



KARUNA SOCIETY FOR ANIMALS AND NATURE



Annual Report 2019 – 2020

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Introduction

Karuna Society for Animals and Nature is a registered non-profit animal welfare organization in India under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. We were registered in Anantapur on September 18, 2000, Nr. 685 of 2000.

While writing the introduction for this Annual Report in June 2020, we find ourselves in-between two worlds: the old one, which we know, with a future we anticipated; and a different world with the Covid-19 (which began shortly before the end of this financial year): the lock downs, the reopening and the uncertainty about how the world is going to take its new form and what that will mean for the animals.

After more than twenty years of animal welfare in the Puttaparthi area we have improved our projects year by year: medical care for stray animals, Animal Birth Control and Anti-Rabies vaccinations, surgeries for accident cases, cattle rescue and cow sterilizations, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. All these improvements need funding and administration and that is exactly the "*Theme*" of the Annual Report this year: improved governance and accountability.

Our Accomplishments

In late March 2019 TATA Trusts awarded an important grant of over 58 lakh rupees (about \$77,000) to Karuna Society for three years, which has helped us a lot already during this first year. Much needed



repairs, maintenance and painting of all facilities was high on our to-do list, and successfully completed with the generous grant.

In April 2019, we also received a much-needed TATA Zip ambulance vehicle for rescues and transport between facilities. The grant also

included the welcome security of covering salaries for 11 Karuna employees for three years.

From the moment the TATA Trusts sent a representative from the "Office of CA Rozmin N Ajani, Chartered Accountant" for inspection and training, we committed ourselves to upgrade all aspects of administration and financial management. During the process, we improved our relationship with our

accounting firm, "Itta Raghunandan & Co., Chartered Accountants", and subsequently signed a new contract with the firm in late September 2019.

In July 2019, we were accepted into the "Organizational Capacity Enhancement Programme" through Oracle India. This included inspections, intensive training and extensive updating of our office and financial procedures. Presently, we are waiting for our official "rating" on their website, which will make us eligible for CSR funding.

By the end of 2019, we completed the revision of our Human Resources Policy and the new Finance Manual with guidelines for all employees to follow. The manuals were approved during our Board meeting in early March 2020.

An improved level of administration showed us the need for a well-functioning office with working computers in a safe environment. We received two donations, one from RDT Anantapur and one from Mr. Krishnan's company "Asia Paper Markets", and the office was thus successfully renovated with safe electrical work, a new computer, new back-up batteries and new furniture.

Our Struggles

Karuna's Wildlife Project's woes with the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), designing of the Master Plan and the re-recognition of the wildlife rescue project have taken the whole financial year but finally came to a successful conclusion on 5 March 2020, with the written (conditional) approval of our Master Plan for construction of the new centre at the new site.



We rescued these rabbits from abusive captivity and now they have a big, natural and safe environment where they are happy and thriving!

Relief and a Surprise

In December 2019, 'The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust' and the 'Foundation Marchig' again awarded Karuna Society with grants for food and medicine. To our surprise and delight our President, Clementien Koenegras, received the annual "Jeanne Marchig Animal Welfare Award" for 2019!

Jeanne Marchig Award ~ Recipients

■ Some of the recipients of 'The Jeanne Marchig Animal Welfare Award' ■

A photograph of Clementien Koenegras, the President of Karuna Society, holding a black dog. She is wearing a blue patterned shirt and is looking down at the dog with a gentle expression. The background is a simple stone wall.

2019
Clementien Koenegras, Founder & President,
Karuna Society for Animals and Nature, India

In recognition of her outstanding practical work over 23 years in the field of animal welfare and protection in India. Her journey began in 1996, when she toured on her own the town of Puttaparthi on a bicycle, providing comfort and care to the street dogs, before establishing the Karuna Society for Animals and Nature four years later. Since its foundation and as a result of Clementien Koenegras' hard work, tireless dedication and guidance over the years, the Karuna Society has provided through its veterinary Hospitals, much needed medical assistance to the animals of the Anantapur district of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. In addition, Karuna's Shelters provide care and safe havens for animals that have been rescued from abuse or are no longer able to fend for themselves; this includes a Wildlife and Rehabilitation Centre. Through its animal birth control programmes, Karuna has sterilised many thousands of dogs and cats in order to humanely control the overpopulation of strays through unwanted breeding, as well as undertaking anti-rabies vaccination programmes. The organisation rescues cattle from those transporting them illegally and has been an active proponent of the 'Plastic Cow Campaign', which seeks to ban the dumping of plastic on the streets of India, where it is then ingested into the stomachs of cattle that roam the streets looking for food. In support of the campaign, the Karuna Society successfully took a 'Public Interest Litigation Case' to the Supreme Court of India where it was ruled that "all local governments should take action to prevent the alarming dumping and ingestion of plastic by cattle". The Recipient of a number of other Awards, the Trustees welcome the opportunity to acknowledge the work of Clementien Koenegras and the Karuna Society for Animals and Nature.

Total Income: ₹. 1,15,59,214/-

Total Expenditure: ₹. 88,19,800/-

Total number Animals Treated: **2,008**

Total Number of Treatments: **46,680**

Total number of permanent animals on 31st of March 2019: **388**

THANK YOU, DEAR SUPPORTERS!

Thanks to all our generous many individual donors for their regular and unwavering support, nothing can be done without your help! We also wholeheartedly appreciate the support of organisations including those shown below: The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust and the Foundation Marchig (UK), Help Animals India (USA), Vital Solutions (Singapore), Mission of Mercy Foundation with Mr Harcharan Singh, Rural Development Trust (Anantapur, AP, India), Animal Care Austria (Austria), Lush Charity Pot and Tata Trusts.

TATA TRUSTS



the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust



LUSH

FRESH HANDMADE COSMETICS



Vicente Ferrer

50 1969/
Dignity
Change
Equality
/2019

Office Renovation and Training

Oracle India Training Programme

In July 2019 we were accepted into the “Organizational Capacity Enhancement Programme” through Oracle India. Two of our staff attended the “Strategic Management Workshop” in September 2019, which trained us in strengthening the capacity of the Board Members and Chief Functionary in sound governance. The training was mainly about accountability and included a presentation given by our Wildlife Manager, Crystal Fernandes.



The second Oracle workshop in January 2020 was on "Operational Management" and gave useful mainly financial-related guidelines such as legal structure, foreign contributions and income tax provisions. It was attended by three Karuna staff members who are responsible for Karuna’s financial management.

In addition, Lead Consultant Mr. Puran came two times, in October 2019 and March 2020, for inspections and one-on-one coaching. The follow-up inspections brought to light important necessary improvements on different management levels.

Office Renovations

Thanks to the generous grant from Tata Trusts and additional contributions from the Rural Development Trust and Help Animals India, we completed major office renovations to complement progressing to enhanced professional office procedures.

Early April 2019 saw major plumbing work, including the repair or replacement of broken pipes in the cattle enclosure and the small animal clinic, plus nine sinks, drainage pipes, water pumps, faucets and even repairs to four staff bathrooms, as well as clearing and cleaning of sewage tanks.

Electrical work started soon afterwards with replacements of four fans and four switch boards, wire repair, new bulbs, and multiple plug points in the office and elsewhere repaired or replaced. Most importantly was the new earthing of the electrical systems.

The entire clinic and compound wall also received a long overdue new paint job, inside and outside.

The office was equipped with a new computer, inverter set with battery backup and a new printer. To go along with that, the old and crumbling desks and other furniture were replaced, as was the window frames and the glass panes. CCTV was also installed throughout the premises, with viewing stations in the office.



Small Animal Clinic

The Tata Trusts grant gave us 3 lakh Rupees (about \$4,000) to purchase much needed new surgical equipment, much of which we required for our Small Animal Clinic.

In India most stray/street dogs and cats are capable of living free. As long as they are not injured, sick or abused, they will take care of themselves and their own. It is human interference, the positive and the negative side, that makes the lives of the animals more complicated. Many times, they lose their right to be free and end up living in captivity.

Twenty years ago, there were countless stray dogs, cats and donkeys in Puttaparthi suffering without help. It is no surprise that some devotees began to try and help in their own way. Some animal lovers started feeding animals on the road, and others took dogs and cats into their home. However, housing and feeding a growing number of cats and dogs that they considered "their own" became a financial, emotional and practical burden. "Loving too much" resulted in having too many animals to efficiently care for.

Karuna Society's aim is to provide free treatment and shelter to all stray/street/free animals in need of help. After 20 years of service, continuing animal birth control, and medical treatment, the living conditions for animals in Puttaparthi has drastically improved. People bring injured and sick animals from far and wide and we serve between 2,500 to 3,000 animals per year.

Our Rescued Cat Population Doubles

In November 2019, our Karuna shelter accepted 19 cats (four of them blind) and five dogs from an elderly Italian lady who had been caring for animals in Puttaparthi for many years - because she had to abruptly return to her country due to failing health. This event has effectively DOUBLED our population of permanent cat residents! In general, they are doing well but we discovered that they relate very little to humans. They are basically wild outdoor cats and were attracted only by their owner coming to feed them; she kept the cats secluded - with her being the only person they had contact with. The cats are now sterilized/castrated.



New Cat Enclosure

After receiving the cats, in early January 2020 we adjusted and constructed additional enclosures in an area beside our existing cattery on the roof, to



house the new cats. This new area includes a large outdoor, yet protected, area for them to walk

free. The traumatized kitties are doing so much better! They have gained weight and are more comfortable with our attendant. Special thanks to **Help Animals India** for their generous donations which made this extra construction possible!



Misha Walks Again!

Misha is another Karuna success story! She was brought in by her owner - she had been bitten by another dog and her two back legs were paralysed. After a couple of months of tender care at Karuna, she is walking again! The owner is refusing to take her back so it looks like she has joined Karuna's other permanent residents.



Before



After

Alice, Our Volunteer from Italy



One of Misha's caretakers was Alice Fiorentini, a volunteer from Italy who stayed with us for one month during February 2020. Alice treated Misha to daily massages and loving attention, which greatly assisted Misha's successful recovery. Alice also helped with many daily treatments and care of animals in distress who came to Karuna Society. Thank you so much for coming to Karuna, Alice!

Dog with Plastic Bottle on Her Head



In February 2020, we got a call about a dog with a big plastic bottle on her head. It took at least 10 days of a lot of running and chasing before we managed to capture her and remove the bottle! She is doing fine now, relieved and eating and drinking again.



We spayed her and returned her to her village area, to live again a free and happy life among her family.

Shivani Walks Again!

Shivani was brought in by a villager several months ago with distemper of the nervous system and she was completely paralyzed. We were hand feeding her and she received daily drips and nervine tonics.



After a few weeks she could sit up, but we didn't have much hope of her full recovery. We didn't give up! Every day she was a bit better! Then she started walking like a drunk and falling! Now she is so much improved that she comes up to us, very happy and wagging her tail, making her even more unstable. This is one of those recoveries that gives us so much happiness and it makes all the other suffering we are dealing with bearable!

Annual Small Animal Clinic Treatment Report

Cases of In & Out Patient animals	No. treated	No. of animals admitted	No. of treatments	Improved & discharged	Still under treatment	Natural death	Euthanized	ARV
Distemper in dogs	132	48	28204	25	3	12	8	0
Parvo-Virus in dogs	135	53	3006	30	7	9	7	0
Rabies	16	16	56	0	0	2	14	0
Accident / injury	102	35	2440	24	4	6	1	54
Post-Surgery Care	493	416	3810	405	0	10	1	103
Others	960	160	4568	143	3	10	4	797
Resident Animals	170	N/A	4596	N/A	5	13	4	0
Total	2008	728	46680	627	22	62	39	954

Permanent Animals	
Dogs:	Cats:
39	35



ABC (Animal Birth Control) and AR (Anti Rabies) Vaccination

Our sterilisation program is ongoing since 2002 and cannot stop as there are always new dogs entering the area. We have an operation theatre and five post-operative rooms for 30 dogs. So far, we have sterilised more than 13,000 dogs in and around Puttaparthi township. The overall result in the Puttaparthi municipality is a stabilized healthy dog population, sterilised and vaccinated.

Unfortunately, the Government's ABC/AR scheme in our area is still not funded since September 2017. However, as mentioned in our 2018-2019 Annual Report, in November 2018 we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the local Municipality, agreeing to cooperation and mutual support in the field of dog population control for the purpose of human health and animal welfare. We therefore continue our ABC program, bearing all costs ourselves with no government financial assistance.

Every Friday several of our staff members go around to various local villages and pick up 10-12 female and male dogs for the ABC surgery performed by our veterinary surgeon. After the procedure, males are held for 3-4 days and females are held for a week to assure a full healthy recovery from the operation; and then they are released back to the areas where they were picked up.

Special thanks to **Help Animals India** who provided Rs 3 lakh Rupees (about \$4,000), specifically to help us with Animal Birth Control expenses!



New Dog-Catching Nets

In April 2019, thanks to a special fund-raising effort, **Help Animals India** collected donations which allowed us to purchase brand new and urgently needed new dog-catching nets. We will use them extensively and especially in our ABC program. THANK YOU to Help Animals India!



ABC Surgery Annual Numbers

Animals operated	ABC		Other surgeries	ARV
	Male	Female		
Dogs	88	226	38	352
Cats	18	8	0	26
Cattle	0	13	4	4
Others	0	0	2	2
Total	106	247	44	384

Got Milk? No, We Do Not Have Milk!

Over time we have rescued approximately 700 cattle from slaughter. At present approximately 244 are still with us. Unfortunately, we are too small to fight the cattle trading industry (we were almost killed in 2005 at the cattle market), so we decided to implement our own “Vegan Vision for cattle” policy: that all cows, buffaloes and bulls



are sterilized or castrated. We are at present the only organisation in India (and the world?) to sterilize cows. There is no reproduction and therefore no milk. Only by-products like dung and urine are utilized for biogas, compost and even medicine. Our cattle, rescued from illegal slaughter, now live peaceful lives and are not treated as milk-making machines for profit. They are happy and free from fear and suffering!

Gaushalas (cow shelters) are always overcrowded and are used as a milk factory; we believe that sterilization of cows can be a useful management tool to control those numbers. We are promoting this idea for the management of Gaushalas and even talked with representatives of several animal welfare organizations about it.

We started simply with tubal ligation but over time the attendants complained that the cattle became very restless and were in heat often. After discussion with the surgeon we realized that the restlessness



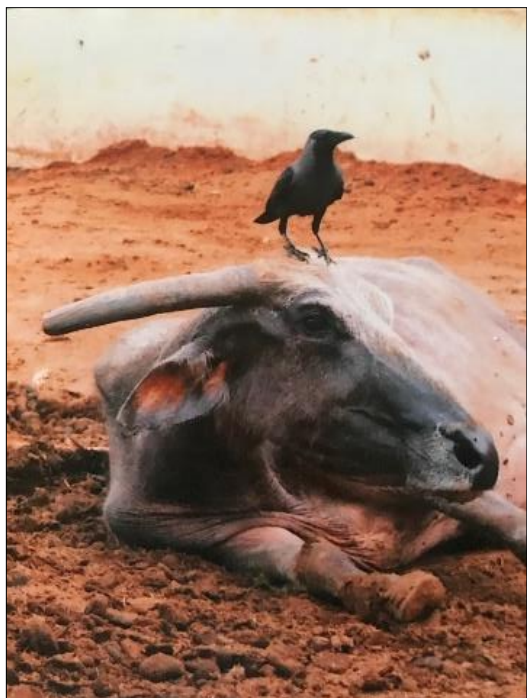
came from hormones because we had not removed the ovaries as well. So after that, we removed the ovaries as well; but of course not the uterus. Even if the cow is pregnant at the time of the operation there is no problem and the calf will be born naturally. The surgery is done with local anaesthesia and it does not cause complications.

Unlike cattle in Indian cities, our rescued cattle do not graze on dangerous plastic in the streets, but are taken out every day when green grass is available in nature. They have the freedom to live life among the herd, grazing in the forest with minimal human interference until a natural death. Our animals are not tied up. As they are not handled, they are slowly returning to their undomesticated state. We are happy with that. Disabled cows are also kept for life.

We started a “Plastic Cow Project” and performed about 70 surgeries to remove plastic from the rumen stomach of our rescued cattle, and even made a film about it. Karuna also successfully won a Public Interest Litigation case in 2016 against plastic, though implementation of the order has not been possible due to practical logistics. However, the publicity of our efforts has alerted other organizations and individuals on the dangerous of cattle eating plastic, and inspired them to take actions against it.



Our Rescued Buffalo Mabel Dies of Old Age



We still have approximately 244 cattle, and many of them have been with us for more than 15 years. Now some of them have slowly started dying of old age. Where in the world can we see a buffalo die from old age? Maybe only at Karuna!

This buffalo, Mabel, was rescued in 2002 from illegal transport to slaughter. She lived out her life with us, but a few hours after this picture was taken in January 2020, she got her wings and left this world to journey into the Light.

We feel honoured to have rescued so many innocent and gentle creatures, giving them a peaceful, happy and free life amongst friends!



Large Animals Annual Totals

Resident animals	Number
Cattle	244
Horses	7
Donkey	7
Camel	1
Total number	259



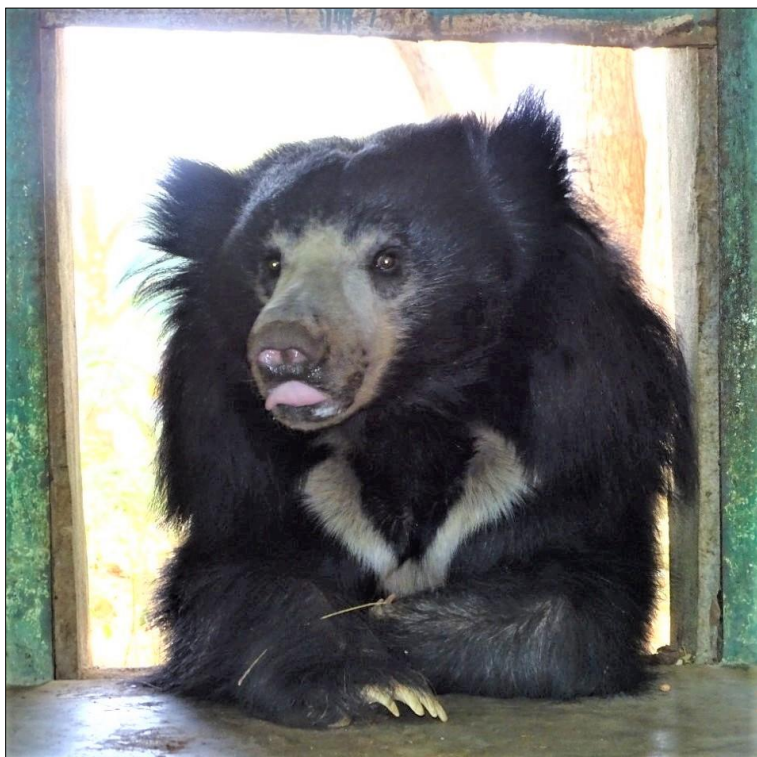
Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Rayalaseema

Karuna Society for Animals and Nature has been involved in the rescue of local wildlife almost from its inception – starting in 2004 when we rescued our first Sloth Bear. Some of the issues we face are: wild animals wandering into the villages due to droughts; tribal communities hunting wild animals in the forest with packs of dogs; and electrocution of monkeys and other wild animals on exposed wires.

Our Master Plan and Recognition of New Wildlife Centre

At present we have 54 wild animals in our care but we are located in a very unsuitable place. Years ago, we acquired 18 acres of land close to the forest and our Wildlife Project Master Plan includes new enclosures for monkeys, deer, antelope, and bears, as well as caretaker's quarters. We have had an ongoing struggle to get the entire construction plan approved by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) as per their updated requirements, and our plan has undergone many changes in the last couple of years.

Finally, on 5 March 2020, the long-awaited Master Plan's written approval was received, though pending certain conditions which we will now start to implement. We are very grateful to Brij Raj Sharma & Assoc Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, for their tireless work with the many revisions over the last couple of years, complying with updated government regulations!



During the year we applied for a grant for the new wildlife centre with 'LUSH Charitable Giving' and in November 2019, Karuna Society was approved and received 10 lakh rupees (about \$15,000) for the construction of the new monkey enclosures.

Now we must start fund-raising in earnest for the rest of the construction, so our rescued animals in the old and inadequate centre can be relocated as soon as possible!

All India Zoo Directors' Conference

Karuna staff were invited to attend the prestigious “All India Zoo Directors’ Conference” in Gujarat in February 2020, but unfortunately it was cancelled after being rescheduled twice.

Rescued Monkey Baby Pearl



In June 2019, baby Pearl was abandoned at birth and we rescued her within hours. She required 24-hour a day care for weeks, mainly provided by our Wildlife Manager Crystal. Now Pearl is nearly one year old - thriving and growing fast! Our goal is to facilitate her eventual complete rehabilitation and release her into the wild again.



Python Rescue Makes the Local News

In December 2019, we received information from the Forest Department about a python stuck in a fish net at a lake in the nearby village of Kamavaripalli. Our Secretary Cheruvu Narendra Reddy, assisted by our Wildlife Manager Crystal Fernandes and Karuna employee Roshni D'Silva, safely rescued and removed the dangerous netting from the snake, and it was later released in a remote forest area. The local news reported the event!

In fact, just in December 2019, we rescued and released eight very large Pythons with the help of the local forest department.



Highlight on Our Sambar Deer!

Sambar Deer are one of the largest species of deer, weighing between 100 to 350 kilos! These shy and nocturnal animals tend to spend most of their time deep inside the forest. However, recent habitat loss has forced them to enter human populated areas in search of food and water. This often proves dangerous, for both man and animal.

In one such unfortunate event, Harshini, our youngest girl met with an accident leaving both her front legs fractured. She had to be gently treated for months before she could even start walking again. She now remains as one of our permanent residents in our rescue facility, living a safe life where she will be cared for along with the several other species of deer which we have rescued.



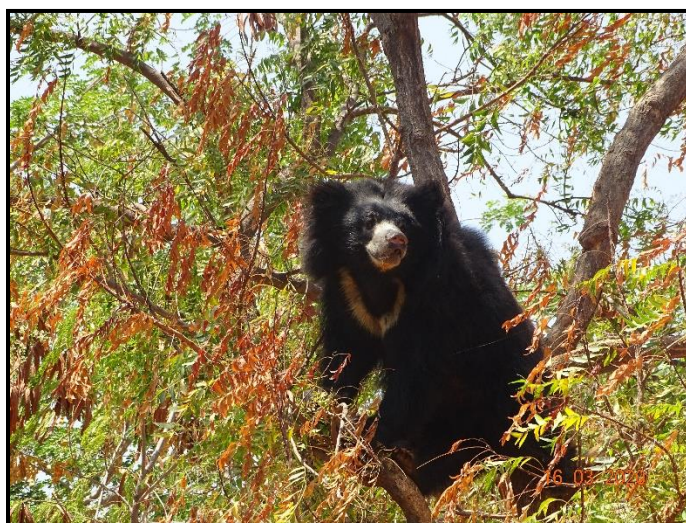
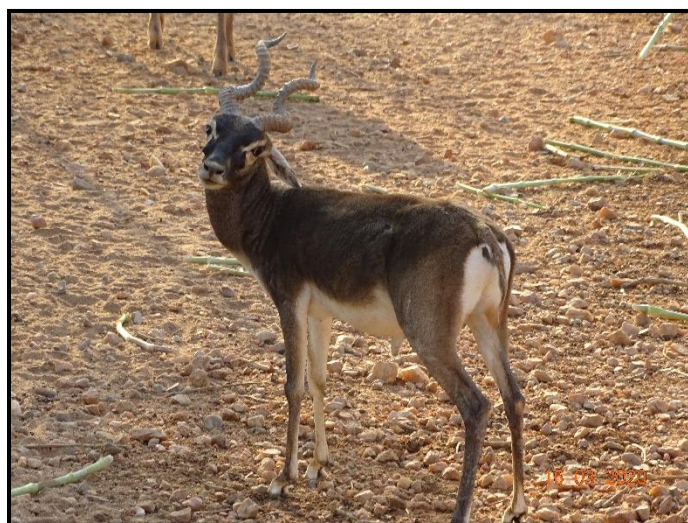
Rescued Wildlife Information

Wildlife Schedule III and others Annual Inventory, for the year 2019-2020

S. No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Opening Stock as on April 1 st 2019				Births			Acquisitions			Disposals			Deaths			Closing Stock as on March 31 st 2020			
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
1.	Sambar Deer	Cervus unicolor	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Total Animals			0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4

Schedule I & II Annual Inventory Report for the year 2019-2020

S. No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Opening Stock as on April 1 st 2019				Births			Acquisitions			Disposals			Deaths			Closing Stock as on March 31 st 2020			
Bird			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
1.	Peafowl	Pavo cristatus	3	6	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	4	0	7	
Total Birds			3	6	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	4	0	7	
Mammal			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
1.	Sloth Bear	Melurus ursinus	3	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	6	
2.	Black Buck	Antilope cervicapra	11	8	2	21	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	11	9	4	24
3.	Bonnet macaque	Macaca radiate	6	6	0	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	6	0	12	
4.	Rhesus macaque	Macaca mulatta	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Grey Tufted Langur	Semnopithecus priam	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Total Mammal			22	17	2	41	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	21	18	4	43
Total Animals			25	23	2	50	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	24	22	4	50



Organic Farming and the Karuna Shop

Promoting a Vegan Lifestyle



People need to change their food habits to save animals from suffering: from meat eating to vegetarian to vegan. We need to come up with alternatives. For many years Karuna has promoted a vegan lifestyle and grown some of our own organic feed for our rescued animals, as well as growing a limited amount of produce to sell in our local shop. Karuna's organic farm uses the dung and urine from our 244 rescued

cattle to prepare healthy and natural compost. We also cook with biogas which uses the by-products (slurry) from our rescued cattle.

Our Organic Shop

Our Vice-President Romula D'Silva has volunteered her time in our shop for years! The business is very small but provides profit that directly benefits our rescued animals, and also introduces and keeps local people connected to Karuna Society. It is a place where visitors can come to donate towards our animal rescue activities and can inform us about any animal in need of our attention.

During the growing season of August to March, the shop is regularly stocked with our organic vegetables such as Romaine lettuce, tomatoes, spring onions, basil, mint, spinach, bottle gourd, squash, and pumpkin. We also sell fruits like papaya, lemons, and custard apples.

For many years we have grown our own nutrient-rich Spirulina in our own tanks on the farm, which can be ordered at the shop and is also occasionally fed to the animals as a dietary supplement. We also started serving freshly prepared wheat grass juice every morning, and a number of health-conscious customers were delighted to benefit from this healthy drink!



Unfortunately, to comply with government guidelines at the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown, our shop had to shut down on 22 March 2020, much to the customer's unhappiness. Whenever shop customers see Romula in the town, they ask her when the shop will be re-opened!

As time goes on, we will have to reassess the extent of our organic garden and the local shop, and when the shop will open again.

Total agricultural expenses this year: ₹. 1,12,883/-

Total agricultural income this year: ₹. 2,20,964/-



Humane Education

It is desperately needed to educate children on the importance of respecting and caring for animals! Children naturally feel concern and compassion for animals but with time and education geared towards achieving materialistic goals, these virtues get side-lined. It is well documented that lack of respect for other species often leads to violence towards humans too. Hence, it is important to teach students the value of compassion and respect when interacting with animals.

Session in December 2019

In December 2019, Karuna's Vice President Romula D'Silva conducted two (2) Humane Education sessions of two hours each, at the Sri Sai Vidyaniketan English Medium School in Puttaparthi for students of grades 6 & 7. Around 100 students attended the sessions for those two grades. During these interactive sessions, the importance of animals in our life, their rights and our duties as well as the protection of the environment were discussed.



Session in February 2020



In February 2020, Romula conducted an additional two sessions at the same school as above, this time for students of grades 8 & 9. Around 90 students from the two grades attended these sessions. During these interactive sessions, topics related to animal rights and the environment were discussed. The concept of veganism was also introduced.

Public Relations and Misc. News

Quest for Vet Surgeon and Administrator

In April 2019, we made a concentrated effort to find a suitable Administrator and Veterinary Surgeon by spreading the word throughout the local villages, through friends and acquaintances far and wide, and posting job notifications on Indeed.com and Facebook. Despite receiving dozens of job applications and conducting several interviews, we could not find a suitable Administrator.

However, finally in September 2019 we welcomed our new Veterinarian, Dr M. Pratap Reddy (Retd. Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry), who is qualified to sign all official documents and who renders much-needed daily assistance by monitoring the well-being of our many rescued animals. We are thankful to **Help Animals India** who provide Rs 2,00,000 (about \$2,700) to facilitate the salary of our new Vet!



Function to Award Loyal Karuna Employees

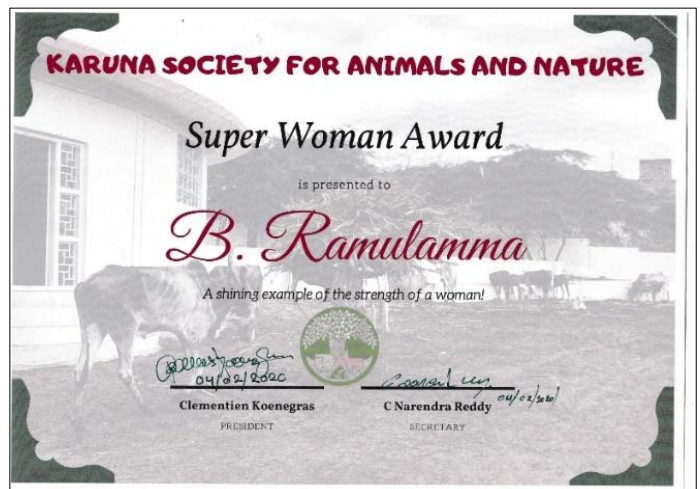


K. Venkatesh

On 4 February 2020, the Board of Karuna Society held a function to honour all staff and to distribute Certificates of Appreciation to several employees who excelled in their areas of service. There was also food, drinks, music and games for the staff and their family members!



D. Narasimhulu



Donatekart campaign

This year we tried to think outside the box concerning fundraising. We spearheaded an online “Donatekart” campaign, starting in February 2019 and completing in May 28, 2019. Unfortunately, the total was just under Rs 5,000; therefore, we will continue to explore different avenues of raising funds.

Defamation Court Case Continues

Since July 2017, when we rescued several violent pack dogs on the orders of the Municipality and became their legal guardian, we have been dealing with serious defamation accusations from the former owner of these dogs, a foreigner staying in Puttaparthi. This required a large amount of time, energy, and resources, including many court appearances, which take away staff from our usual duties of animal rescue and care. This year was no exception.

Despite many requests to the concerned authorities, as of March 2020 no action has been taken by the Municipality to clear our name from this former owner’s malicious attacks in person, in the press and around town, to discourage people from supporting our organization. This is despite the fact that all the dogs were sterilized and vaccinated by us, as well as cured of illnesses many times over the years and these same dogs are now safe and comfortable living in our clinic premises.

After her allegations, Karuna Society has been investigated by the Animal Husbandry Department, Forest Department and other authorities related to animal welfare. Her allegations against Karuna Society and office bearers have been proven unjustified.

Employee Roshni
with two of the
confiscated dogs



PLANNING

Due to the entirely unsure future caused by the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic which began shortly before this fiscal year ended, our usual annual planning cannot be considered at this time. Our current attention is on successfully maintaining the well-being of our hundreds of rescued animals, and supporting the necessary staff, despite a drop in critical donations.

Funds for the new wildlife centre, not utilised this year due to covid, will be carried over to the next financial year with permission of the donors.

