

October 2023

Maharashtra, India
www.resqct.org

RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#192 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) © RESQ Charitable Trust

Nature's quartet: The elusive grace of the four-horned antelope


This young four-horned antelope or chousingha was born under challenging circumstances. Like other young wild ones at RESQ, this young fawn is on the path to embrace the wild, offering a promising chance at life in a natural habitat. Raised under open skies, he will learn the language of the wild. One day, he will be released, not as a farewell, but as a reunion with his truest self.



2,060
Helpline
Calls Received

Statistics October '23



 **Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.**

Ambulances

Travelled **30,093** Kms



PUNE

26,485 Kms



NASHIK

3,608 Kms



369

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



Awareness sessions, education programs
& training conducted for **7,263** Individuals

1,020

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



854
Wildlife
provided aid to



Wildlife

Birds

Mammals

Reptiles

Pune
Units +
TTC



Nashik
Division



775

363

154

258

79

39

10

30

Updates

RESQ team **on field**

Leopard that had attacked four children in Dhule district, captured in 4 days in a collaborative effort by the RESQ CT and Dhule Forest Department teams.

There was confirmed news of a leopard in Dhule that had fatally attacked 4 children, out of which 3 unfortunately passed away. The villages in the area were terror stricken and there was tremendous pressure to capture the individual leopard who was responsible for these attacks. Sometimes, to safeguard an entire species, a problematic one needs to be captured to protect the rest. If one fails to do so, local communities develop angst and hatred for the entire species and escalate matters for all leopards, even the ones who are peacefully coexisting in nearby areas.

The RESQ CT team was called in by the Maharashtra Forest Department – senior officers from the Dhule Forest Department as well as the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife). Our RESQ teams received tremendous support from local MLA Kunal Patil and his entire team in Dhule.

Day 1 – Thu, 26 Oct: Abhijeet Mahale and Ayush Patil from our RESQ Nashik Division, responded there first to do a recce. They set up camera traps at the site where the last child was attacked that very morning and informed our Pune team that more resources from our team would be needed there immediately. From RESQ team Pune – Tuhin Satarkar (for thermal drone operations), Dr. Chetan Vanjari (veterinarian to dart and tranquilise leopard), Kiran Rahalkar and Khandu, our sniffer dog, Eknath Mandal and Amit Todkar to assist in tracking and capture left for Dhule immediately. The leopard appeared on the camera traps the same evening as expected and we had a breakthrough in identifying the individual clearly.

Day 2 – Fri, 27th Oct: A leopard was sighted about 6 kms away from the attack site, and we made preparations to capture it. However, it was confirmed that this was a different individual from the one who was attacking humans and was not captured.

 [Click to view video!](#)

Day 1



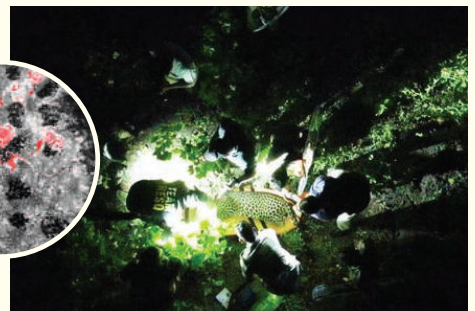
Day 2



Day 3 - Sat, 28th Oct: The teams attended to every lead they received for leopard sighting, but had no luck in finding the individual they were looking for. They continued to actively conduct leopard-related safety awareness for all the local communities as they moved, as it was paramount that another human-attack incident should not occur.

**Day 3**

Day 4 - Sun, 29th Oct: A leopard was sighted by a local in her cotton fields near to the area where she was grazing her goats. Our sniffer dog Khandu, did a terrific job by sniffing out fresh leopard scat within 15 minutes and then the teams were sure that the leopard was nearby. Tuhin on the drone located the leopard who had just killed a goat. He created some interference for the leopard and separated him from the goat. The goat who was already dead was then used as bait. After waiting for hours in pin drop silence, Dr. Chetan from RESQ, got the right opportunity to dart the leopard as he came near the bait and successfully tranquilised him. The leopard was taken to a safe location and recovered from the sedation in less than an hour. He will be admitted into a rescue center for lifetime care.

**Day 4**

The Dhule Forest Department teams and our teams worked day and night for many days and we are happy that peace has now been restored in the area. The locals are relieved, and even though they are well aware there are other leopards in the area – they know that all leopards do not attack humans.

We would like to thank PCCF(WL) Maheep Gupta, CCF(T) Dhule Rushikesh Ranjan, DCF Dhule Nitin Singh, DFO Rajendra Sadgir, ACF Vinayak Khairnar, and every forest guard who worked along with us, had faith in our teams and worked in sync with us in order to make this mission a successful one in record time!



A real taste of freedom for this long-billed vulture!

This long-billed vulture was transferred to us from another facility. Once at the RESQ center, he was treated for his chronic injuries and after many years in captivity - he finally soared away with elegance, reclaiming its place in the open skies.



Injured to Independent: Indian striped hyena's intriguing recovery!

After being discovered in a recumbent state near Nashik, an adult female hyena was rescued by the FD and the RESQ Nashik Division and immediately transferred to the RESQ Wildlife TTC, Pune. She had an injury on her tail and severe wounds caused by bite marks, which were self-inflicted. Additionally, she was unable to stand due to swelling and injury in her leg. Following treatment, thorough care and proper nutrition, she regained the ability to stand and move freely in her enclosure. Once all her health parameters were back to normal, she was returned to her natural habitat and released back to where she belonged.



Pack of four Indian jackals experience freedom finally!

These four Indian jackals experienced freedom for the first time after they were soft released in a suitable habitat. All four of them were transferred to the RESQ Wildlife TTC after the Forest Department from another wildlife facility. They subsequently underwent meticulous wildlife rehabilitation which prepared them for the freedom they are truly entitled to.



Jackal, well-rescued!

An Indian jackal rescued from a 30 ft well near Indapur by the ECO-RESQ Daund team and released off immediately as he had luckily suffered no injuries in his fall inside.

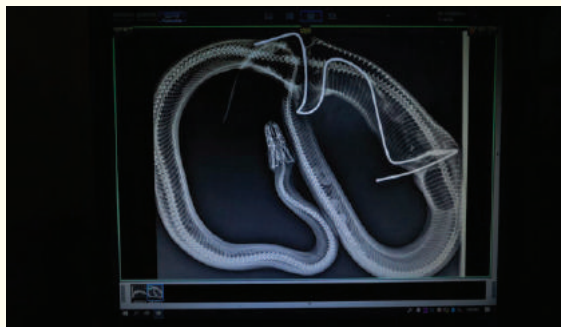
Hoofing away to recovery: Sambar gets a second chance at life!

The Pune Forest Department discovered an adult Sambar deer in Maval taluka, Pune who had been severely injured by free-ranging dogs. Extremely weak, he was transferred to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for immediate medical attention. He is now under intensive care and we're looking at a slow, but hopefully a complete recovery.



Uncoiling misery for an Indian rock python!

An Indian rock python was rescued by the Chiplun Forest Department and admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC with abnormal abdominal bulges and a metal wire protruding from its body. The X-ray revealed a long, thick wire entangled in its digestive system. The wire's origin, whether ingested by the python or its prey, remains a mystery. Urgent surgical intervention was performed followed by intensive care leading to the python's full recovery. The python was subsequently released back into its natural habitat!



Russell's viper's endurance test!

A Russell's viper fell into a well near Nashik, catching the attention of a local farmer who initially expected it to escape. However, a month later, the snake remained trapped in the well, alive but enveloped in algae. A timely intervention by the RESQ team led to the snake's successful rescue, thorough medical examination, cleansing, treatment and its eventual release into its natural habitat.



Indian Black terrapin swims off with all its flipping might at release!

An Indian black turtle was rescued and admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC by the Pune Forest Department. After a week of quarantine to check for any diseases and clearing its swim test, it was successfully released in a suitable habitat where it embraced freedom with all its flipping might!

From sacred waters to the wild:**A Leith's softshell turtle's salvation!**

A Leith's softshell turtle has been admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC after a rescue from a pond inside the Baneshwar temple in Nasrapur. Earlier this year, 99 turtles, comprising both native and exotic species, were rescued from the same pond, as they posed a severe threat to one another. This particular Leith's softshell turtle exhibited an old wound requiring treatment. Following which, it underwent wildlife rehabilitation, and was released back into a suitable habitat.

**Barn owls rescued by not being rescued!**

Earlier this month, a concerned woman reported the presence of five barn owlets on her balcony. Our team assessed the situation, noting that the parents of the owlets were present, and recommended against displacing the owlets, a suggestion with which the lady concurred. However, a few days ago, she contacted us again, expressing concern about the cleanliness of the area around the owl box and requested their removal. Upon reevaluation, our team determined that the owl babies were nearly mature enough to fly. They cleaned the area and replaced the box with a clean one. The owl babies appeared healthy, and after explaining the situation, the resident family was convinced that the owls would soon be able to fly away, to which the lady agreed. This incident marked a positive example of harmonious human-wildlife coexistence.

Releases of the month - A celebration of freedom!

Multiple wildlife releases happened this month and each release serves as more than a simple act of freeing an animal. They inspire children who witness an animal going from being injured to fit and prompt reflection in adults who report the animals, fostering collective celebration of freedom and resilience. A case in point is a barn owl reported to our helpline, found incapacitated and later rehabilitated at RESQ before being returned to its original location for release. These releases create a sense of collective joy, bridging gaps between humans and wildlife and dispelling superstitions. Such moments are significant at RESQ, honoring urban wildlife often overlooked. Our dedication as stewards of nature is reaffirmed, one rescue at a time.



At the RESQ Centre

Gaur-anteed progress for this baby gaur!

Recall the baby gaur from Kolhapur? Rescued by the Forest Department after falling into a drain hole, this calf faced a major leg fracture and underwent an orthopedic surgery at RESQ, Pune. It has now finally moved out of the ICU into a larger enclosure where he is happier moving around and has begun using his leg! His rehabilitation journey will be long, but he's making great progress, one step at a time.



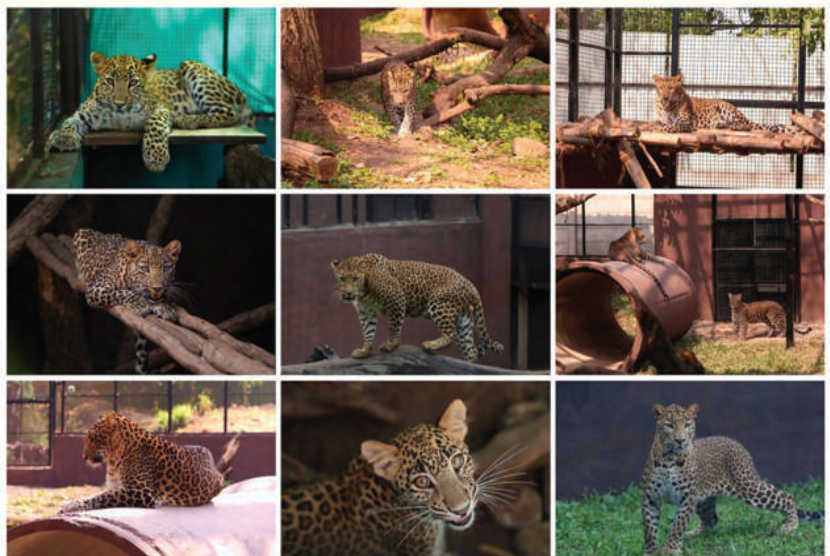
Egyptian vulture transitioning from grounded to glorious!

An Egyptian vulture discovered near Indapur, incapable of flight, was promptly rescued and transported to the RESQ Wildlife TTC. Medical evaluation revealed a lung infection and severe dehydration. The bird is currently undergoing treatment and wildlife rehabilitation. Its cautious distance from humans is an encouraging sign of its intact wild instincts, bringing us closer to its eventual release into the wild.



Leopards at RESQ!

Currently, there are nine leopards under wildlife rehabilitation and care at the RESQ Wildlife TTC. Four of them arrived as sick or injured orphans. The remaining five are adult leopards that were transferred to our facility from another local wildlife institution. These leopards are under long-term care, with some destined for permanent captivity, a fate that remains unalterable for several leopards in the Maharashtra landscape. Our primary mission, particularly in situations involving leopard conflict, is to prioritize successful reunions or implement human-wildlife mitigation strategies that yield positive outcomes for both local communities and the leopards.



Factory to freedom: Hopeful journey for this jungle cat!

A jungle cat kitten was discovered inside a factory near Kolhapur. The concerned individual patiently waited for two days, hoping the mother would return to retrieve her baby and ensured its safety during this time. However, when the mother didn't return, the caller contacted the Kolhapur Forest Department, who then reached out to us to provide further rehabilitation at Pune and raise it to be wild. It is still at a stage where it spends its days in outdoor enclosures and goes back to the wildlife nursery for the night. The road ahead for this lesser wild cat is long, but we're sure she's going to make it out, wild and free, eventually.



A pawisitive path to freedom for jungle cat kittens!

While harvesting sugarcane in a field near Daund, two jungle cat kittens were found. The RESQ team and the Pune Forest Department promptly intervened, attempting to reunite them with their mother, although regrettably, these efforts were unsuccessful as the area was completely exposed. Subsequently, the kittens were



admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC and are presently receiving orphan care. Their future involves wildlife rehabilitation, with the ultimate aim of reintegrating them into their natural habitat.



Two hyenas and two chousinghas make their way to RESQ

Two hyenas and two four-horned antelopes were transferred to our care as case property in a legal case by Pune Forest Department. The

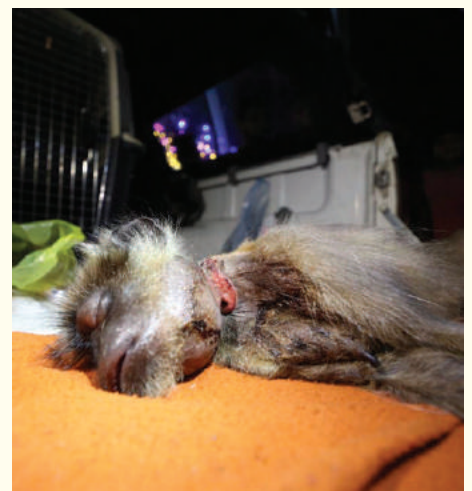


hyenas are both males and settling in and both the chousinghas have arrived pregnant. One of them has already delivered two male fawns. Luckily for them, they are being raised to go back to the wild and our hope is that they will guide their mother through her stolen freedom too.

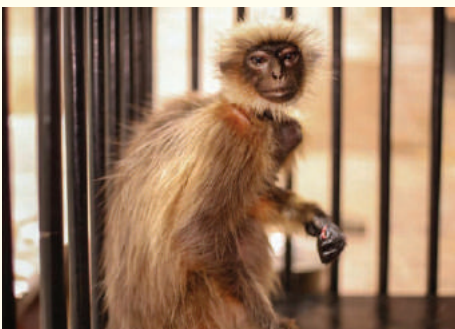


From tragedy to hope: End of an ordeal for this langur!

An illegally captive victim, this langur was discovered in Pali village with a rope, which was so tightly bound around its neck that it had cut inside its throat. After being rescued by the Pali Forest Department (Alibag division), it was safely transferred to the RESQ Wildlife TTC by our team where, in an urgent procedure, the constricting rope was removed. But the damage and lacerations inflicted by the rope have proved alarmingly severe. The langur's



neck has a gaping wound, and its face and head swollen due to the tight bindings. It is now in the ICU, where efforts are underway to stabilize its condition. We remain optimistic that it will soon regain its health and appearance.



From collision to care: sub-adult langur's journey!

A female langur and her baby suffered a vehicular collision on the Samruddhi Highway and was rescued by another vigilant truck driver. The langur mother passed away, but the



baby was brought in by the Pune Forest Department and admitted to RESQ, Pune. It is undergoing treatment for its head injuries and we hope that once it is bigger, she will get introduced and integrated into a troop that is being groomed at RESQ for release in the future.



Bonnet macaque wired for recovery!

Admitted to RESQ Wildlife TTC in a critical condition following a rescue from electrocution by the Forest Department, this bonnet macaque underwent limb amputation surgery due to extensive burns. Presently, the macaque is under close observation and stabilization within the ICU, with its condition still being assessed as serious. Our vets, known to persist in their efforts, even with a 1% chance, remain hopeful of a complete recovery and eventual release for this little guy.



Rocking recoveries for Indian rock pythons!

This month, our teams responded to five Indian rock python cases. One of them has recovered and has returned to its natural habitat, one passed away due to grave injuries, while the other three are currently receiving treatment and rehabilitation.



Out of these cases, three were discovered trapped in improperly discarded fishing nets, arriving with serious lacerations caused by their attempts to break free. One of the python was involved in a road accident but is now making positive strides after receiving initial stabilization and treatment.



Turtles, trapped in trade!

(1) The Pune Forest Department seized three Indian flapshell turtles from a local pet shop in Kondhwa, Pune, engaged in unlawful pet trade. These turtles underwent thorough medical evaluations at the RESQ Wildlife TTC. After being declared healthy, they received a short-term wildlife rehabilitation to prepare them for release. Subsequently, they were transported to a suitable habitat, granting them their long-awaited taste of freedom.

(2) In another incident, following a tip-off, 13 turtles (8 Indian roofed turtles, 3 black-spotted pond turtles, 1 Indian tent turtle and 2 red-eared sliders) were seized from a local aquarium shop in Kothrud, Pune by Aditya Paranjape, Honorary Wildlife Warden (Pune District) and Pune Forest Department. These animals were clear victims of illegal pet trade and they all appear to be sick due to the distressing condition they were housed in there. Out of 13 turtles, 2 have already died and the rest are still under quarantine and treatment.

**Battered but brave pond herons!**

Untimely rains, along with strong winds caused an old tree to collapse in Vadgaon, resulting in the displacement of nestlings of pond herons. Local residents rescued 11 of them who have been admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for treatment of minor injuries and distress, as well as rehabilitation. Once they are older and independent, they will be released in a suitable habitat close to where they were born.

From the wrong house to the right one - Peafowl chicks being raised to be wild!

A local farmer near Chiplun handed over three orphaned peahen chicks to the Forest Department after raising them alongside his hens for a brief period. Recognizing the significance of wildlife rehabilitation, these chicks were admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC and they are now on an incredible journey towards a wild future. Our mission? To provide them with the best orphan care and a comprehensive rehabilitation, preparing them for a life in the wild where they truly belong.



The faux paws: Jackals lose battle to Rabies virus.

Mistakenly believed to be dogs, a family near Nashik kept these two jackal puppies as pets. Recognizing the error, they informed the Nashik Forest Department who then took them into their custody and sent them to RESQ Wildlife TTC in Pune for rehabilitation. During their period of quarantine, shockingly they both began exhibiting a sudden behavior change and passed away. A typical behavior of Rabies symptoms, they both were positive for Canine Rabies on testing. This incident serves as a poignant reminder of the ramifications of rampant disease transfer between domestic animals and wildlife.



Unforgiving circumstances for this cobra!

An Indian spectacled cobra, trapped in fresh tar in Uruli Kanchan, was rescued by a local resident. Transported to RESQ Wildlife TTC, the cobra underwent a gradual cleaning process to remove the tar, particularly from its mouth and nostrils. Unfortunately, the snake's health deteriorated suddenly due to distress from the accident and other complications, leading to an untimely demise. Although it was heart-wrenching, we find comfort in the knowledge that the cobra was not alone and experienced care and comfort in its final moments.

A beautiful white spoonbill sadly succumbs.

A white spoonbill was admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC following a series of unfortunate events including a vehicle collision and injuries from domestic animals. It was near dead on arrival, and best efforts to revive it were unsuccessful. The bird had it rough in the last few hours of life, but we ensured to give it a dignified cremation in the end.



Community Outreach & Education

National Wildlife Week 2023 October 2 – 8
 7 days x 7 sessions per day = total of 42 awareness sessions for
 6550 individuals

National Wildlife Week observed annually from **October 2nd to 8th** serves as a reminder for conserving India's rich biodiversity and emphasizing on the need to protect endangered and threatened species. Since its inception in 1952, it carries a theme each year, and this year it was **"Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation."**

During this week, RESQ's outreach teams from Nashik, Daund, Baramati, and Pune conducted awareness programs. The teams consisted of 20 RESQ CT members including: Neha Panchamiya, Tuhin Satarkar, Chetan Vanjari, Nachiket Utpat, Nachiket Awadhani, Abhijeet Mahale, Naresh Chandak, Sheenath Chavan, Prashant Kaulkar, Shreyas Kamble, Shrikant Deshmukh, Eknath Mandal, Jyoti Swami, Rushikesh More, Vaibhav Bhogale, Sahil Shinde, Akshay Borate, Siddhi Panchariya, Sonesh Ingole and Harshad Nagare, worked tirelessly, conducting 42 sessions over 7 days, reaching and impacting 6,650 individuals. This year's theme served as a catalyst for our RESQ outreach teams to forge meaningful partnerships with diverse communities across age groups and various regions, collaborating in generating tremendous awareness about peaceful coexistence with wildlife.

Session Topic 1:

Living around leopards safely to minimize negative Human-Leopard Interactions

- Deola, Nashik District: Indira Gandhi Vidyalaya and SKD International School.
- Pandharwadi, Satara District
- Bhigwan, Pune District
- Pimpri, Pune District
- Anjaneri, Nashik District: Sapkal Knowledge Hub.
- Nirgudwadi, Thane District
- Lakhgaon, Nashik District: Madhavrao Boraste High School
- Loni Kalbhor, Pune District: Prithviraj Kapoor High School and Jogeshwari Mata Higher Secondary School
- Bijawadi, Satara District
- Akole, Nashik District: Agasti School.
- Sinnar, Nashik District: KVN Naik College

Session Topic 2:

Coexist - Sharing your ecosystem with wildlife

- Paud, Pune: Chattrapati Shivaji Vidyalaya
- Pirangut, Pune: Pirangut English Medium School & Jr. College
- Marunji, Pune District: Sunflower School
- Rihe, Pune District: Bhairavnath Vidyalaya
- Maveshi, Ahmednagar District: Eklavya Ashram School



- Shirpunje, Ahmednagar District: Shaskiya Ashram School
- Indapur, Pune District: Chatrapati Shivaji Vidyalaya
- Pandhare, Pune District: Nav Maharashtra Vidyalaya
- Khamgaon, Maval, Pune District: Khamgaon Maval High School
- Bahuli, Pune District: ZP School
- Palasdeo, Pune District: Palasnath Mahavidyalaya
- Gokhali, Satara District: Gurukul Mahavidyalaya
- Indapur, Pune District: Bhairavnath Secondary School
- Donje, Pune District: Vidyaniketan Madhyamik Vidyalaya
- Baner, Pune: Sopanrao Baburao Katke School
- Supe, Pune District: Mayureshwar
- Chakan, Pune District: Navonamesh Vidyamandir
- Youth Cosmo Club, Pune

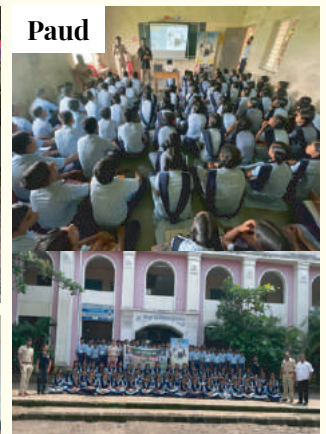
Session Topic 3:

SAFE Snakes: Prevention of Snakebites and Appropriate Response

- Mankapur, Nashik: ZP school
- Bhandardara, Ahmednagar District: Secondary School Bhandardara, and Arts, Science and Commerce College

Session Topic 4:

Wildlife RESQ and Rehabilitation at Van Bhavan, Pune: Patrons of Nature Walk Charitable Trust



Session Topic 55:

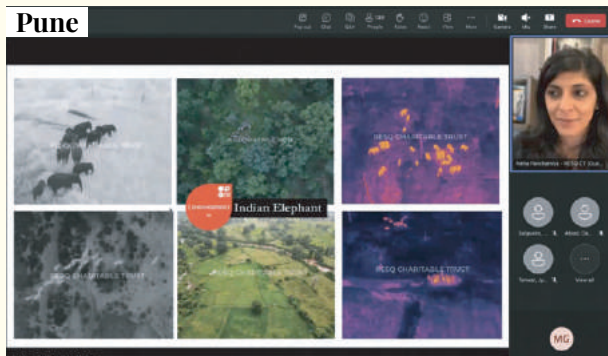
Role of Veterinarians in Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation at KNP Veterinary College, Shirwal

Session Topic 6:

Rescuing Endangered Wildlife
Global Webinar for Fujitsu Consulting

Session Topic 7:

AWARE INDIA
Bliss International School

**Bhandardara****Indapur****Chakan****Baner****Supe****Van Bhavan**

Navigating the wild side of Veterinary Medicine:

Role of a veterinarian in wildlife and case study discussions conducted by Dr. Chetan Vanjari and Nachiket Utpat for 120 students of the Shirwal Veterinary College at KNP Veterinary College, Shirwal, Pune District.



Living around leopards safely to minimize negative Human-Leopard Interactions: Conducted by Nachiket Awadhani, Prashant Kaulkar for 60 local villagers at Nimsakhar, Pune District



Coexist: Living around Monkeys in human dominated landscapes: Conducted by Nachiket Utpat and Aakash Raut for 120 students of the Vibgyor School at the Taljai Tekdi, Pune.

Capacity Building & Training

Human-Leopard Conflict Management and Introduction to Rescue Equipment - Solapur:

Conducted by Nachiket Awadhani, Naresh Chandak, Akshay Borate for the 60 foresters from the Solapur Forest Department.



Melghat RRT Training at RESQ Centre, Pune

Three forest guards and one veterinarian posted at Melghat, Sipna Division attended a training session at the RESQ Centre this month which was conducted by Nachiket Utpat, Kiran Rahalkar, Dr. Kalyani Thakur, Dr. Chetan Vanjari and Tuhin Satarkar. The training sessions covered TTC management, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation techniques, transport considerations, mitigating captive stress, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and temporary stabilization.



Jamnabai Narsee School, Mumbai's Educational Visit to RESQ Centre, Bavdhan:

We were delighted to have the visit of 90 students (Grade 9) and teachers from Jamnabai Narsee School, Mumbai, in small batches at our RESQ Centre in Bavdhan, Pune. Their visit included an insight into wildlife rescue and rehabilitation work, an informative session on coexistence with urban wildlife, and a live technical rescue demonstration by our RESQ team.



This visit reinforced the enduring partnership between RESQ and Jamnabai Narsee School, as the students continue their fundraising efforts through Fuel a Dream to support our work. The students gained a firsthand understanding of our mission, fostering a deeper connection with our cause. We extend our sincere gratitude to Jamnabai Narsee School board, teachers and the students for their support to #keepingwildlifewild and look forward to more engagement activities in the future.



Features & Articles

Click  to read!





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!"

- Neha Panchamiya (Founder & President, RESQ CT)



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