



**KARUNA SOCIETY FOR  
ANIMALS AND NATURE**

RECOGNIZED BY ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA,  
MRS. MANEKA GANDHI, HONORARY CHAIRMAN

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# 2012-13



## ANNUAL REPORT

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## Introduction

Apart from the usual ongoing projects like the first aid small animal clinic, the ABC, cattle rescues and wildlife centre, this year the Plastic Cow is still in the centre of attention with the screening of the documentary in different cities and production of the DVDs.

In the background, our ongoing struggle to become more self sufficient through organic farming has resulted in the certification of our organic farm and products by Aditi and we have started the production of Gaumutra Ark.

The development of the Ahimsa Farm is still in progress with our efforts to get the electricity connections. Only after the infrastructure has improved can we think about expanding our agriculture and shifting our wildlife rescue centre.



**OUR CATTLE HOSPITAL AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF ENUMULAPALLI**

## Clinic for Small Animals

Running an animal shelter on a daily basis is a challenge. Accident cases, sick puppies, cruel practices – there is no end to it. We persevere due to the happiness we experience when the animals survive and recover and go back on the road or to their owner.

The ones that stay with us become our family and loved ones. Their basic needs are food, shelter and medication. Many times we have no funds to pay the bills but we cannot stop feeding animals or tell the attendants that we are not able to pay their salaries. This is a constant source of stress and worry.

To implement “a designated donation” which is a specific grant or donation from a donor or agency, will sometimes add to the stress when the basic needs of the animals are not met. Repainting the clinics and shelter was not on the list of our immediate needs as the animals do not eat paint and it would not pay attendants’ salaries.



But we had to admit that all the buildings looked drab and depressing after many years of sun, rain and cleaning. We happily accepted the donation for upgrading the clinics and shelter with all the above problems in mind.

The work took more than two months but here you can see the results.

The treatments at the in and out-patients department never stop. The whole area knows where to bring their animals in distress for free treatment. We treat many accident cases, fix broken legs and the surgeon will pin a leg if necessary. Many patients go happily home after some time. Disabled dogs and cats will stay with us for life.



There are less and less puppies in the area although the villagers bring in new dogs and the ongoing sterilization of dogs can not stop. Because of our 15 year service to the community, there is growing awareness among the population about their animals

One of Karuna's visiting supporters from Germany gave us a prototype cat house which her husband had designed. A local carpenter has constructed one, so our resident cats will enjoy a fun, cozy house!

Permanent Dogs & Puppies – 56 Cats - 10



Animals treated

Dogs : 960  
Cats : 30  
Treatments : 12955

Expenditure:  
Medicine, Food, Salaries  
administration and other  
maintenance expenses  
Rs. 18,19,399/-

## ABC / AR Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies Vaccination

In Puttaparthi and surrounding villages Karuna Society has already sterilized almost 9000 dogs. All dogs, mostly females which are sterilized, can easily be recognized by the clip in the right ear. Almost no new puppies are being born and anti rabies vaccination is being conducted on an annual basis.

For the last few years, we have not applied for any ABC grant from AWBI as the compensation for the work is insufficient, the procedures have changed and there is little or no support from the municipalities and local administration. This has forced us to continue the surgeries only for Puttaparthi and surrounding villages with the help donations to create a safe area for the visiting devotees and ashram.



shaving before surgery



aseptic flank surgery

No. of ABC operations	: Dogs – 342, Cats - 78
No. of AR vaccinations	: 1159
Expenditure on operations	: Rs. 2,76,592/-

**Thanks to Animal Care Austria for the support with 500 Euros for our ABC project**

## Cattle Rescue Project and Organic Farming

There is a good reason to connect the cattle rescue and the organic farming in one and the same project. "Cattle and agriculture" are one and the same as the farmers are dependent on the local cows and bullocks for the work in the fields, transport and the much needed compost and other by-products from their animals. Milk is not the most important product from the cow for agriculture.

Since the government policy of "Operation Flood" the focus has shifted to the production of milk by exotic breed and half breed cows as an income for poor people and small farmers. This has disrupted the existing practices of agriculture with local cows and working bulls. Instead of organic farming the farmers have become addicted to the chemical fertilizers and pesticides for their crops. Tractors are taking the place of the bullocks. Agriculture has become oil dependent.

Karuna Society believes that this development is destructive for the soil, the farmers, the animals and the whole area. By protecting the local breed cow, to rescue cattle from slaughter and to practice organic farming, we are holding on to a healthy and wholesome practice. We hope to create a new awareness in the farmers that a change in practices is needed for their own survival.

As far as the rescued cattle are concerned we do not make a difference between local cows, exotic breeds or buffaloes. All rescued animals have a right to life!!!



## Cattle Hospital

At our cattle hospital, which is next to the clinic, for small animals we keep our old and disabled cattle as they need extra care. Some are "Plastic Cows", some are cattle with fractured legs or amputations. They are all looked after by Narasimha and his staff. Here our old animals have a peaceful death. Many cows and buffaloes are still with us. Since 2000, when we received our first rescued cattle.

This little local cow has a touching success story! We saw her in our own village, part of a herd. She was standing on the road with an open fracture. We picked her up and tried to fix the fracture but it was infected. It had to be amputated. Later on, the cow gave birth to a healthy and happy calf. They are both doing well and are thriving.



On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Karuna received an additional 146 cattle from the Gorantla Cattle market in Andhra Pradesh. Most of them are healthy, local, young and valuable cows, bullocks, a few dairy cows, as well as 50 buffaloes. Nine animals were pregnant.





The cattle, meant for slaughter, were rescued by Gaugyan activists and they were willing to take them to their Goshala (cow sanctuary) in Bangalore, Karnataka state. Unfortunately, they did not realize that since the FIR (First Information Report) was filed in Andhra Pradesh state, the cattle could not be moved to another state.

We were under a lot of pressure to accept the animals in our shelter. We live in a drought prone area, bore wells are failing and we have 12-hour power cuts. Fodder is not available at this time, due to which people sell off their cattle. We ourselves are in great difficulty to feed our own 350 cattle during summer. Now the number has gone up to almost 500!!

Tens of thousands of cattle are illegally transported through the NH-7 (National Highway) from the northern states during this time of the year.

We sent out an immediate appeal to all our Friends and donors to help out with funds to buy the required feed and fodder.

Thanks to a generous donation from a Sai Devotee from Singapore we were able to face the annual drought by buying and storing feed and grass to feed the animals.

#### Permanent Cattle

Bullocks - 83  
Cows - 167  
Buffaloes - 153  
Horses - 3  
Donkeys - 7  
Camel - 1

No. of animals treated	- 126
Plastic Cows Operated	- 1
She-Buffaloes Sterilizations	- 1
No. of treatments	- 1450

Surgeries, medicines, salaries and other maintenance expenses:

Rs.14,73,374/-

Feed and fodder for our rescued cattle: Rs.10,55,831/-



## The Ahimsa Farm at Karunapalli

Karuna's Ahimsa Farm is a combination of approx. 250 rescued cattle at the cattle shed and compound, a mango garden, vegetable garden, Spirulina production and the newly acquired 18 acres of land. We are aspiring to create a new Gaushala model in India where rescued animals are sheltered for the rest of their lives irrespective of their breed. These animals are saved from slaughterhouses, milk factories and other animal use industries.



Since 2010, we have stopped the sale of milk and we have sterilized all female buffaloes as we cannot maintain an ever growing herd through reproduction. Young local bullocks are given for adoption and the local cows provide urine for the distillation of Gaumutra.

At the Ahimsa Farm the animals have a right to life, cows and bulls as well as buffaloes. Their upkeep is funded, to some extent, from the sale of wholesome, organic produce generated from the labour and by-products (like Gaumutra) of the rescued animals themselves. We still need external donations for the upkeep of our cattle.



## Organic Garden and produce

It is Karuna's goal to become as self-sufficient as possible but, like any other enterprise, investment is needed to create a product which will result in profit, in this case "for the animals by the animals". We have land, animals and byproducts like dung and urine to make ayurvedic products, but we need to process them and establish the Ahimsa Farm in its full working capacity.

A big step forward is the organic certification of our land at the Ahimsa Farm. Every year there will be an inspection and the Certificate will be renewed. This enables us to sell our organic produce everywhere as a certified product.





The development of the new Ahimsa land which we purchased some years ago with the support of Philip Wollen of the Kindness Trust needs an electricity connection and two bore wells so that we can use the water to grow fodder for our animals, plant fruit trees as well as grow grains and pulses for sale. It will also enable us to eventually move our wildlife centre to this area in the near future.



**ADITI**  
**Organic certifications Pvt.Ltd.**

Organic garden  
 Expenses on cultivation : Rs. 6,70,526/-  
 Income from cultivation : Rs. 5,56,710/-  
 Note: Due to rains at the time of harvest we lost peanuts and other crops in this year.

## Organic shop & Information centre

The Karuna Information Centre is the “face” of Karuna Society in Puttaparthi.

Here, Romula D’Silva, the Vice President, provides a most important service by sharing information regarding the animals in Puttaparthi as well as all animal welfare and animal rights in India to all who visit the shop. She also receives information about animals in need of treatment or rescue and with a small group of volunteers she takes action.

This centre is also an outlet for the organic produce from Karuna’s organic garden known as “Ahimsa Farm”. Here a large number of rescued cattle live a happy life, providing dung for compost and biogas as well as the labor for the bullock cart and the plough.

The organic produce is our service to all visitors of Puttaparthi who are health conscious and care for animals and the environment.

These activities have proven to have a high educational value for the general public, visitors and local people, who have become more aware of the much needed care for animals and the services Karuna is providing.

Karuna Society is committed to the protection of the environment. Hence, no plastic bags are used in the shop. The irreversible damage to the environment caused by disposable plastic products and the hazards the animals are subjected to, mostly fatal, when they consume plastic bags or get entangled in them, are widely known. Our customers are provided with bags made from old newspapers, which if returned in good condition, are reused by us. Through the use of these bags, Karuna Society supports a project that encourages villagers, mostly women, to generate income for themselves by producing these paper bags while helping save the environment.



KARUNA PRODUCTS



KARUNA SHOP IN PUTTAPARTHI

## The Plastic Cow Project

In Dec. 2010, Karuna Society started the Rumenotomies and the Plastic Cow project. During 2011-12 our effort was directed towards the making of the Plastic Cow documentary and the preparation of the PIL at the Supreme Court in New Delhi. Now during 2012-13 the film has gone out to the public on YouTube. DVDs have been produced to be sent out to interested parties, screenings of the film have taken place in many cities and, most important, the PIL has been admitted at the SC.

We received a generous donation from Help Animals India (HAI) for screening the film in the villages, to do more rumenotomies and to produce a brochure for the Plastic Cow project.



### THE PLASTIC COW

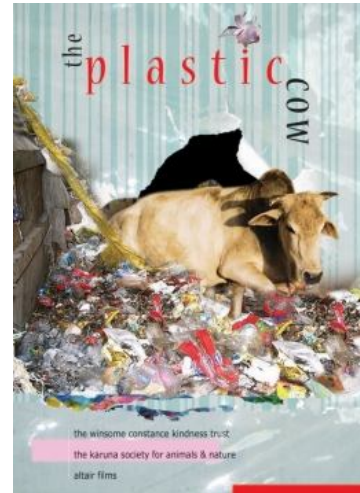
A moving documentary about the plight of the Indian cow and the epidemic of the plastic bag

Sharon St. Joan wrote:

A profoundly moving documentary, *The Plastic Cow*, examines, not only the current plight of the cow, but also the long history of the cow in India, going back through thousands of years of reverence for the sacred cow. One young boy in the film, Vishnu, sums it up by saying, "Cow is God." The traditional worship of the cow contrasts sharply with the circumstances of the cow in India today. Although the life-saving surgery performed on Lakshmi is shown in graphic detail, the film is beautifully done, with great dignity and perception, and a remarkable lack of blame or negativity.

The music, the narration, and the cinematography are extraordinary. The film speaks with the gentle voice of India and gives a very moving presentation of reality, with statements by well-known animal advocates; among them Clementien Pauws, Philip Wollen, Rukmini Sekhar, Dr. Chinny Krishna, and Pradeep Nath.

It is a true vision of India, encompassing all its multiplicity of paradoxes, with its beauty and its tragedy, and a call by the group, the Plastic Cow Team, to do away with the use of plastic bags which inflict such suffering on the cows and other animals of India.



TO VIEW THE PLASTIC COW FILM ON YOUTUBE

<http://youtube/SifRIYqHfcY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9KBMgjqrU8>

## LAKSHMI AND HER CALF

Lakshmi's life was saved at Karuna Society for Animals and Nature by surgery that removed a vast quantity of plastic bags. Since then she has given birth to her calf, and the two are happy, healthy and well cared for.

Help Animals India provided a generous donation for the Plastic Cow program that provides life-saving surgeries to cows in India. We are grateful to them and to "A Well Fed World". The funds are meant partly for the upkeep of the plastic cows, new surgeries, to buy a projector and screen and to make a brochure about the Plastic Cow project to be sent out with the DVD's all over the country.





## Awareness programs

### 1. Shanti Ananda Nature School - Mudigubba (about 40 kms from Puttaparthi)

In August 2012, an Environmental and Animal Welfare workshop was conducted for around 40 students of 5th, 6th, 7th grade and their respective teachers. The concept of veganism was introduced to the group and its impact on the well-being of humans, animals & the environment was expounded. After an interactive session with the students, the PETA documentary "Compassionate Citizen" was shown and an environment/animal related quiz was conducted.

This letter below was sent from Ms Helga Shanti Freundt, the Project Director for the Shanti Ananda School.

The students of the 5th, 6th and 7th classes were present when Romula spoke about the problems in our environment discussing many aspects in a practical way. She made the students aware of the necessity of a conscious interaction with nature as our mother: reduce, re-use and recycle. She also explained the meaning of vegetarian and vegan. The quiz at the end was a meaningful and joyful evaluation for the touching pieces of information presented by her. Although the students spent an extra hour at the school, they were totally alert, open and touched by Romula's enthusiasm and passion. It was a pleasure for me to observe this conscious widening event. Helga Shanti Freundt, Project Director".



### 2. Humane Education sessions at SSS English Medium School

From September 2012 to February 2013, ten sessions were conducted at the S.S.S.E.M. school at Pedakamavarapalli, near Puttaparthi. A total of 300 students of different age group/grades attended these sessions.

The topics for the sessions were related to the rights of Animals and the importance of the care animals and the environment for human well-being as well as our duty towards protecting them. An interactive discussion with visual aids was followed by the video, Compassionate Citizen.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS OF KARUNA CLINIC & SHELTER BY SCHOOLS

### 1. Visit of TREP Program School

In October 2012 Karuna Society had a visit from TREP (Total Residential Education Program) students of Bangalore, which is a school giving holistic education to underprivileged kids. A total of 52 students (aged 10-15) and five teachers participated in the field trip. After an introductory talk on the importance of caring of animals and the work done by Karuna Society, the group was taken on a tour of the Karuna hospitals and shelter. The Plastic Cow issue was brought to the forefront when the group visited the cattle section. The students put forth relevant questions and were given adequate information.



Seethamma Levine, the American founder, wrote: "It was definitely an eye opener for me...the kids gave feedback and it was high on their list!" Varini, the warden of the school, wrote: "We were given a very enlightening informational talk by Mrs. Romula...she took us around the campus and gave us a vivid description of the service done in Karuna. We also appreciate the efforts and service of Karuna society."

### 2. Visit of Shanti Ananda Nature School

In December 2012, a group of 18 adults comprising of Directors, Administrators and Teachers of the Shanti Ananda Nature School - Mudigubba, visited Karuna Society. After an introductory talk on the importance of caring of animals and the work done by Karuna Society, the group was taken on a tour of the Karuna hospitals and shelter. The Plastic Cow issue was highlighted when the group visited the cattle section. They were able to observe a cow that had recently undergone surgery.

## Wildlife Rescue Centre

Karuna's Wildlife rescue Centre needs to be shifted to the new Ahimsa land close to the forest. We know this already for some time but things move slowly. We are still working on the electric connections for the bore wells. We contacted the new Chief Wildlife Warden Mr. Joseph in March 2013, in Hyderabad and we sent letters asking for support from the Forest Department. In the mean time the Forest Department continues to use our facilities to bring injured and rescued wildlife, mostly Black Bucks, to our shelter.



RESCUED PANTHER CUB



PYTHON RESCUED FROM A WELL



RELEASED AFTER TREATMENT

## Monkeys brutally butchered

In a small town in Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, India, a group of monkeys were brutally butchered as they were considered a nuisance in the town. Two survivors, an adult and a very young one, were brought to the Karuna clinic by some caring villagers. The adult monkey had three legs cut off and the small one lost its left arm. (We wrote a report to the authorities) It was heartbreaking to see their suffering.



THREE LEGS CUT OFF



THE MONKEY DID NOT SURVIVE



BELLA HAD THE LEFT ARM CUT OFF, AFTER SURGERY SHE RECOVERED



Permanent animals – Sloth Bears – 4, Black Bucks – 11, Sambar Deer - 4  
Peafowl – 4 Monkeys - 6

No. of Animals Rescued - 40  
No. of Treatments - 238  
Wildlife maintenance expenses: Rs. 2,74,549/-

## Publications – Femina article

Just passing

# DEFENDING THE COWS



Bangalore is witnessing a garbage upheaval, with tonnes of wet and dry garbage going uncollected every day. Remnants of food inside plastic bags attract roadside cows who swallow the entire bag, resulting in a slow and painful death. NGO activist Clementine Paws presented a grim documentary *The Plastic Cow*, to sensitise the public. **Madhuri Velegar K** met with her

slaughterhouses know the truth, since when the cow gets sick, and the vet can't do anything, it is sold and killed. That's when you find plastic to the tune of 30 to 80 kg in its stomach. We have operated on more than 56 cows, and look after them now.

off to the south, or west or east. There is no solution as the number of animals being bred for milk and meat by the government-run Animal Husbandry department is so huge that there is no space to keep them. We need a spiritual, political and economic revolution to save and rescue cows from becoming plastic cows.

**What set you off in the direction of saving cows in Puttaparthi?**  
In 2006, our NGO Karuna Society was asked by another group to help stop trucks transporting cattle to the southern states for slaughter. In that one attempt, we saved more than 600 cattle, cows, calves, bulls and buffaloes. Unfortunately, we've been unable to rescue in such a large scale thereafter

though our research tells us that more than 1.7 lakh calves have been sent to the slaughterhouse in 2007, and this continues to happen even today.

**Do you have statistics to show how many cows on Bangalore's streets are impacted by plastic?**  
I do not have exact figures but I am convinced that every animal on the road is impacted. Butchers in

**What can people do when they see cows chewing on plastic bags?**  
Most of us are helpless. Only those who own cows can do something about them. Do not use plastic to dispose of wet waste, and if you do use it, don't tie it up tightly; the cow will eat it all!

**Are there any practical solutions civic bodies can undertake?**  
There are rules in every municipality to deal with stray cattle but every official knows where these animals end up. The illegal transport of cattle to slaughterhouses is a well-organised, lucrative business. The northern states send them

**Is there a law to penalise cattle owners, who don't care for them and let them graze at dumps?**  
Cows are reduced to milk, meat and leather producing machines, and suffer great cruelty. The government should take on the moral responsibility to produce no more animals than it can maintain within the Animal Protection Laws of India. The poor dairy owner is not the culprit. We need to stop the production of dairy cows, protect the local agricultural working bull and cow breeds for food production and try to go vegan! ●

**"The government should take on the moral responsibility to produce no more animals than it can maintain within the Animal Protection Laws."**

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHETAN SHIVAKUMAR

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[http://media.radiosai.org/journals/vol\\_10/01AUG12/02\\_08\\_2012\\_schedule.htm](http://media.radiosai.org/journals/vol_10/01AUG12/02_08_2012_schedule.htm)

Publication of the Plastic Cow project in the quarterly magazine of the AWBI, Chennai.

<http://www.awbi.org/?q=node/46>

<http://www.awbi.org/?q=node/48>

# Planning for 2013-2014

## CLINIC AND ABC

The small animal clinic and the ABC program will continue as per need.

## CATTLE RESCUE AND ORGANIC FARMING

The cattle rescue project is facing new difficulties with the arrival of the new 146 cattle from Gorantla. Our own planning for the drought season is now compromised and we are in desperate need of water, feed and shelter for the total of 500 rescued cattle. During the summer we cannot give any animal for adoption as the farmers are already selling off all their unproductive animals before the drought and they will have no resources for additional animals. The adoptions have to wait till the monsoon arrives. This means we have to look after a large nr. of animals during the most difficult time of the year. We will send out appeals for support through our newsletter and personal contacts.

The preparation for the electricity connections in the new Ahimsa land continues but it is a slow and tiring process. It needs to be finalized this year!!!

## COW PROJECT THE PLASTIC

Surgeries on Plastic Cows will continue as per need

The Plastic Cow brochure will be designed, printed and sent out with the DVD's to all levels of Indian administration and other relevant institutions.

The public interest litigation will be followed up.

## EDUCATION/AWARENESS PROGRAMS

The education programs for schoolchildren will continue and we have to connect more with the local people, farmers and administration about local problems and animals. We plan to do this through the screening of the Plastic cow documentary in Telugu.

## WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE

The development and shifting of the new Wildlife Rescue Centre can only become a reality after the much needed infrastructure like electricity and bore wells are in working order. In the mean time we are working on the Master Plan as required by the CZA

## Last but not least, FINANCES:

The development of the projects of Karuna Society has outgrown the simple financial management depending on donations of animal loving people. We need to come to a better financial arrangement and planning as several animals and employees are dependent on our activities.



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RECOGNIZED BY ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA,  
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## ANNUAL TREATMENT REPORT

YEAR: 2012-13

Species	No. of Animals	No. of Treatments	Still under Treatment	Improved & Discharged	Natural Death	Euthanised	RABIES VAC
DOGS	583	6637	18	542	16	7	430
PUPPIES	275	3020		268	5	2	217
CATS	30	347	4	26	0	0	12
DISTEMPER DOGS	30	1053	1	24	1	4	13
DISTEMPER PUPPIES	15	324		10	1	4	4
RABID DOGS	12	57		1	0	11	1
PARVO DOGS	23	796	1	17	3	2	11
PARVO PUPPIES	22	721		20		2	15
<b><u>ABC PROGRAM</u></b>							
ABC DOGS	342	2408	8	334			377
ABC CATS	78	552	5	73			78
BUFFALOES	1	8		1			1
<b><u>FARM ANIMALS</u></b>							
COWS	64	768		61	3		
BULLS	32	288		17	15		
BUFFALOES	24	336		9	15		
DONKEYS	4	18		4			
HORSE	1	22		1			
PLASTIC COW	1	18		1			
<b><u>WILDLIFE</u></b>							
Monkey	9	124	4	0	5		
Sambar Deer	2	9	2	0			
Black Buck	21	62		1	20		
Peafowl	4	8		0	4		
Panthor Cub	1	1		1			
Spotted Deer	1	10		0	1		
Python	1	2		0	1		
Sloth Bear	1	22		0	1		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1577</b>	<b>17611</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1411</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1159</b>

### PERMANENT ANIMALS:

Dogs:	44	Bullocks:	83	Sloth Bears:	4
Puppies:	12	Cows:	167	Black Buck:	11
Cats:	10	Buffaloes:	153	Sambar Deer:	4
Horses:	3	Donkey:	7	Monkey:	6
Camel:	1	Peafowl:	4		

TOTAL ANIMALS

509

MANAGER

SECRETARY

VET. DOCTOR