



**KARUNA SOCIETY FOR
ANIMALS AND NATURE**

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

2/138/C Karuna Nilayam
Behind S.C. Quarters, Erumulpalli
Prasanthi Nilayam (P.O.) 515 134
Andhra Pradesh, India

Tel: 0991 (08555) 287214
karunasociety@gmail.com
www.karunasociety.org

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ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

During the past financial year the financial situation of Karuna Society has taken a turn for the worst. Since the demise of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the number of visitors from abroad has declined. Very few donations are made by visitors. As visa rules have changed visitors come only for a short time and the financial crisis in the world is also not helpful.

The in-patient and out-patient department at the small animal clinic is busy as usual. The ABC/AR surgeries are continuing for Puttaparthi and surrounding villages as we need to maintain a healthy Rabies free population. As we do not receive government support for ABC the expenses of Rs.750/- per dog are paid from our general donations, one special donation from Animal Care Austria and A grant from The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust for the sterilization of cats.

At present we are facing a very bad drought in the area for which we will not receive drought relief from the government as the emergency relief fund cannot be used for our own animals but only for productive animals in the area. As our cattle rescue project is not recognized as a Goshala we do not receive support from the government for our rescued cattle.

As the government is pushing for more and more milk production, the villages have been flooded with dairy breeding cows. Where in the past we saw work-bulls and a few dairy animals and buffaloes, now every house has a dairy cow and the villagers are part of the dairy co-operative which collects the milk.

This development is promoting slaughter of unproductive cows and buffaloes and male calves from breeding cows are sold within days for veal and leather.

The dairy business also places a heavy burden on the environment as the animals used for this need more water and food. Most crops grown at present are maize and Jowar, meant for cattle feed. The ground water table is going down and water scarcity can be expected. Prices for vegetables and grains are going up as there is no local production.

Our concern is mainly for our rescued cattle (340). At the cattle hospital we are looking after many of the cattle from Anantapur which were relieved from the plastic bags by rumenotomy surgery, but the health of these animals is still fragile.

We have taken an important decision to sterilize the female buffaloes. All males are already castrated but we had to stop the reproduction of the females as we have no resources to keep a growing buffalo herd for life.



As we are not breeding animals for milk and we do not sell any dairy products, we have started the process of setting up a cow by-product unit to generate some income but we are still in the development stage which is costing us more than our investments for this purpose without yet bringing in money for cattle maintenance. Our organic produce, sold outside, will decline during summer and with few visitors there is little demand.

As all business and real estate in Puttaparthi has slowed down, there are consequences for the development of our new Wildlife Rescue Center. Our plan is to shift the centre to the new Karuna land close to the forest. To be able to finance the new centre the existing plot has to be sold by our Vice President and with a donation we would be in a position to design and construct new facilities. In addition we want to request the Forest Department to give us permission to use and maintain a few hills, which will create more space and a natural environment for the rescued wildlife in the area.

General Financial over view:

Income:

Donations received	-	40,73,074/-
Income from Agriculture	-	4,65,671/-
Bank Interest received	-	84,710/-
Regular Grant – AWBI	-	1,08,000/-

		47,31,455/-
		=====

Expenditure:

Clinic In & Out patient (Medicine, Food, Salaries etc)	-	10,39,213/-
ABC Project	-	1,84,740/-
Cattle Hospital & Maintenance of Rescued Cattle (Including plastic cow project)	-	23,13,707/-
Agriculture	-	4,06,778/-
Wildlife Project	-	2,74,933/-
Administration & Maintenance	-	5,36,805/-
Expenditure of Machinery	-	2,22,650/-

		49,78,826/-
		=====

CLINIC FOR SMALL ANIMALS IN & OUTPATIENTS





Over the years the treatments at the out-patient department are more or less the same; first aid in accident cases, broken legs, maggot wounds from dog fights, skin problems and tick fevers. Apart from this, there is the seasonal distemper from which many Indian dogs recover well.

Breeding dogs and their owners are a different category. Because of the more specialized care for these dogs we advise the owners to go to the veterinary college in Bangalore as our clinic is mainly a rescue center with inpatient care for Indian dogs, mostly owned by the local farmers. We always have around 10-15 disabled dogs and some cats as well. Indian stray dogs that have recovered from disease or wounds are returned to their own territories.

Animals treated

Dogs	:	1416
Cats	:	51
No. of treatments	:	20050

Expenditure of the small animal's clinic:

- Clinic Medicine, Food, Salaries, administration and other maintenance expenses Rs. 15,76,018/-

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL & ANTI RABIES

The functioning of our ABC centre has undergone a change. In the past we received grants from AWBI and we could cover the sterilization and vaccination drive in many small towns and villages.

Financial strain, shortage of attendants and a change in administrative requirements from the AWBI has stopped us in our tracks.

Puttaparthi has become a municipality in 2011. As a consequence Puttaparthi has to pay 30% of the expenses for ABC and there has to be a MoU between the parties.

The actual expense for Karuna for one sterilization is Rs.750/- and at best we will only receive Rs.445/-.

Very few foreign and Indian donors support our ABC project. At present only Animal Care Austria has supported us with a donation with 500 US dollars

For the last 2 years we have continued the sterilizations from our general donations but the numbers are much less. At present, we focus on the direct environment of Puttaparthi and surrounding villages.

CATS

We were only partly successful in our effort to sterilize the large number of cats owned by an Italian lady. For years, we have tried to support her and keep the numbers down by sterilizing her cats. Unfortunately, she is going under the radar and at present we have no idea how her cats are faring. Thanks to The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, we have been able to sterilize 76 cats from our area and we will continue our efforts.

No. of ABC operations	: Dogs - 356
	: Cats - 34 Thanks to Marchig Fund
No. of AR vaccinations	: 820
Expenditure on operations	: Rs. 1,84,740/-

KARUNA CATTLE HOSPITAL

“PLASTIC COW PROJECT”

From the moment we received the stray cattle from Anantapur in December 2010, our focus has been on the ‘Plastic Cow project.’ for the whole year. A total of 56 rumenotomies were performed, and the "Plastic Cow Team" was set up, consisting of Philip Wollen, Kindness Trust, Australia, Rukmini Sekhar, writer and animal rights activist, Pradeep Nath, VSPCA, Vishakapatnam and Clementien Pauws from Karuna Society.



RUMENOTOMY REPORT

The general opinion about rumenotomies is that the procedure is not always successful. Many animals develop post-operative problems and die some time afterwards. Owners of plastic cows feel financially more secure if they sell the animal. There is a shortage of cattle hospitals where aseptic surgery can be performed and the veterinary surgeons lack experience which adds to the problems.

Karuna Society started with the same doubts, but after several surgeries and improvements of the procedures the success rate is high.

Performing rumenotomies is not the answer to the plastic cow, only a total ban on plastics and removal of animals from the garbage-dump will solve the problems. We continue the surgeries as it is a life saving procedure for the individual animal. As a pilot project, funded by

Kindness Trust, Australia, it gives us more information about the problems, the surgeries and the rate of survivals.

- ANIMALS RECEIVED - 60 animals (up to date; 31 March 2012)
- Death before operation 4 (all caused by plastic ingestion (PM))
- Number of operations – 56
- 6 animals died after surgery due to the heavy load of plastic combined with poor condition, they did not make it
- Recovered cows/bulls/calves - 40
- Two cows delivered their calves safely some time after the surgery.

ABOUT INFECTIONS:

A combination of antibiotics is required for post-operative care; enrofloxacin and strepto-penicilline for at least one week.

Along with antibiotics we give pro-biotic to reestablish the rumen flora and Ayurvedic rumen stimulants for speedy recovery.

Daily dressing of the wound with anti septic solution and fly repellent.

Recovery time is between one and two weeks.

FEEDING REGIME before and after operation;

Before surgery we feed food waste from canteens and vegetable peelings to resemble the previous food habit but without plastic.

This is necessary to prevent digestive complications.

Weaker animals receive fluids along with vitamins before surgery and if needed also after surgery.

AFTER OPERATION only natural grasses should be fed.. NO FEED MIX SHOULD BE GIVEN, to avoid gas accumulation.

When the animal starts chewing peacefully, the surgery will most probably have proven successful.

SYMPTOMS of plastic ingestion;

Grinding of the teeth, hardness of the rumen, diarrhea, less food intake.

DECIDING FACTORS for surgery;

Intensity of the symptoms.

For some animals help is too late, they cannot withstand the surgery. They die just before or after surgery.

COMPLICATIONS.

In some animals we found that the wall of the rumen was already protruded by nails causing an infection of the peritoneum.

Recovery will be complicated or impossible.

PROFESSIONAL/ETHICAL POINTS: which animals can be operated;
Dairy cows should be accompanied by their calves. (No separation, too much stress for both).

PRODUCTION OF THE "PLASTIC COW" FILM

We contacted Kunal Vohra from Altair films to create a documentary about the plastic cow and we filed a PIL in the Supreme Court as an animal rights issue to ask the Court to rescue the cows and other animals and wildlife from ingesting plastics.



Rukmini Sekhar wrote the following synopsis of the documentary;
The Plastic Cow uncovers the ghastly truth about the impact of plastic waste on the innocent India cow, which is now reduced to being a scavenger. The film focuses on the ubiquitous plastic bags, the exemplars of human negligence and waste, which the discarded and hungry cows consume whole for the rotting scraps of food they contain. These plastic bags, which also often contain rusty nails, wires and syringes, clog their stomachs, leading cows to die slow, painful deaths.

This unholy alliance of plastic, carelessness and negligence is not only torturing the Indian cow to death but it has also infected farming communities, rivers, forests and oceans, killing elephants, donkeys, fish, turtles and seabirds.



PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION IN THE SUPREME COURT, DELHI

When presented with evidence by the Plastic Cow Team, the Supreme Court said; “The next generation will be threatened with something more serious than the atom bomb.”

The Plastic Cow Team has worked on this issue for over a year, arranged for nearly sixty surgeries on cows to date, produced the plastic cow film, launched a Public Interest Litigation case in the Supreme Court of India and has spread the results of the campaign around the world.

No. of animals treated	-	149
Plastic Cows Operated	-	22
She-Buffaloes Sterilizations	-	41
No. of treatments	-	999

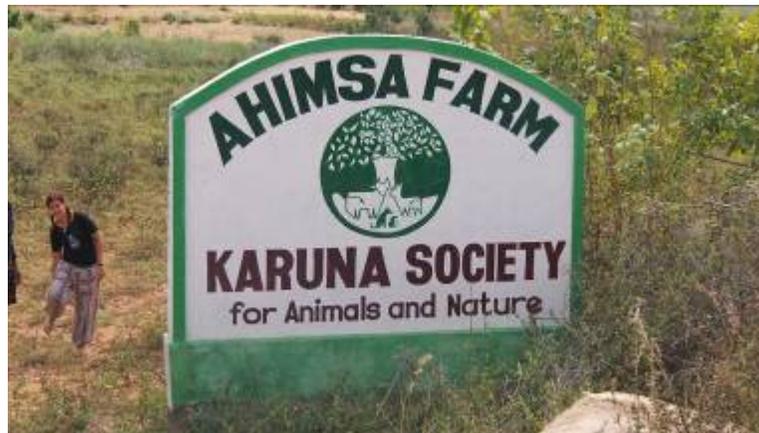
**Surgeries, medicine, food, salaries and other maintenance expenses
Rs. 23,13,707/-**

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

THE AHIMSA FARM & ORGANIC GARDEN AT KARUNAPALLI

The Ahimsa farm at Karunapalli

Karuna's Ahimsa Farm might be one of the most important animal and environmental enterprises in India. It is one of the few models in India where rescued animals are not only sheltered for the rest of their lives but are not exploited for milk and their right to live is secured. These animals have been saved from slaughterhouses, dairy factories and other animal use industries. This effort is funded, to some extent, from the sale of wholesome, humane, organic produce generated from the labour and by-products of the rescued animals themselves. We still depend on external donations for the upkeep of our 300 cattle, covering the cost of their food, medicine etc.



It is Karuna's goal to become as self-sufficient as possible but, as in any other enterprise, investment is needed to create a product which will yield profit, in this case "for the animals by the animals". We have land, animals and by-products, such as dung and urine to make compost, natural pesticides and ayurvedic products, but we need to utilise the Ahimsa Farm to capacity.

To collect urine and clean dung from our rescued local white cows, we need to improve the cattle sheds by providing a new flooring to collect all the dung for the two new bio-gas units for cooking and distillation of cow urine.



Our 120 buffaloes are also in desperate need of a shed to protect them against the hot sun.

We have already started work on some of these projects as we cannot afford to wait any longer. We have just completed the new wall for the cattle shed extension, as well as the two new bio-gas pits.

Our most urgent need is to develop of the new Ahimsa land which we purchased some years ago with the support of Philip Wollen of the Kindness Trust. It needs an electricity connection and two bore wells to be completed by June 2012, 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.

Organic garden	
Expenses on cultivation	: Rs. 4,06,778/-
Income from Cultivation	: Rs. 4,65,671/-

KARUNA WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER

Karuna's wildlife rescue centre, opposite the airport, finds itself in a difficult position. We need to relocate our wildlife to the forest area so as to be granted recognition as a rescue centre but we are not able to do so due to financial strains. This means preparing a new Master Plan, building new facilities for Sloth Bears and Deer and rescue facilities for all different types of local wildlife. We need to wait till an opportunity arises to make the transfer.



This year we rescued 39 wild animals of which two were wounded leopards. They were transferred later to the zoo in Tirupathi.





Local people are very scared of leopards and bears. Hunting and poaching goes on uncontrolled, especially during the summer months when there is no water in the forest and wild animals come close to the villages. A very old sloth bear was found unconscious, beaten up, in a dry well. He died at Karuna wildlife center without regaining consciousness. A Russel Viper was rescued and released and a wounded Rock Python was nursed for 6 weeks after an accident and released back in to the forest.



We are looking forward to new facilities in the forest area in the near future.

No. of Animals Rescued	-	39
No. of Treatments	-	288

Wildlife maintenance expenses: Rs. 2,74,933/-

PLANNING FOR 2012-13

- We will continue the existing programmes, such as clinic for in and out-patients ABC and AR for our area, Cat sterilizations, Rumenotomies on Plastic Cows when needed, and the educational activities.

The management and planning of the feeding and maintenance of our cattle during the drought require careful financial management. We have to stock up grass and cattle feed for approx. 5 months.

At Ahimsa Farm, the actual work for the borewells and electricity has to start to secure agricultural activities in this area. The development of our cow by-product unit and the reconstruction of the cattle rescue centre is of crucial importance for which we need separate funds as investment.

The transfer of our existing wild life rescue centre to the Ahimsa farm and close to the forest depends on the availability of these funds.

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