

September 2023

Maharashtra, India

www.resqct.org

RESQ NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly Newsletter

#191 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



White-rumped Vulture: rescued, rehabilitated, released.


Nature's clean-up crew, with wings spread wide, in its shadowed gaze, the secrets of the wild reside.

☒ Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.

Statistics: September 2023, RESQ provided aid to 1,908 animals.

We received **2,017** calls on the RESQ helplines from public and governmental departments for animal-related cases and our RESQ ambulances travelled **26,430** kilometers across different regions of Maharashtra to provide aid for them and conduct awareness programs. We attended to **801 wildlife** (**442** birds, **126** mammals, **233** reptiles) and currently we have **395** wild animals admitted under medical and rehabilitation care. We conducted community outreach – awareness, education and training programs for **2,652 individuals from the community** this month and provided support to **1,023 community animals** viz. large animal feed, rescue and medical aid, and mass vaccination drives to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and infections.



 [Click to view video!](#)

Updates

RESQ team on field

Four leopard cubs fallen in 3 different wells – all rescued and reunited back with their mothers successfully!

Reunions involve careful planning and execution to ensure the safety and successful reintegration of the animals with one another. While each reunion is unique due to species, circumstances, and habitat variations, our teams adhere to a 5-step process to aim for the best possible outcome!

(1) Assessment for suitability of reunion: Feasibility and safety of a reunion is assessed based on the cub's age, health, and tracking the presence of the mother.

(2) Nurturing and stimulating the cubs: This involves an appropriate amount of feeding to prevent dehydration and gentle stimulation to induce urination. The urine is collected and dispersed around the reunion site to a scent trail to assist the mother in locating her cubs.

(3) Site Preparation: Suitable locations and secure cub-holding units are determined. The site is selected and prepared, remote monitoring cameras are set up. For young cubs, baskets or crates are used, which the mother uncovers herself on arrival. In case the cubs are over 2 months old, pulley systems are set up on the door or the cage and connected to a nearby rescue vehicle which are operated by our teams.

(4) Remote Monitoring: Teams patiently wait for the mother's return, using remote monitoring cameras to observe behavior. This can take anywhere between 15 minutes to 4 days!

(5) Reunion: If an adult leopard arrives at the reunion site, the monitoring team ascertains if it is displaying signs of maternal behavior and carefully observes the reaction of the cubs. Once confident, the team opens the enclosure, allowing the cubs to rejoin their mother with minimal disruption.

This month three successful leopard cub reunions were carried out by our teams.

Karad: Two leopard cubs, rescued from a well by the Karad Forest Department, were successfully reunited with their mother.

Dhule: Another leopard cub found fallen in the well, was safely rescued by the Dhule Forest Department and a reunion was attempted two nights later by the RESQ Nashik team.

Pune: A young leopard cub took an unintended plunge into a well. Quickly rescued using a trap cage, the Pune Forest Department and our teams convinced the locals to allow us to attempt a reunion at the spot which was successful!

Wildlife reunions are crucial for preserving natural bonds and ensuring that these little wild ones do not end up in lifetime captivity. Reuniting them back with their mothers is the best possible outcome for all!

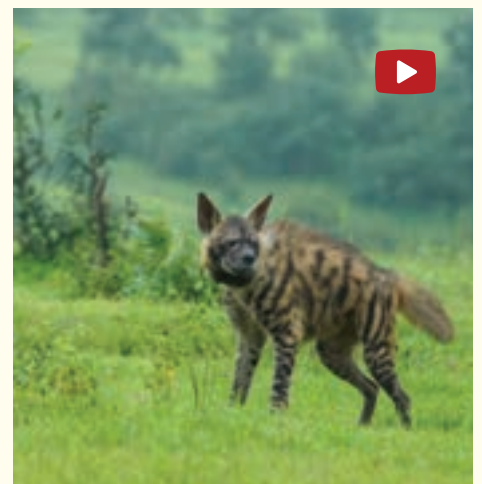


White-rumped Vulture: from recumbency to a grand flight!

A white-rumped vulture has reclaimed its rightful place in the skies by spreading its wings and taking a majestic flight following treatment and wildlife rehabilitation at the RESQ Wildlife TTC. Discovered incapacitated and rescued by the Nashik (W) Forest Department and RESQ Nashik team, it was subsequently stabilized in Nashik for severe dehydration and a leg fracture for which it underwent surgery in Pune. Once we were confident in its ability to thrive independently in the wild, the vulture was safely transported to an appropriate habitat and released. It made every person witnessing his release hold their breaths in awe as he took off!

**What a fighter! Hyena makes a miraculous return to the wild!**

Discovered in a state of immobility, the Forest Department intervened, rescuing the hyena from near Nanashi, Nashik. It received medical care at RESQ Nashik Wildlife TTC, where examinations revealed maggot-infested wounds and a severe mouth laceration. After two days of treatment, the hyena's condition stabilized, and it began eating independently. It was then transferred to RESQ Wildlife TTC for extended rehabilitation. After just a few weeks, the hyena made a full recovery, a rather miraculous one. Without further ado, we prepared for its return. As soon as the door of the trap cage was opened, the hyena assumed its rightful place in the wild leaving us with a rewarding feeling.



Feather fix-up.. Eagle owl's recovery and return to the skies! Unable to fly due to damaged feathers, the eagle owl underwent feather imping procedure at the RESQ Wildlife TTC. Feather imping involves replacing broken feathers with healthy donor feathers. This procedure accelerates recovery, reduces captivity time, increasing the chance of successful release. The orange-eyed beauty was under postoperative rehabilitation, and as soon as it fulfilled all medical and rehabilitation milestones, it was released into its natural habitat where it gladly assumed its place in the skies.



Prickly situation resolved! A porcupine reported to have fallen in a 13 ft deep ditch near Baramati, was safely retrieved by our Baramati team with the help of a capture net. After a quick medical evaluation certifying it fit, it was released back into a safe habitat nearby.



Averting conflict, ensuring safety: response to a viral video of a leopard sighted at Dive Ghat! An adult leopard, injured in a road accident, was initially found sitting in the middle of the road at Dive Ghat and passersby took videos that went viral on social media. The Pune Forest Department and RESQ teams promptly responded to check if something was wrong with it. However, it had gotten up in the meantime and disappeared into the thick vegetation within the valley. Our teams attempted to track it on foot but had already gone deep in. The same evening, thermal drone scanning was used to search but no sign of the leopard was found. In such a situation, quick checks followed by assuring the general public that no further intervention is needed is often the best approach for the well-being of both the animal and nearby humans.



Jackals in deep trouble - rescued! Two adult jackals reported to have fallen in wells in Baramati and Sangamner, Nashik were skillfully rescued by the RESQ teams in collaboration with the Forest Department and following a quick medical assessment, safely released into a suitable habitat nearby.



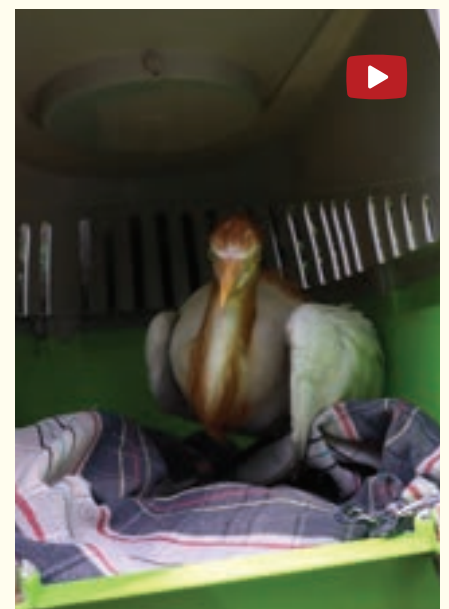
Cheers to these chinkaras! Two sub-adult chinkaras have been reintroduced to their native habitats following a period of recovery and wildlife rehabilitation. Originating from different locations, found wandering as orphans, both these chinkaras underwent wildlife rehabilitation individually and then they were integrated together. Having achieved all rehabilitation objectives, they were released successfully, bounding away to embrace their newfound freedom.

Indian flapshell's escape to solitude! Once held in illegal captivity, rescued by the Forest Department, this flapshell was admitted for quarantine, medical evaluation and rehabilitation. After clearing it all, this turtle has now been successfully released back into its natural habitat, where it happily swam away to freedom.



Monitor lizard crawls back to freedom! The Satara Forest Department found an injured, weak and dehydrated monitor lizard, which was then transported to the RESQ Wildlife TTC. Following treatment and rehabilitation, we were successfully able to reintroduce it back to its natural habitat.

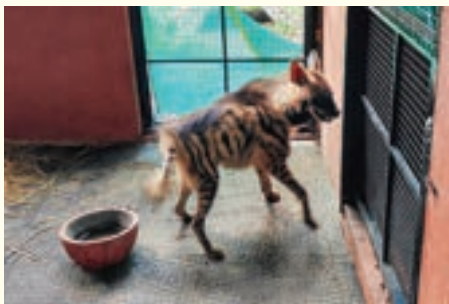
Cattle egret knot-having an easy day! A cattle egret was reported stuck on a tree entangled in synthetic manja. Our team that conducts manja rescues swiftly was in a bit of a fix as there was a huge water body next to the tree. The chances of the bird falling into the water after rescuing it from manja were very high, but the bird was safely captured and for stabilization and further medical assessment, it has been admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC for treatment.



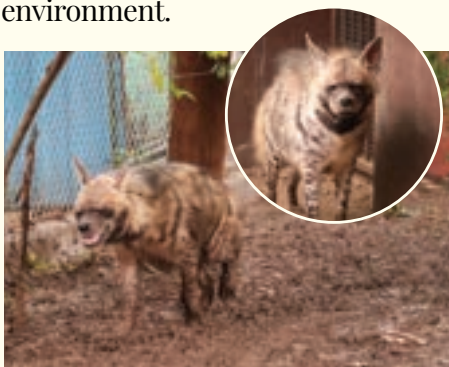
At the RESQ Centre

A striped triumph: Indian striped hyenas at the RESQ Wildlife TTC this month!

Nashik: Discovered bearing severe injuries near its tail, a fractured leg, and self-inflicted bite marks, this hyena has been under the care of RESQ Wildlife TTC, Pune, following a joint rescue effort by the Nashik FD and RESQ Nashik team. After receiving treatment, it has now achieved the milestone of standing unassisted and taking a few steps. It will proceed with meticulous wildlife rehabilitation, with the ultimate aim of successful reintroduction into its natural habitat.



Pune: Two adult striped hyenas have been transferred by the Pune Forest Department to RESQ from another facility. Including one that was transferred earlier, these two require long-term care. Ex-situ enclosures have been prepared, with suitable substrate and hides to make them comfortable. Our goal for at least two of them is to rekindle their wild instinct with the hope that they may eventually be reintroduced into their natural environment.



Phaltan: Reported to be in a dire condition after falling into a well, this hyena was rescued through a joint effort by our team and the Phaltan Forest Department. The hyena had suffered injuries around its mouth, and an on-site medical assessment confirmed the presence of water in its lungs. As a result, the hyena was transported to the RESQ Wildlife TTC in Pune, where it is presently undergoing treatment for these conditions.



A calf-tivating Gaur under rehabilitation. A baby Gaur was reported to have fallen in a drain hole in Kolhapur and the Forest Department swiftly intervened to rescue the calf and upon closer examination, realized that the calf had sustained a major leg fracture and was under high stress. Our team was reached out for assistance and the young one was transported to the RESQ Wildlife TTC. An x-ray revealed a fracture in the calf's humerus, leading to an urgent orthopedic surgery. Currently, the calf is under observation in the ICU and is showing promising progress. It eagerly consumes milk and

exhibits its natural, youthful gaur behavior. The road to rehabilitation for this calf surely is lengthy as it must grow, its coat must change color, and its injured foot must regain the strength to support its own weight. Our ultimate goal is to reintroduce this calf into its native habitat once it reaches a state of full recovery and independence.



Orphan yet purrrrr-sistent jungle cat kittens! Three jungle cat kittens were discovered on a Pune farmland, with their mother found deceased nearby, likely for the past 2-3 days. They were severely dehydrated and distressed due to lack of maternal care. Admitted by the Forest Department, the kittens, now at RESQ Wildlife TTC, have been stabilized, and are being hand raised after which they will undergo wildlife rehabilitation with the final goal of reintegration into the wild.



A close shave for this chinkara!

An adult chinkara was found in a severely injured state on farmland in Baramati after a local shepherd's dog got into a scuffle with it. It was rescued by a farmer nearby who promptly alerted the Pune Forest Department. The chinkara was then admitted to the RESQ Wildlife TTC, where it was observed to have multiple wounds on its head and body. After initial stabilization, it is undergoing treatment and close monitoring.

**Restoring wilderness for this rhesus macaque!**

A young rhesus macaque found its way into a Pune settlement, all alone. Chased by a dog, he sought refuge in a house, causing a panic among residents who soon realized it posed no threat. They managed to contain him in a room and notified our team that transported it to RESQ Wildlife TTC for rehabilitation. The young monkey is now happily devouring its meals, preparing to be reintegrated with another macaque for their release together into the wild.

**Langurs at RESQ!**

Phaltan: Rescued by the Satara Forest Department, brought to the RESQ Wildlife TTC in a fully unresponsive state due to suspected trauma on its cervical spine. With proper treatment, it is now showing signs of recovery and will soon be transferred to an ex-situ enclosure for wildlife rehabilitation.



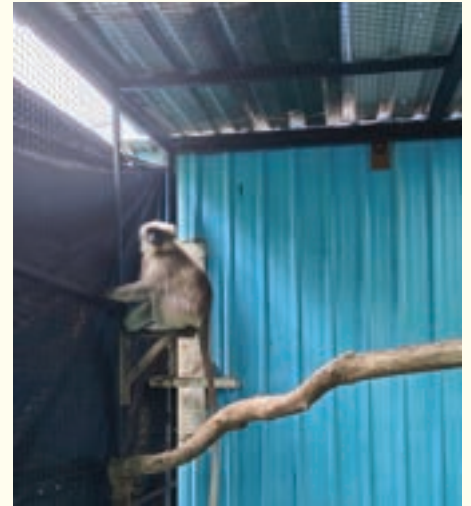
Pune: Hit by a vehicle, this langur is in intensive care at RESQ Wildlife TTC. We are hopeful for a complete recovery.



Solapur: Admitted with multiple injuries post electrocution, it's responding well to treatment.



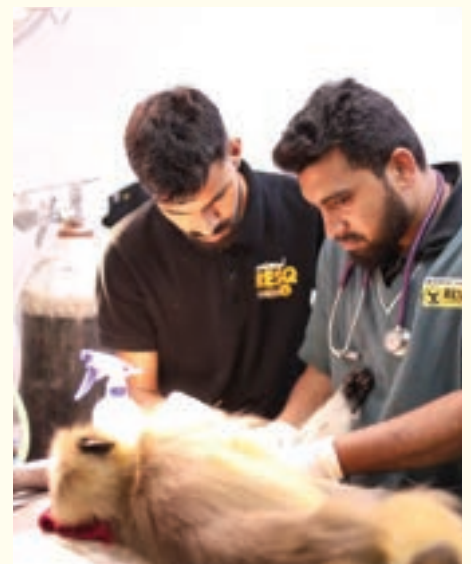
Satara: This langur, was discovered by the Satara Forest Department, seeking refuge after an electric shock, and is currently under treatment at RESQ Wildlife TTC.



Kolhapur: Rescued post-accident by Kolhapur Forest Department, it's currently receiving care at RESQ Centre.



Karad: Injured in a car accident, currently under treatment at the RESQ Wildlife TTC.



Cheeky bonnet macaque under recovery! Initially evading capture after being injured by electrocution, this bonnet macaque was eventually secured by the Satara Forest Department when it became weakened from its injuries. The monkey initially received treatment at a local veterinary facility but required specialized care due to the nature of its severe burn and bite wounds on its mouth and limb. It is currently under intensive care at the RESQ Wildlife TTC. The next phase will involve wildlife rehabilitation, with the ultimate goal of releasing it back into its natural habitat.



Hopeful for jackal's stand up act! Spotted immobilized in one spot, this Indian jackal drew the attention of the Satara Forest



Department, who safely captured it. It was subsequently transferred to the RESQ Wildlife TTC where diagnostics revealed potential damage to its nerves causing temporary paralysis. The jackal is currently undergoing treatment for the same.



Pipistrelle bat family seeks shelter at RESQ Wildlife TTC! Following the destruction of their nest in a residential building for unknown reasons, a common pipistrelle mother and her five young ones are currently in rehabilitation at the RESQ Wildlife TTC.

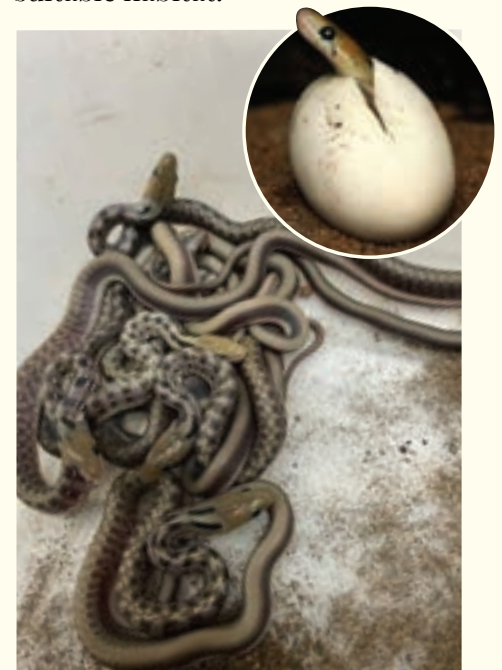


Rest in peace, jungle cat! An adult jungle cat was discovered injured by the roadside near Daund following a collision with a vehicle. The RESQ Daund team admitted the cat to the RESQ Wildlife TTC, where an x-ray uncovered a major

hip fracture. Despite receiving prompt medical attention, the jungle cat tragically succumbed. We take solace in knowing that she was in a comfortable environment and kept as pain free as possible during her final moments.



Hatching hope for these trinket babies! The RESQ Nashik team responded to a call from a construction site regarding unhatched eggs, suspected to be snake eggs. They collected healthy eggs and created a suitable environment for them. Over time, all seven eggs hatched, yielding healthy snake hatchlings of a trinket snake. After keeping them under medical observation for a brief period, the young snakes have all been released into a suitable habitat.



Recoiling recovery for Indian rock pythons!

Two pythons were admitted for treatment and wildlife rehabilitation to the RESQ Wildlife TTC this month due to severe injuries resulting from human-wildlife conflicts - one direct and one indirect.

Alibag: This python came with a history of being deliberately injured on its head and neck by locals who got scared of it. We were hopeful after a surgical procedure and attempts to stabilize it, however, the python sadly lost its battle against his internal injuries.



Murud: This one is recovering from extensive wounds caused due to entanglement in a discarded fishing net. This is a harsh reminder that education and awareness about coexistence



with wildlife and being mindful about our subsistence practices are essential to reduce future conflicts and protect these animals in the ecosystem that we share so closely.

Boa voyage! An Indian sand boa was rescued in the vicinity of Pune by a local snake rescuer. The snake is currently under treatment for an injury and underlying infection but it is showing great improvement daily. Seen basking in the sun here, we're aiming to release it back into its habitat real soon.

**Indian spectacled cobras 'ssaved' from various situations!**

Four Indian spectacled cobras are under recovery at the RESQ Wildlife TTC after undergoing minor surgical procedures and treatment for various conditions they were brought in with.

**Race against time for this Indian flapshell turtle!**

Found in critical condition with a profusely bleeding shell, a pregnant Indian flapshell turtle was rescued thanks to an alert passerby. Upon examination, it was discovered that her shell was broken, and due to the stress, she prematurely laid her eggs. Currently, she is



receiving treatment at the RESQ Centre but is in an extremely serious condition. Despite the challenges, we hold hope for her full recovery.

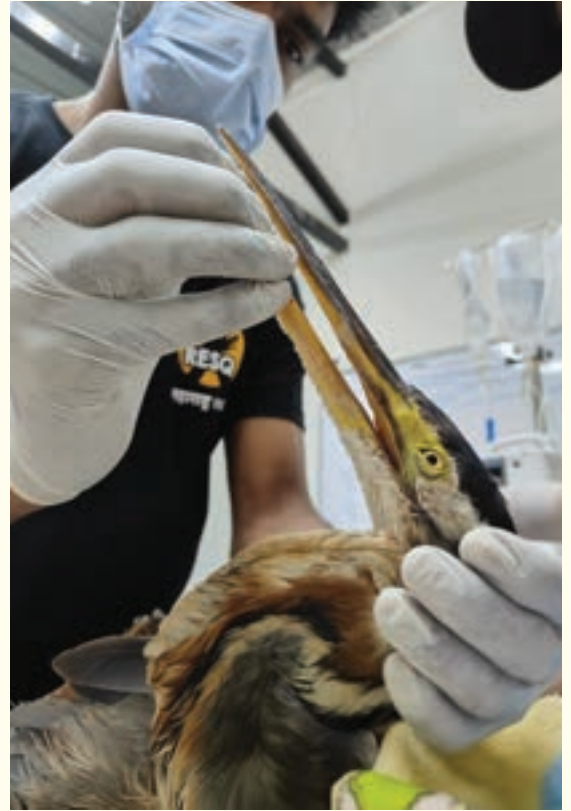




Crested serpent eagle on the mend! A sub-adult crested serpent eagle, possibly injured in a vehicle collision, was discovered flat on a road in Satara. Local residents promptly notified the Satara Forest Department, who then transferred the bird to us. It came in total shock and weakness but has made an excellent comeback post intensive care. It is now perching in its intensive care enclosure, and we are waiting for it to clear its flight tests in order to plan a grand release!

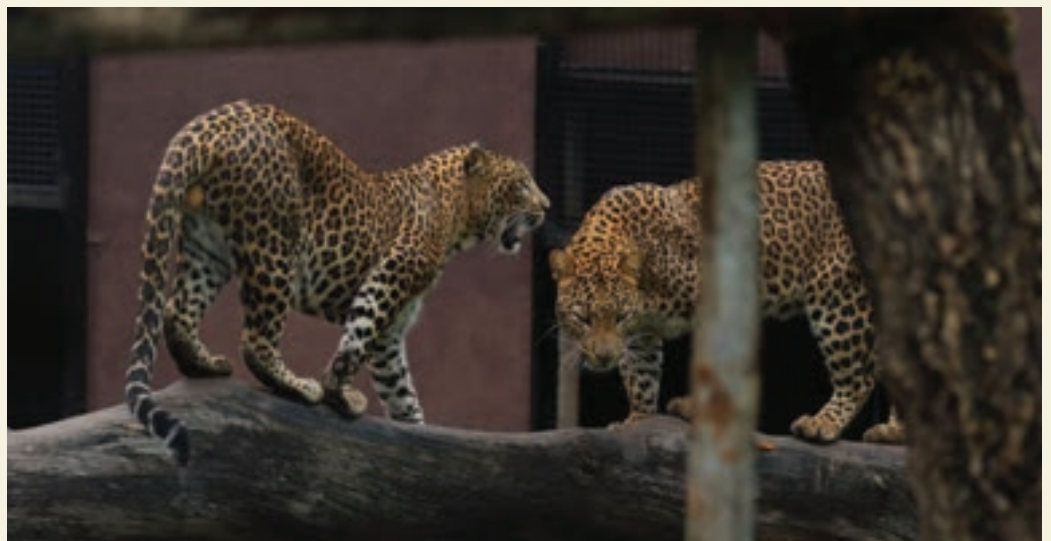


Hoping for a Perch-fect recovery for this purple heron! Reported to have been found in a recumbent state, this purple heron has been diagnosed with a fracture and severe dehydration. It is currently in critical condition at the RESQ Wildlife TTC.



Update: Project 250 Wild

Through July to August 2023, we admitted 250 wildlife at RESQ Wildlife TTC from another wildlife facility on request of the Pune Forest Department. So many of you poured in your support for them graciously, to build their enclosures and to enable us to feed and care for them. We are happy to share that many of them have already undergone assessment, rehabilitation, and reintroduced back to their natural habitats!



However, we still have over a hundred of them, including leopards, jackals, monkeys, deer, and several species of birds who either require long-term care or additional support until they can be released. We are grateful for your help and hope that you will continue to support these wild ones!

Community Outreach & Education

Coexisting with leopards necessitates awareness!

Throughout this month, numerous community awareness gatherings took place in various districts where leopards have been frequently sighted. These sessions had a primary objective of sharing essential knowledge on coexisting safely with leopards and drew participation from individuals of all age brackets, including adults, children, women, and seniors.

Ordinance Factory Varangaon, Jalgaon District: Conducted by Nachiket Utpat, Kiran Rahalkar, Abhijeet Mahale and attended by Union leaders and 60+ staff members of the factory. While extremely panicked earlier, post the session, they were all in affirmation that they would take safety and let the leopard in their vicinity stay where he is.

Baramati, Pune District: Four sessions were conducted by Nachiket Awadhani and Prashant Kaulkar in Baramati district and the sessions were cumulatively attended by 1310 local community members and school children.

Uruli Kanchan, Pune District: Conducted by Naresh Chandak and Siddhi Panchariya and attended by 65 local villagers.

Pandharpur, Solapur District: Conducted by Nachiket Awadhani, Prashant Kaulkar and attended by 55 local villagers.

L&T Factory, Talegaon, Pune: A male leopard was captured on CCTV cameras, sparking alarm and concern among the staff of L&T in Vadgaon. In response, RESQ was contacted, and our team promptly initiated an assessment. Upon reviewing the footage and conducting an on-site inspection, we identified the presence of the leopard, which was evident from its distinctive pug marks. However, further investigation revealed that the leopard had accessed the premises through a gap in the wall with an electric fence and was not residing there permanently. This finding assured us that the leopard posed no imminent threat. The markings on the wall and the footage capturing the leopard leaving the premises confirmed our assessment. This news brought some relief to the factory employees, who have expressed interest in holding a leopard awareness session so that they can be better prepared and alert in the future.



SAFE Snakes!

The RESQ SAFE Snakes awareness sessions serve to educate people about the vital role of snakes in our ecosystem and how to safely coexist with them. These sessions also shed light on local snake species and offer valuable insights into reducing human-snake interactions by providing guidance on effectively managing these encounters. Multiple SAFE snake sessions were conducted this month.

Hinjewadi, Pune: Three sessions were conducted for ZP School, Nere, ZP School, Pusane, ZP School, Pachane, by Shreenath Chavan and Aakash Raut of RESQ and attended by 177 children cumulatively.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Pune: Conducted by Shreenath Chavan, Eknath Mandal and attended by 50 security team and staff of the company.

Valeo India Pvt. Ltd, Lonikand, Pune: Conducted by Nachiket Awadhani and Prashant Kaulkar and attended by 50 employees.

Demand Farm, Pune: Conducted online by Nachiket Utpat for the 60 employees of Demand Farm.



Nerhe, Hinjewadi, Pune



Pusane, Hinjewadi, Pune



Pachane, Hinjewadi, Pune



Mahindra & Mahindra, Pune



Valeo India Pvt. Ltd, Lonikand, Pune



DemandFarm, Pune

Coexist
Living around
reptiles in
human-dominated
landscapes

07/09/2023

Nachiket Utpat, RESQ Charitable Trust



RESQ
CHARITABLE TRUST

DEMAND
FARM

**Coexist: Living around urban wildlife!**

Conducted at the Krushi Udyog Mul Shikshan Sanstha in Korhadi, Baramati by Nachiket Awadhani and Prashant Kaulkar for 200 people.

AWARE INDIA:

Jessica Roberts and Sonia Gandhi Limaye conducted 3 modules, "What a Waste", "Go Native", and "What's your Future" of the AWARE INDIA program, at the St. Pius X International School, Mulund, Mumbai across grades 1 to 5. The 132 children who attended the sessions responded very well to the modules displaying great retention of the knowledge shared with them.

**Volunteering at RESQ in the month of August!**

Dedicated volunteers and passionate interns joined hands in caring for over 300+ wildlife at RESQ Wildlife TTC. They collaborated with rehabbers, preparing meals, enhancing enclosures, and

gathering greens. Their support extended to the veterinary team, aiding treatments, and ensuring well-supplied treatment rooms with gauze pads, crafting dressing material diligently every day.

**Corporate Volunteering at RESQ!**

Eight employees of Fujitsu Consulting visited the RESQ Centre and participated in volunteering activities.

**New Volunteer Inductions!**

Three induction programs for interested volunteers were conducted by Jessica Roberts this month at the RESQ Centre which were attended by 18 wildlife enthusiasts.



Capacity Building & Training

Training Workshop for Jalgaon Forest Division on Human-Leopard Conflict Management and Wildlife Crime Investigation, Jalgaon

On request from the DCF, Jalgaon, the RESQ team was invited to interact with the forest department staff from all ranges. Four training sessions were conducted with over 120 staff including forest guards, foresters, range forest officers, ACF and DCF over 3 days by RESQ team members Nachiket Utpat, Kiran Rahalkar and Abhijeet Mahale.



Training Session on Wildlife Emergency Response at Kundal Forest Academy

A session on this was conducted in the Kundal Forest Academy for 35 RFOs from Maharashtra. It was facilitated by Nachiket Utpat and Shreenath Chavan of RESQ. This was followed by a visit by the officers to the RESQ Wildlife TTC, Pune.

Protecting what we still have *not* lost

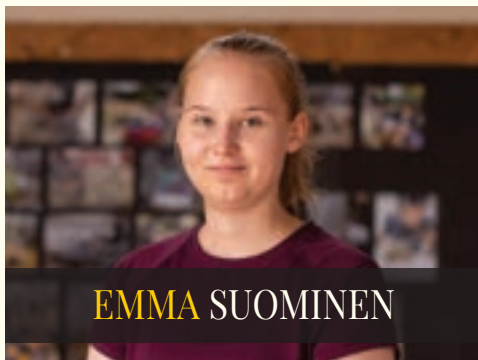
Several Conservation Reserves were notified across Maharashtra state and management plans for these protected forest areas are in the process of being actively drawn up. State Wildlife Board Member and Founder of RESQ, Neha Panchamiya along with team members: Nachiket Utpat, Abhijeet Mahale, Kiran Rahalkar and Vaibhav Bhogale have been given the responsibility of assisting Dr. Clement Ben (APCCF, Wildlife West), Maharashtra Forest Department and in drafting the management plans.



In the month of September, we embarked on insightful site visits to 4 of the 5 conservation reserves in Nashik District, namely Muragad, Kalwan, Igatpuri and Trimbakeshwar and will be planning Bhore CR next. Our CR visits led us to have extremely meaningful engagements with local communities and forest departments, and our team explored challenges to propose viable solutions to bolster the coexistence of wildlife and human populations in these biodiversity-rich areas. At RESQ, we have always believed in being a part of the solution, working cohesively with governmental organizations like the Forest Department to ensure that these vital spaces serve as secure sanctuaries for our rich biodiversity, fauna and flora.

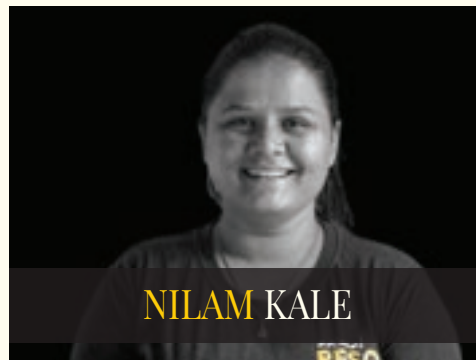
Features & Articles

Click  to read!



EMMA SUOMINEN

RESQ VOLUNTEER






NILAM KALE

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)

BECOME A RESQ SUPPORTER TODAY



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 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), Maharashtra and operates a Transit Treatment Centre at Bavdhan, Pune viz. agreement with the Dy. Conservator of Forests (T), Pune.

