



KARUNA SOCIETY FOR ANIMALS AND NATURE



Annual Report: April 2020 to March 2021

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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. This year marks our 20th Birthday!

This year was unprecedented for not only Karuna Society, but for the entire world. Shortly before the start of this financial year, the Covid-19 pandemic spread like wildfire, bringing the world's activities, to a large extent, to a standstill. The focus for most people, as well as for us, shifted from planning and striving for expansion and improvements – to just surviving as best we could.

Donations, Grants & Volunteers

Like with many or even most non-profits around the world, our donations decreased significantly during the pandemic. We could continue our core activities and excellent care of our rescued animals thanks to a special and precious few very generous donors who have supported us during hard times over many years. Here, we would like to sincerely acknowledge the following donors.

Help Animals India

Help Animals India has been supporting our work for nearly a decade! This year they provided a grant which covered the salaries of 6 employees for 7 months. They also sent several other very generous donations which helped us to weather the storm of covid smoothly. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS!



Tata Trusts

In late March 2019 **TATA TRUSTS** awarded us an important grant of over 58 lakh rupees (about \$77,000) for three years. This financial assistance was critical this year in covering the salaries of 11 of our employees so they could serve the animals to the best of their abilities. HEARTFELT THANKS TO YOU!

TATA TRUSTS

The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust

The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust and the Foundation Marchig (UK) has come through every year with generous grants which relieve our financial anxiety and allow us to purchase desperately needed food and medicines. YOU MEAN THE WORLD TO US, THANK YOU!



Vital Solutions (Singapore)

Warmest thanks to Varadarajan Krishnan and Vital Solutions Pts Ltd / Asia Paper Markets for their close communication and quick support whenever we appeal for much-needed funds, which has been going on for over a decade. Their support is vitally precious to us!



Mission of Mercy Foundation



Through his Foundation, Mr. Harcharan Singh has been supporting us now for several years, and is always ready to come through when we need help the most - with a heart full of care and concern for the animals. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Rural Development Trust (Anantapur, AP, India)

Our association with RTD and its Executive Director Anne Ferrer has been a gift from heaven, with generous monthly donations and helpful advice and guidance gathered from decades of their first-hand experience. THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE SUPPORT!



Animal Care Austria

Animal Care Austria has been sending us loving annual donations for many years, for which we are always grateful. THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!



Karuna's Volunteers

Finally, we want to give an official acknowledgement for the efforts of these three volunteers who have been responsible for so many desperately needed donations to fund Karuna Society.

Jennie Cornsweet Jennie Cornsweet was kind enough to set up and continues to maintain a Paypal account in America for us, for individual donors every year – including several people who set up much-needed and appreciated automatic monthly donations. Without this Paypal account, dozens of people would not find it convenient to support our work. THANK YOU, JENNIE!

Romula D'Silva, our Vice-President, has given donations in cash and kind since the inception of Karuna, and has fundraised on behalf of Karuna throughout the years. This year, although she could no longer open the Karuna shop which served as a place for the public to meet, learn about Karuna and donate, she continued her heroic efforts of digitally networking and being the personal point of contact for many of her friends and relatives throughout the world who wished to donate. Her efforts further helped us to make it through these hard times. THANK YOU SO MUCH, ROMULA!

Divya has volunteered for many years, creating social media posts and maintaining the website consistently, which brought thousands more people into awareness of the work Karuna is doing to help the animals. She also writes letters of thanks to donors, giving our individual donors a sense of personal attention. THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK, DIVYA!

Total Income: ₹. 86,15,919

Total Expenditure: ₹. 83,04,597

Total number Animals Treated: 2,639

Total Number of Treatments: 32,513

Total number of permanent animals on 31st of March 2021: 353



Small Animal Clinic

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.

New Guidelines for the Outpatient Clinic

This year our staff has brainstormed solutions to the ongoing issue of dogs being anonymously left at our gate by owners and public rescuers, who, however, don't want any responsibility for the dogs after they recover. Due to lack of resources, we are finding it increasingly difficult to house so many dogs that would otherwise be healthy enough to return to their home areas.

The public needs to realise that our capacity for inpatients and permanent dogs is not unlimited! Educating the public will reduce the instances of misunderstanding and even conflicts.



The shortest road to the wellbeing of the Indian dogs in Puttaparthi is an aggressive ABC project implementation. This will lead to a relative healthy local dog population with less suffering. Therefore, the ABC project has priority over the out-patient department.

Anybody can bring an animal in distress to the clinic or call the helpline. No reference is needed and treatment is free. Admission for inpatient or lifetime care is at Karuna's discretion and cannot be questioned. The condition of the animal and the limits of the facilities are the ONLY considerations.

It must be clear to the Board, the staff and the public that Karuna OPD cannot be used as a pet clinic. Owners, caretakers, and public rescuers have to take full responsibility. The wellbeing of all free animals living in the Puttaparthi area are a shared responsibility of the community. Karuna can only help. This message is our most effective "Awareness program" 24/7.

World Rabies Day

18 September 2020

World Rabies Day is held on the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur who helped develop the first rabies vaccine in 1885. Rabies is still a problem especially in Africa and Asia, and even now 20,000 people die of it every year - most from dog bites. It is critical to give all dogs rabies vaccines to prevent an outbreak!

We held a special event over the course of two days and vaccinated a total of 618 dogs. Our Secretary Narendra Reddy opened the event by vaccinating two of the dogs adopted by Sri RJ Ratnakar, Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. Another special supporting attendee included Assistant Engineer of Puttaparthi Municipality, Shri Murlidharan. We strictly followed Covid safety protocols to keep our staff and public safe.



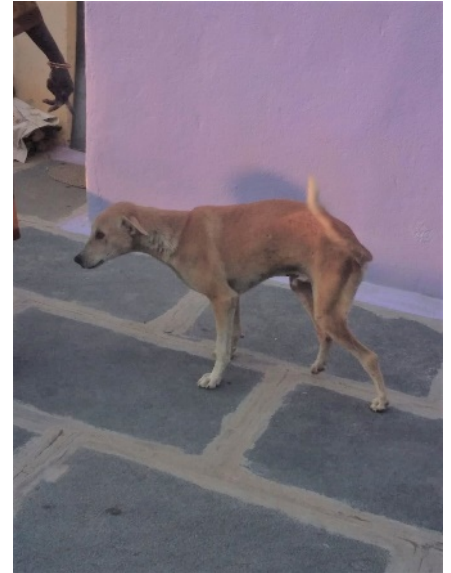
In-Patient Healed of Two Broken Legs

October 2020



Buddy's owner brought him in after he had an accident and had two broken legs. We kept Buddy with us for many weeks, treating him every day until his legs healed completely. His owner visited him regularly and

finally took him home. Buddy is another Karuna Success Story!



Tablets Given to Repel Ticks

December 2020

Pictured is our Secretary Narendra Reddy who helped to feed 'Bravecto Tablets' to all the dogs in our Clinic. This tablet really helps to keep those pesky ticks and fleas away for months, and it also helps with minor skin problems.



The "tablets" are made in the form of treats and most dogs happily and greedily gobble them up! Each tablet costs about Rs 1,500 - but it is totally worth it!



New Toys for Our Rescued Cats

February 2021

With the contribution of Help Animals India, we bought several fun toys to enrich the lives of our rescued cats! We have over 30 rescued cats, who are disabled and/or traumatised so they are unable to be released and survive on their own.

In addition, after expanding our facilities for the cats, we further built enrichment climbing and resting areas in the new cat enclosure.



Permanent Dogs: 39 and Cats: 31



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

Our ABC program had to remain on hold for several months due to lockdowns and the transfer of our usual Vet surgeon to 50 km away. However, we finally were able to start the weekly surgeries again.

After 20 years of animal care, ABC and Rabies prevention, Puttaparthi is a safe area for devotees, tourists, working people and farmers.

As we do not receive any financial support from the local government, we depend on donations.



Vet Assistant Training at Guntur

March 2021

From March 1st to 12th, our Veterinary Assistant Venkatesh attended a training entitled: "*Animal Birth Control Surgery Protocols*" at the nearby 'Help for Animals Society', Guntur, under the auspices of the Worldwide Veterinary Service. This training camp went in-depth pointing out best recommended practices for veterinary assistants; and gave the participants opportunity to polish and practise their skills, old and new.

This training will help Venkatesh transition into a central role during the weekly Animal Birth Control surgeries, as he assumes management of all ABC matters to improve the hygiene, planning and post-operative care of the weekly patients. Meanwhile, our animal caretaker Bhaskar will step into managing the Outpatient Department and into the Veterinary Assistant role. Congratulation on your promotions, Venkatesh and Bhaskar!

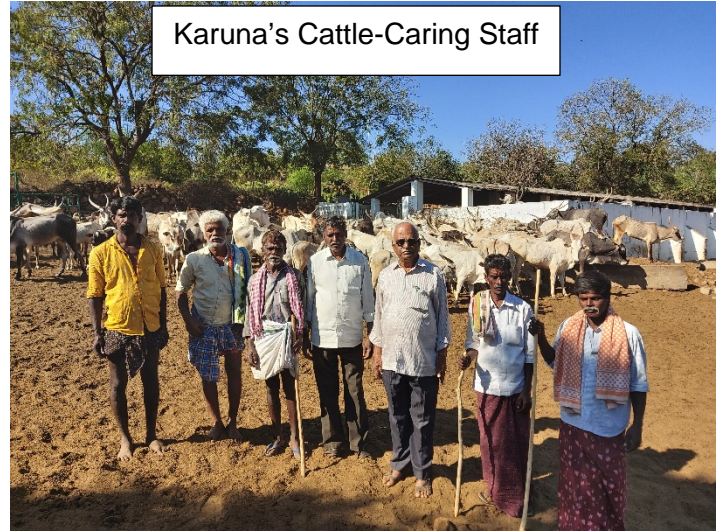
Total ABC Surgeries: 125

Total AR Vaccinations: 124

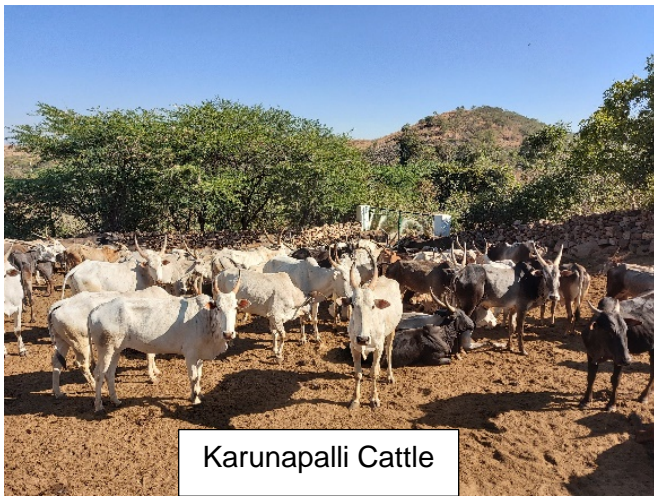


Cattle Rescue Project

Our rescued cattle live in two groups: one at the animal clinic/shelter in Enumulapalli where we keep the old and disabled ones who need special care; and the other group is at Karunapalli village several kilometres away, close to the forest. The 120 cattle at Karunapalli are healthy and are allowed to live their life freely in the herd as they go out grazing during part of the year when there is fresh green grass growing. A few cows are



Karuna's Cattle-Caring Staff



Karunapalli Cattle

unsterilized as we could not catch them anymore for surgery, so occasionally there are a few new-born calves. This herd of cattle is slowly "Rewilding", remembering who they truly are.

When somebody calls you an "old cow" it is meant as an insult. At Karuna Society the term "Old Cow" is a compliment, for the cow and the society. Since 2002

Karuna has rescued more than 700 cows, buffaloes, donkeys and horses. Where in the world can you find an old cow that looks like it? Hip bones sticking out, walking slowly - that happens when you are a 24-year-old cow or buffalo. Most milking cows and buffalo go for slaughter after giving birth to a few calves and the amount of milk she delivers is less every year. Without profit, the still-young animals are sold for slaughter. An old cow is a rare sight. We do not have the power to change the cruel milking industry but with your help our rescued cattle can live out their natural life in peace!



Enumulapalli Cattle

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

We currently have 54 rescued wildlife animals, many of whom have been with us for many years! Most of them were rescued with the initiation of the local Forest Department, as our centre is the only facility within hundreds of miles to house injured and traumatised wildlife. As our existing wildlife centre was never designed for the numbers of animals we are called upon to rescue, the animals are in a more or less unsuitable housing which is why we are working tirelessly to construct the new wildlife centre according to a new Master Plan.



Updates on Our New Wildlife Centre

Our efforts to close our existing 6-acre Wildlife centre near to the Super Speciality Hospital, and complete the construction and transferring of our animals to our new 18-acres of land near to Rayalaseema, has had more roadblocks due in part to the covid pandemic and in part due to frequent transfers of government officials within the Central Zoo Authority and elsewhere.



We had received the long-awaited approval of our Master Plan in early March 2020, just before the new financial year began, however we were requested to make some changes. The changes were made but we are still waiting for the final recommendations from the Andhra Pradesh government. It has therefore been another year of frustration and waiting!

Our Rescued Monkeys

The biggest threat to life that urban monkeys face is electrocution on the live electric wires seen everywhere. These sweet and innocent monkey babies pictured, were injured and lost their limbs and their families. They have all recovered after months of treatment and nursing, and have now formed a

World Wildlife Day Drive



evening of March 2nd, in the surrounding villages, about forest fires and hunting. Forest fires are a common occurrence especially during the hot summer months and we urged the villagers to prohibit smoking, cooking and doing other activities that involve using fire in and near the forest. They were also educated on what needs to be done if they spot a forest fire. As most villagers only return from work post 7.30 pm, the drive was conducted late evening so as to get maximum audience participation.

troop with other monkeys who suffered the same fate. The eldest monkey has actually adopted the youngest one and has become her mother!

World Wildlife Day

March 2021

On the occasion of World Wildlife Day on March 3rd, a team from Karuna Society and the local Forest Department conducted an awareness drive on the



Treatment of one of our seven Peafowl birds

| <i>Animal/Birds</i> | <i>Number</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Peafowl | 7 |
| Sloth Bear | 6 |
| Black Buck | 23 |
| Bonnet Macaque | 12 |
| Grey Tufted Langur | 2 |
| Sambar Deer | 4 |
| <i>Total Wildlife Animals</i> | <i>54</i> |

Organic Farming and the Karuna Shop

Nearly 20 years ago we started our organic farm, the 'Ahimsa' product line, and ran our local shop on the noble and lofty ideals of promoting a vegan lifestyle and implementing eco-friendly farming methods such as using the biproducts of our rescued cattle. Though the profits were not as we hoped, we inspired many people to a healthier lifestyle and all the proceeds helped the rescued animals under our care.



However, we had to close our shop for many months due to the worldwide covid pandemic, and due to lack of customers and several other issues, we ultimately decided to end our Ahimsa product line.



Though our Ahimsa product line is no more, our commitment to eco-friendly cultivation practises remains strong and will continue to be part of Karuna Society! We continue to grow a limited amount of produce, and all the bounty of our crops is used exclusively to feed our rescued animals and wildlife. This is especially helpful as the daily delivery of produce leftovers from the Prasanthi Nilayam ashram is no longer coming in.

Total agricultural expenses this year: ₹. 74,052

Total agricultural income this year: ₹. 91,410

Other News

Karuna's Gold Standard in Governance

July 2020

We are very happy about our improved management and administration over the last few years of intense efforts, which has resulted in receiving the 'Gold Standard' in "Governance, Financial Management and Legal Compliances". This was achieved after completing the one-year "Organizational Capacity Enhancement Program 2019-2020" by FMSF (Financial Management Services Foundation) and CPA Services, thanks to the sponsorship of Oracle. This included two inspections.

We are looking forward to an even better relationship with our donors and government - based on trust, quality and accomplishments in our effort to serve the animals even better!



Karuna's Feature in 'Sakshi' Magazine

January 2021

We were thrilled to be featured in the Telugu online News magazine "Sakshi"! They described Karuna being founded thanks to the driving force of our President Clementien, and also described our many activities serving the animals; our awards; and most importantly, our achievements helping the local animals, cattle and wildlife over the course of 20 years.



Plastic Cow Feature Online

March 2021

Karuna Society was contacted by the French news agency AFP, in connection with the "Plastic Cow" surgery that took place early this month in Faridabad, North India. The reporter spoke to the Vice-President of Karuna, Romula D'Silva, since Karuna Society has conducted around 60 rumenotomies.

For the full article, please click here:

<https://www.nst.com.my/world/world/2021/03/671233/astounding-71kg-plastic-metal-waste-found-indian-cows-stomach>

Astounding 71kg of plastic, metal waste found in Indian cow's stomach

By AFP - March 5, 2021 @ 10:08am



An estimated five million cows roam India's cities, with many gorging on the vast amounts of plastic litter on the streets. AFP pic.

Employees Rewards & Recognition Function

March 2021

The Annual Employee Rewards and Recognition Function was held on March 28, 2021 at the office of Karuna Society, Enumulapalli. Strict Covid-19 safety and social distancing protocols were observed. Presiding at the function was Karuna's President Clementien Koenegras, Vice-President Romula D'Silva and Secretary Narendra Reddy, who informed the employees about the upcoming salary increments.

All our valued employees were presented with Recognition Certificates



in gratefulness of their one year of duties during the covid pandemic, and over a dozen employees (plus two volunteers) were given special Award certificates for going above and beyond the call of duty to help our rescued animals.

Because of the covid restrictions and for the safety of our staff, there were no family members present and after one hour, the meeting was concluded by handing out snacks to be taken home.

Resignation of Our Veterinary Surgeon Dr. Narendra Reddy

During the function we honoured the services of Dr. Narendra Reddy, who tirelessly gave us many long years of service. His qualified care, kindness and understanding of our problems have helped us and many animals tremendously. Due to moving 50 km away, he will no longer be able to serve us with his skilled surgical care performing Animal Birth Control and emergency surgeries. Luckily, we could welcome Dr. Srinivas who has stepped into the responsibilities with enthusiasm.



Dr. Narendra Reddy

PLANNING

We never expected a second year of the corona epidemic and we do not know what the future will bring. This makes planning for this new year complicated! We have decided to continue the daily practice of animal rescue and care in our area, and for all the animals in our shelters, without new ideas about the future till we understand better how this will work out.

Most urgent is the follow-up of the development of the new wildlife rescue centre which has been in the planning and development for years. It is important that final decisions and permissions will be granted to us by the CZA. The wild rescued animals in our old centre have been confined for too long in less than ideal living conditions. Although they are all looked after well by our staff, they deserve better.



Here are some of our future goals:

- Secure the Rs.1,20,00,000 (about \$160,000) running cost and approximately 60 lakh Rupees (about \$80,000) for our new wildlife centre construction.
- Find an all-round accomplished Administrator who can deal with CSR fundraising as well as general administration.
- Find and appoint an experienced Veterinary Surgeon, and apply for a grant to support their salary (about Rs.50.000/- or \$700 a month).
- Start applications for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) grant funding.

| <u>S.NO</u> | Project | Expenses 2020-2021 ProjectWise/Rs | Estimate Budget for 2021 - 2022 /Rs |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Small Animal Clinic | 16,39,556 | 18,03,512 |
| 2 | Animal Birth Control | 6,81,877 | 7,50,065 |
| 3 | Cattle Project | 23,32,140 | 25,65,354 |
| 4 | Wildlife Centre | 21,46,557 | 23,61,213 |
| 5 | Agriculture | 74,052 | 81458 |
| 6 | Administration | 14,30,415.62 | 15,73,457 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL Expenses 2020 -2021 | | 83,04,597.62 | 91,35,059 |
| TOTAL Income 2020 -2021 | | <u>86,15,919.16/-</u> | |
| Upcoming project WL Construction | | 1,00,00,000/- (Approximately) | |

