers to focused group discussions, the event highlighted the diverse yet impactful work being done to protect species and habitats nationwide.

### Dedicated volunteers lending a hand at RESQ CT this month!



**PAROJI UNDRATWAD (BANDU)**  
RESQ Team Member



**KRUSHNA TIDKE**  
RESQ Volunteer



Performing at their maximum potential, lauded for their dedication, innovation and hardwork, here's our

# RESQ stars for the month.



## Statistics Jan-Dec 2024



7,293

Wildlife  
provided aid to

Wildlife

6,465

828



Birds

4,421

397



Mammals

975

154



Reptiles

1,069

277

23,076

Wildlife Helpline  
calls received

4,23,985 kms

RESQ Ambulances  
travelled for wildlifeAwareness sessions,  
education & training  
programs conducted for

67,755 individuals

Thank you for being a  
RESQ Supporter!

If we share the same vision, there's so much we can do together. The RESQ team continues its work for animals with purpose and passion only because of your generous contributions and support – today, and everyday.

"We are happy to share our Annual Report 2023-2024, which captures the work and activities done by the RESQ team during the last financial year. On behalf of all the team members of RESQ and its board of trustees, I express our deepest gratitude to our donors, supporters, partners and well-wishers for supporting our mission to rescue and rehabilitate animals, and to reach people in our endeavors to protect animals and their habitats. You can become a RESQ supporter and join us in working towards a shared vision of conservation and coexistence between wildlife, communities, and their animals. Becoming a member is easy, click on this link. Your annual contribution and belief in our vision helps us to provide medical treatment and care to thousands of animals every single year. Thank you!"

- Neha Panchamiya (Founder & President, RESQ CT)

BECOME A RESQ SUPPORTER TODAY



2024  
YEAR IN REVIEW



RESQ Charitable Trust is a registered NGO under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 (E-5002), Section 12 (A), 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, Ministry of Corporate Affairs as an Implementing Agency of CSR Activities and Foreign Contributions Regulations Act (FCRA), 2010. RESQ CT works in collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department, and is authorized to conduct statewide viz. agreement with the Governor of the State of Maharashtra exercising executive powers of the Government of Maharashtra through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) dt. 1st September 2022 and operates a Transit Treatment Centre at TTC (Pune) and TTC (Nashik) viz. agreement with their respective Forest Departments.