

March 2024

Maharashtra, India
www.resqct.org

RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#197 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) © RESQ Charitable Trust

Concealed and Curious: The urban enigma of the palm civet!

A mysterious dweller of urban environments, that thrives unseen amidst our bustling cities. Misleadingly dubbed 'civet cats,' these creatures are distinct from both felines and canines. However, like many urban wildlife species, palm civets face numerous challenges due to human activity often resulting in injuries or being orphaned. The Asian palm civet pup featured in this photo is one of three under the care of RESQ, being nurtured for a return to their natural habitat.

Statistics March '24



1,556 Helpline Calls Received



🚑 Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

Ambulances Travelled 31,826 kms



PUNE 26,188 Kms



NASHIK 5,638 Kms



381

Wildlife currently admitted under veterinary treatment & rehabilitation care in Pune TTC & Nashik centre.



885 Wildlife provided aid to

Pune Units + TTC

Nashik Division



Wildlife 817

68



Birds 435

23



Mammals 170

11



Reptiles 212

34




Awareness sessions, education programs & training conducted for 6,826 individuals.

1,036

Community (large animals) provided support to viz. animal feed and vaccines.



 [Click to view videos!](#)

Updates

RESQ team on field

All in a day's work! There were a few days this month our team was spread really thin, and we maxed out every resource we could put together. The outcome however was incredible, as we safely rescued 3 large cats - 1 Indian tiger and 2 leopards, within a span of 24 hours!



Safeguarding stripes: ensnared Bengal tiger rescued! In a collaborative effort with the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, our team successfully aided in the rescue of an injured tigress trapped in a snare within the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR). Spearheaded by Tuhin Satarkar, our team, including Kiran Rahalkar, Dr. Chetan Vanjari, Amit Todkar, and Naresh Chandak in collaboration with the NSTR teams employed various methods simultaneously to track and safely capture her. After four days of engaging in tracking and thermal UAV searching, the tigress was located and tranquilised successfully by Dr. Chetan Vanjari. Under the guidance of Dr. Chetan Vanjari and in collaboration with local veterinarians, the tigress received intensive treatment for her deep snare-induced wound. Following a brief recovery period, she was released back into her familiar habitat by the Forest Department, who ensured her continued well-being in the wild post-release. A true testament of forces aligning to achieve fast results - we are grateful to Field Director, NSTR, Mr. Niranjan Murty, DFO Mr. Alan Teron and their teams for their collaborative spirit, support and efforts in saving this tigress.



Peekaboo, we see you! Following an urgent request from the Pune Municipal Corporation, our team at RESQ Charitable Trust, led by Neha Panchamiya, Nachiket Utpat, Abhijeet Mahale, Ayush Patil and Eknath Mandal accompanied by Hon. Wildlife Warden, Pune District, Mr. Aditya Paranjape, promptly responded to a leopard escape at the Rajiv Gandhi Zoo, Katraj, Pune. A captive raised leopard escaping into the city would have spelled disaster for the leopard as well the public!

In collaboration with the PMC and Pune Fire Department, we executed a comprehensive search and capture operation across the 130-acre zoo premises. Utilizing thermal drones and sealing potential escape routes, our





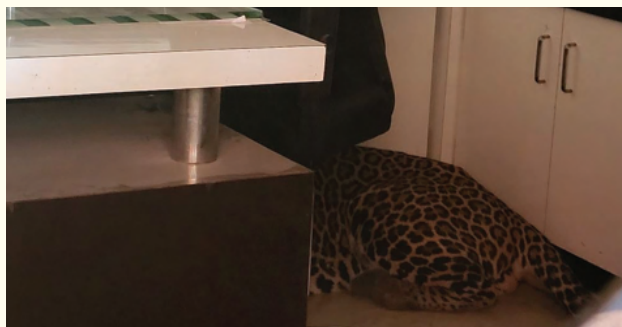
focus remained on ensuring the leopard remained in the campus and trapped as early as possible. After intensive efforts, employing trap cages based on the leopard's tracked movements both on foot, thermal drone as well as the increased number of CCTV surveillance cameras promptly installed by the PMC, the leopard was successfully captured within 24 hours.



The uninvited guest and near escape for a young boy engrossed in his phone! The same day, another leopard incident unfolded in Nashik as an adult male leopard was reported to have entered a vacant marriage hall in Nashik city, sparking panic. There were videos of a young boy who averted a direct encounter with a large



leopard who crossed him in the room as he sat atop a table engrossed in his phone silently. Without making a sound, he scurried out of the room and shut the door behind him which trapped the leopard inside. The leopard injured himself with the glass he thrashed around on in an attempt to escape from there.

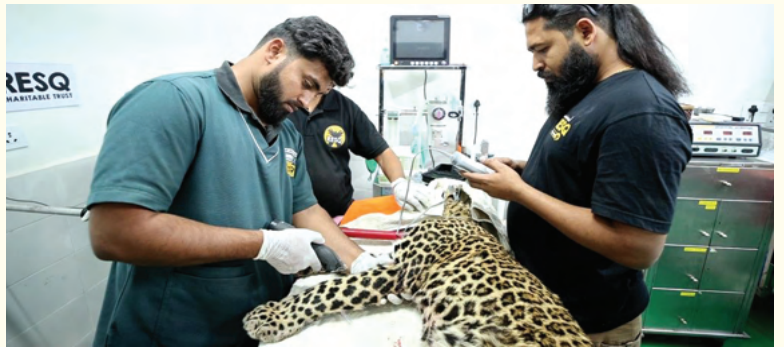


Acting swiftly, the vigilant Nashik Forest Department coordinated with RESQ Nashik to launch a rescue operation. Despite the tension and potential conflict, the RESQ vet successfully tranquilized and captured the leopard, safely removing it from the premises. Upon initial examination, the leopard displayed injuries on its face and body, likely sustained from a past territorial fight and some from his attempted escape. Following a period of stabilization at the Nashik TTC, the leopard was transferred to the Pune Wildlife TTC for further treatment for his deep wounds. A couple of weeks of veterinary care and rehab, the leopard was deemed fit by the RESQ vets and subsequently reintroduced into his natural habitat by the Nashik Forest Department.



...and the leopard shenanigans continued!

Bulls v/s. leopard: the unlikely showdown! The previous day, a young leopard was reported to have ventured into the unexpected battleground of a local cattle shed only to find itself overpowered by the protective bulls within. This unforeseen encounter left the leopard injured, immobilized, and in dire need of assistance. In a race against time, the vigilant Nashik Forest Department swiftly coordinated with the team at RESQ Nashik, and quickly rescued the leopard. Miraculously, amidst the tension and potential for conflict, not a single cattle fell victim to harm. The injured leopard now embarks on a journey towards recovery and rehabilitation, from RESQ Nashik to the RESQ Pune TTC. This poignant incident not only highlights the fragile balance of our shared environments but also celebrates the unyielding spirit of those committed to the preservation of life, irrespective of its form.



Five (05) successful leopard cub and mother reunions this month! Two cubs in Nashik were discovered during sugarcane harvesting and reported to us. Our teams swiftly tracked the mother and ensured a set up that resulted in a swift reunion.



A dark little surprise was hauled out of a tank as a black beauty emerged with his other two siblings that had fallen in. Among leopards, a rare genetic mutation can lead to melanism, producing individuals with striking dark and black (ish!) coats. This trio was rescued by the Satara FD, the RESQ CT team was called in to reunite them manually with their mother - which happened successfully! Click on the image to enjoy the reunion video - they're always heartwarming :)





Indian gazelle goes from the well to the wild! An Indian gazelle was reported to have fallen in the well near Baramati by the Forest Department. Our team immediately mobilized and safely rescued the gazelle from the well. After a brief medical assessment which showed the gazelle was fit for release, it was immediately released back into a safe habitat nearby.



Chousinghas' wellspring of hope!

Two chousinghas, a male and a female, were rescued from a well on the outskirts of Pune. A vigilant young boy fortunately spotted them and alerted the adults, who promptly contacted the Pune forest department. A skilled RESQ team member rappelled down the well to reach the stranded animals and retrieved them without any injuries. Following their rescue, they were promptly released back into their natural habitat.



Langur liberation! Seven langurs who were admitted for various reasons such as injuries from accidents and orphans were treated and rehabilitated to form a troop at the RESQ Wildlife TTC, Pune. Once they demonstrated troop unity, wild behavior devoid of imprinting, they were released in a suitable habitat where they seamlessly scampered off into together!



At the RESQ Centre

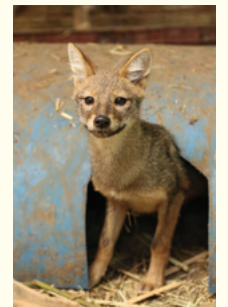
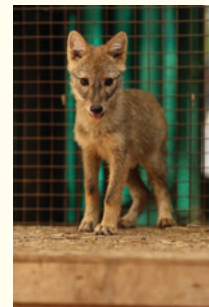
Healing hyena! A sub-adult Indian striped hyena with a severely injured front leg has been admitted to the RESQ Centre. This one was discovered trapped in a foot trap near Pandharpur and was safely rescued by the collaborative efforts of the RESQ team and the Forest Department. Despite the severity of the injury, we remain optimistic about the hyena's chances of making a full recovery



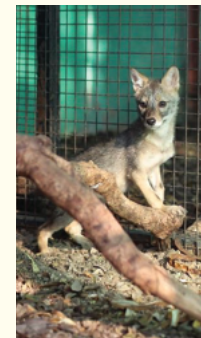
through treatment and intensive rehabilitation, with the ultimate goal of returning it to its natural habitat soon.



Harvesting hope for the rusty spotted kittens! Two rusty spotted kittens were discovered during sugarcane harvesting in a field near Alibag. Despite efforts by the local FD over two nights to reunite them with their mothers, they were unsuccessful. With the kittens' health deteriorating, the FD reached out to us for assistance and further rehabilitation. In response to the request, both kittens have been transported to the RESQ Centre for orphan care.



orphans, our next best option is rehabilitation and being raised for reintroduction back to the wild. This process ensures that they can grow up in a safe environment, promoting their health and preparing them for eventual release back into the



wild. Although each of the packs are at a different stage of rehabilitation, our ultimate goal remains consistent: reintegrating them into their natural habitat where they can lead a life of freedom in the days ahead to come.



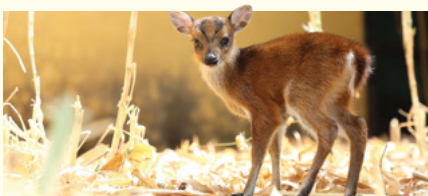
The pack progress! Eleven (11) jackals are under our care at the RESQ Centre right now. They all arrived separately as orphans after being separated from their mothers during sugarcane harvesting and after reunion attempts that failed due to various reasons. While successful reunions with their mothers are the ideal outcome for wild



Ungulate chronicles! A chinkara fawn wandered onto a farm near Pune, where concerned owners safely captured it to protect it from free-ranging dogs and promptly alerted the Forest Department. After which our team swiftly transported the fawn to the RESQ Centre for proper care.



In another instance, a farmer stumbled upon two barking deer fawns orphaned in the absence of their mother. Upon notification by the farmer, the Forest Department coordinated with us to bring the fawns to the RESQ Centre, where they are currently under our care. All three ungulates along with the 18 others already under our care are undergoing thorough rehabilitation in the expansive open-to-sky large ungulate unit specially designed to mimic their natural habitat. This environment facilitates the development of their innate behaviors such as hiding and foraging, preparing them for eventual release back into the wild once they demonstrate these natural traits and attain optimal weight.



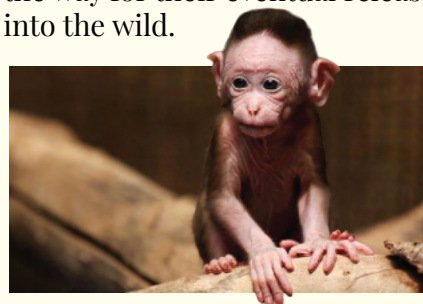
New admissions to the Wildlife Nursery! The RESQ Wildlife Nursery is bustling with activity as we intake new arrivals in need of round-the-clock care and nurturing. Among the recent admissions are three rusty spotted kittens, rescued during sugarcane harvesting when efforts to reunite them with their mother proved futile.



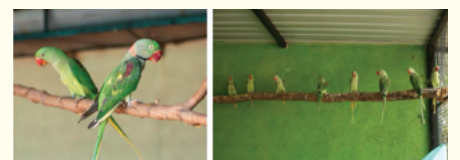
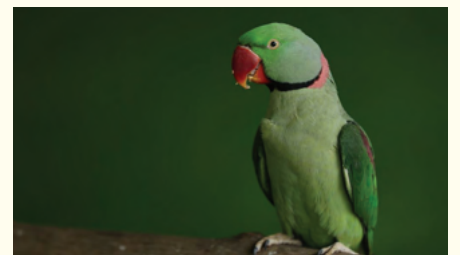
Additionally, a trio of Asian palm civet kittens found without their mother have also found refuge at the RESQ Wildlife Nursery.



Joining them is an orphaned bonnet macaque, discovered clinging to its deceased mother, believed to have succumbed to the effects of consuming mulch heavily sprayed with fertilizers and pesticides. These young orphans, alongside the 40 others in our care, will be hand-raised and assisted with feeding until they reach a stage conducive for meticulous rehabilitation, paving the way for their eventual release into the wild.



A loud chatter! We currently have 51 parakeets under rehabilitation at the RESQ Centre. The majority of these birds are orphans typically hatched around January/February, often displaced from nests due to various reasons. Additionally, there are a few seized from illegal captivity, while others that have sustained injuries from manja. In the rehabilitation process for parakeets, avoiding human imprinting is crucial to prepare them for eventual release into the wild. Those rescued from illegal captivity require a longer period of rehabilitation (including quarantine) for their natural wild instincts to respawn! However, despite the challenges, there is complete hope for all 51 parakeets to return to a life of freedom.



Spots of trouble on this leopard cub! An orphaned leopard cub was found in agricultural land near Karad, weak and unable to stand. It was brought to the RESQ Centre, Pune for treatment where the blood tests showed liver issues, and X-rays revealed compromised vision and ticks. Although the cub was responding well to the stabilization and had started eating, its health declined rapidly due to underlying conditions, and it passed away. We're saddened by the loss but find comfort knowing it received care in its final moments.



Community Outreach & Education

Leopard Awareness: Eight (08) community awareness sessions about living safely around leopards were conducted this month and one session was conducted online!

Chaufula, Pune District: a session was conducted by RESQ Team member Nachiket Awadhani for 40 locals.



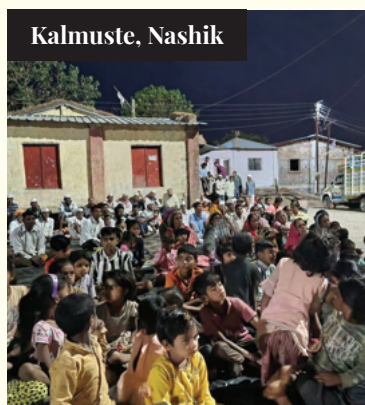
Dhayari, Pune District: session conducted by RESQ Team members Shreenath Chavan and Siddhi Panchariya for 125 members of the Ganesh Nakshatram Society.

Deola, Nashik: four sessions were conducted by RESQ Team member Vaibhav Bhogale at ZP School Lohaner, Flamingo International School, Dr. D.S Ahire Public School, local villagers and farmers for a total of 683 individuals, comprising children and adults.



Nandgaon, Nashik: session conducted by RESQ Team member Vaibhav Bhogale for 200 local residents.

Kalmuste, Nashik: session conducted by RESQ Team members Vaibhav Bhogale and Manohar Nagare for 160 local villagers and farmers.

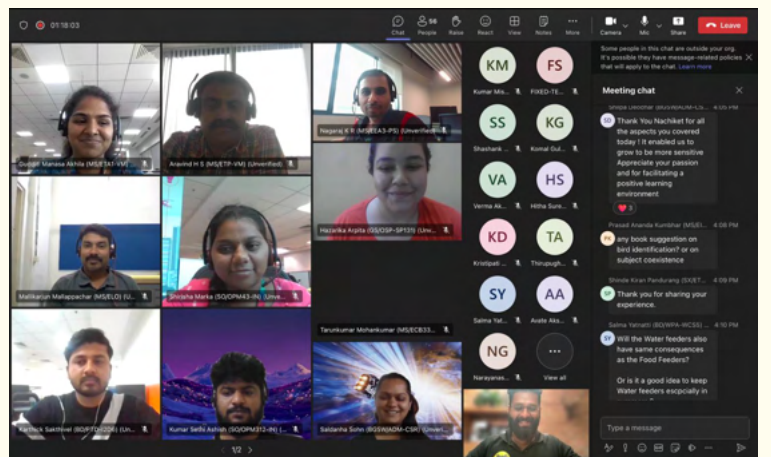
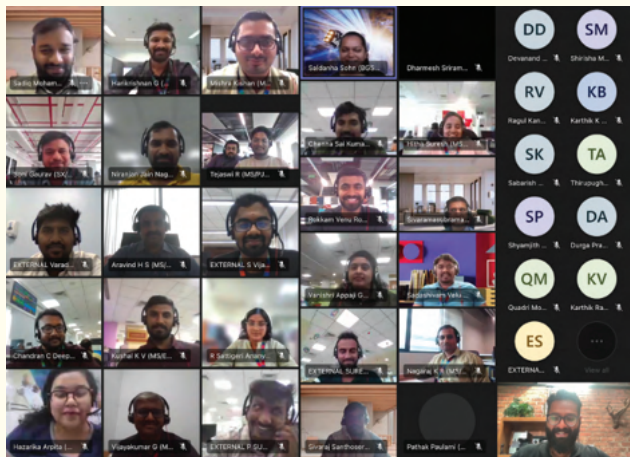


Pune: a hybrid online and offline session on living safely around leopards was conducted by founder Neha Panchamiya and Nachiket Utpat for 3200 employees of Persistent Systems.



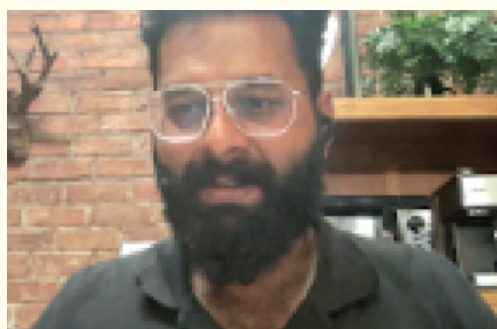
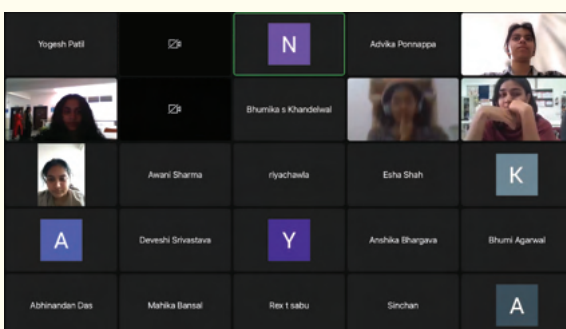
The Call of the Wild: Founder Neha Panchamiya addressed 100 TATA Steel employees online, detailing her journey and what led her to establish RESQ. She shared insights into the obstacles she encountered and how she navigated through them to bring RESQ to its present state.

Coexist- urban wildlife”: session on this topic was conducted by RESQ Team members Naresh Chandak and Siddhi Panchariya for 170 students of Jilha Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj's College, Ahmednagar.



Coexist - living safely around reptiles”: an online session conducted by RESQ Team member Nachiket Utpat for 110 employees of Bosch.

“Coexist - living safely around birds”: an online session conducted by RESQ Team member Nachiket Utpat for 140 employees of Bosch.



Introduction to RESQ: a session shedding light on the work RESQ does was conducted online by RESQ Team member Nachiket Utpat for 45 students of Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts.

AWARE India: this month 6 AWARE India sessions were conducted at various schools. AWARE India is RESQ’s educational program for school going children that empowers them to make better decisions as individuals and understand the true meaning of peaceful coexistence with animals.



Satara: Three sessions of the module, ‘The Future is yours’ were conducted by RESQ Team member, Manasi Warde for 305 students of DES Datar School in Satara.



Pune: one session each of the AWARE India modules, ‘I am Street Smart’ and ‘Go Native’ were conducted by RESQ Team member Sonia Gandhi Limaye for the 40 students and 5 teachers of the Unplggd Early Learning.

National Safety Week 2024!

From March 4th to March 10th, India observes National Safety Week, a crucial government-regulated campaign aimed at safeguarding the health and well-being of workers across all sectors. This dedicated week serves as a reminder of the importance of safety provisions, empowering workers with knowledge about their rights and promoting adherence to safety protocols.

We kicked off #NationalSafetyWeek in collaboration with SJ Contracts, spotlighting our 'Safe Snakes' initiative across 25 of their construction sites, with the crucial know-how to navigate snake encounters effectively. A staggering 1,512 workers are now equipped with the expertise to safely handle snake encounters. And the circle of safety widened this year, reaching out to Chandak Group, Mumbai, Perfect Buildcon, Nashik, and Mahindra & Mahindra, Talegaon, Pune, enhancing the safety of an additional 140 workers.



A heartfelt shoutout to our team members – Shreenath Chavan, Vaibhav Bhogale, Aakash Raut, Sayli Pilane, Siddhi Panchariya, Nachiket Awadhani, Prashant Kaulkar, Shreyas Kamble, Vaishnavi Bhangare, Abhijeet Mahale, Ayush Patil, Sonia Gandhi Limaye, and Manasi Warde – whose dedication made these sessions impactful and received an overwhelming positive response.

Thank you to all our partners and participants for making Safety Week a monumental success.



Chandak Group, Mumbai



Mahindra & Mahindra - Talegaon, Pune



Perfect Buildcon, Nashik



Role of Women in Veterinary Medicine: a session on this topic was conducted on the account of Women’s day this month by RESQ Team members, Dr. Kalyani Thakur and Dr. Sushrut Shirbhate for 500 individuals at the Kumar Pacific Mall, Pune.



Women Achievers 2024! Founder Neha Panchamiya was felicitated among this year's Women Achievers 2024 awarded by the Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Samstha's - Smt. Hiraben Nanavati Institute of Management and Research for Women. She was recognised for her work alongside 17 other women doing some great work in their fields and the award was received by RESQ Team member Sonia Gandhi Limaye on her behalf.

Tarun Tejankit 2023 - Loksatta Neha Panchamiya was also honored with the esteemed Tarun Tejankit (Young Torchbearers) award in the Social Sector category by Loksatta in Mumbai for her outstanding contribution to conservation and animal welfare over the past 17 years. She was one of the 18 awardees from diverse societal sectors, she was recognized from a pool of 500 nominees spanning both national and international spheres.



Features & Articles

Click to read!

दगड लागल्याने दृष्टी गमावलेला लांडगा पुन्हा बघतोय निसर्गसृष्टी!

महिनाभरत १ हजार कि.मी. भटकती : 'रेडिओ कॉलर' बसवून केला जातोय अभ्यास

सर्वाजीव दिन विशेष
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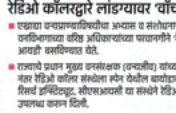
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Nashik Main Page No. 11 Mar 03, 2024 Powered by: eni.ego.com

लहानगा 'ब्लॅक पॅंथर' परतला आईच्या कुशीत
 साताऱ्यात बिबट्याच्या ३ बछड्यांचे यशस्वी 'रियुनियन'

मार्च ११, शिवाजी नगर

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मार्च ११, शिवाजी नगर

Nashik's amazing Wildlife and the threat they face from humans

उत्तर महाराष्ट्रातील पहिल्या 'ट्रान्झिट ट्रीटमेंट सेंटर' वा एप्रिलपासून प्रारंभ

जगातील पहिल्या 'ट्रान्झिट ट्रीटमेंट सेंटर' वा एप्रिलपासून प्रारंभ

व्यवसायाच्या तपासात श्वानपथकाची मदत

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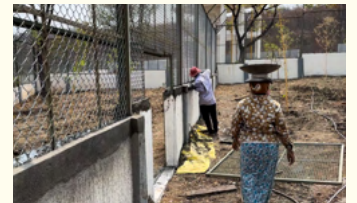
SANTOSH AGIRKAR

Performing at their maximum potential, lauded for their dedication, innovation and hardwork, Santosh Agirkar is our star RESQ employee of the month. Santosh is a dedicated and sincere team member, bringing his calm demeanor to the often unpredictable environment of the Wildlife TTC. He currently manages the cleanliness and orderliness of the treatment rooms and the open parking spaces within the Centre. With his collaborative spirit, he proves to be an invaluable asset to the team.

New Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Pune: Our RESQ teams in Pune are working day and night on renovating and setting up the new Transit Treatment Centre (TTC) for wildlife before the monsoons. This 22-acre facility in collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department will be a haven to thousands of animals who will be treated and rehabilitated for reintroduction back to the wild!



Please reach out to Rohan Sharma on rohan@resqct.org if you would like to help us establish wildlife enclosures, adopt wildlife that is in long-term rehabilitation care or donate to us material that we can use for the benefit of wildlife!



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 2022-2023** [🔗](#) which captures the work and activities done by the RESQ team during the last financial year. 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 endeavors 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!”

- **Neha Panchamiya** (Founder & President, RESQ CT)

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RESQ Charitable Trust is a registered NGO under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 (E-5002). We are registered under Section 12 (A) and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, Ministry of Corporate Affairs as an Implementing Agency of CSR Activities and Foreign Contributions Regulations Act (FCRA), 2010. **RESQ CT works in collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department**, and is authorized to conduct statewide viz. agreement with the Governor of the State of Maharashtra exercising executive powers of the Government of Maharashtra through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) dt. 1st September 2022 and operates a Transit Treatment Centre at Bavdhan viz. agreement with the Dy. Conservator of Forests (Pune) dt. 21st February 2019.