

June 2023

Maharashtra, India
www.resqct.org

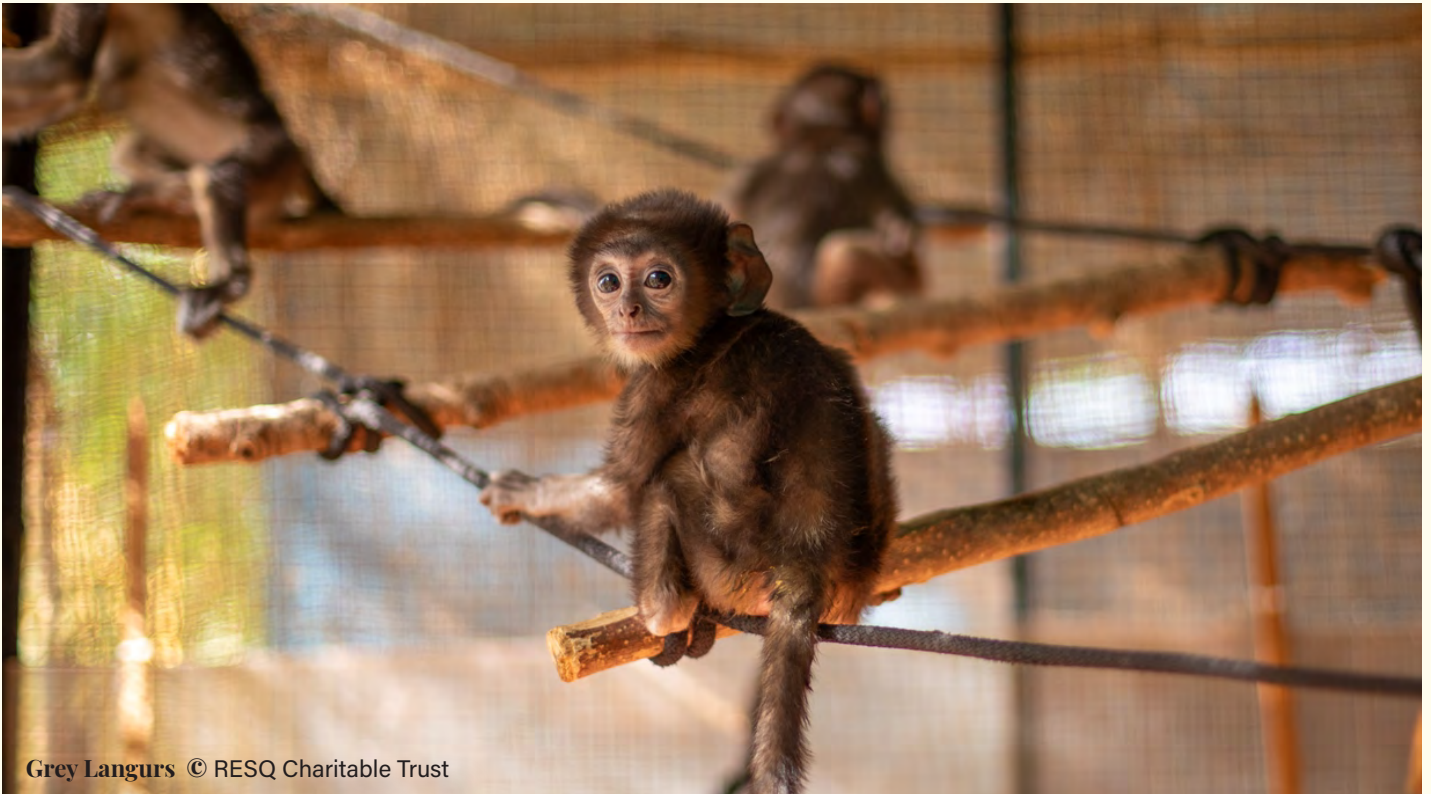
RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#188 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Grey Langurs © RESQ Charitable Trust

The plight of 67: the consequences of a fragmented world.

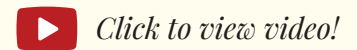
The ripple effects of development deeply influence wildlife, witnessing yearly the tragic displacement of countless species. High tension electric wires, unregulated tree felling incidents leave behind numerous orphans. In the month of June alone, we admitted 67 bird and mammal orphans into our RESQ Wildlife Nursery. Their chirping and purrs in our center are a constant reminder of their loss of natural upbringing. It falls upon us to provide essential care, instill crucial survival instincts, and someday, guide them back to their wild homes.

🦋 Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

Statistics: June 2023, RESQ provided aid to **1,903** animals.

We received **1,732** calls on the RESQ helplines from public and governmental departments for animal-related cases and our RESQ ambulances travelled **28,194** kilometers across different regions of Maharashtra to provide aid for them and conduct awareness programs. We attended to **796 wildlife** (**570** birds, **92** mammals, **134** reptiles) and currently we have **282** wild animals admitted under medical and rehabilitation care. We conducted community outreach - awareness, education and training programs for **1,248 individuals from the community** this month and provided support to **1,032 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**

Unleashing the pack: orphan jackals graduate to the wild! Chronicles of four orphaned jackal pups who were rescued, rehabilitated, and ultimately reintroduced back to the wild. From their initial state of vulnerability to their successful reintroduction into their natural habitat, here are the four stages the jackals broadly underwent before their final integration into the wild.

Stage 1: Orphans rescued in Nashik! Four jackal pups were rescued from a sugarcane field near Nashik by the RESQ Nashik Division and Forest Department. Despite multiple attempts to reunite them with their mother, the pups remained orphaned and in need of rehabilitation for reintroduction.

Stage 2: Rehabilitation at RESQ TTC, Pune! Recognizing the necessity for wildlife rehabilitation, the jackal pups were transferred to the RESQ Wildlife TTC in Pune. Initially, they were hand-raised, but as soon as they began self-feeding, they were transitioned to an ex-situ enclosure, where they grew distant and shied away from all human contact - much to our joy!



Stage 3: Almost back to the wild! After achieving their optimal growth and rehabilitation milestones at RESQ, Pune which certified them fit to progress ahead for release, preparations for their soft-release commenced by the Nashik FD and RESQ Nashik team. Their soft-release enclosure ~ 3,000 sq.ft., was nested in a safe dense forest area. Once they were let into it, they began exploring and acclimatizing to their new surroundings. Our teams monitored them through live remote cameras - and were absolutely thrilled to watch them dig out a natural den for themselves overnight! We watched on proudly as they hunted live prey, small rodents and hare which were naturally found in the area and knew they were ready to go.

Stage 4: Back to the wild! The four jackals, a tight pack, were released on 29th June by the Nashik Forest Department and RESQ Nashik Division. For a couple of weeks, the teams on ground will keep an eye out for them until we are sure that it is time to step back and let them stay truly wild.

Quandary in a quarry: Leopard rescued from a well!

A leopard was reported to have taken an unexpected plunge into a well near Nashik. The Nashik Forest Department and RESQ Nashik Division checked and found it sitting snugly in a crevice safely on a small dry spot. Rescue attempts kicked off with providing it a ladder to climb and go out on its own. A camera was installed at the site and the decision was made to bide time till morning. Through the live feed we saw that the leopard had attempted bold moves to use the ladder but ended up taking multiple falls in the water instead and was unable to climb out on his own. Immediately our team switched gears and decided to reattempt the rescue as we didn't want the leopard to injure or exhaust himself in the well. A trap cage was lowered into the well, which he clambered on to and as soon as he was out, he was checked by vets and found to be a fit young leopard. Once he had settled down and caught his breath (and we, ours!) he was taken for release where he triumphantly leapt away in seconds!

**Embracing the wild – coexistence with leopards!**

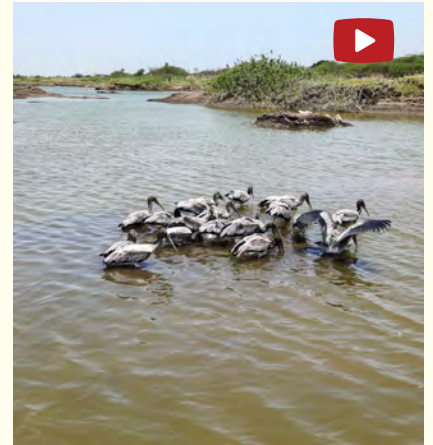
Employees at an industrial complex in Pune district spotted a leopard in their facility, which ended up creating fear amongst the employees working there. There were no negative interactions that had occurred, however, the mere sighting and presence of a large wild cat in the area is generally enough to stir up a fair amount of unrest. The Pune Forest Department alerted our outreach team and we were called in to assist them in preventing a potential human-wildlife conflict situation. The facility area was large and lush green with plenty of prey and hiding space for a leopard. The walls were not very tall, so those served as easy entry and exit points for the animal too. Our teams set up multiple camera traps to monitor the leopards movements and activities. This was to identify the individual who was present in the area and better understand its behavior. The leopard was quite a human-shy cat but appeared well-settled and knew exactly where it wanted to be and when! The forest department increased patrolling in the area and reinforced lighting up areas where there are post-dusk activities. Monitoring the area and the animal showed that the leopard posed minimal to no threat to the humans there and that it was intentionally choosing to stay away from people.

With every precautionary measure that was being taken to avoid any negative interactions, and after an awareness session conducted to throw light on leopard behavior and how to avoid interactions with leopards, the people there were also more relaxed. What we have now is human-leopard harmony! Preventing negative human-wildlife interactions is as important as responding to an animal in distress. Peaceful coexistence is the only way forward!



Storks' Homecoming

Following an extensive recovery process at the RESQ Wildlife TTC, 21 painted storks were triumphantly returned to their native environment. Upon their reintroduction, the storks effortlessly readapted to their surroundings as though they'd never been away. These storks were a segment of a group of 61 young birds that were taken into RESQ's care after their nesting tree was toppled in a storm in Karmala. They were carefully retrieved and delivered to RESQ through a joint effort of the Solapur Forest Department and the RESQ team.



Peregrine falcon's unfortunate urban encounter and soaring return!

World's speediest bird, the peregrine falcon, collides with unseen urban peril—glass. An unfortunate encounter but post treatment & rehab at RESQ, its back soaring in the skies now. A stark reminder of the threats urbanization present to wildlife.

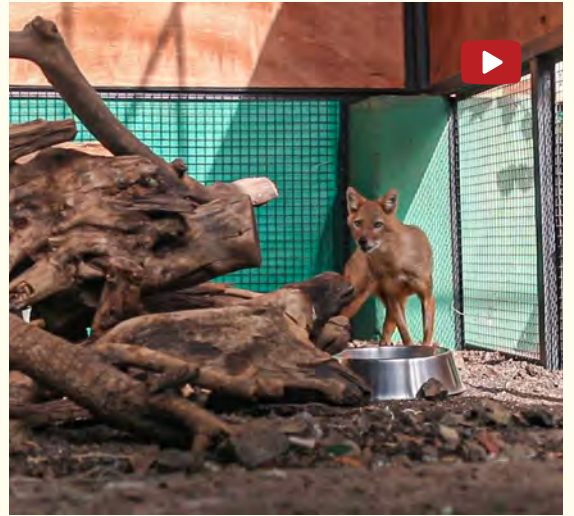
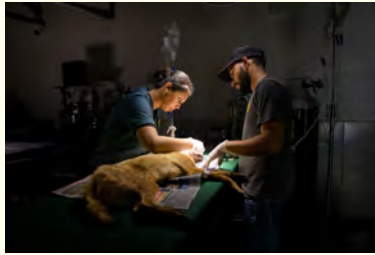
Pitta makes a forced pitstop.

The Indian Pitta, a migratory bird renowned for its striking colors and distinct behaviors, possesses remarkable homing instincts. In an unfortunate turn of events, one of these resplendent birds was discovered in a weakened state, grounded by dehydration induced by the relentless heat. Thankfully, timely intervention by concerned locals came to its aid, promptly notifying us about the distressing situation. The bird was then admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC where it underwent treatment and it subsequently regained its strength and vitality, eventually reaching a state fit for release back into its natural habitat.



An unexpected guest in the bunny box:
Indian Rock Python An Indian rock python recently entered a rabbit enclosure on a farm near Pune, attracted by the ample food available. Our RESQ team acted quickly, capturing the snake using safe snake handling techniques and took this opportunity to educate the local community about harmonious coexistence with urban wildlife. The python was then released nearby at a safe distance from the bunnies!

Highway survivor: a jackal's jaw crushing tale A happy ending to the jaw crushing tale of this jackal and his unstoppable spirit who was presumed dead in a car accident on the highway. But due to the vigilance of the RESQ Team member, he was immediately admitted after being found alive. At the RESQ Wildlife TTC, he underwent a surgery to fix his jaw, followed with post surgery care and rehabilitation. And then he was finally released after getting a clean bill of health!



Serpent Salvation

Amidst the arrival of the monsoons, we witnessed a surge in field responses for human-snake encounters. A total of 26 snakes were reported from in and around human settlements this month. A mix of Indian cobras, Russell's vipers, common kraits, keelbacks, pythons, wolf snakes and sand boas - these were all safely extracted out of human settlements and released nearby, in locations safe for the snakes and humans!



At the RESQ Centre

Long-billed Vulture: we're pin-ning for a release!

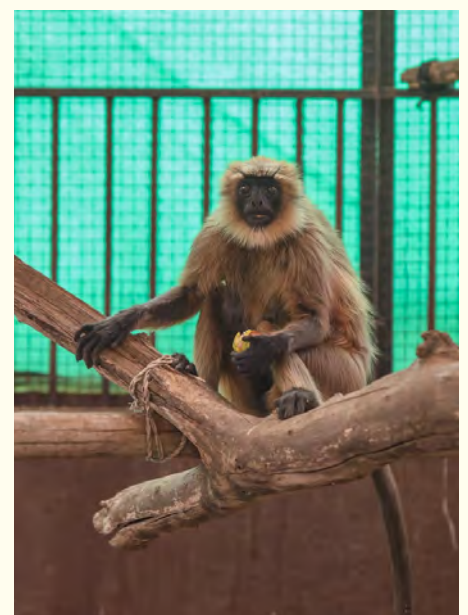
A juvenile long-billed vulture was rescued by the Nashik FD after it was found lying flat on the road. Emergency treatment was provided by the RESQ Nashik Division team, stabilizing it for transport. In Pune at the RESQ Wildlife TTC, detailed diagnoses revealed a fracture in the vulture's left leg and internal lung bleeding. With antibiotics and fluid therapy, the vulture's condition stabilized. After 3 to 4 days, it began eating again. A surgical procedure was performed to address the leg fracture, which is now actively healing with signs of calcification and healed sutures. The vulture awaits full recovery to fly again. Such interventions are crucial for species with a drastically declining population. Each individual's survival is significant, offering hope for the vulture's return to the skies.



Nashik Division team swooped in to help and now, they're safely under our care, navigating the pivotal fledgling stage which is a whirlwind of rapid growth, mastering new skills, and adapting to the world around them, setting them on the path to become self-sufficient adults. Our role - help them grow, adapt, and prepare for a return to their natural habitat.



tail sticking out. Our veterinarians undertook a c-section surgery to aid in the delivery, but tragically, it was discovered that the baby had not survived due to complications with the umbilical cord. It had already begun to decompose, making its prompt removal vital to protect the mother's health. This was successfully accomplished through surgery, thereby ensuring the mother's well-being. At present, she is in the ICU at RESQ Wildlife TTC, where she's being given dedicated care and close supervision. Despite the sorrow of losing her baby, she has been given a second chance at life and will hopefully soon be reintegrated back into her natural habitat, with the potential to bear healthy offspring in the future.



Cormorant conundrums!

Meet our newest residents - a group of nine cormorant fledglings, recently rescued from Deolali, Nashik. As the monsoon season approaches, necessary tree clearing often leads to unexpected challenges for birds who may be nesting. The RESQ

Hope in the face of tragedy - Langur's road to recovery!

The Forest Department found a pregnant langur in grave condition in Shirala village. Immediately, they notified the RESQ team, and she was subsequently moved to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for urgent medical attention. The medical checkup disclosed that she was in the throes of labor and the baby was positioned incorrectly, with its

A hopeful encounter - An orphan chinkara gets a second chance at life!

A local from Baramati stumbled upon a lone chinkara fawn. He waited for the mother's reappearance for more than a day, but she didn't return. Grasping the gravity of the situation, he conscientiously reported it to the Pune Forest Department, who subsequently notified us. The chinkara fawn was then securely moved to RESQ Wildlife TTC, where it underwent an in-depth medical examination. At present, the fawn is residing in the wildlife orphan care facility and will undergo rehabilitation until it acquires sufficient independence to be released back into its natural habitat.



Rat snake's recovery from a severe injury!

A local snake rescuer in Pune came to the aid of an injured adult rat snake. After its rescue, the snake was subjected to surgical intervention at the RESQ Wildlife TTC to treat all its wounds. Currently, the snake is undergoing rehabilitation at the RESQ Centre, and it's showing

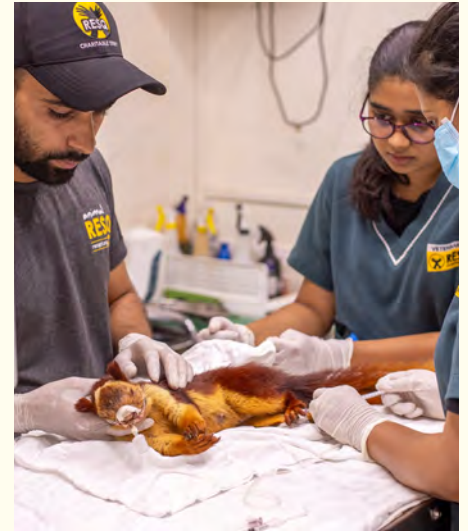
promising signs of a speedy recovery, gradually nearing full health.



Conservation Crisis: Shekhru's Car Accident Tragedy!

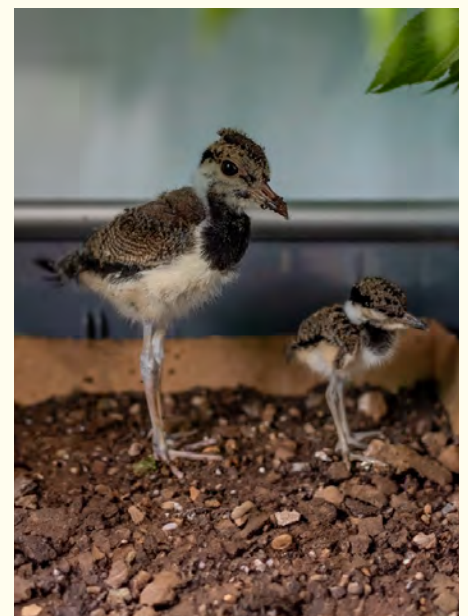
Shekhru, a giant Indian squirrel, was injured in a car accident near Kolhapur. The Satara Forest Department contacted the RESQ Team for immediate medical intervention. Sadly, despite receiving prompt treatment at the RESQ Wildlife TTC, the squirrel succumbed to its injuries. The declining shekhru population underscores the urgency to address habitat loss, threats, and

promote awareness about preserving our diverse biodiversity.



Chirpy roommates: Orphan lapwing chicks integrated!

Rescued and safe, two lapwing chicks are now getting the care they need at RESQ Wildlife TTC. One found a solo where despite reunion attempts, its parents didn't return. So, we stepped in to raise it at the RESQ Wildlife TTC. Another lapwing chick, who was previously admitted in our Wildlife Nursery is now serving as its sibling. Together, they're a noisy lot but they've found solace in each other and are often found soaking in the round-the-clock care from our team of rehabbers..



Monkey on the mend!

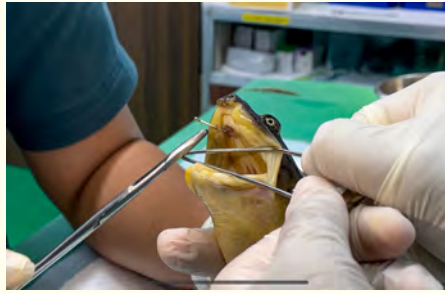
This injured monkey, a rhesus macaque, was reported to us by the Pune Forest Department. We safely rescued him after which he underwent a major jaw surgery at the RESQ Wildlife TTC. He's currently under rehabilitation and we're hoping he recovers soon so that he can go back to monkeying around in a safe habitat, as he should!



Flap shell turtle, off the hook!

An adult flap shell turtle was rescued by a local rescuer who found it lying inside an empty water canal. The turtle had a fishing hook lodged in its mouth and so he immediately reported it to us. The turtle was then admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC where the RESQ Vets performed a surgery to remove

the fishing hook. It is now under observation and rehabilitation.



Hope amidst destruction for 4 flying fox bats and 1 painted stork!

Unregulated tree felling recently took down a historic tamarind tree inside the compound of an iconic fort near Indapur. This ancient tree, standing for 150 years, served as a vital habitat for bats and painted storks. Sadly, the felling resulted in a significant loss of precious lives. During the process, only a handful of birds managed to escape, while a large number, including their nests and helpless young ones, were crushed and buried under the fallen tree. Disturbing reports suggest that injured birds were ruthlessly buried within the garbage depot nearby. Concerned citizens immediately alerted the forest department officials and the RESQ Daund team however, over 70+ birds died and only five painted storks and four flying foxes were salvaged. Some of the painted storks who were recovered from

the scene were fit to fly and shortly released, whereas the remaining birds and bats were transferred to the RESQ TTC in Pune for rehabilitation care.



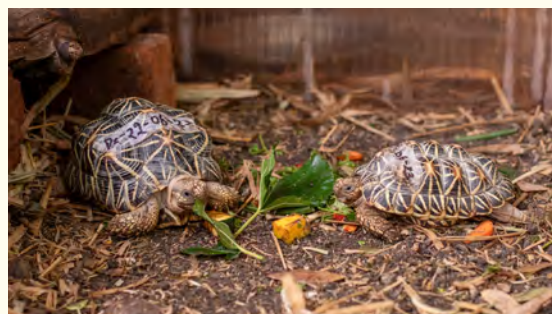
A deer's journey of resilience

A mouse deer, injured from a dog attack, was found by the Satara Forest Department. Promptly, the RESQ Team was notified, and the deer was swiftly transported to RESQ Wildlife TTC, Pune for immediate medical care. Now stabilized and undergoing treatment in the ICU, the mouse deer is set for a transition to an enclosure. The post-treatment rehabilitation will feature an ex-situ enclosure simulating the deer's natural habitat and minimal human interaction, to maintain and hone its wild instincts. This strategic process aims to ensure the animal's survival upon eventual release.



The skyscraper civet family rescue

A palm civet, a nocturnal mammal commonly found in urban areas of Pune, had given birth to a litter of three babies on the 28th floor of an under-construction building site in Pune. The location was exposed to a high amount of footfall curious to handle the infants who were at easy access. Recognizing the potential risks to the safety and well-being of the mother and her young, a local rescuer intervened and skillfully rescued the civet with her babies and admitted them to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for further care and rehabilitation. At the RESQ Centre, the civet family is undergoing a health check and will be shortly released with their mother in a safe habitat.



Going wild - Indian star tortoises under wildlife rehabilitation!

Ten Indian star tortoises have recently been admitted to the Reptile Transit Unit of RESQ Wildlife TTC for intensive wildlife rehabilitation. This process, requiring substantial time and patience, aims to ensure their eventual readiness for release into their natural habitat. Although there is still progress to be made before they can be reintroduced to the wild, watching these tortoises consume wild-sourced food and scurrying to seek refuge and hide on human approach, is an uplifting rehab sight.

URGENT

Appeal: Help the RESQ center handle a major influx of wildlife being admitted in distress

Recently, we've found ourselves bearing witness to a disturbing situation: the Pune Forest Department has unveiled serious mismanagement and dismal animal welfare standards at a local wildlife facility. In total, 76 innocent lives, including a vulture, a chinkara, numerous owls, snakes, and various bird species, were held in distressing conditions. They have been entrusted to us by the department, amplifying our responsibility and stretching our resources significantly. This sudden increase in the number of animals under our care has resulted in a substantial rise in demand at our Wildlife Transit Treatment Centre (TTC). Additionally, more than a hundred animals are likely to arrive over the next few days.

With an expanded population to serve, we are compelled to enhance our team of dedicated rehabilitators and multiply our food and care supplies to ensure the proper treatment, nourishment, and recovery of these traumatized animals. Our mission has always been to offer a safe haven and comprehensive care for animals in distress, and we are wholeheartedly committed to doing our best for these new members at RESQ.

Our duty to protect and nurture these animals is shared by everyone who values the well-being and survival of wildlife. In the face of this adversity, we appeal to your kindness and compassion. Your contributions, regardless of size, can truly make a difference in the lives of these animals and help us continue our vital work. We would greatly appreciate any support or assistance you can extend at this time.



Every act of kindness counts, and together, we can make a significant difference.

Community Outreach & Education



'Living safely around leopards'

An insightful awareness session was conducted by Nachiket Utpat and Aakash Raut of RESQ CT and Pune Forest Department for the 220 employees of a company in an industrial complex as a leopard has been spotted a few times in the last couple of months causing panic. The sessions garnered a positive response after the staff was suggested safety measures to avoid/limit any interaction with the leopard.

Community Awareness @ Nashik

To raise awareness about wildlife in and around Nashik, RESQ Nashik Division team members took the spotlight at Fur Fiesta, a local event in Nashik. The session, conducted by Nachiket Utpat, Abhijeet Mahale, Vaibhav Bhogale, and Akshay Kumavat, who interacted with 100+ attendees to talk about coexisting with wildlife around Nashik.



Living safely around snakes!

A session on this topic was conducted by Nachiket Utpat and Sagar Shinde of RESQ recently, which took place at the NCC camp in Pune and was attended by a diverse group of 340 children. Its primary focus was to educate the children about living safely and responsibly around snakes.

Another session on the same topic was conducted at the Anubhutee Learning and Knowledge Foundation in Pune which was attended by 25 students and 7 adults and was facilitated by Nachiket Utpat and Sonia Gandhi Limaye of RESQ. The students of this school often encounter snakes in their vicinity and were able to infer greatly from the session.

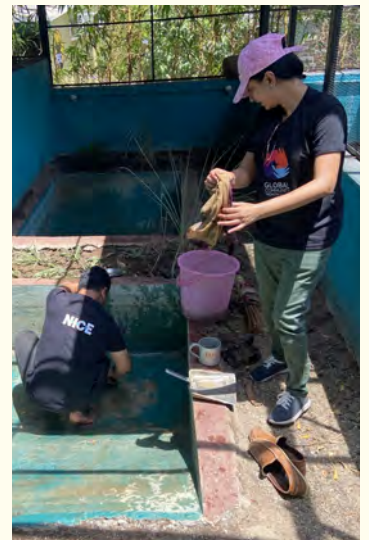


Coexist: Living around urban wildlife - A session on this topic was conducted at the Alkali Amines in Kurkumbh for a group of 30 adults. It was facilitated by Nachiket Awadhadi and Shreyas Kamble of the RESQ Daund team.



RESQ Volunteer Induction Program! On the 11th of June, Jessica Roberts of RESQ conducted three back to back sessions of the 'Induction to RESQ' program. This initiative aimed to give an insight into our work to the 35 individuals who expressed their interest in volunteering at RESQ. The induction, a prerequisite and mandatory training, takes place once a month, usually on a Sunday, and spans over a duration of 2 hours.

Corporate volunteering and engagement at RESQ - 20 employees from NICE Interactive Solutions India Pvt. Ltd. visited the RESQ Centre to get an insight into the work we do and participated in volunteer activities which were conducted by Jessica Roberts of RESQ. Activities included preparation of veterinary items required for treatment, and planning of collection drives for items needed for the rehabilitation care of animals in the RESQ center.

**KETAN BARKADE****RESQ VOLUNTEER****SAMBHAJI RAKHADE****RESQ TEAM MEMBER**

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

Capacity Building & Training

Training for 95 livestock development officers (LDOS) through State Level Training at RESQ CT. Sessions conducted included:

1. Role of Veterinarians in Human-Wildlife Conflict & Management of Infectious Diseases in Wildlife (by Dr. Chetan Vanjari and Nachiket Utpat)
2. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, Wild Life Protection Act 1972 and its amendments (by Neha Panchamiya, Kiran Rahalkar and Nachiket Utpat)
3. Chemical Immobilization in Wildlife and conducting species-specific Wildlife Post-mortems (by Dr. Chetan Vanjari)



Wildlife and Human-Wildlife Conflict Management for Sawantwadi Forest Division

RESQ's Nachiket Utpat and Kiran Rahalkar led an extensive one-and-a-half-day training session for 40 staff members of Sawantwadi Forest Division. The training covered a wide range of topics, including wildlife rescue scenarios, rescue protocols, and effective management of human-wildlife conflicts involving leopards, gaurs, crocodiles, and elephants.



Internships at RESQ

Four internees complete their internships successfully this month at RESQ CT. The RESQ internship program is meticulously designed to provide interns with a fulfilling experience, dedicating 150 hours over one month to engage in a variety of tasks encompassing rescue, rehabilitation, and center maintenance. This structure optimizes the intern's time and guarantees valuable learning opportunities.

Features & Articles

On National Geographic India

RESQ SQUAD: The First Responders!

We're absolutely stoked to share that the work we do at RESQ was aired by National Geographic India through an episode called- RESQ SQUAD: The First Responders. This show gave an insight into the exceptionally eventful world of wildlife first responders, bringing our work to life like never before. It was aired on June 18th and 19th at 10.00 PM and was shot by Riverbank Studios last year covering some of the aspects of the work done on field by the RESQ Team.



Click [🔗](#) to read!



Click to view video!



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 their animals 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 & President, RESQ CT)

