

March 2023

Maharashtra, India  
www.resqct.org

# RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#185 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) © RESQ Charitable Trust


*“Home is where my habitat is.”* Elusive, nocturnal, endangered and highly trafficked, Indian pangolins are usually hard to sight even in the wild. This one came to us under unusual circumstances from an area near Pune city. He was reintroduced back to a safe habitat after rehabilitation at the RESQ Wildlife TTC, Pune. For a species that is endangered, every single one matters.

## 🦋 Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

**Statistics:** March 2023, RESQ provided aid to **1,187** animals.

We received **1,412** calls on the RESQ helplines from public and governmental departments for animal-related cases and our RESQ ambulances travelled **30,410** kilometers across different regions of Maharashtra to provide aid for them and conduct awareness programs. We attended to **361 wildlife** (184 birds, **87** mammals, **90** reptiles) and currently we have **123** wild animals admitted under medical and rehabilitation care. We conducted community outreach - awareness, education and training programs for **2,166 individuals from the community** this month and provided support to **819 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



**Leopard in the City! Rapid Response + Swift Rescue = Zero Casualties** On 20th of March, at 7.00 am, a young male leopard strayed into a densely populated area in Pune called Warje. Panic and fear had begun spreading amongst the residents. The Pune Forest Department alerted the RESQ Team and we both reached the location by 8:00 am. The Pune City Police responded quickly to control the crowds while our teams strategized and prepared to capture the leopard safely. It was a challenging situation as the leopard too had begun to get edgy with the number of people around. Under 90 minutes of reaching the location, the leopard was safely tranquilized by the RESQ veterinarian and was on its way to the RESQ Centre in Bavdhan for a health check. He was released the next day in a nearby forest area. A quick well-coordinated multi stakeholder response is key to safely and successfully preventing a disaster. As for the leopard, we're sure he's realized it's better to steer clear of city areas!

**Hyenas too!** Two Indian striped hyenas were spotted inside an animal husbandry facility in the city by their staff members, who were extremely panicked. The hyenas were living in their 200 acre+ facility that had enough vegetation and water around the year for them to coexist or use as a safe passage for movement.



Hyenas had never been spotted before here, so it was likely that they were sub-adults who had simply strayed out while exploring. We tracked their movements and did a quick awareness sessions with everyone about hyenas, their general

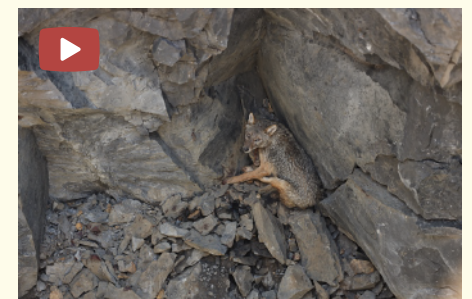
behaviour, do's and don'ts and how to take basic safety measures when moving around. By the end of it, they realised and accepted that they had wildlife living around them who posed no real threat to their lives!

### All's well that ends well!

**Leopard in Ahmednagar:** The Shrigonda Forest Department and the RESQ Remote Squad - Daund team successfully rescued an adult male leopard who had fallen down a 50ft well.



**Jackal in Nashik:** Our RESQ Nashik Division team were alerted by the Nashik Forest Department that an adult jackal fallen inside a 50 ft. well.



After getting an update from the local villagers who added that the jackal had been stuck there from the previous day, our RESQ team member rappelled down to safely capture the jackal in a catching net. Luckily, it had no injuries, we assume that it safely tumbled down. It went sprinting towards freedom after our vet checked it up!

**Species no bar!** A stray dog had unfortunately fallen inside a 25 ft well filled with stagnant water near Moshi. The RESQ team rappelled down the well to safely capture and pull it out with a safety net.



**Snakes in the city.** Snakes that been reported to have entered homes are generally rescued and released immediately in the vicinity by our team. If they are merely sighted by people outside homes or in areas that have safe passage for them into a suitable habitat, we educate the community to leave them be. We told people that this **rat snake** was their friendly neighbour. He was safely picked up from inside a persons residence and released outside the wall.



However, some snakes who get injured do get admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC. This **vine snake**, had injuries to his eye and some wounds on his body. He responded well to treatment and was released shortly after making a good recovery!



**Aerial Wildlife Rescue Operations** Animals that end up getting stuck on heights are extracted safely by trained climbers in the RESQ team who are well-versed with animal handling under stress. They use different equipment based on the type of situation.

**Top left:** A pet cat that was missing for three days, was finally spotted stuck atop a tall coconut tree inside a building complex. We used our coconut tree climbing equipment to rescue her. She looked pretty happy to be reunited with her owner who was worried-sick for days!

**Top right:** A black kite got entangled and stuck in a net on 90 feet tall coconut tree which was installed there to prevent the coconuts falling directly on people below. It was rescued quickly, and luckily the net had not caused any damage to its wings. It was released immediately after careful examination.



**Bottom left:** Rescuing birds stuck in manja or kite-flying string has almost become like a daily chore at RESQ, given the number of situations caused by it that are reported to our helpline on a daily basis. A bird was reported at the top of a 90 foot Nilgiri tree at Erandwane, Pune. As soon as the fire department and the RESQ team were alerted, the teams worked in unison using the fire truck as a heightened platform and an 80 feet telescopic pole to retrieve it. It had suffered injuries to the wing and was admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for further treatment.

**Bottom right:** Spotted helplessly flapping its wings, a black kite was reported entangled in manja on a 65-70 ft tall mobile telecom tower. The team reached the location and first checked how the bird was stuck with the help of a UAV/ drone. Using every safety measure, the rescuer climbed up, secured the bird and brought it down. Luckily it was stuck in cotton manja which did not damage its wings. It flew out immediately once it was detangled from it on ground!

**A road accident survivor - this Chinkara made it back out!** An adult chinkara was admitted to RESQ Wildlife TTC very shortly after it suffered a road accident. It underwent an emergency surgery, spent a few days in the ICU after which it was shifted to an ex-situ enclosure for further recovery. He was released once he was fit and had knocked off all his rehabilitation milestones successfully.



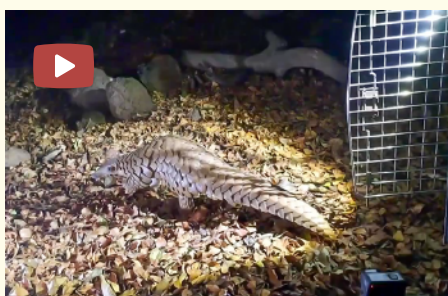
**Swim off!** This Indian flapshell turtle was reported injured from the side of the road and admitted to RESQ Wildlife TTC. There were minor injuries visible on its body, but he was inactive so an x-ray was taken to rule out any other conditions. He was stabilised and given emergency treatment.



Soon it became active again and was taken to a suitable habitat where it rushed back into the water on release!



**Another accident survivor - this Indian Pangolin made a quick recovery!** The Satara Forest Department alerted the RESQ team who met them halfway and administered treatment to stabilise it. Back at the RESQ Centre it went through a thorough medical assessment. Its tough scaly exterior had actually protected it from major injuries but it was inactive due to the shock. It recovered quickly when we housed it in a comfortable space. She was released where she came from, just in a safer part of the forested area!



**Releases of the month!** Release days are our favorite days. Especially because of the stark difference we witness in the animals from when they are reported to us in their most vulnerable, distressed states, to the day of their releases, when they're healthy and ready to go back to where they belong. Their transformation brings us utmost gratification and inspires us to continue to do the work we do. Watch some of them in this video.

**Reunions of the Month!**

Separated from their mothers during harvesting, these wild infants have successfully been reunited with their respective mothers.

**RESQ Daund Team <> Junnar Forest Department:** Three leopard cubs were reunited with their mothers in different areas.



**RESQ Baramati Team <> Phaltan Forest Department:** Rusty-spotted kittens reunited with its mother.



**Jungle cat kittens suffered the after effects of untimely rainfall.** Out of a litter of 3, the mother took 1 and didn't come back for the other 2 because it began raining heavily. Attempts made for days thereafter were unsuccessful and now the remaining two are under rehabilitation at RESQ.

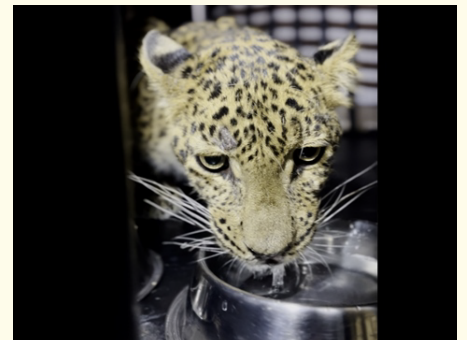
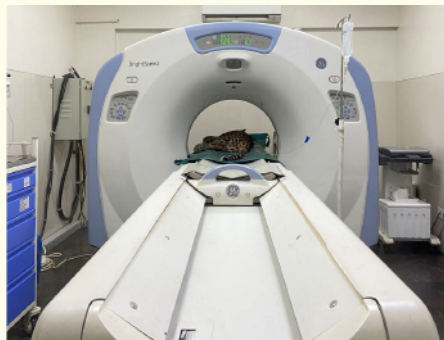


# At the RESQ Centre



**Leopards of Nashik.** A female leopard who was suffering from a deep wound due to a radio-collar was rescued by the Nashik Forest Department. She was admitted with our RESQ Nashik Division team and made a full recovery in 21 days of treatment, after which she was released back in a safe habitat.

**Disease of unknown etiology affecting multiple leopards in Nashik.** This female is one of the 5 leopards found in Nashik region over the last couple of months with symptoms of seizures and disorientation. Our vets have run a battery of tests with no luck on any conclusive cause. The Maharashtra Forest Department has been alerted about these findings and together we are actively seeking help from experts who are assisting us in determining what is happening to the leopards of Nashik.



**A young male sambar deer critically injured in a stray dog attack** was rescued by the Pune Forest Department and sent to RESQ Wildlife TTC for treatment. The deer received preliminary treatment for its deep wounds and will remain admitted in the ICU until it stabilizes.

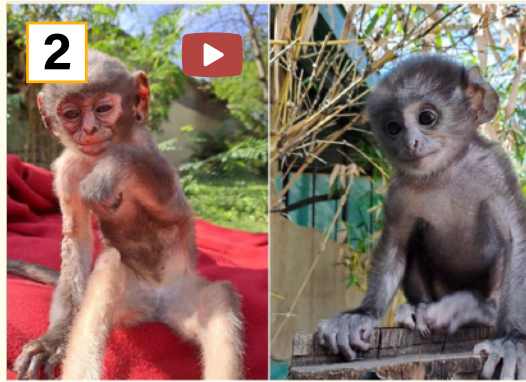


**Metal screws found ingested by a Indian star tortoise kept as a pet!** Our vets discovered some shocking foreign bodies inside a tortoise recovered from illegal captivity as a pet. It is currently being stabilised in preparation for surgery to remove them. The radiograph (xray) shows the screws in its stomach.

**Wild Orphans** get admitted in our care when they have lost their mothers or gotten separated from them due to unavoidable or unfortunate circumstances like road accidents, electrocution, rearing habitat loss during harvesting, tree-felling incidents etc.



1



2



3



4



5



6a



6b



7

(1) Jungle cat kittens under rehabilitation. (2) Two orphan langurs under rehab - both have lost their mothers to accidents. (3) Newborn short-nosed fruit bat refusing to give up his comfort latch during feeding time. (4) Jackal pups under rehabilitation - staying wild! (5) Currently we have nine baby squirrels under rehabilitation in the nursery. (6a) Grey heron when it came, (6b) all grown up now, ready to go. (7) Parakeet nestlings rehabilitating in the bird brooder.



14 rose-ringed parakeets on their last stage of rehab before they get released as a flock! Admitted under different conditions, these birds have gone through multiple stages of rehabilitation, including quarantine and socialization - they will all soon be ready to go!



Shaheen falcon undergoing a fixative surgery for a wing injury caused due to nylon kite-flying string. A surgery was performed by our vet and it is now making daily progress under the care of our RESQ Nashik Division team.



Indian eagle owl rescued by Satara Forest Department under rehabilitation at RESQ. Currently under cage rest to restrict its movement during healing, we're hoping to move him out into a larger enclosure to test out his flying skills really soon!

**A peacock mired in tar** rescued by the Nashik Forest Department after which the RESQ Nashik Division team worked on removing the tar and grease tirelessly for over 4 hours! It is still under rehab and will be released soon.

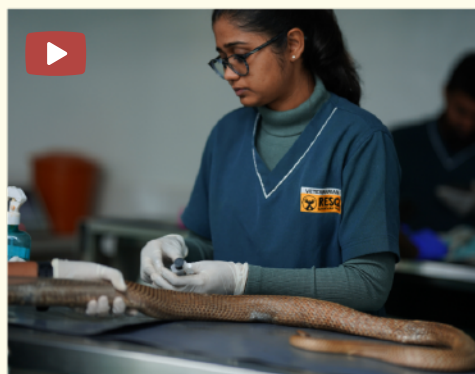
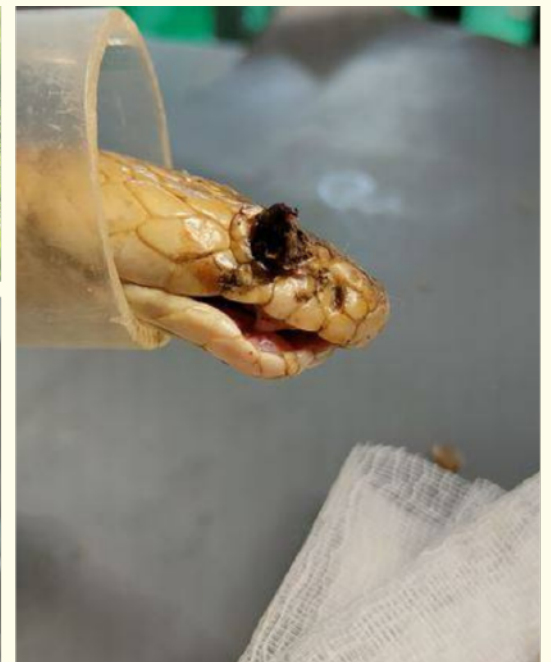


**A red-necked falcon fledgling** was found lying on the ground unable to fly. He was revived with treatment and it is slowly learning species-specific behavior while under rehabilitation. Once he is independent, he will be soft-released.



**Black kite with a wing break, under recovery.** The x-rays revealed severe trauma to the bone in the wing as it was cut by manja. An intramedullary pinning procedure was performed. It recovered well, cleared its flight test and was successfully released back!

**Snakes overload!** We had a large influx of snakes coming in this month post the erratic rains. Several of them injured were treated and released back successfully.



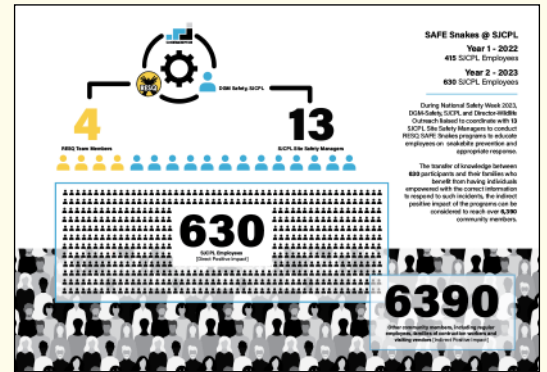
# Community Outreach & Education

## Snakebite Prevention & Response Awareness Programs during National Safety Week 2023.

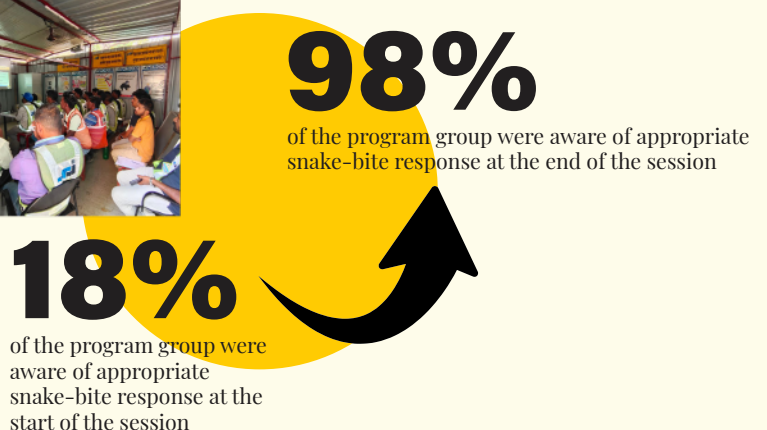
Snakes have always instilled fear amongst people due to various reasons. It is generally the fear and lack of knowledge about these ‘mysterious’ reptiles that often results into negative encounters between humans and snakes. **India is known as the snake-bite capital of the world and over to 50,000 individuals succumb to snake-bite related deaths annually.** However, the survivors of snakebite have it even worse as they have to live with the aftermath of debilitating physical disabilities, lifelong dependencies and medical expenses that keep compounding. A deeper insight into these tragic events reveal that majority of these accidents are preventable and lack of awareness about preventing these accidents and the response to them, is the most common reason for this acute, life-threatening problem. **Due to the nature of work at construction sites,** often the probability of encountering snakes is high and when that happens, having the right knowledge and choosing an appropriate response is pivotal to the outcome of these encounters. While only a handful of snakes found around humans are venomous lack of understanding about snakes and the inability to identify the common venomous snakes often causes panic.



RESQ’s SAFE Snakes program promotes safety for communities that are likely to encounter snakes by preventing snake encounters, identifying the commonly found venomous snakes around them and responding to a snake-bite emergency. Additionally, as first responders to snake encounters, individuals at construction sites are educated about the safe snake rescue techniques, which helps them as well as the snake from having any negative encounters and promotes peaceful coexistence. - Nachiket Utpat (Director, Wildlife Outreach, RESQCT)



**The numbers >**  
Change in percentages indicate critical knowledge gain pre-session and post-session







**‘Coexist’ - community awareness sessions:** Based on the target audience, ‘Coexist’ by RESQ sessions were conducted for peri-urban school children (Zila Parishad Schools in association with TATA Autocomps), corporates (Fujitsu) as well as focused groups (Venture Centre of the NCL Innovation Center, Pune), aimed towards promoting peaceful coexistence between people and the wildlife living around them. This empowers the community to respond appropriately in case of any encounters with wildlife and make informed decisions which prevent negative interactions. These sessions are conducted as a single session about wildlife in general or individual sessions for a type of animals or a specific animal based on requirement or need.

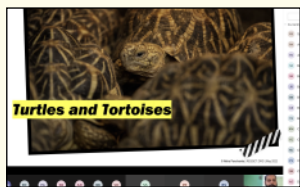


**‘SAFE Snakes’ - community awareness sessions:** two sessions were conducted by Nachiket Utpat, Kiran Rahalkar, Aakash Raut and Sagar Shinde at the Marshal Cadet Force Camp for 105 children under 14 years of age about snakebite related safety.

**बबित्या वैरी नाही शेजारी - ‘Living Safely around Leopards’ Community Awareness Programs** Our teams conducted 2 sessions on ‘Living safely around Leopards’ in Khed and Solapur for over 250+ local community members.



**AWARE India module “I am Responsible”** was conducted for a batch of 45 students of Dharmveer Sambhaji Maharaj Prathmik School, Pune. The session was conducted by Jessica Roberts and Sonia Gandhi Limaye and was highly interactive with the children who were all under 14 years of age. They had some great questions and reflections to share!




**An online session on ‘Responsible Animal Ownership and Indian Animal Laws’** was conducted for a group of 80 participants from Fujitsu Consulting. The session was conducted by Nachiket Utpat and was very well received resulting in healthy discussion and intriguing questions asked by the participants.



**Neha Panchamiya conducted an online session on Pet Shop Rules 2018 and Dog Breeding & Marketing Rules 2017** organised by Ms. Meera Thosar for a group of 15 dog trainers and behaviorists. It was interactive session that invited a lot of questions and subsequent relevant discussions as several aspects of sale and breeding dogs are commonly dispensed by these professionals to their clients.



**RESQ Volunteer Induction Program** was conducted on the 14th of March at the RESQ Centre which was attended volunteers who had registered for the session. Volunteer inductions provide an introduction to the work RESQ does and gives them an insight into what to expect while volunteering at RESQ. It is conducted once a month and prior registrations (no cost) are required to attend it. 

# Features & Articles

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Image Credits: 1- Anipetals.com, 2- Nachikat Awadhani, 3- NDTV.com

### Choose action, not activism.

**Neha Panchamiya**  
Founder and President - RESQ Charitable Trust

5 articles 


March 12, 2023

**mid-day**

Home > Lifestyle News > Nature & Wildlife News > Photos > IN PHOTOS: The hidden adventures of wildlife rescuers in India

Often wildlife gets stuck in arduous situations like falling in a well, getting hit by a car or electrocution. That is where these brave wildlife rescuers jump in and risk their lives to save them. Not only do they nurture and rehabilitate them but also enable them to return to the wild again

Updated on : 12 March 2023 02:21 PM IST | Compiled by : Akshay Mittal



### Leopard captured at Warje Malwadi

A male leopard was caught roaming at the Warje Malwadi area, the incident was reported to the forest department and RESQ Charitable Trust team by the locals



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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 & President, RESQ CT)