

January 2023

Maharashtra, India  
www.resqct.org

# RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#183 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



*“The future is completely open, and we are writing it moment to moment.”*

Fiercely wild, one of the eight Rusty-spotted cats (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*) currently under rehabilitation at the RESQ Wildlife TTC in Pune. They are the smallest wild cat species in the world, near threatened on the IUCN Red List - our aim is to rehabilitate and reintroduce them back to their natural habitats.

## 🦋 Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

**Statistics :** January 2023, RESQ provided aid to 1920 animals.

We received **1369** calls on the RESQ helplines from public and governmental departments for animal-related cases and our RESQ ambulances travelled **32,262** kilometers across different regions of Maharashtra to provide aid for them. We attended to **551 wildlife** (296 birds, 137 mammals, 118 reptiles) we currently have **203** wild animals admitted under medical and rehabilitation care. We conducted community outreach - awareness, education and training programs for **813 individuals** this month. Additionally, we provided support to **1139 community animals** viz. large animal feed, rescue and medical aid, and mass vaccination drives to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and infections.



# Updates

## RESQ team on field



It's that time of the year when rescuing birds entangled in manja or kite-flying strings is at its peak in the city. The RESQ team responds to 3-4 manja cases daily. With over 100+ birds rescued in the last few weeks, 1 in 3 birds dies from getting stuck in this deadly string.



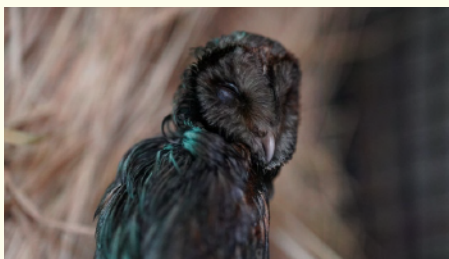
A young Indian leopard was stuck in a farmhouse near Pawna and couldn't get himself out because all his four paws were severely wounded from the glass shards that laced the wall for security. He was rescued by the RESQ team and Pune FD, treated intensively at the RESQ TTC and successfully released back in a safe location as he made a full recovery!



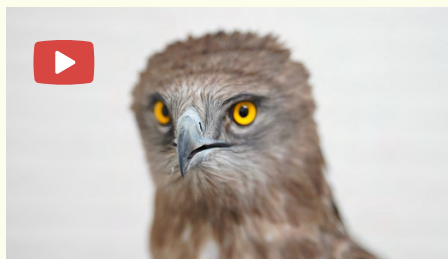
Despite multiple injuries from a road accident, this Indian jackal made a full recovery at the RESQ TTC. What gave him a fighting chance is the fact that he was quickly rescued by the RFO Nannaj and rushed for treatment. He has now been released back to his home!



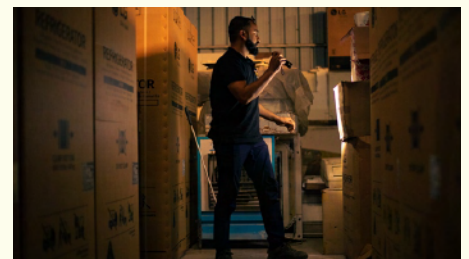
A Sambar deer and her baby were attacked by free-ranging dogs in a village near Karad. The baby died before our teams reached, however, our vets, rescuers and the Karad FD spent the entire night stabilising the mother. She was then shifted to RESQ for rehabilitation, made a full recovery and has now been released in a safe forest area.



A sticky black situation is what this Barn owl landed himself in – he was rescued by our team from a can of diesel that he was stuck in. It's been taking some time to get all the grease off and for him to get strength to fly again after the traumatic struggle he went through.



A magnificent bird, this Short-toed snake eagle was found lying on the ground with an injured wing in Baramati. He was rescued by the RESQ Baramati team and brought to RESQ TTC in Pune for intensive care.

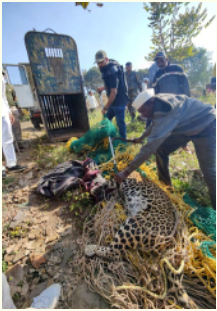


While snakes find themselves cosy nooks to comfortably rest in, humans spotting them shoot panic up the roof! In this image, one of our rescuers scrounging around in a dark stock room to rescue a harmless rat snake who was immediately released in a safe location nearby.



The RESQ team and Satara FD has had to conduct reunions for these three leopard cubs with their mother 3 times so far (all successful) because every time the mother would retrieve her cubs and move them, the sugarcane patch she had moved them to would get cut, leaving them completely exposed. Challenging times lie ahead for the mother, who needs to find a safe spot for her cubs to survive these agricultural landscapes.





An adult leopard while crossing from one compound to another, got his foot terribly entangled in a barbed wire. The RESQ Nashik team used a catch net to restrain it, after which it was safely rescued from the wire and provided first aid. Luckily, it had no major injuries and it was released the same evening by the Nashik Forest Department.



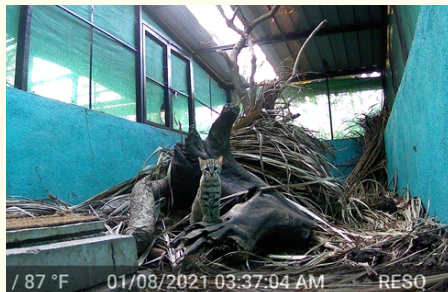
As a result of sugarcane harvesting, four jackal pups that unfortunately got separated from their mother were successfully reunited with their mother by the ECO-RESQ Remote Squad (RRS) in Daund.

## At the RESQ Centre



An Indian giant squirrel, the state animal of Maharashtra and one of the largest tree squirrels native to India, was rescued by the Mahabaleshwar FD after it was run over by a bike. Unable to walk initially, once she got treatment, she recovered fully at the RESQ TTC and was released back into the forest.

captivity so far, has just cleared his health checks and has progressed to a natural diet. He has also been integrated with more monkeys his own kind, and formed a closely bonded troop. A few days ago, he was released with his new found family back in the wild.



Erratic rains in Satara resulted in a shift in harvesting time causing a major disturbance to the breeding cycle of Rusty-spotted Cats. As fields were harvested early, our RESQ teams and Satara FD conducted scores of reunions successfully, but the ones that failed ended up rendering 8 orphan Rustys over a period of 3 months. Fiercely wild even at a young age, they're all under an intensive rehabilitation program at the RESQ Wildlife TTC now. One-by-one they will go back to their natural habitat once they're older and clear all their milestones!



A young Bonnet macaque who had probably only known a life of



RESQ veterinarians perform multiple patagium repair surgeries on black kites, eagles and owls this month as we have received multiple cases of damaged wings from manja or kite-flying string. These birds take between 21 days to a month for a complete recovery if they are rescued and provided life-saving surgery in time.

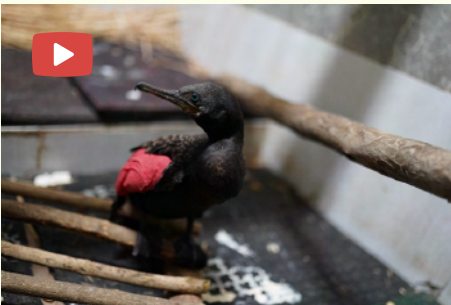


An Indian striped hyena under rehabilitation post-surgery. It was rescued from a foot trap and has taken time to recover from its injuries. He will soon be GPS collared and released back in his natural habitat.





Roaming listlessly and visually weak, an adult leopard was rescued by the RESQ Nashik division and Nashik FD early this month. He was diagnosed with severe parasitosis (lung fluke) which resulted in neurological complications and damage beyond repair. While it was heart-breaking to watch this huge 60-kg male leopard pass away, we made sure he was kept pain-free till the end.



The Cormorant was reported lying on the ground, completely unable to move as its wings were fully entangled in manja. After a surgery to fix his wings, which fortunately were yet in operable condition, he is now under rehabilitation and showing excellent recovery.



This baby langur was found extremely traumatised - frightened and screeching away as she refused to leave her mother

who had just passed away from electrocution. Rescued and brought to the RESQ Wildlife TTC she is under orphan care, and is currently being hand raised.



An imping procedure was successfully performed by our vets on a black kite that was brought in with manja entangled on its tail wing. Imping is a procedure, in which damaged feathers are replaced with feathers from a donor, helping the bird to regain its ability to fly almost immediately.



A python reported fully entangled in a discarded safety net was brought in with severe lacerations and gashes. After treatment and rehabilitation, including soaking and basking, he fully recovered and has been released.



A parakeet rescued from illegal captivity had plucked its own

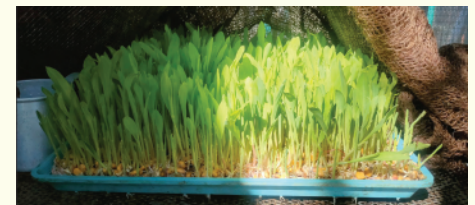
feathers under captivity stress, and was also displaying an array of health complications due to improper nutrition. It is responding well to treatment; but its rehabilitation is going to be lengthy and intensive.



RESQ Vets have been extensively using laser therapy to expedite healing, reduce recovery time so that animals spend less time in captivity recuperating.



With the number of birds coming in, we were running short of space to allow the birds to spread their wings and take test flights. Thanks to a generous donation, we have two additional aviaries for flight testing under construction!



A DIY experiment, we've been hydroponically growing nutrient dense greens for the deer and antelope under rehabilitation at RESQ, especially good for the young ones who are learning to nibble greens directly off the ground!





Carving stone to create water bowls took a little more effort than we imagined. Easy to clean and sanitise, we're shifting from metal bowls to carved stone bowls so that wildlife that will be going back to their natural habitat continues to drink water from natural surfaces while they're with us.

Crafted from scrap material, a resting box was repurposed by the rehabilitation team for enriching a Barn owl's enclosure.

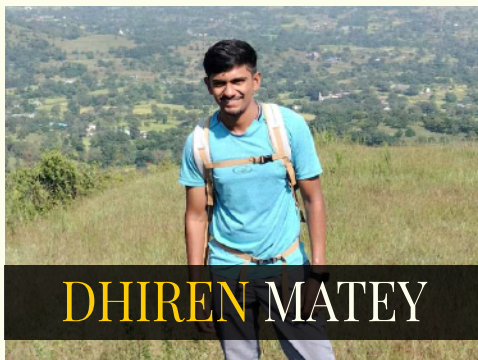


Thanks to a generous donation, we have managed to finally put up recovery enclosures for the ungulates who come to RESQ. Deer and antelope come to us either injured or orphaned, and these enclosures are going to help

rehabilitate them with minimal stress.



Thanks to some old packaging wood which was donated to us and a little effort from the team = hides for the tortoises under rehabilitation. These help the tortoises get their much needed privacy and warmth when they feel the need for it!



**DHIREN MATEY**

RESQ VOLUNTEER



**SURESH GHADGE**

RESQ TEAM MEMBER

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

## Features & Articles

### RESQ BLOG

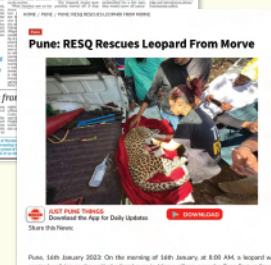
07 January 2023 | Neha Panchamiya

**Thermal drones make wildlife tracking safer and smarter.**



"There are very loud snarling sounds coming intermittently from place near a farmer's field. The villagers are extremely scared, and we don't think it's safe to walk straight into the field to check on it. Do you think your drone would work..."

*(Click here to read the full article)*





## Capacity Building & Training



**18 Jan @ Kundal Forest Academy, Sangli** Nachiket Utpat, Naresh Chandak and Kalyani Thakur conducted a full-day training session for 40 Foresters at Kundal Academy of Development Administration and Management (Forest) on Wildlife rescues, stabilisation, release protocols and management of HWC situations.



**25 Jan @ RESQ TTC, Pune** 45 Range Forest Officers from different parts of the country currently under training at the Kundal Academy of Development

Administration and Management (Forest) visited the RESQ Centre to understand the daily operations of a Wildlife Transit Treatment Centre. Interactive sessions were conducted for them by Nachiket Utpat, Tuhin Satarkar, Sumedh Tarde and Neha Panchamiya.



**16 Jan @ SLTC (AH), Pune** Founder Neha Panchamiya conducted a session for 40 LDOs at the State Level Training Centre (Maharashtra Animal Husbandry Dept) on the PCAT 1960, WLPA 1972 and the rules/ amendments thereafter. It was attended by 40 veterinarians and was extremely well received.

**23 Jan @ SLTC (AH), Pune** An interactive session on the 'Role of Veterinarians in Human Wildlife Conflict situations' and managing Infectious Diseases in Wildlife conducted by Dr. Kalyani Thakur



and Nachiket Utpat at the SLTC which was attended by 40 LDOs.



**25 Jan @ RESQ TTC, Pune** Training program through SLTC for 40 government veterinarians was conducted by Dr. Kalyani Thakur, Dr. Chetan Vanjari and Dr. Sushrut Shirbhate at the RESQ centre. Theory and practical topics included 'Introduction to Remote Drug Delivery Systems, Wildlife Anesthesia Protocols, First-aid and Stabilization, and effectively conducting species-specific Post-Mortems'.

## Community Outreach & Education



**23 - 25 Jan @ Indus International School, Pune** "I am Responsible" module of RESQ's AWARE India program was conducted by Jessica Roberts and Sonia Gandhi Limaye across grades 1-5. The sessions were highly interactive and attended by 294 children in total.



**13 Jan @ Chatrabhui Narsee School, Pune** A session on "Effect of Kite-Flying Manja on Birds in Urban Cities" was conducted by Jessica Roberts and Nachiket Utpat for children between 6-9 years of age and attended by 25 children who had questions galore!



**4 Jan @ NSS Camp, Supe** “An awareness session on “Coexist: living around Urban Wildlife” was conducted by Nachiket Awadhani and Aniket Tupe. It was attended by 35 young adults.



**3 - 4 Jan @ Unschool, Pune** RESQ’s AWARE India program modules, “Go Native” and “The Future is Yours” were conducted for 20 children ranging from 5 to 13 years of age.



**15 Jan @ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sanghralay’s Children’s Museum, Mumbai** “I am Responsible” module of RESQ’s AWARE India program was conducted by Jessica Roberts and Sonia Gandhi Limaye for 25 children between 6-16 years.



**21 Jan @ Dari, Nashik** Abhijeet Mahale conducted an awareness session for local villagers and farmers on “Living safely around leopards in human-dominated landscapes” and the session was very well received by the 45 people who attended it.



**21 Jan @ Donje, Pune** An awareness session on “Living safely around leopards in human-dominated landscapes” was conducted for 30 local villagers and farmers by Naresh Chandak and Amit Todkar.



**24 Jan @ Fujitsu VC** An online session on living safely around leopards in human-dominated landscapes was conducted by Nachiket Utpat, which was very well received and attended by 275 employees of Fujitsu Consulting India.

## 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)