

September 2024

Maharashtra, India  
www.resqct.org

# RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#203 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

## Cityscapes in the flight path of the fastest!

Even the fastest bird in the world can't outrun the perils of city life. The Peregrine falcon, known for its unmatched speed, has adapted to city skylines, using towering buildings as stand-ins for natural cliffs as urban sprawl encroaches on wild spaces. While the urban jungle brings its own set of dangers, air pollution, reflective glass, and human activity posing varying threats, they're adapting and navigating their way through. The falcon in this image was admitted this month, injured with a wounded wing, when he was discovered by a vigilant citizen. Well on it's way to complete rehabilitation and recovery, we're hopeful it will soon take to the skies once more!

## Statistics September 2024



2,041 **Helpline**  
Calls Received



**Ambulances**  
Travelled **32,349** kms



**PUNE**  
29,452 kms



**NASHIK**  
2,897 kms



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

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



**Awareness** sessions, education programs  
& training conducted for **3,429** individuals.

**991**

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



**606**

**Wildlife**  
provided aid to



**Wildlife**

**Birds**

**Mammals**

**Reptiles**

**Pune**  
Units +  
TTC



**Nashik**  
Division



**514**

**92**

**376**

**54**

**82**

**15**

**56**

**23**

# Updates

Click  to view videos!

## RESQ team on field



### Against the odds!

A single leopard cub was discovered roaming alone by locals and was reported to the Nashik Forest Department. The news of a single cub being found is often met with skepticism because they're generally either the weakest of the litter or unwell. Thankfully, this was not the case with this little one as the department and our RESQ Nashik team worked together to manually reunite it with its mother after tracking it! Reuniting wild babies with their mothers is always the ideal outcome, as it ensures they learn essential survival skills in the future—such as navigating human settlements and avoiding negative interactions – critical for coexistence in human-dominated landscapes.



### Jungle cat family's tail of love!

Three jungle cat kittens were found in the parking lot of a residential society near Pune. The alert security guard who discovered them quickly realized they were wild kittens and immediately notified the Forest Department, who called our team to assist in attempting a reunion with its mother. Tracking revealed that the mother was nearby but needed a safe environment to come back for her kittens – which she did once it was all set up!



### Pandal party crasher!

A juvenile Indian rock python was discovered by a group of people while they were digging a pit to set up a pandal for the Ganesh festival in Pune. A safe extraction by our team was followed by a quick medical check to ensure it had no injuries. It was promptly released into a safe nearby habitat, away from the bustling festival activities where there'd be minimal footfall.





### Traveller from tank to turtle territory!

A majestic Leith's soft-shell turtle was reported injured after being trapped in a water tank near Pune, where it collided with a motor blade. Upon admission, our team conducted a thorough medical assessment, revealing that while the turtle had sustained minor injuries, it was healthy enough to return to its natural habitat. This swift release is crucial for wildlife not exposed to captivity, as they often refuse to eat when confined, leading to further health complications. In this case, after ensuring stabilization, the turtle was released within a day into a suitable area, where it swam away to freedom.



### Civet happens!

A farmer found an Asian palm civet kitten in a weak and hungry state and alerted us through our helpline. After a brief survey of the area, the team spotted the mother nearby. They carefully placed the baby close to her, and she immediately accepted it, creating a heartwarming and joyful reunion.



### A last flight of freedom for the parakeet!

How far can we go to rescue an animal in a perilous situation? The answer is simple: as far as it takes. Late one evening, we received a report about a parakeet trapped in a pigeon net on the 10th floor of a building in Pune. Our team quickly assembled, bringing all the necessary equipment and assessing the situation. Carefully extracted out from the net, the parakeet was stabilized on-site by our veterinary team and admitted at the centre for rehabilitation.



### Hare today, safe tomorrow!

A black-naped hare, was rescued after falling into a duct near Nashik. Known for its agility, and distinctive black neck stripe, this hare is a master of blending into grasslands, making its mishap a surprise. The Nashik TTC provided swift treatment and care, and once fully recovered, the hare was released back into the wild, hopping away as if nothing had happened.

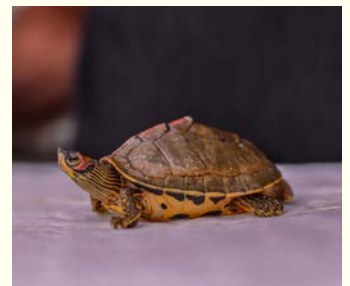


## At the RESQ Centre



### Digging up hope for the jungle cat kittens.

During an excavation process at a mine near Baramati, two Jungle cat kittens were discovered. Along with the local forest department, our team made repeated efforts over two days to reunite them with their mother, but she did not return to the area which was greatly disturbed. The kittens have been admitted into a rehabilitation program, where they will be raised to be wild - and return to a safe natural habitat once they're ready!



### Home stretch for these turtles!

These two Indian roofed turtles, were admitted to the centre in Pune by locals. Being a highly protected and trafficked species for the illegal pet trade and with no distribution in Maharashtra, it makes us wonder if they were the pets who were abandoned? But what we do know is that once they've completed their quarantine, medicals and rehabilitation, they will be a part of the batch that gets ready to go back to the wild.



### Paws for a thought - a jackal's mistaken identity!

The Ahmednagar Forest Department rescued this jackal who had been mistakenly kept as a pet. It was admitted to the TTC in Pune, as it needed to undergo an intensive rehabilitation program due to its captive history. Its rehabilitation will involve multiple stages to ensure that he is equipped with the skills he needs to hone to survive the wild. We have encountered similar cases in the past where wild animals were mistaken for domestic species and kept as pets, but we've had success stories in the past where these animals were tracked post release and made the wild their home once again. We're aiming for the same, once more. This incident, however, highlights how well-intentioned human kindness can sometimes lead to unintended consequences.



**Scope for hope for this eagle owl!**

An adult eagle owl, found severely injured near Nashik, has been admitted to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Nashik. Suffering from serious wing and eye injuries, the bird's condition was critical. After undergoing a wing pinning surgery, there's now hope for its recovery and eventual return to the skies. Currently responding well to treatment, we're optimistic that this magnificent creature will soon reclaim its rightful place in the wild.

**Wild beginnings for the rusty-spotted kittens!**

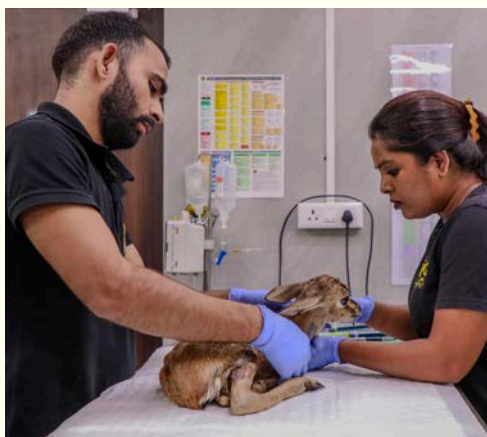
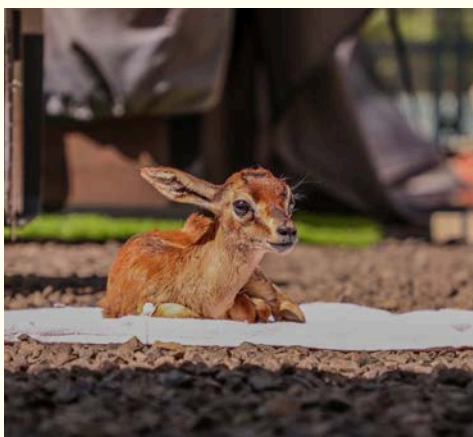
Three rusty-spotted cat kittens were discovered during sugarcane harvesting. Despite two days of attempts to reunite them with their mother, she did not return possibly due to the completely harvested field which was now a totally destroyed space from her perspective. The kittens were admitted for rehabilitation care and a meticulous rehabilitation process will soon follow to gradually prepare them for life in the wild.

**Dam critical turtle!**

An Indian flapshell turtle was admitted in critical condition after being trapped in a fishing net. On closer examination, it was found to have suffered multiple bite marks all over its body, indicating severe pre-existing injuries. The turtle is currently being stabilized and treated. Its complete recovery is uncertain, but we are hopeful to bring it to a stage where it can make it back into the waters it belongs in.

**Stork-y situation: juveniles under care.**

Two juvenile woolly-necked storks were recently admitted to Pune centre after they were discovered lying flat on a road near a riverbed. While the exact cause of their condition remains unknown, both birds were found to be severely dehydrated and weak. They are undergoing intensive treatment and nutrition support to regain their strength. They are closely monitored for every step they are taking towards becoming fit for a release back into a safe habitat.

**A gazelle - bitten but not beaten!**

An Indian gazelle/ chinkara fawn was rescued by the Pune Forest Department after it was found injured. A medical examination revealed that one of its limbs had been severely wounded from free-ranging dog bites, causing it major shock and distress. It is currently receiving treatment, and we are hopeful for a full recovery.



## Community Outreach & Education

**COEXIST- Living around leopards!** This month, six awareness sessions were conducted about living safely around leopards for 2000+ individuals including children and adults in different areas:

- Boripardhi, Pune District
- Chitegaon, Sakri, Nashik
- Sai Mandir Trust, Nashik
- Adhala Primary & Secondary School & Chhatrapati Shivaji Vidyalaya, Ganore, Akole, Ahmednagar
- Shrigonda, Ahmednagar

Sessions were conducted by Nachiket Awadhani, Prashant Kaulkar, Shrikant Deshmukh, Abhijeet Mahale, Vaibhav Bhogale and Ashish Joshi.



Nashik



Nashik



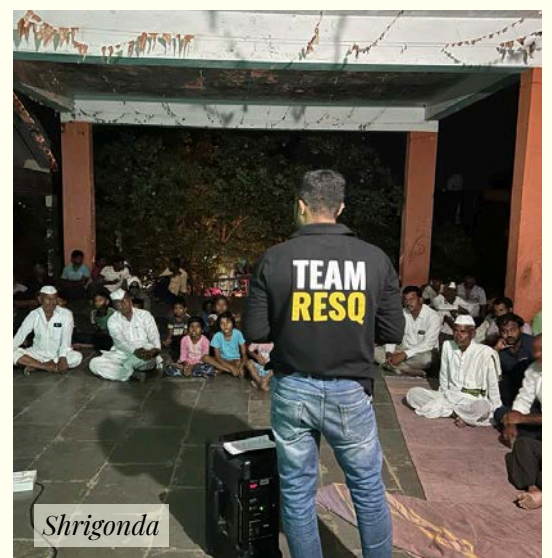
Akole



Nashik



Nashik



Shrigonda

### COEXIST - Living safely around snakes!

An awareness session was conducted for 110 students at the Raja Shripatrao Bhagwantrao Mahavidyalaya, Satara by Aakash Raut and Sayli Pilane.



Satara

### COEXIST for The Liana Trust!

Facilitated by Gerard Martin, a detailed online session was conducted by Neha Panchamiya on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management for 25 international students attending a workshop there on Wildlife Management.



Lisa Gonsalves





**COEXIST- Living safely around Indian striped hyena!** On the morning of 20th September, multiple sighting of an Indian striped hyena sighting in a residential complex in Bhugaon (outskirts of Pune city), caused fear and panic among residents. Responding swiftly, the Pune Forest Department and RESQ team organized an awareness session which was attended by 65 residents, both children and adults. The session was focused on understanding the Indian striped hyena, their presence, behaviour, and why hyenas are getting spotted in their locality. The residents were empowered with knowledge about living safely with hyenas around them. It was well-received with many misconceptions they had getting cleared and the residents feeling more at ease. Luckily for all, the hyena moved away from the locality in a few days.



Mumbai

**AWARE INDIA!** Seven sessions of our education program 'AWARE' India were conducted this month at Mumbai in the Vissanji Academy, Rishi Valmiki Eco School and Oberoi International School respectively for a total of 1260 students spanning across grades 1 to 10.

### Corporate Volunteering at RESQ!

This month, we had several employees from BOSCH and Accenture who came to the centre and assisted our team with various tasks including setting up and cleaning enclosure and enrichment making.



### Volunteering Induction Program!

Every month we hold two volunteering induction programs to brief volunteers on work that is being done by the Forest Department and RESQ CT in collaboration, and to give them an idea of the type of work they would be likely to assist with based on their time and skills available.

### Vibrant Pune Awards by Punekar News

Neha Panchamiya, Founder and President of our organisation was felicitated at the Vibrant Pune Awards by the Commissioner of Police, Pune City, Shri. Amitesh Kumar (IPS), organized by Punekar News at Residency Club for helping animals through rescue and rehabilitation and making Pune a more vibrant city for its animals.





## Capacity Building & Training



**Rapid Response Team (RRT) Telangana Forest Department - Training on Technical Wildlife Rescue Techniques at Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana:** A three-day intensive training session was conducted by Director - Wildlife Rescues, RESQ CT Tuhin Satarkar and his team including Naresh Chandak, Vaibhav Bhogale, and Tanya Gabriel for 40 carefully selected field staff members working in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve. This training was a follow-up to the introduction programs conducted by our team last year. The training focusing on physical training of advanced rescue techniques and best practices for safety and efficiency for rescuers as well as wildlife involved in distress situations.



**Vulture Dialogues!** Organized by Tarun Bharat and Maha MTB in Mumbai, the Vulture Dialogues brought together various organizations and individuals for an in-depth discussion on vulture conservation and the status of all vulture species in India. The event was graced by Dr. Clement Ben, APCCF Wildlife-West, Maharashtra Forest Department, who served as the Chief Guest. As a wildlife rescue organization, RESQ was invited to contribute to the discussion, with team member Abhijeet Mahale presenting insightful case studies on vulture rehabilitation efforts. These included the successful rehabilitation and release of a White-backed Vulture after recovering from a fractured leg, a Long-billed Vulture that overcame long-term captivity and chronic wounds, and the rescue and recovery of an Egyptian Vulture. These examples highlighted the work done collaboratively by the Maharashtra Forest Department and RESQ CT as well as their ongoing commitment to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of these vital species, receiving a positive response from the attendees.





## Comedy meets Conservation!

On the 27th of September, renowned stand-up comedians Rohan Joshi, Aditi Mittal, Sahil Shah, and Urooj Ashfaq came together for a cause - a one-of-a-kind stand-up comedy show called "What? India's Got Animals?" in aid of RESQ CT. The event was organised by Shivani Mathur (GiveGoaDogs), supported by Vir Das, Zazu Productions, BookMyShow and The Habitat, Mumbai. This unique improv show and incredible bunch of comics not just brought the house down with their jokes, but lifted the cause of wildlife conservation in a way no one saw coming! Their wit and humour did more than just entertain - it got people thinking. The team at RESQ curated key wildlife segments which quizzed the comics and got them enacting scenarios. While their guesses and comments got the audience laughing, Neha and Nachiket worked on making the audience aware about the real facts about wildlife and ensured to foster a sense of people accepting a more universal state of coexistence with animals around them. We are grateful to the audience, the good folks in Mumbai and our supporters - together, we've shown that wildlife conservation and awareness doesn't have to be a distant cause.

## Features & Articles



## Celebrate wildlife week with wildlife rescue teams

Citizen-friendly campaign will commence on October 2

Pune Mirror Bureau  
feedback@punemirror.com

**R**ESQ Charitable Trust, in partnership with the Pune Forest Department, has announced the launch of Urban Wildlife Patrol, an initiative designed to explore and document the rich faunal biodiversity in the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) areas. This citizen-driven campaign begins on October 2, 2024, and invites residents to become wildlife explorers in their own neighbourhoods.

The Urban Wildlife Patrol aims to engage everyone from experienced naturalists to casual nature enthusiasts in a collective effort to observe and document urban wildlife. Participants will be encouraged to note their sightings, helping to conserve local species and their habitats.

**How to participate**  
Joining the Urban Wildlife Patrol is simple. Interested participants can register through the provided link: "Urban Wildlife Patrol Registration". Once registered, individuals can head out into their neighbourhoods and capture clear photographs of any wildlife they encounter, using their phones or cameras. The quality of the images is not crucial; the primary

requirement is that the species be visible for identification.

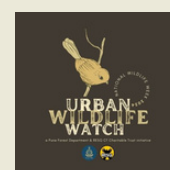
Participants can submit their sightings via an online form, detailing the species observed along with the location. Each sighting should be submitted using a separate form to ensure accurate tracking. As a token of appreciation, each contributor will receive a personalised email certificate within 10 minutes of their submission, acknowledging their valuable role in wildlife conservation. Additionally, participants are encouraged to share their experiences on social media with the hashtag "#UrbanWildlifePatrol" to inspire others to join this exciting movement.

**Guidelines for participants**  
To ensure a safe and respectful observation experience, the Urban Wildlife Patrol has outlined several important guidelines for participants:

- 1. Respect wildlife:** Maintain a safe distance to avoid disturbing animals or their habitats.
- 2. Safety first:** Be mindful of your surroundings and steer clear of restricted or dangerous areas.
- 3. Ethical photography:** Do not physically handle wildlife for photos, and avoid using flash or other methods that may startle or harm animals.

The Urban Wildlife Patrol not only fosters a deeper connection between the community and nature but also generates essential data for wildlife conservation efforts in Pune and PCMC. Each observation is significant, contributing to tracking species trends, identifying habitats, and assessing the health of local ecosystems.

**About RESQ**  
Founded in 2007, RESQ Charitable Trust is a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing emergency medical care and rehabilitation for wildlife and domestic animals. In collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department, RESQ plays a vital role in human-wildlife conflict mitigation, conservation, and education efforts across the state.



Join us in celebrating **National Wildlife Week 2024** by becoming a part of Urban Wildlife Patrol, a citizen-driven initiative aimed at exploring and documenting the rich faunal biodiversity of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) areas. This collaborative effort between Pune Forest Department and RESQ Charitable Trust invites you to step into the shoes of a wildlife explorer right in your neighbourhood!





**Dedicated volunteers** lending a hand at RESQ CT this month!



**Vilas Kasiram Agirkar**  
RESQ Team Member



**Amoha Badve**  
RESQ Volunteer



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 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)

BECOME A RESQ SUPPORTER TODAY



**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 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 TTC (Pune) and TTC (Nashik) viz. agreement with their respective Forest Departments.