

February 2023

Maharashtra, India
www.resqct.org

RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#184 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



“All good things are wild and free.”


This Indian striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) was rescued from a hunting snare or foot trap. His foot suffered major wounds and fractures but because he was rescued quickly by the Solapur Forest Department, he responded well to intensive medical care and rehabilitation and was successfully reintroduced back to his natural habitat with a GPS collar to monitor his activity and movements.

🦋 Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

Statistics: February 2023, RESQ provided aid to **1783** animals.

We received **1123** calls on the RESQ helplines from public and governmental departments for animal-related cases and our RESQ ambulances travelled **31,499** kilometers across different regions of Maharashtra to provide aid for them. We attended to **498 wildlife** (**230** birds, **136** mammals, **132** reptiles) we currently have **107** wild animals admitted under medical and rehabilitation care. We conducted community outreach - awareness, education and training programs for **8372 individuals** this month. Additionally, we provided support to **1285 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!](#)

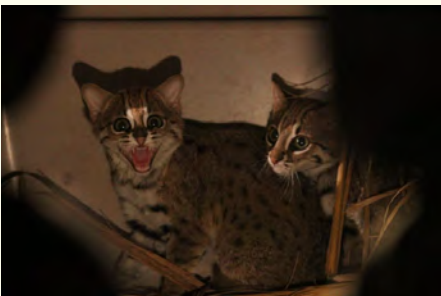
Updates

RESQ team **on field**



68 Indian star tortoises were successfully reintroduced back to the wild this month. These were the 80% of the lots that were rescued by the Pune, Solapur, Kolhapur, Nashik, Alibag & Mumbai Forest Departments who were rehabilitated at RESQ. Illegally captive and trafficked, several turtles and tortoises lose their lives to health and poor captive conditions. This was the luckier of the lot, and as soon as they were released, they began to eat away!

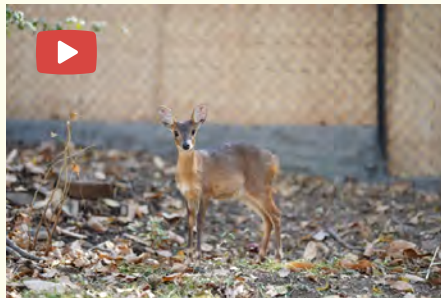
Four Rusty spotted cats were reintroduced back to their natural habitat this month!



Captive raised, but carefully planned rehabilitation ensured they remained true to being the world's smallest wild cat species. There's still a few more rusty spotted cats under rehab at RESQ who are yet to tick off their rehabilitation milestones in



order to be deemed fit for release – and currently, they're making great progress.



Two Chinkara fawns and two Chousingha fawns were reported as orphans from different locations and admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for orphan care. They were hand raised initially for a few days until they stabilised and then began their rehabilitation with future reintroduction back to a suitable habitat in mind. After they reached the growth and behavioural milestones to survive independently, they were successfully soft-released in their safe habitats.



Jackal rescued and released in Daund, Pune: Reported to have fallen into a well near Daund, an adult male jackal was rescued by the Eco-RESQ, Daund team. After a quick medical assessment, since there were no injuries, he was released in a safe location nearby where he darted off in a jiffy!



Two Jungle cats were also rescued from a well in Daund, Pune.



Two sub-adult jungle cats were reported to have fallen in a well near Daund. The RESQ Daund team conducted a rapid rescue of the cats who had fortunately not suffered any external injuries and hence were released right away in a safe habitat nearby.

Stuck in a tough spot!



A black kite was reported stuck in manja on a large tree on a small island surrounded with slushy water (the depth of which was unknown), near Pawna river. Team of four rescuers set off with every possible equipment including a raft. After a quick survey, a comparatively shallow section was identified through which, the rescuers walked in knee-deep slushy waters towards the tree and the kite was safely retrieved using the telescopic pole.

Jackal pups reunited with mother at Baramati.



Found during harvesting, two jackal puppies were reported separated from their mother near Baramati. The RESQ Baramati team reached immediately and thoroughly assessed the location where 3 more puppies from the same litter were discovered. A reunion was attempted the same evening in the presence of the Phaltan Forest Department. Shortly the mother arrived and instead of carrying her babies one by one what they usually do, she dragged the entire cane basket with the puppies in it, quickly disappearing into the dense fields!

Peafowl makes a full recovery from a severe respiratory disease. An Indian peafowl was reported sick from Daund and brought to the RESQ Wildlife TTC by the Eco-RESQ Daund team. A thorough assessment showed that the peafowl had a severe

respiratory infection which is highly transferable amongst birds. While treating this infection, the peafowl was quarantined from all the other birds and the rehabilitation team remained vigilant to ensure no cross-infection occurred. Finally it made a full recovery and was released back to the wild.



Separated from their mothers during harvesting, leopard cubs reunited with their mothers in different landscapes!

RESQ Pune HQ <> Satara Forest Department



RESQ Nashik Division <> Nashik Forest Department



Leopard rescued from road accident in Nashik. Road accidents can be fatal, but this young female leopard was saved after it was rescued by RESQ Nashik Division along with the Nashik Forest Department. She received critical and timely emergency medical relief on field by RESQ veterinarians. Swift response led to a speedy recovery in 3 days after which she was reintroduced back to where she was found.



A young Chousingha strays and gets trapped in a housing society in Pune - rescued and released. On being alerted by the Forest Department, the RESQ team reached the location, conducted a quick survey of the surroundings after which the animal was rescued safely and released in a safe place nearby.



Thermal UAV to the rescue of an Asian Koel Our thermal UAV works as a brilliant tool to assist us in rescuing animals #speciesnobar Late at night, we got a call for an Asian Koel who was reportedly stuck in manja on a tree. We didn't want to leave it in pain till the morning, so thanks to this incredible tool, our field rescue team was able to retrieve it irrespective of grossly limited visibility and access to space.



Climate change and its effects on wildlife. This fruit bat was admitted for being unable to fly due to severe dehydration and is currently under recovery. With incoming warnings of heat waves, and the rapid weather change we are all feeling, a long, dry and a severe summer ahead of us is to be expected.



Trapped Barking deer rescued from a metal gate grill. A barking deer had been reported from outskirts of Pune as it has gotten stuck in the grill of a metal gate after being attacked and chased by dogs. It was admitted in a dire state to the RESQ Wildlife TTC where it spent a long time under treatment and rehabilitation. Finally it made full recovery and got released back into its natural habitat.



Injured Sambar deer rescued and released in two days!

A severely injured sambar that was brought after a free-ranging dog attack, has finally made it back into the wild. After emergency medical relief, it was moved to the large ungulate unit where within 24 hours it started showing improvement and was released back to the wild.

RESQ is now in Nashik!

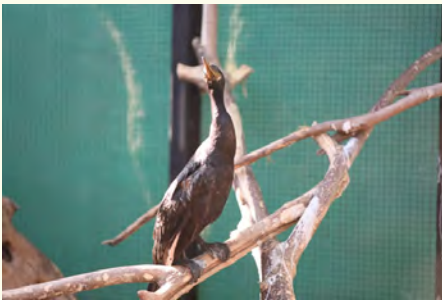
We've collaborated with Eco-Echo Foundation, a local NGO that was previously working in field for many years. Together, we're now RESQ Nashik Division. Nashik is home to incredible biodiversity and a large number of wildlife species. However, the number of large carnivore related incidents have been on a rise since the last 5 years. For over a year, we'd also noticed a sharp incline in the number of wildlife-related emergencies occurring there and while we have always taken in animals incoming from Nashik, we realised that a professional, well-trained and equipped team including a wildlife veterinarian present there at all times would be beneficial to provide emergency response, reduce transport stress and ensure better rehabilitation care and faster releases for wildlife found in distress. We are so grateful to the Nashik Forest Department for providing us with a temporary facility in their Forest Department premises to house animals locally for rehabilitation and veterinary care. In the last two months that we have begun RESQ Nashik Division, we have been able to provide aid and support to over 150+ wildlife already. Our Nashik team is led by Abhijeet Mahale, Vaibhav Bhogale (Hon. Wildlife Warden), Sagar Patil, Samarth Mahajan supported by a team of dedicated volunteers. Experienced wildlife veterinarians from the RESQ Wildlife TTC Pune are posted at the RESQ Nashik Division on a rotation basis to ensure the best possible veterinary care for the wildlife of Nashik.

RESQ Nashik Division Helpline Number: 86981 12211



At the RESQ Centre

Cormorant recovering from a manja injury. Brought in due a severe manja or kite-flying string injury, this Indian cormorant underwent surgery, post-op care, and is now in an outdoor enclosure under rehabilitation where it is showing great recovery. Often sighted basking in the sun and feeding, it's well on its way to the wild in a few days.



Bonnet macaque infant succumbs to severe electrocution burns. It was treated, closely monitored and cared for. He unfortunately did not survive.. dealing with death is an outcome we have to often embrace considering the critical conditions animals come to us. We console ourselves knowing he was cared for and kept pain-free till the end.



The rehabilitation of 12 Jungle cat orphans. Rehabilitating in a quiet, secluded part of the RESQ Centre are three litters Jungle cat kittens who were admitted as orphans. Their future survival in the wild depends on instigating their wild instincts and to keep

away from humans, and our rehabilitation plan is built in a way to do just that.



Two new aviaries for birds - all set! We were struggling with space for the number of birds getting admitted - but now finally, a new large aviary is ready and operational! With perches at different levels to observe their flight, this aviary is set to help scores of birds meet their rehab goals sooner than later!



Electrocuted langur makes a full recovery. The lucky few who make it even after getting electrocuted. This langur lost part of his limb to electrocution, but not his ability to climb, forage and fend for



himself. He made a full recovery and has been released back to his natural habitat.

An Indian flapshell turtle in rehab at RESQ after a life of captivity. Seized from illegal captivity by the Forest Department, this was admitted to us in a very poor health condition. It is deformed and dull due to poor housing and nutrition, and is currently undergoing treatment. The road to recovery for this turtle is long, but we remain positive.

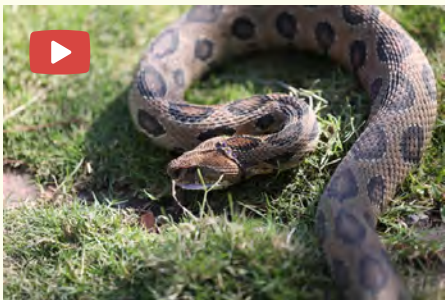


Attacked by stray dogs - leopard cub receives emergency surgery.

In Nashik, a leopard cub was found attacked by stray dogs which led to a fractured bone in one of his legs. Rescued by the Nashik FD, our RESQ Nashik Division team performed an orthopaedic surgery. He's currently recovering in Nashik.



Russell's viper injured on a construction site makes a full recovery. A Russell's viper got caught under a JCB on a construction site rendering a deep tear on its jaw going all the way to its venom glands. It was stabilised in time, treated and sutured by the RESQ vets. After spending a few days recuperating it started to show good recovery after which it was released in its original habitat.



Fallen in a well post dog attack - Sambar recovered and released back. A sub-adult male Sambar was rescued from a well by the Satara Forest Department. It had multiple dog bite wounds and was in shock. A few days of stabilisation, treatment and rehabilitation, was all it needed to bounce back. It darted off happily when released back to its own habitat.



Blackbuck from Solapur critical in ICU. A Blackbuck was attacked by dogs and admitted by the Solapur Forest department to RESQ Wildlife TTC Pune - with severe wounds and a fractured leg. Our veterinary team performed a surgery to save its

leg and it is now under intensive rehabilitation.



Ophthalmic surgery performed by RESQ Vets helps Jackal see the world again!

A Jackal pup was admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC with a severe eye infection due to which it couldn't open its eyes. RESQ vets performed an entropion surgery on the eyes, after which the pup could finally open its eyes fully!



Ungulate units at RESQ cater to rising cases

The new deer and antelope units are being optimised to the fullest with an influx of fawns under rehabilitation. A chinkara fawn and a blackbuck fawn reported from two different scenarios have been admitted under orphan care and are being hand raised by the rehabilitation team.



Chinkara fawn orphan under rehabilitation at RESQ Pune.

A baby chinkara who lost its mother to a dog attack was also being chased by the same free ranging dogs near Baramati. Our RESQ Baramati unit rescued it and it is currently under rehabilitation at RESQ.



Distemper virus claims lives of three Indian jackal pups. CDV (Canine Distemper Virus) and the aftermath of the spread of the virus in wildlife, especially the jackal population, has been disturbing. This month, 3 jackal pups who were only a month old, tested positive and subsequently lost their lives to the virus.



World Pangolin Day! 18th February, 2023

Why does raising awareness about World Pangolin Day matter?

To many of us, it is an animal that we may have heard of most likely, the image of a scaly anteater probably pops up in our minds. The Pangolin, is said to be the highest trafficked mammal species in the world and classified as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red List. Over 2.5 million of them (or more!) are poached for their scales every single year. Many of us may not have seen a pangolin upclose and find the creature so unrelatable.

This video is the rehabilitation journey of one such pangolin that came to us not very long ago with multiple injuries. He got emergency treatment and the rehab he needed, and made it back to the wild. These video clips will give you a tiny insight into the incredible behaviour of this animal in our pangolin enclosure at @resqct TTC in Pune, where we try to help as many of these amazing animals and ensure they get a second chance at going back to where they truly belong.



Art meets conservation!

RESQ x Artist With Animals @ Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2023

Just this year, over 500 of these small creatures which have been rescued from illegal trade and captivity in horrible conditions and have been rehabilitated by RESQ alone. We collaborated with AWA (Artists with Animals) to create this installation called "Flight to Freedom" selected and displayed at the Kala Ghoda Art Festival 2023 in Mumbai.

The turtle in this installation signifies one that is flying towards freedom after breaking free from the chains of the illegal wildlife trade. It urges you to give up archaic superstitious beliefs and arrest the exotic wildlife pet trade - not just for its own kind, but for countless other species gravely affected by it.

The 7-foot high turtle installation received an overwhelming response at KGAF 2023 and was visited by thousands of people during the festival. Today, we hold the key to a sustainable future for all.

Get in touch with us if you can help us take this turtle places e.g. events, offices - anywhere there will be a large number of people who can view it and read the self-explanatory information to better understand why these animals should not be kept as pets. In the spirit of embracing coexistence, let's pledge to "say NO to wild animals as pets". Say YES to "keeping wildlife wild."



Community Outreach & Education

बिबट्या वैरी नाही शेजारी - 'Living Safely around Leopards' Community Awareness Programs Our teams conducted 5 awareness sessions on 'Living safely around Leopards' in - Pune, Satara, Bhimashankar and reaching over 350+ individuals across varied landscapes. These sessions were conducted by: Nachiket Utpat, Shreenath Chavhan, Harshad Nagare, Dr. Kalyani Thakur who were successful in addressing fears, queries and questions among the public and pave the path for a future which focuses on the coexistence between humans and animals.



AWARE INDIA School Education Program

On the 25th of February, "To rescue or not" module of RESQ's AWARE India program was conducted by Jessica Roberts and Sonia Gandhi Limaye for children between 6-16 years at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sanghralay's Children's Museum, Mumbai.

Kundal Forest Academy: HWC Response Training

Dr. Kalyani Thakur and Nachiket Utpat conducted a training session for 40 Round Officers of Maharashtra Forest Dept. at Kundal Forest Academy. Covering topics of animal rescue, emergency stabilisation, safe transport protocols for wildlife and HWC response management.

Features & Articles

Click to read!



#EmbraceEquity with Dignity -
Walk the Talk | IWD2023

by Neha Panchamiya
Neha Panchamiya Managing committee member, Pune district
SPCA



FIND A WAY TO WORK TOGETHER

by Neha Panchamiya
Neha Panchamiya Managing committee member, Pune district
SPCA

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Striped hyena injured in hunting trap in Solapur released into the forest after treatment

TNN | Feb 26, 2023, 07:59 AM IST



PUNE: A striped hyena suffering from excessive bleeding in the right leg after being trapped in a hunting net in the Malshiras forest in the Solapur district, was released in the forest after successful treatment at the RESQ centre in Bavdhan.

The Solapur forest department and the volunteers of RESQ, an NGO, jointly rescued the animal from Malshiras in November last year.

Neha Panchamiya, the founder of the RESQ, said, "The animal's paw was injured in the net. He was extremely weak owing to excess bleeding. The animal was on a fluid diet for a few weeks, and we operated on his leg. Gradually, his health improved, and he started eating meat at the centre. After a full recovery, the hyena was released in the forest on February 16."

She added, "We have a fit radio collar on the animal to monitor his movements. For the last five days, the animal has moved for about two km, which a healthy animal covers in one day."



RESQ VOLUNTEER



RESQ TEAM MEMBER

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

All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy!

SJ Contracts, a CSR partner of RESQ, organised a friendly Cricket League for their in-house employees and extended an invitation to us to participate. On the day of the tournament, the RESQ team shone bright with their game and won the event trophy to everyone's surprise – after all a fit team armed with the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork is a great animal rescue team!



We are grateful & and thank you.

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 2021-2022](#) which captures the work and activities done by the RESQ team in the year 2021 and 2022; some of which that has continued from the past and some new endeavours embarked on, which will continue for years to come. 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 believing in RESQ's vision of coexistence between wildlife and communities and supporting our mission to rescue and rehabilitate animals, and reach people in our mission to protect animals and their habitats. You can download this report from our website and share it with your friends and contacts to help us garner support. As we forge on in 2023, we look forward to many more collaborations to address wildlife management challenges and conservation concerns that India and the world faces today. "

– Neha Panchamiya (Founder & President, RESQ CT)