

May 2023

Maharashtra, India

www.resqct.org

RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#187 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Indian Jackal (*Canis aureus indicus*) © RESQ CT

The growing divide: farmland expansion and its consequences!

With the increase in farmlands disrupting wildlife corridors and breeding areas, numerous young animals are tragically separated from their mothers. To mitigate these situations, RESQ CT has intervened in over 90 such instances in the last 2 years. We have successfully reunited several infants with their mothers, but for the ones who got left behind, we've undertaken meticulous rehabilitation to ensure they can return to a life of freedom in their natural habitat, as is their inherent right.


🦋 Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

Statistics: May 2023, RESQ provided aid to **2,297** animals.

We received **1,412** calls on the RESQ helplines from public and governmental departments for animal-related cases and our RESQ ambulances travelled **30,532** kilometers across different regions of Maharashtra to provide aid for them and conduct awareness programs. We attended to **655 wildlife** (**418** birds, **116** mammals, **121** reptiles) and currently we have **232** wild animals admitted under medical and rehabilitation care. We conducted community outreach - awareness, education and training programs for **1,078 individuals from the community** this month and provided support to **1,566 community animals** viz. large animal feed, rescue and medical aid, and mass vaccination drives to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and infections.



Updates

 [Click to view video!](#)

RESQ team **on field**

Gaur-anteed translocation to a suitable habitat! An adult Gaur strayed into the industrial area of Taloja MIDC Panvel, prompting immediate action by the Panvel Forest Department. With no safe passage possible, the RESQ CT team was called to assist in translocating the animal. Upon arrival, a strategy was devised to safely capture the Gaur while minimizing stress. Fortunately, the animal moved into a secured factory premise, limiting risks to itself and the public. A specially designed ramp was constructed for the Gaur to enter a large truck which was enriched with vegetation to reduce its captive stress.



Following successful containment, the Gaur was transported to a safe habitat. The procedure was executed flawlessly due to the coordinated efforts of both teams, prioritizing the animal's wellbeing throughout.

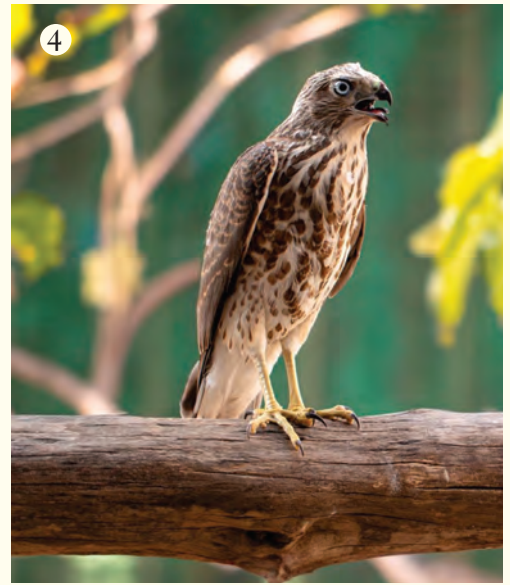
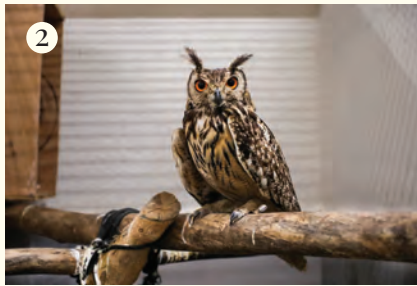


From soaked to soaring - a brown fish owl's return to his habitat!

In the course of a bird-watching excursion, a lady encountered a sub-adult brown fish owl near a quarry. It lay flat on the ground, unable to fly and was struggling to move. She promptly informed the RESQ team, who immediately transferred the bird to the RESQ Wildlife TTC. Once stabilized by our veterinarians, the owl exhibited a quick robust recovery and was subsequently deemed fit for reintegration into its natural environment.



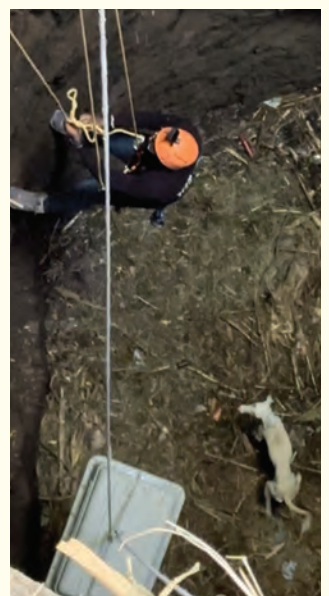
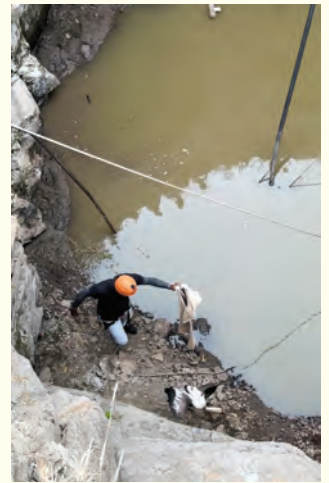
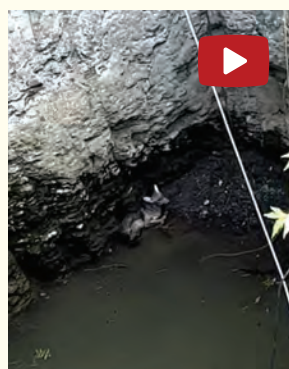
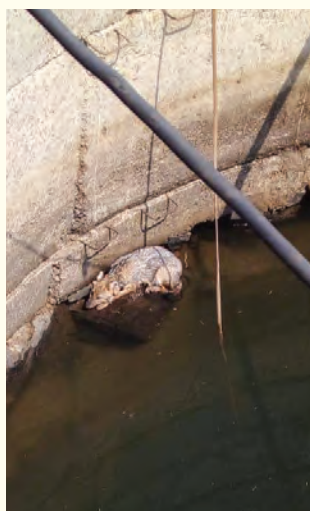
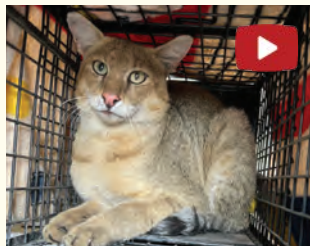
Birds of prey, initially admitted in a severely dehydrated state or with damaged wings - now fully recovered and released, with their flight completely restored!



(1) A crested serpent eagle from Lonavala, who spread his wings and flew off beautifully on his release day. (2) Indian eagle owl from Shirwal under rehabilitation at RESQ TTC (3) The same Indian eagle owl taking off on his release day. (4) A Shikra, a small bird of prey, who came in severely dehydrated makes it back to the skies!

Deep well chronicles.

As temperatures rise and natural water sources become scarce, wildlife, in search of water, inadvertently trip inside find themselves entrapped in human-made structures like wells. Sometimes these falls and subsequent entrapping happens due to prey-predator chasing incidents. The RESQ Nashik Division team rescued an adult jackal, while joint efforts by the Daund and Baramati teams led to the rescue of two more jackals, a stray dog and a cat from surrounding locations. An adult male jungle cat was extracted from a well near Baramati, and a painted stork lying inside a well near Satara. After rappelling into the wells and ensuring the safe retrieval of these animals, a quick medical assessment was performed to check their fitness for release. Except for the painted stork, who is under medical care at the RESQ Centre due to a wing injury, all animals were released into nearby secure locations.



A tale of homecoming - little wild cats back to being wild and free! Seven jungle cats and two rusty spotted cats, once separated during sugarcane field harvesting, have finally been reintroduced to their natural habitat. Through intensive wildlife rehabilitation, these cats thrived despite their initial challenges. Enclosures resembling their wild homes nurtured their natural instincts, preparing them for their eventual release. Their seamless integration into their natural habitat is a true testament to their successful rehabilitation.



Against all odds: rescued blackbuck's integration into the wild! A juvenile blackbuck, orphaned and chased by dogs in a village near Sangli, underwent a remarkable transformation. From finding temporary shelter with a local farmer to being rescued by the Sangli Forest Department, she underwent meticulous rehabilitation at RESQ Wildlife TTC thereafter. Initially dependent on assisted feeding, she quickly adapted to self-feeding on tender greens within her enclosure. Gradually reducing human interaction, we closely monitored her progress through enclosure cameras. Once she began repeatedly exhibiting natural behaviors - fearfully hiding from humans and eating natural vegetation only she was released in a safe habitat. Leaping out with a sense of belonging, she embraced her freedom, marking a triumphant return to the wild.



Born to be wild: orphan chinkaras reclaim their natural home! Rehabilitation of wild orphans is a meticulous and lengthy journey. But also highly rewarding and assuring when the same culminates into releases. We are currently rejoicing as two orphan chinkaras who had been admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC after being separated from their respective mothers in two different scenarios, have finally gone back into the wild to live a life of freedom. After undergoing comprehensive care and rehabilitation, when released, they seamlessly merged into their environment, displaying an innate sense of belonging.



Eight painted storks return to the wild!

These storks were from a large flock of 61 who were admitted to RESQ after a storm caused their nesting tree to collapse. While the others from their lot are still undergoing rehabilitation, this bunch cleared their rehabilitation rather quickly signifying their ready to be wild and free at the earliest!



Sometimes the best way to rescue is to not rescue! A reporter informed us through our wildlife helpline that a few Bulbul bird fledglings had fallen from their nest, and that they were unsure how to handle them. The RESQ team went to the location and carefully restored the partially destroyed nest in a secure cardboard box and placed it, along with the fledglings inside, close to its initial location. Shortly thereafter, the mother bird came there for her babies and was observed to resume her feeding activities, negating the need for any further intervention. A nest indeed, is a nest indeed!

This incident provided a beneficial occasion for the team to engage in meaningful dialogue with the initial reporters. This knowledge dissemination reinforces the importance of observing nature before intervening, ensuring our actions contribute positively to the welfare of the wildlife we encounter.



Preventing hiss-teria! This month, three Russell's vipers were successfully rescued and released back to their natural habitats. The first one was discovered in a residential water tank and swiftly returned to a secure environment in close proximity. Another had unfortunately meandered into a populated area, necessitating our intervention for its safety. The third one required our team to facilitate its recovery at the RESQ center, after which it was released where it went slithering back to embrace its original habitat.



A shell-bound voyage... 33 turtles flipper away to freedom!

32 flapshell turtles and one Leith's softshell turtle were rescued from a pond full of invasive turtle species last month, due to the prompt report by Bhore FD. They were quarantined, treated, and showed quick progress in their rehabilitation thereafter. It was a tremendous joy watching their flippers propel themselves into the water bodies as soon as they realized they were out for release!



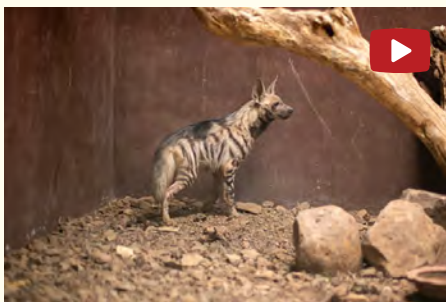
Rabies - a deadly virus spells a deadly outcome for this unfortunate hyena.

A report of an Indian striped hyena in distress near Phaltan ended tragically as it had already perished before the arrival of our team. Test results revealed a rabies positive diagnosis. This incident serves as a somber reminder of our anthropocene and the need for greater conservation efforts to reduce disease transmission between free-ranging domestic animals and wildlife.



At the RESQ Centre

Rescued from the brink, Indian striped hyena under treatment! Found in a critical condition near Nashik, the hyena's distress call prompted swift action from the Nashik Forest Department and the RESQ Nashik division. After careful assessment, the hyena was safely captured and transferred for examination, revealing a head trauma and compromised vision. Now receiving specialized treatment at RESQ Wildlife TTC in Pune, our team of vets is dedicated to ensuring she is as comfortable as possible while with us.



A Sambar suffers a deadly fall through the roof (!!) The Mahabaleshwar Forest Department was alerted by villagers about a sambar that had fallen from the roof (!!) of a house while being chased by dogs. Upon assessment, we realized that it had suffered major internal injuries on its spine, back and legs. The RESQ team carefully rescued the injured sambar, vets administered strong pain relief and transferred it to RESQ, Pune

for further care. It is unlikely to make it, but we want to ensure it remains comfortable until the end.



Hoofed away to some respite for this chousingha! A sub-adult female chousingha strayed into a village, causing herself injuries as she ran around in distress. Thanks to the prompt action of



the Satara FD she was swiftly rescued and brought in by the team for a surgery. Despite all efforts, she didn't make it past a couple days - what we do know is that we did our level best to keep her pain free in her last few days.

Pin to win: Grey hornbill gets second chance at life! A grey hornbill, unable to fly due to a complete wing break, was rescued and brought to RESQ Wildlife TTC. Our vets performed a wing pinning surgery to mend the fracture. The hornbill is now recovering well in the ICU, showing positive signs of improvement every single day.



Nurturing orphaned langurs!

Three infant langurs were recently admitted to the RESQ Wildlife nursery following the tragic demise of their mothers due to electrocution in separate incidents. Comparable to human infants, these young langurs require comfort, warmth, and nutrition from their mothers. Our rehabilitation experts emulate the nurturing touch of a langur mother by utilizing slings for carrying and providing hand-fed



meals to ensure their dietary requirements are satisfied. As they progress, a purpose-built enclosure enriched with species-specific activities awaits, designed to stimulate their natural primate behavior and foster their innate instincts – until they can be reintroduced back to their natural habitat.

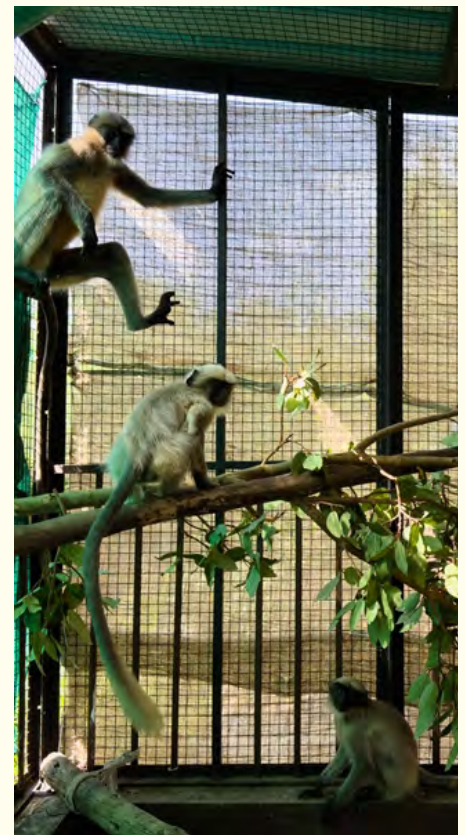
Mumbai macaques Two orphan bonnet macaques and one orphan rhesus macaque have also been admitted to RESQ after they were



cared for together by a veterinarian in Mumbai. The rhesus has been raised with the bonnet babies, so currently separating them would prove to be distressing. While they are all healthy, it is going to be a long rehabilitation journey ahead of them for their eventual return to a natural habitat.



Ape-rfect unity: Langurs unite for survival! Forming a troop is an integral step in rehabilitation of primates to strengthen their



chances of survival in the wild once released. Carefully introduced, one adult and two sub-adult langurs are strategically housed in adjacent enclosures at the RESQ center, fostering interaction and connection without direct contact. As their bond grows stronger, our anticipation builds for the day they can unite in the same enclosure, forming family-like bonds that will help them navigate the challenges they face in their natural habitat together.

Orphaned but not alone - langur baby loses mother, but gains a troop!

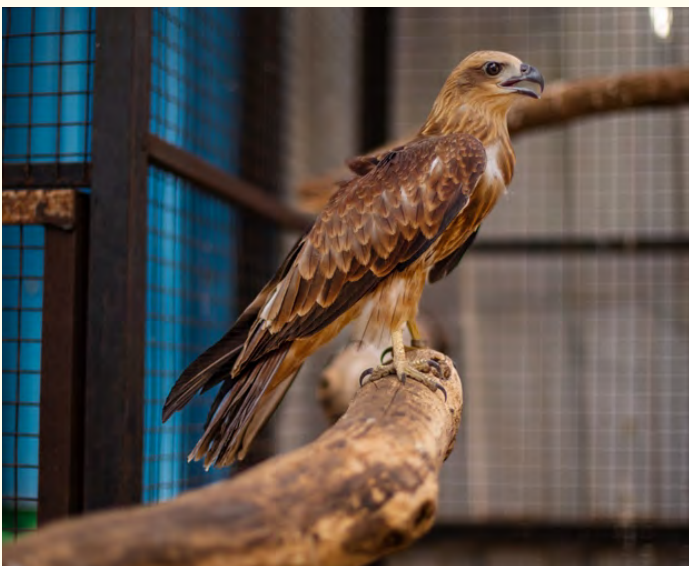
A young langur was brought in clinging to its mother, bewildered by the unfortunate turn of events. Tragically, the mother got electrocuted near Pune, leaving the RESQ vets in a race against time to save her life. Through it all, the baby clung on to his mother but had to let go when the mother succumbed to the burns. The orphan will now be integrated with other orphaned langurs, fostering connections and helping him adapt to a life without his mother.



Brahminy kites wingin' it! Two Brahminy kites, including a sub-adult and another adult with a wing injury, are undergoing treatment and rehabilitation at RESQ. Our team is focused on providing necessary care to restore their strength and flight abilities.



Once fully recovered, they will be assessed for release back into their natural habitat, where they can soar freely once more.



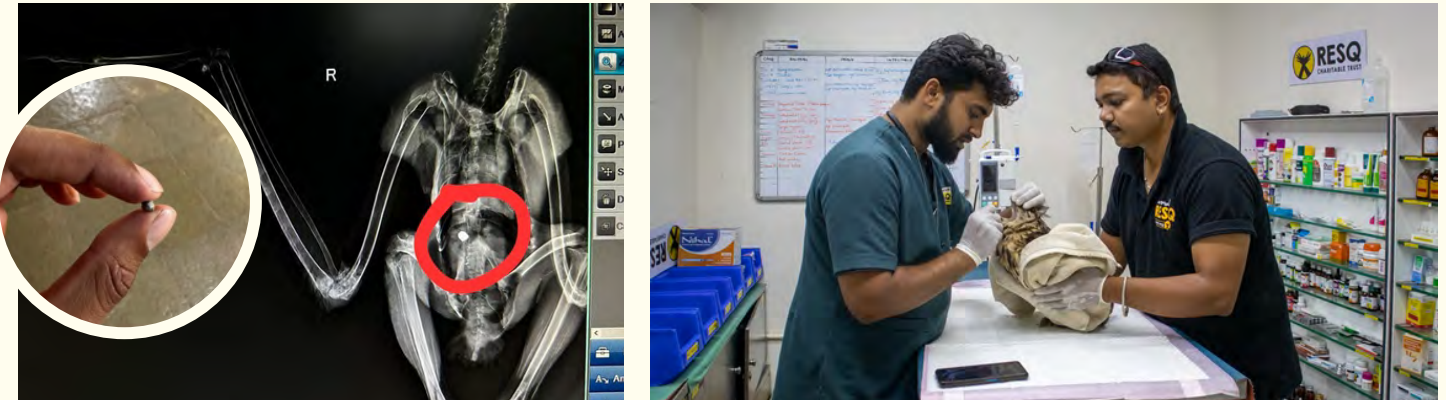
A Kingfisher's 'fan' encounter. A kingfisher was brought to the RESQ Wildlife TTC after colliding with a ceiling fan inside a residential premises. Immediate treatment was provided, resulting in the bird's stabilization. It is currently undergoing rehabilitation in an ex-situ enclosure, demonstrating positive progress.



A bit CROWded! This month an alarming number of crows were admitted to the RESQ Centre after being rescued from various scenarios - some severely dehydrated and many injured by manja. Over 27 of them are currently under rehabilitation at the RESQ Wildlife TTC.



An eagle owl, discovered injured and rescued by the Alibag Forest Department, underwent assessment revealing a pellet lodged in its abdomen, causing bone breakage. The bird was subsequently admitted to RESQ Wildlife TTC where it underwent a surgical intervention to remove the pellet.

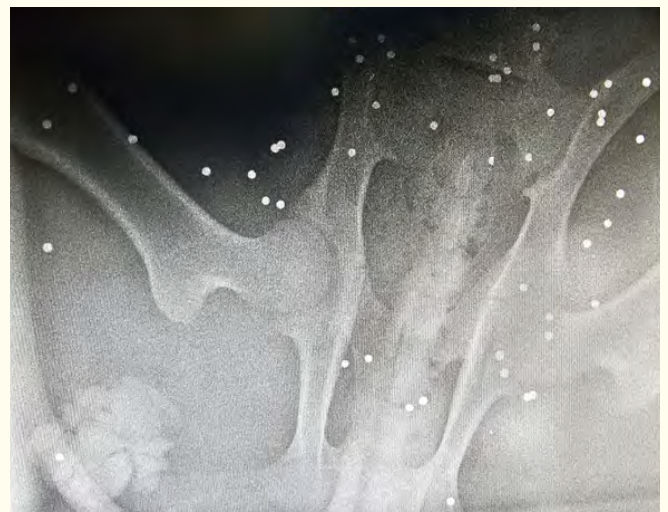


Conservation Challenges: Gaur Population Dynamics and Human-Wildlife Interactions in Kolhapur

A juvenile gaur from Kolhapur, was recently found in a critical condition, potentially resulting from a vehicular collision. This necessitated immediate intervention and the animal was promptly transported to a nearby veterinary establishment for preliminary treatment by the Kolhapur Forest Department. The RESQ team was called in to transport the gaur to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for further treatment. Upon further examination through radiographic imaging, it was uncovered that the gaur had sustained multiple gunshot wounds, which unfortunately culminated in severe internal injuries, leading to its untimely demise.



This incident brings to the forefront the burgeoning issue of human-wildlife conflict in the Kolhapur area. Notably, the local gaur population has seen a significant upsurge in recent years. This population growth has led to increased instances of crop damage, resulting in escalating tension between farmers and the local gaur population. The ensuing pressure has prompted local inhabitants to undertake independent measures to safeguard their agricultural fields from these megaherbivores. Regrettably, such actions have, at times, led to tragic outcomes, as evidenced by this incident. This scenario underscores the urgent need for balance and coexistence strategies between humans and wildlife in such shared spaces.



Community Outreach & Education

Living safely around leopards

Members of the RESQ Remote Squad of Daund and Baramti, Nachiket Awadhani, Shreyas Kamble, and Aniket Tupe, conducted an interactive awareness session titled 'Bibtya vairi nahi shezari' for a group of 100 villagers in Indapur. The session aimed to promote peaceful coexistence with leopards, the outcome of which was successful, with fear transforming into acceptance among the villagers towards coexistence with leopards.



Being Street Smart', the third module of the AWARE India program was conducted at Indus International School, Pune. The module elaborated upon how to be safe around and responsibly interact with street animals and was attended by over 300 students who displayed retention of the information shared with them.

The module was conducted by Jessica Roberts and Sonia Gandhi Limaye which spanned over 13 sessions in 3 days.



Corporate volunteering and engagement at RESQ

Activities included creating enrichment fixtures for wildlife under rehabilitation, 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.



Fujitsu Consulting



NICE Systems Ltd



TATA Group



Accenture

Leopard Conflict Resolution: Promoting Coexistence -

Nachiket Awadhani from RESQ EcoDaund visited a village in Uruli, Daund taluka, to address a leopard conflict situation. Over the past month, a leopard had been sighted near the residence where it was observed to be preying on the farm's ducks. The repeated presence of the leopard raised concerns and fear among the community so Nachiket and his team successfully engaged with the residents, initiating a dialogue which has now resulted in safe coexistence and prevention of any conflict situation arising there between man and leopard!



We were honoured to have a visit from **Shri. Maheep Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra Forest Department** at our RESQ Wildlife TTC in Pune, who appreciated the work the team was doing in the field of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.



Capacity Building & Training



Role of Veterinarians in Human-Wildlife Conflict & Management of Infectious Diseases in Wildlife', 'Animal-related Laws for Veterinarians'. Sessions on these topics were conducted at the State Level Training Centre (SLTC) by Neha Panchamiya, Dr. Chetan Vanjari, and Nachiket Utpat from RESQ for 118 Livestock Development Officers (LDOs) from across Maharashtra.



Wildlife Management workshop at Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana - As tiger numbers increase in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Nachiket Utpat and Kiran Rahalkar were invited by the divisional forest officer and department there to conduct a 2 day workshop on 'Introduction to wildlife rescues techniques and prevention of human-wildlife conflict' for the 45 members of their staff.



'First-aid, stabilization and anesthesia management in wildlife' and 'Conducting wild animal post-mortem examinations' Sessions on these topics were conducted at the RESQ Centre by Dr. Chetan Vanjari, Dr. Kalyani Thakur, and Nachiket Utpat for 118 Livestock Development Officers (LDOs) through the State Level Training Centre (SLTC) from across the state of Maharashtra.



'Wildlife Law Enforcement and Legal Challenges' and 'WLPA 1972, 2022 Amendment & Wildlife Crime Prevention' Sessions on these topics were conducted at Shahapur Training Centre by Kiran Rahalkar from RESQ for 40 Forest Guards & Round Officers from Thane, Pune, and Kolhapur.

Wildlife Rescue, Transit Housing and Release Protocols' and 'Wildlife Crime and WLPA Amendment' Sessions on these topics were conducted at Kundal Forest Academy by Nachiket Utpat, Dr. Kalyani Thakur, and Kiran Rahalkar from RESQ for 32 Foresters.



'Foundation Course - Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation' A 5-day intensive course commenced at the end of May for 9 forest department personnel from Solapur Forest Department and staff from their Transit Treatment Centre (TTC). The program aims to give them in-depth and rigorous practical training in all aspects of wildlife management from the time an animal is rescued on field to rehabilitating it when it is admitted to their TTC. The training is being conducted by Neha Panchamiya, Nachiket Utpat, Pallavi Gowda, Tuhin Satrakar and our wildlife veterinarians, rehabilitators and rescuers.



Features & Articles

Click [🔗](#) to read!



Earlier this month, RESQ CT received the 'Leopard Warrior Award' from Dainik Mumbai Tarun Bharat and PARC (Policy Advocacy Research Centre) for the efforts undertaken by our team in leopard conservation and prevention of human-leopard conflict.



SIMONNE DAGA

RESQ VOLUNTEER



JAFFAR SHAIKH

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)