



**KARUNA SOCIETY FOR
ANIMALS AND NATURE**

RECOGNIZED BY ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA,
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ANNUAL REPORT

2015 –2016

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Introduction

Looking back at the planning from last year we can say that the year 2015-2016 is dominated by our struggle to create our new wildlife rescue centre and our efforts to control the reproduction of all our cattle through castration of bulls and sterilisation of cows and buffaloes.

Since the visit of Les Ward from the Jeanne Marchig Trust in September 2014, who encouraged us to apply for funds for the wildlife centre, we took the decision in November 2014 to shift the wildlife rescue centre to the Ahimsa Farm. Our focus has been on the planning of the centre and the grant application for the Marchig Trust.

Our greatest difficulty has been finding qualified professionals to help us with the design and the Master Plan, based on which we had to make an estimate of the cost for the grant application. We designed the lay-out for the animal enclosures and other facilities on 15 acres. The estimated cost is 93 lakhs. We applied with the Marchig Trust for 2/3 of the cost: Rs. 60.lakhs which was approved of and we received the same in January 2016.

Karuna received Rs.10 lakhs compensation for existing structures at the old wildlife rescue centre from Romula D'Silva, our Vice President. With this amount we started immediately the construction of the 5 ft. compound wall, length 1.2 km. at the new facility.

We kept approx.. 5 acres on the Ahimsa Farm for growing fruit trees, fodder and vegetables for sale and for wildlife feeding.

All other projects have been implemented as before although they have exceeded the limits of funding capacity which became a problem.

Total income this year Rs.59,21,687/-

No. of animals treated; 1637

Total expenses this year Rs.59,47,725/-

No. of treatments; 14,283

Total nr. of animals in shelter on March 31 2016: 455



Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre

Introduction

Karuna Society for Animals and Nature has been involved in the rescue of all local wildlife from its inception in 2000.

There is little or no structural support for wild animals in distress in our area. The closest zoo or rescue centre is hundreds of kilometres away.

Initially we did not have proper facilities to treat and keep injured wildlife but we improved and developed our facilities year by year, adjusting to the needs of the animals and the requirements made by the Central Zoo Authorities.

Karuna Society has been granted recognition as a Wildlife Rescue Centre up to June 2017.

Unfortunately, over the last six years our existing wildlife sanctuary has been surrounded by residential development and an airport and the location has become unsuitable as a rescue centre. As a result, we can no longer meet all the requirements of the Central Zoo Authorities and obtain permanent permission as a wildlife rescue centre with life time facilities.

Several years ago we purchased 18 acres of land near the reserve forest behind Rayalavaripalli, Bukkapatnam Forest range. We have earmarked 10 acres for new wildlife rescue facilities which will give us the opportunity to learn from our past mistakes, improve our services and expand our activities.

With the creation of the new wildlife rescue centre, the upgrading of facilities and services, our mission of rescue and rehabilitation will make a difference for a large number of wildlife living under extreme difficult conditions. See attachments of rescued species and pictures.

Local wildlife protection will have a future!!!!



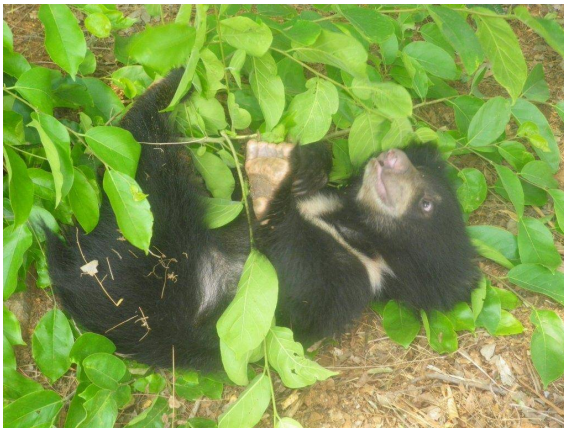
Our Vision on Wildlife

In a world in turmoil caused by war, economic pressures and environmental problems, it is easy to forget that we are not the only species living and surviving on this planet.

Although there are protected forests and sanctuaries, it is in the rural areas where the interface between wildlife and humans is mostly at the cost of the wild animals, large and small.

Traditional hunting, poaching, encroaching of forests by agriculture or industries, degrading of forests due to droughts and overgrazing are causing severe suffering to all forms of wildlife.

We believe that the creation of a new balance in the human-nature relationship is in the interest of all living beings.



Our Mission

Our mission has two aspects:

Firstly, rescue, medical care and rehabilitation for every wild animal in distress in our area. This includes the need for shelter and life time care for those animals that cannot be rehabilitated.

Secondly, to analyse the causes of the existing problems and to create solutions and improvements where the suffering of wildlife can be relieved and prevented.



At present the most pressing problems are:

The hunting and poaching activities. Changes have to be supported by active involvement of the villagers.

We need to work together with the forest department and other Animal Welfare Societies in rescue activities and to share information.

We need a MoU with the wildlife/forest department about a safe stretch of dense forest where we can rehabilitate rescued animals.

Development of a "soft release" programme for rescued young Sloth Bears with the help of established wildlife organisations.



Master Plan;

The Wildlife Rescue Centre will secure first aid and shelter for all wild animals in distress and apart from the different holding areas for different species; it consists of facilities for first aid and surgery, administration, kitchen and a rescue vehicle.

First Phase;

The shifting of the existing wildlife rescue centre with the animals that are currently with us.

To implement this the following is needed;

- boundary wall as per Master Plan.
- construct the facilities for Sloth Bears with night and day enclosures and a separate Bear Cub area.
- fencing of the areas for the Sambar Deer and the Black Buck.
- housing for the disabled monkeys.
- improvement of the entry roads.



Second Phase;

To finish the construction of facilities as per Master Plan although some adjustments might be needed.

The planning and management of a rescue centre is fundamentally different from a Zoo..

Acquisition depends on the rescued animals and if they can be returned to the wild.

Depending on the rescue activities, the development of the relationship with the Forest Department, (MoU for a safe forest area where animals can be released) other organisations and the local community, the planning has to be adjusted and priorities decided.

A qualified wildlife professional has to be found to tend to the overall management of the animals.

Future planning and financial management will depend on the implementation and results of the first and second phase. We expect the development of the wildlife rescue centre to take three years.

Donations received for construction;
Marchig Trust; Rs.57,63,893/-
HAI; Rs.1,93,540/-

Maintenance expenses; Rs.5,28,966/-
Wildlife treated; 26 treatments; 225
wild animals in shelter; 40



Small Animal Clinic, ABC and administration



The Devoted Caretakers of Karuna's Animals

This year we need to give special attention to the most needed general maintenance which covers salaries, office and other basic expenses.

Unfortunately, we are not receiving the much needed donations for other expenses such as maintenance, salaries, office expenses, etc. Many donor organisations do not cover these expenses as they want their contributions to go directly to the animals.

Here I need to make a point about the importance of all the people working for the animals at Karuna. Without them, no animal would be looked after, no medicines administered, no food made and served, and no cleaning would be done. Most of our attendants have worked with Karuna for more than 10 years. We provide them a secure job with a pension, so they are able to look after their families and to send their children to school. They provide the much needed care for our animals and, in return, we give them the security they need.

Caretaker Venkatesh has grown into a very skilled medical assistant, providing first aid and daily medical care at the in- and outpatient departments.



Narasimha, our first attendant with "Animal Rescue Project" in 1998, cares for all the cows, bulls, donkeys, horses and camel.



Our driver Sudhakar goes out with the truck at all hours to rescue wildlife with Narendra and Bhaskar. Radha Krishna Reddy, our financial manager, together with Ramana watches every rupee spent and takes care that our accounting system is completely transparent. We cannot list all the work done by our attendants to keep things organised and in working order but it is clear that without our employees no animal would receive the care and treatment they need. Conclusion: Paying our employee's salaries is just as important as providing food and medicines to our animals!

Karuna's Services

First aid and free treatment for all local dogs, cats and other small animals

Treatments

General surgeries (amputations and pinning of fractures)

Treatments

Inpatient care for very sick animals and accident cases

Permanent care for disabled animal

Permanent care for cats without a home

All our services depend on general donations.

Donations for clinic; Rs.7,75,989/-

Expenses clinic: Rs.11,34,881/-

No. of animals treated; 1065

No. of treatments; 10.189

Karuna's "No Reproduction" policy.



ABC/AR and cow sterilization

Upgrading of the ABC/surgery department

This has not much to do with the surgeries itself. Our vet surgeon who comes once a week on his day off, is already working with us for more than 10 years. He is the district veterinary surgeon, he did ABC training in Chennai with the Blue Cross of India (Bali group) and since then has done all our surgeries;

Dog ABC, Cat ABC, accident cases, amputations, pinning of fractures, cancer surgery, electrocuted monkey's surgeries, Plastic Cows, sterilisation (Castration of bulls is done by the local vet. in our hospital).

Although each and every aspect of animal care in shelters needs constant upgrading and supervision, I know that our surgeries are the best we can do in the local circumstances.

Upgrading ABC means at present for us the awareness that so many more surgeries are done at our clinic for which there is no separate funding and has to be paid out of general donations. It also means that the no. of Dog/Cat ABC is less when other surgeries are taking up time and funds.



If we focus on the dog/cat ABC then there is no time for the cow sterilisation and the reproduction will continue. Calves born at Karuna are actually not rescued animals. We realise that cow sterilisation is a must in every rescue centre to stop the reproduction and it is the only effective action against the "breeding policy" of the government.

The conclusion of the above is that we need at least one more surgeon to come on a regular basis to share the workload and to come up with some effective numbers of surgeries.

Our vet is searching among his colleagues to see who is willing and qualified.

Another conclusion is that we not only need funding for the ABC but also separate funds for the general surgeries and cow sterilisation as we cannot continue the breeding.

One donkey and one horse have recently delivered as well. no surgeon here knows how to castrate horses and donkey's. It is just not done.

This week the local vet has castrated 7 young bulls. These will be given out for adoption to local farmers for the bullock cart but we are not in control of the quality of their lives although they stay property of Karuna and cannot go for slaughter.

We have been propagating the cow/buffalo sterilisations among other shelters but to the Indian mind this is incomprehensible!!!! A cow/buffalo is for production.. Even the animal welfare people find this concept difficult although the Indian ladies have their tubes tied after two children.



Our policy has to be; **NO REPRODUCTION** for all shelter animals.

This means upgrading of our surgery department and to produce effective numbers!!!!!! For this we need sufficient funding.

Dogs/ Cats ABC; Rs 986/- (\$ 15/-)

Cow sterilisation; Rs 1899/- (\$ 30/-)

All other surgeries cost appr the same; \$30/- as they take more time and the anaesthetics, surgical material and medicines plus after care is the same.

Surgeries in 2015-2016

ABC; dogs 316 , cats 48

AR vaccinations; 814

Amputations, pinning, emergency; 66

Cattle sterilisation and plastic cow; 36

donations: HAI and ACA: Rs. 4,05,677/-

expenses; Rs. 4,43,740/-

donations: HAI, Rs. 1,29,026/-

Administration

Expenses: Rs.5,24,448/-

Provident fund employees: Rs.2,85,607/-

Public Relation: film "Karuna, compassion it is":

Rs. 3 lakhs

Advance for Brochure: Rs.40,000/-



Cattle Rescue Project

It has always been our wish to rescue as many cows, buffaloes and bulls from illegal transport to slaughter. The problem arises the moment after the rescue. How can we feed these animals for the rest of their lives?

Not by making a profit on their ongoing reproduction for milk.

Not by sending their calves for slaughter.

Not by giving them away for adoption and return them to the same abusive bio industry from which they were rescued.

The only solution we found acceptable is castration and sterilisation of all cattle, stop the reproduction and limit the number of animals to be fed by our project. Over the last few years we have given young working bulls for adoption to good farmers in our own area and made sure the bulls are treated well. This will gradually stop as there are no new bull calves being born.



We have also realised that our ability to rescue more cows from the bio industry is very limited. We cannot feed more cattle than we already have. Only individual cows that come to us in distress will be taken in.

As a small cattle rescue project we cannot take on the whole cruel bio industry. What we CAN do is to be that ONE PLACE where cattle are not in fear of their life, are free to move around, relate to each other, graze outside when possible and are not kept alive or killed for profit.

Total rescued cattle in our care; 316

Donations: Rs. 13,29,026/-

Total expenses: Rs,21,67,363/-

Cruelty Free Organic Farming

Since the start of agriculture thousands of years ago organic farming depends on animal labour, cow dung and urine. Before the English rulers brought chemical farming to India all farming was organic. There was no other way. That didn't mean there was no cruelty, abuse and slaughter of animals. From Karuna's point of view the cattle are the central issue in organic farming. **See the Ahimsa logo!**

At present the focus in organic farming is on the soil without chemicals or pesticides, using organic material like dung and leaves for compost

In the new organic farming wave the suffering of the cow and bull has disappeared from the picture. (Farmers take the dung from their milking buffaloes who all go for slaughter or they take the dung from another dairy farm.)

Karuna Society does not only promote chemical free organic farming but organic farming has to be cruelty and slaughter free as well. Our rescued cattle are part of the cruelty free organic production of vegetables and herbs. In general, the Vegan community also needs to realize that all their vegan food is connected to cows and bulls by composting the fields and transport by bullock cart.



Last year when we were facing a severe drought, we received a grant from HAI for drip irrigation as it is the best solution for utilising the water resources.

Unfortunately we had to wait with the implementation as the planning for the areas for the wildlife rescue centre were not yet defined. As we now have a basic lay-out plan, Narendra has taken up the drip irrigation on appr. 4 acres outside the wildlife area. He has planted more than 120 drumstick leaf trees, many lemon grass scrubs and Tulsi. The produce will be sold to Ahimsa Organic. We also planted countless pumpkin seeds and other Indian vegetable varieties to feed the animals and to be sold in the Karuna shop.

Slowly all our projects are coming together in a wholesome way, interconnected with each other and supporting each effort.

Produce sold to the Karuna shop and Ahimsa Organic;

Income sales and compost: Rs. 3,30,174/-

The Karuna Shop in Puttaparthi

The Karuna shop has several functions. Residents of Puttaparthi and visiting foreigners are able to buy high quality fresh organic produce grown on the Ahimsa farm as well as the packed AHIMSA organic products (Herbal powders, Himalaya salt, Gomutra, Spirulina, Peanut butter, Tahini, etc.). This helps to generate some funds for the upkeep of the animals in our care.

The shop also serves as a venue for visitors to express their concerns about the local animals, especially those that are not being treated well. Romula D'Silva, our Vice-President, and her daughter Roshni manage the shop and respond to animals in distress. If needed the animals are brought to the clinic for treatment. For instance, a few foreigners came to the shop to complain about a donkey with severely infected wounds on the back. The donkey was brought by us to the clinic and treated for several weeks. Now it has become a permanent resident of our shelter and is leading a happy carefree life along with the other rescued animals.

Another vital function of the shop is receiving donations, in cash and in kind, from animal loving people who want to contribute to the care of animals in Puttaparthi.

The shop also serves to disseminate information on animal and environment related issues.



Humane Education

This year the following activities took place as part of the Humane Education Project

1. Karuna Society at the World Environment Day celebrations in Bangalore

Karuna Society participated in the World Environment Day celebrations held at the Kantiveera Stadium in Bangalore on 5th and 6th June 2015. Several schools and organisations visited the venue. Issues related to animal welfare were discussed. The Plastic Cow film was played and DVDs and brochures were distributed. Special T shirts were created for this occasion. This event was well attended and response from the visitors was very encouraging.

2. Visit of TREP students from Bangalore

Around 20 persons and their teachers from TREP (Total Residential Education Program), Bangalore visited Karuna Clinic & Shelter in November 2015.

They were given a guided tour. The concept of veganism was introduced to them as well as the problems faced by cattle and street animals in cities were discussed, especially the "Plastic Cow". The importance of ABC was also explained. Plastic Cow DVDs were handed over to the teachers.

3. Visit of Staff from People's Trust, Bangalore along with their families

Around 30 staff and their families from People's Trust, Bangalore visited Karuna Clinic & Shelter in January 2016.

They were given a guided tour. The concept of veganism was introduced to them as well as the problems faced by cattle and street animals in cities were discussed, especially the "Plastic Cow". The importance of ABC was also explained.



3. Visit of a Group of students from Malaysia

In February 2016, a group of students of from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia visited the Karuna clinic and shelter. It was a great learning experience for them.

4. Humane Education sessions at Sri Sai Vidyalaya School

From January 2016 to February 2016, four sessions were conducted at the Sri Sai Vidyalaya English Medium High School in Puttaparthi. A total of 150 students of different age group/grades attended these sessions.

The topics for the sessions were related to the relevance of animals in our life, the importance of caring for animals and the environment as well as our duty towards respecting and protecting them.

An interactive discussion with visual aids was followed by the video, Compassionate Citizen.

Open Day at Karuna

On the 11 of January we received approximately 25 visitors. In the morning, the visitors got to see the different animals at the clinic (dogs, cats, cows, buffaloes, horses, donkeys and a camel). The operations for dog sterilization were in full swing and some people could have a quick peep into the operation theatre.

The purpose of the cattle operation theatre was explained (Plastic Cow surgeries and cow sterilization).

After a short explanation about the legal aspects of Karuna, the group went with Narendra Reddy to the wildlife rescue centre. As the wildlife centre is not open to the public, most people do not know how many wild animals we rescue, treat and release. It was a big surprise for them and, especially, the sloth bears made a huge impression.

In the afternoon, around 15 people visited the Ahimsa farm where there are more cattle, the organic garden and the cow urine distillation unit. The production unit for the Ahimsa organic products is also located there.

Most people expressed their amazement at the number of different works and projects that Karuna has accomplished (they were thinking only about dogs and cats).

At the end of the visit we were all standing on the hill, behind the organic garden, and we could see the cattle returning from grazing in the forest. We could also view the area where the construction of the new wildlife centre has already started.

We plan to repeat the open day every year, to keep those who are interested informed about all the work done but not always visible.



Planning 2016-2017

Master plan Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre.

We have been facing countless problems with the design of the Master Plan, finding qualified people, support, the understanding of the requirements and the final technical site map. This financial year we need to receive prior permission from the CZA for the construction and design. Meeting with the CZA seems necessary.

Construction Wildlife centre

As it happened we had started construction of the boundary wall and the sloth bear enclosures as soon as we received the grant from the Marchig Trust. This caused a misunderstanding with the CZA as there had been a lack of communication.

We hope to finalise the construction as soon as possible.

Improving donor/public relationship to secure running cost of all projects.

The Wildlife Rescue Centre is the last project construction Karuna needs to secure first aid and shelter for all animals in distress in the area.

We need to secure the upkeep and running cost of all Karuna projects by improving relationships with donors and public, establishing a permanent source of income through donations and grants.

Film and brochure

We have received a donation from Vital Solution, Singapore to fund a short film about Karuna and a brochure with information.

Kunal Vohra of Altair films created the film; "Karuna, compassion it is" on YouTube.

Ananth Sankhar is working on the brochure; "A journey of compassion"

Clementien Pauws-Koenegras

President