

July 2023

Maharashtra, India

www.resqct.org

# RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#189 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Cattle egret fledglings  
© RESQ Charitable Trust

*A torrential tragedy...* Just as we were beginning to recover from the harsh impact of scorching heat, heavy monsoons have made their presence felt. This month has borne witness to numerous distressing cases of animals affected by the relentless downpour – some swept away by floods, others trapped under landslides' rubble, and many displaced from their nesting trees. As a result, they find themselves suffering and in dire need of intervention. Among them are these egrets, part of a flock of 40 recently displaced from their nesting tree due to the incessant rainfall.

## 🦋 Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

**Statistics:** July 2023, RESQ provided aid to **2,160** animals.

We received **2,401** calls on the RESQ helplines from public and governmental departments for animal-related cases and our RESQ ambulances travelled **31,585** kilometers across different regions of Maharashtra to provide aid for them and conduct awareness programs. We attended to **1051 wildlife** (**758** birds, **138** mammals, **155** reptiles) and currently we have **422** wild animals admitted under medical and rehabilitation care. We conducted community outreach – awareness, education and training programs for **1,569 individuals from the community** this month and provided support to **1,030 community animals** viz. large animal feed, rescue and medical aid, and vaccination drives to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and infections.



# Updates

## RESQ team **on field**

### A gaur safely and successfully translocated to a forest!

A few months ago, a Gaur had strayed in an agricultural area in Pune District and unfortunately, in the past few weeks, he ended up picking fights with a lot of buffaloes in the area, resulting in the death of several cattle. As the incidents increased, the Pune Forest Department determined that it would be best to rescue and translocate the lonely bull to an area where he could live peacefully with others of his kind.

The RESQ team, led by Tuhin Satarkar began planning the mission meticulously with Pune FD thereafter. The landscape was a challenging one to capture him using conventional methods, and thus it was decided to tranquilize him. Post-darting he walked into the tall sugarcane fields to hide, but was tracked using UAV technology (thermal drone). Once he sat down peacefully in the middle of the fields, the team closed in to carefully restrain him and give him the medications he needed to bounce back quickly. He was then guided into the truck, transported under medical supervision, and by the time he reached his release destination - the gaur had already regained strength and vitality, ready to embrace its newfound freedom. A successful mission by Pune Forest Department and the RESQ team — strategic planning combined with commitment ensured a victory for wildlife conservation!



### Well, different outcomes!

1. **Jungle cat** rescued from a 40 ft well at Koregaon, Satara; a simple cage hauled in to safely trap the cat after which it was released nearby as it was fit to go!

2. **Jackal** rescued from a 20 ft well at Medha, Satara. It took cover in a challenging spot - a slim rocky ledge under tree branches, making it hard to access to lay down a trap vertically. We had to rappel down, safely catch it in a net after which it was released immediately once we brought him up!





### The mugger that didn't make it.

The veterinary teams raced against time to save an injured and weak crocodile found in an agricultural field in Roha. Despite a quick response and emergency aid, the crocodile tragically succumbed. Post-mortem revealed that he had been wasting away for weeks and sadly for us, was beyond the point where we could save him.



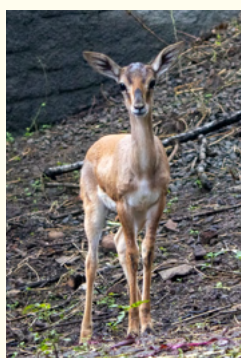
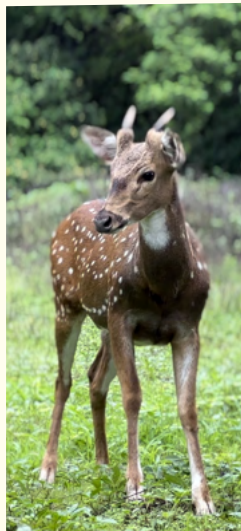
### Happy reunions!

Two leopard cubs successfully reunited with their mother by RESQ Nashik Division x Nashik Forest Department. No better outcome than this for young wild ones!



### Oh deer, that was a near escape!

Several deer and antelope species near Pune were recently admitted after close encounters with packs of free-ranging dogs. An adult spotted deer, managed to escape the dogs and was treated for its wounds at the RESQ Wildlife TTC. His condition was quickly stabilized and released back into a suitable habitat.



In a similar situation, a barking deer was reported to us by a quick-thinking individual. Timely medical aid saved it from going into shock. In another incident this month, a farmer helped a chinkara by warding off a pack away from it, and with help from the Forest Department and the RESQ team, it was given first-aid and was safely returned to its habitat shortly after.





### Hope amidst destruction: RESQ teams respond for animals at the Raigad Landslide Disaster

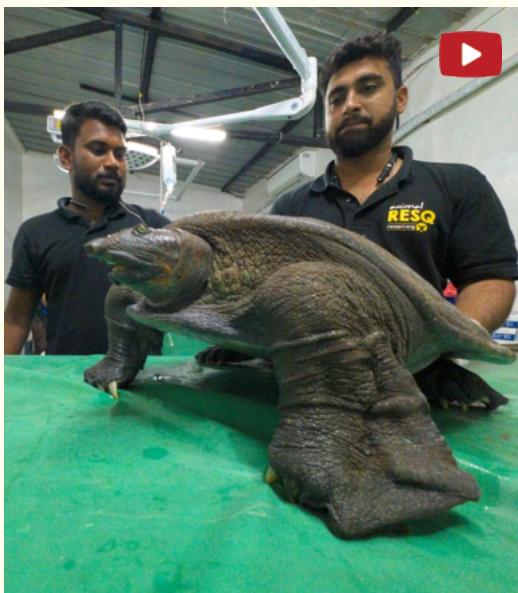
Early morning on the 20th, a landslide struck Raigad district, and while the NDRF team was aiding people, many animals also required assistance. The RESQ team was quickly mobilized, overcoming a challenging 2-hour trek on foot from the base to reach the disaster site. Tragically, nearly 30 houses were destroyed, with people and



animals trapped underneath. Our team, including a veterinarian and the Alibag Forest department, rescued all the visible and injured animals. However, several animals had already lost their lives to this tragedy. As people movement made bringing the animals down to the base difficult, all rescued animals were provided medical care and relocated to temporary shelters that were made on site.

### A turtle's quick dash for the big splash!

A huge (2-feet!) Leith's softshell turtle was found in Satara with a minor leg injury. He was treated at the RESQ TTC, and released shortly after he began walking perfectly! Watch this video at his release as he scampers back into the water - where he clearly appears joyful to dash off into!



### A giant snake slithers back to safety!

The Junnar Forest Department successfully rescued a large Indian rock python from an industrial area, which led to panic among the locals. The snake received care at the RESQ TTC and was found to be in good health after a thorough examination. It was released promptly into a safe habitat, allowing it to thrive freely in the wild, without any concern about its large size leading to human intervention. Watch it silently slither away to the safety of the dense bushes!





## Update: Project 250 Wild

We've been under pressure this month as animals continue to get transferred into the RESQ Wildlife TTC by the Pune Forest Department from another wildlife facility in the city that has closed down, in addition to managing an increased influx from the city due to the heavy downpours. While the rains are much needed to fill our dam waters, it has been challenging to continue construction of the additional enclosures that are being built for several of these animals who require long-term care. The good news is that 220 wild animals have been transferred already, and they are getting rehabilitated and released in batches.



A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to build enclosures for these animals in need. We're still raising support for their long-term care, but we are certain that with your help and the efforts we are putting in day and night, these animals will get the care they truly deserve!

## At the RESQ Centre

**Against all odds, this hyena is recovering from a spinal injury!**

A female hyena was injured in a car accident, and an x-ray revealed a spinal compression. Her road to recovery is going to be long, but she is showing remarkable progress - transitioning from a recumbent state to finally being able to stand.



### Leopards of Nashik

Two injured leopards were brought to Nashik Wildlife TTC for treatment from different locations. The first, an adult female that fell into a well, had wounds on her lower abdomen, face, tail, leg, and paws. She is responding well to treatment and will soon be released into a suitable habitat.

The second leopard, a young cub, was severely dehydrated and weak due to a severe tick infestation. The cub is making remarkable progress, displaying a lively demeanor and a healthy appetite.



### A congregation of cattle egrets at RESQ

Heavy rains caused a tree in Talegaon, Pune District to come crashing down along with several young birds nesting on it. The Forest Department and RESQ teams managed to extract over 40 cattle egret nestlings and fledglings and admitted them to the RESQ TTC. Recovering from the shock of losing their homes and parents, currently, we're doing our best to ensure they're rehabilitated and can be reintroduced into their natural habitat once they are older and independent.



### Monitor lizard under monitoring!

A dull and inactive monitor lizard was admitted to the TTC and we're suspecting it has an internal injury. This young one is just taking it easy resting in his enclosure, as we treat and observe it daily for signs of recovery.

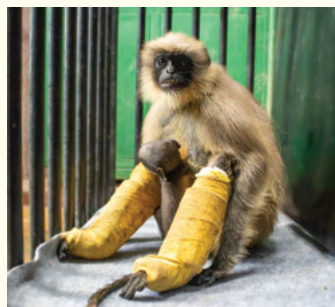
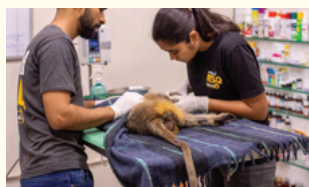


### A cobra's tail of crisis

An emergency surgery performed on a cobra with an injury very close to a critical organ near his tail. It's recovering really well and will soon be released back once it heals fully!

### RESQ primate diaries

We currently have 15 gray langurs under our care ranging from babies to adolescents to adults! They've come in for different reasons from different regions - and as on today's date are on different stages of recovery and rehabilitation!





**Barn to be wild!**

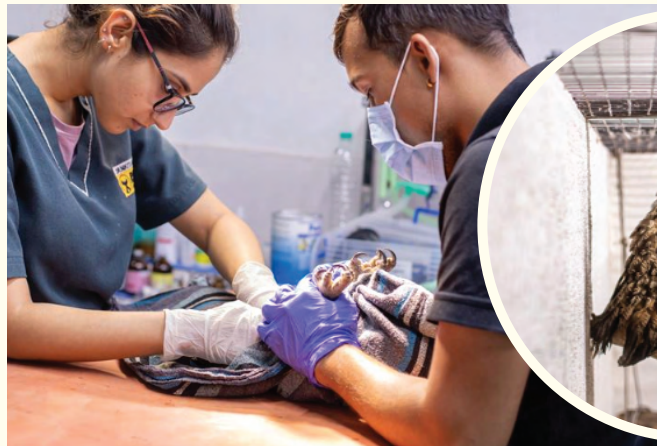
Five sub-adult barn owls were discovered in distress inside a building duct of a residential complex in Pune. Rehabilitated at RESQ Pune, they have now been released!



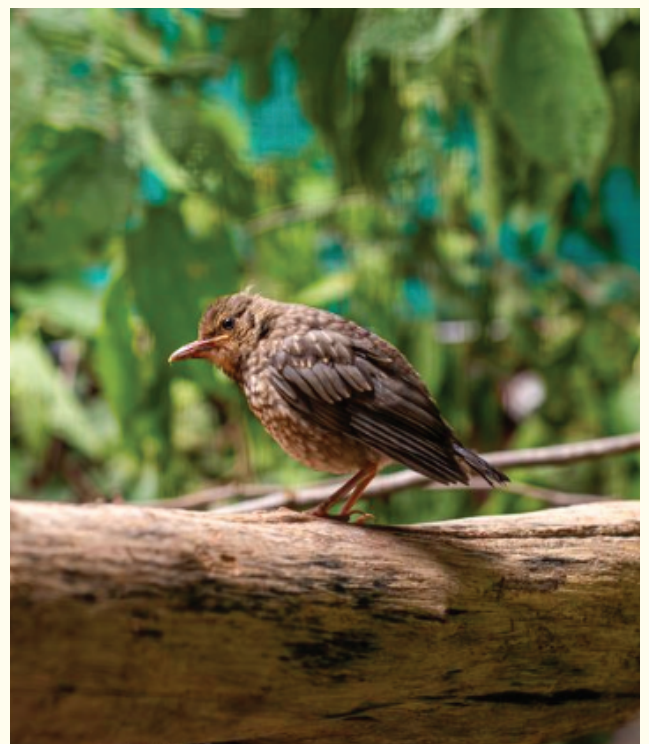
Four juvenile barn owls were discovered on the side of the road by the caller who reported them to the RESQ Team. Rehabilitated at RESQ Nashik, they have now been released!

**An owlmatum**

Injured and dehydrated, an eagle owl was discovered fallen on the ground and unable to fly by a vigilant reporter, who immediately notified us about it. Our team admitted the owl to the RESQ Wildlife TTC, where currently, the bird is being given daily treatment and physiotherapy. He's eating well and responding slowly. Only time will tell if he will fly again, but we've got our fingers crossed for a full recovery!

**A blackbird and a building collision**

Development and urbanization come at a price. Building collisions kill up to a billion birds globally each year - that's a billion with a "b". A concerned citizen picked it up and admitted it to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for treatment and rehabilitation.





# Community Outreach & Education

## 'Living safely around leopards'

Four sessions creating awareness about leopard behavior and safer ways to coexist with a leopard by avoiding negative interactions with the animal were conducted this month.

**Nashik:** Facilitated by Abhijeet Mahale, Samarth Mahajan for a group of 25 at Jategaon, Nashik.



Jategaon



Ranenagar



Igatpuri

**Nashik:** Facilitated by Abhijeet Mahale, Vaibhav Bhogale and Rakesh More for a total of 425 students of the primary and the secondary section of the St. Francis school at Ranenagar, Nashik



Solapur



Nhavi Saandas

**Nashik:** Facilitated by Abhijeet Mahale and Sherly Rekhi for a group of 120 kids at New English School and Junior College in Taked, Igatpuri

**Solapur:** Facilitated by Nachiket Awadhani & Prashant Kaulkar for a group of 60 locals at Malshiras.

**Pune:** Facilitated by Nachiket Utpat, Naresh Chandak and Ayush Patil for a bunch of 20 locals at Nhavi Saandas, Pune as they had been frequently encountering leopards off late.



## 'Snakebite Response and Prevention'

An awareness webinar was conducted by Nachiket Utpat of RESQ for a group of 175 employees of Fujitsu Consulting.

## 'Coexist: Living around urban wildlife'

Three sessions about peaceful coexistence with wildlife around us were conducted for children as well as adults to encourage responsible response and make informed decisions in case of encounters with wildlife.

**Manchar:** Facilitated by Nachiket Utpat and Sayli Pilane for 200 children at Jai Hind School and College of Engineering, Junnar.



Manchar

**Daund:** Facilitated by Nachiket Awadhani, Prashant Kaulkar, Shreyas Kamble and Rushikesh More for 60 members of Rotary Club of Daund.



Daund

**Pune:** Facilitated by Nachiket Utpat and Harshad Shinde two sessions for a total of 120 students at Wisdom World School, Hadapsar.



Pune



### AWARE India - Introductory Session

Jessica Roberts conducted an introductory session for a group of 25 kids at Poona Club about RESQ's AWARE India program, a multi-module educational curriculum for school children deepening their understanding of human-animal coexistence and hopefully enabling them to grow up to be empowered, empathetic and aware citizens of the future.



### Volunteering at RESQ in the month of July!

**Individual Volunteers:** Dedicated volunteers and passionate interns made a significant impact on our work by helping out when we really needed this month! They worked closely with the rehabbers, enriching enclosures to help animals under recovery meet their rehabilitation milestones. They also helped our field rescue team in picking up multiple animals in distress across the city in our ambulances and accompanied our teams during releases.

**Volunteer Inductions:** Two induction programs for interested volunteers were conducted by Jessica Roberts this month at the RESQ Centre.

### Corporate Volunteering

- 15 employees from Fujitsu Consulting visited the RESQ Centre to get a deeper insight into our work and followed it up with indoor and outdoor volunteering activities including helping to make enclosure enrichments for the turtles which will greatly help reduce their captivity stress under rehabilitation.
- 5 employees of the Westin Hotel Management team visited the RESQ Centre and participated in volunteering tasks set out for the day.





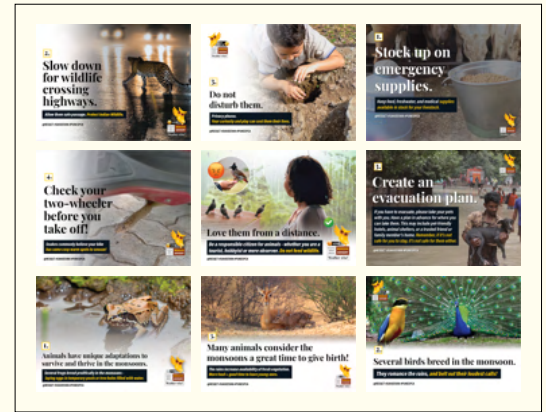
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**MONSOON  
ADVISORY**

 Issued in  
Animal  
Interest

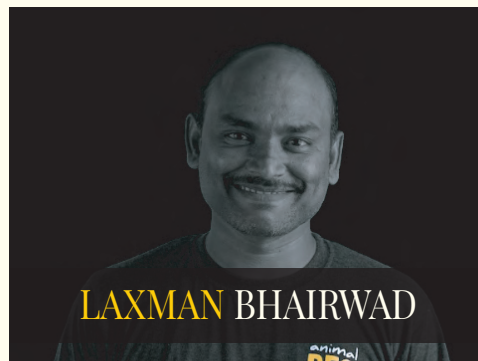
**Weather-wise!**

 Click here  to download and SHARE!


Public awareness posts and messages (in English and Marathi) about do's and don'ts for animals during the monsoons, including preparation and response for animals during floods and storms.



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.**

# 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 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 supporting our mission to rescue and rehabilitate animals, and to reach people in our endeavours 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!"

BECOME A RESQ SUPPORTER TODAY



- Neha Panchamiya (Founder &amp; President, RESQ CT)