

May 2026

Maharashtra, India
www.resqct.org

RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#223 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Indian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bengalensis*) ©RESQ Charitable Trust

The kindest thing you can do for wildlife is keep your distance.

There is a particular kind of rescue case that arrives not from habitat loss or human conflict, but from human affection. This Indian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bengalensis*) was found as a juvenile, taken in, and raised by someone who meant well. Biology and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 would both suggest that was the wrong call. This owl is a nocturnal predator whose ecological function depends entirely on its wariness of human beings. By the time it arrived at our centre, the bird was physically intact but behaviourally compromised. The rehabilitation ahead is not about medicine. It is about undoing familiarity and rebuilding the fear of humans that is, for this species, not a flaw but a survival mechanism. This is precisely why awareness and education are not peripheral to conservation. They are central to it.



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Statistics

MAY 2026

Efforts in numbers...

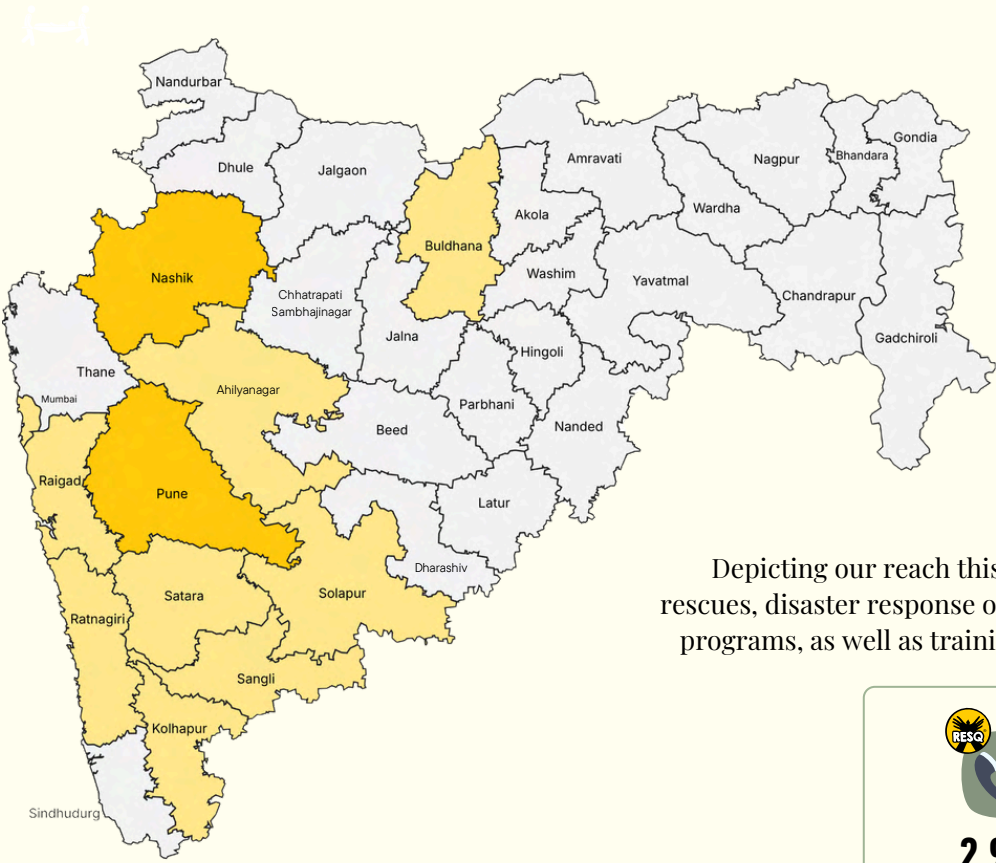
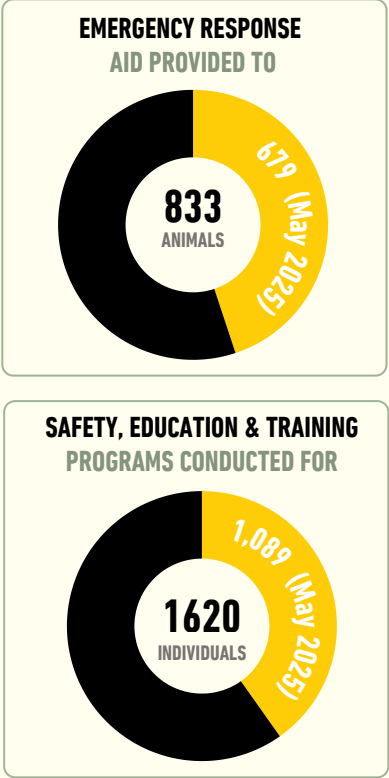
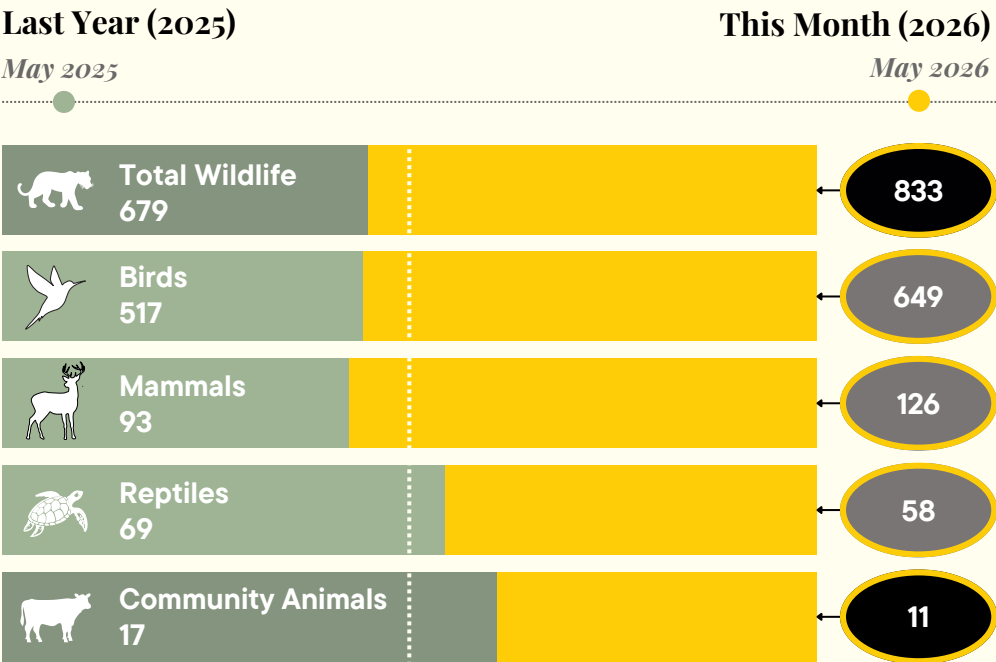
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LIVES IMPACTED!

IMPACT

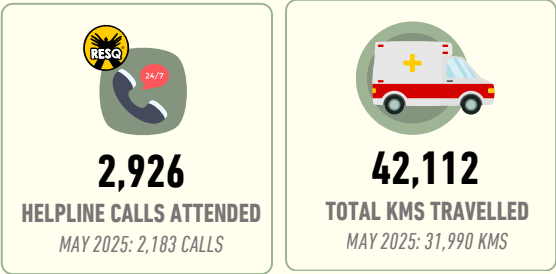
at

SCALE



*Statistics reflect the work done by the RESQ CT's full-time teams and trained response units, in collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department and relevant government agencies.

Mapping our efforts.
Depicting our reach this month through emergency wildlife rescues, disaster response operations, education and awareness programs, as well as training and capacity-building initiatives.



Updates

Click  to view videos!

RESQ CT team on field



📌 **Deer-livered, on schedule.** Through May, the RESQ CT team supported the Maharashtra Forest Department in translocating 33 spotted deer from Sagareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Sangli, to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. Three structured batches. Same protocol each time: capture, health assessment, transport, release. Prey populations and predator futures are the same sentence. STR now has 33 more reasons to finish it well.



📌 **Spots on the shop floor.** A leopard that entered the Mercedes-Benz manufacturing plant in Chakan found the shop floor considerably harder to exit than to enter. Over 48 hours, the plant's senior management, Junnar Forest Department, Wildlife SOS, and the RESQ Pune team maintained close coordination to keep both the animal and people safe throughout. The leopard was secured in a trap cage and handed over to the Junnar Forest Department. Manufacturing corridors and leopard corridors are not meant to overlap. In Chakan, they did.



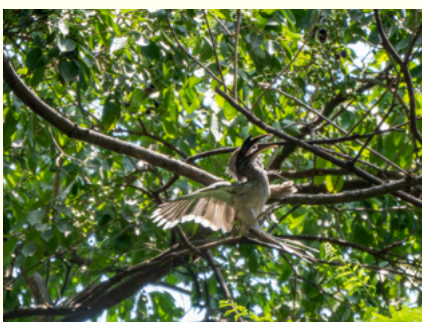
⬆️ **Scales tipped in its favour!** An Indian pangolin chased by dogs near Pune was rescued by a local farmer and transferred to the Wildlife TTC, Pune by the Pune Forest Department. The armour held. Twenty percent of its body weight in keratin scales, built for the predators it evolved alongside. Free-ranging dogs are a more recent problem, and not the pangolin's to solve. Following medical evaluation and rehabilitation, the animal was released into suitable habitat.



⬆️ **A well known problem.** Open wells claim whatever falls into them without preference for species. In May, that meant an Indian porcupine, a wild boar, and an Indian peafowl recovered from wells in Daund and Baramati by the RESQ Baramati team. The first two were field-cleared and released. The peafowl, with eye swelling severe enough to compromise vision and flight, is under observation at the Wildlife TTC, Pune.



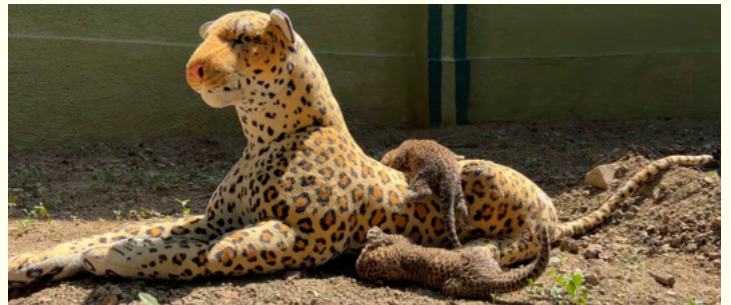
⬆️ **The fastest that got grounded, briefly.** The peregrine falcon is among the fastest animals on the planet, capable of reaching 300 km/h in a dive, which makes finding one grounded in Pune city a situation that demands prompt attention. Rescued with no visible injuries, the bird was assessed and supported through recovery at Wildlife TTC, Pune and once flight ability was fully restored, released back.



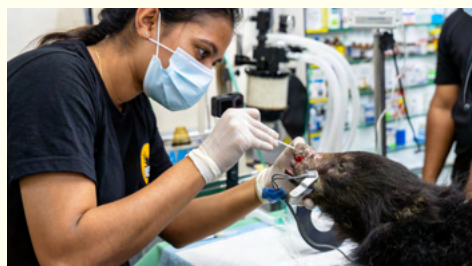
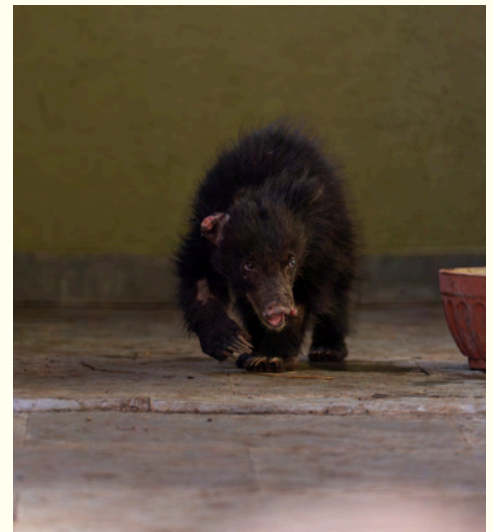
⬆️ **One thread too many.** An Indian grey hornbill entangled in nylon kite string high in a tree required an aerial rescue before it could receive any treatment. A species that mates for life, where the female seals herself inside a tree hollow during breeding, depending entirely on the male to deliver food, cannot afford a grounded partner. The bird is under treatment at Wildlife TTC, Pune and will be released once fully recovered.

At the RESQ Centre

Click  to view videos!



⬆ **Harvesting has a bycatch problem.** Sugarcane fields in Maharashtra are not just agricultural spaces. During harvest season, they are also temporary nurseries, and not always by design. Two leopard cubs discovered in one such field in Ahilyanagar were found weak and dehydrated with no mother in the vicinity. Both are now under care at the Wildlife TTC, Pune. Stable is not the destination. It is the starting point.



⬆ **Bear with me, please.** Sloth bears are not built for easy lives. But a young cub found without its mother in Buldhana, bearing the full evidence of a free-ranging dog attack, was facing a start that tested even that resilience. The Buldhana Forest Department transferred the cub to the Wildlife TTC, Nashik, where it was stabilised before being shifted to the Wildlife TTC, Pune for intensive treatment. The injuries were extensive: deep infected wounds, a broken canine, a corneal ulcer, and more. The cub is now under active care. What lies ahead is not a single milestone but a sequence of them, each one a condition for the next. The road back is long. It has started.



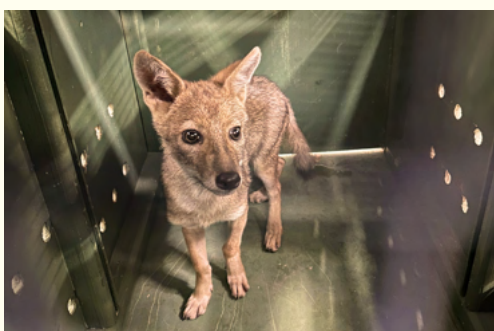
⬆ **Territorial tiffs.** Territorial fights between leopards are a natural feature of the species' social structure. What brought this one to human attention was where it ended. A sub-adult male leopard found in a human-dominated landscape near Karad was rescued by the Satara Forest Department and transferred to the Wildlife TTC, Pune for treatment. The injuries are extensive and the neurological assessment is ongoing. The animal is under active intensive care. It is a cat-eat-cat world. The response ensures it is not the last chapter.



⬆ **Schedule I, platform none.** A DRI-led seizure near Pune Railway Station recovered three Indian giant squirrels and seven Indian star tortoises. A further Indian giant squirrel was recovered by the Pune Forest Department a few days later. All eleven arrived at the Wildlife TTC, Pune for medical evaluation. Both species hold Schedule I protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Rehabilitation is underway, and release will follow once survival criteria are met and the relevant authorities have issued directions.



⬆ **Lost its bearings, not its chances.** The small Indian civet is nocturnal and solitary. Finding one disoriented on a farm near Bhore in daylight was signal enough. The animal arrived at the Wildlife TTC, Pune with a bite wound and neurological symptoms consistent with trauma. The cause is uncertain. The response was not. The civet is currently under intensive veterinary care and on a steady path to recovery.



⬆ **Wild by birth, tame by accident**
Three jackal pups found in a sugarcane field had spent too long with well-meaning farmers before reaching the Nashik West Forest Department. At the Wildlife TTC, Pune, rehabilitation has one goal. Replacing human-imprinting with instinct.





📌 **Rulers of the sky, waiting on the wing.** Raptors sit at the top of every food chain they occupy. Crested Serpent Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Eagle Owls, Long-billed Vultures, Mottled Wood Owls: each one an apex predator, each one a keystone in the ecosystems they regulate. Remove them, and the consequences move quietly but persistently down the chain. In May, five of them arrived at the Wildlife TTC, Pune and Wildlife TTC, Nashik through different circumstances: damaged flight feathers, heatstroke, severe dehydration, the behavioural damage of a juvenile life spent in illegal captivity. The causes vary widely. The destination does not. Raptors do not arrive here by choice. They arrive because something in the landscape, a kite string, an open sky with no shade, a cage that was never meant to hold them, intervened between them and the wild. All five are under active care. The work is precise, patient, and specific to each case. The sky is where they belong. The work underway is to get them back there.



⬆ **Naja naja, twice unlucky.** Two spectacled cobras arrived at the Wildlife TTC, Pune this month from entirely unrelated incidents: one injured by a falling gas cylinder, the other recovered roadside with external trauma. Neither posed a threat. Both were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Veterinary care and close observation are underway.



⬆ **Shell we begin again?** Five freshwater turtles, four Indian Flapshells and one Indian Roofed Turtle, arrived at the Wildlife TTC, Pune from illegal captivity and abandonment. Both species hold Schedule I protection, yet both appear with regularity in the illegal pet trade. Rehabilitation is focused on recovery and rewilding readiness. The shell endures. The rest takes time.

Community Outreach & Education

Shared spaces, informed minds. May's outreach carried one message across every room it entered: the wildlife most likely to cause panic is also the wildlife most likely to be your neighbour. Through COEXIST sessions on urban wildlife, hyenas, and leopards, the RESQ team reached housing societies, schools, and corporate groups across Pune and Nashik. Coexistence is not a conservation ideal. It is a daily reality that works better with knowledge than without it.

MAY 2026
1600+
INDIVIDUALS EMPOWERED WITH
WILDLIFE AWARENESS PROGRAMS

coexist
LIVING SAFELY AROUND WILDLIFE

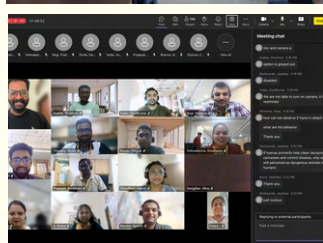
- Aundh, Pune 56 +
- Sanghavi, Pune 25+
- Urban Animal Care Collective 16+

LIVING SAFELY AROUND HYEANS

- Fujitsu Employees 153+

LIVING SAFELY AROUND LEOPARDS

- Ordnance factory, Dehu 35+
- Tidke classes, Nashik 32+



Capacity Building & Training



Role of First Responders in Human-Wildlife Interaction Management. The Maharashtra Forest Department's Nashik Circle review meeting, chaired by Forest Minister Ganesh Naik, brought together staff from across FDCM, Wildlife, Territorial, and Social Forestry divisions. RESQ CT team members Abhijeet Mahale and Vaibhav Bhogale conducted a session on the role of first responders in Human-Wildlife Interaction Management, walking participants through the range of situations frontline staff encounter and the judgment calls each one demands.

Features & Articles

Click  to read!

3 Malabar giant squirrels, 7 star tortoises rescued by DRI, 2 men arrested

The rescued animals have been moved to the Wildlife Transit Treatment Centre, which the Forest Department and RESQ Charitable Trust jointly operate, for medical examination and care.

Published on: May 22, 2026 7:06 AM IST

By Gayatri Vajpeyee



Pune: Leopard Rescued From Mercedes-Benz Chakan Plant After 48-Hour Operation



Dedicated volunteers lending a hand at RESQ CT this month!



When KPIs mean kilograms of infrastructure improved and enrichment building! Dedicated corporate volunteers lending a helping hand in enclosures upkeep and enrichments for the wildlife at TTC Pune this month.



Shivam Kumar Mandal
RESQ facility caretaker



Performing at their maximum potential, lauded for their dedication, innovation and hard work, here's our

RESQ Star 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 2024-2025 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), Section 12 (A), 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 Charitable Trust works in collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department and operates Wildlife Transit Treatment Centres at Pune and Nashik under formal agreements with the respective Forest Departments.