

BACK TO THE WILD

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre
Annual Report 2019-2020



WRRC

CONSTITUTION OF WRRC 2019-2020

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Elephant Care Facility (ECF)

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Karnataka 563130

Statutory Auditors:

Mr. B. Ashok, Chartered Accountant and Mr. Manohar Shet, Chartered Accountant

Tax Exemption under Sec 80 (g)

WRRC is granted EXEMPTION OF INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 80G for all donations and has been given permission to accept foreign contribution under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. WRRC is also registered as a charitable trust (bearing Registration No. IV/1999-2000) and with the Animal Welfare Board of India, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India. It is recognised by the Karnataka Forest Department.

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ABOUT WRRRC

The Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre (WRRRC), was registered in July 1999 as a public charitable trust for the conservation and welfare of wildlife in urban and rural areas in and around Bangalore, Karnataka. WRRRC was set up by the trustees of Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA), in response to a keenly felt need: to provide relief to wild animals, birds, and reptiles; including medical treatment and housing; as well as to handle cases of cruelty involving these animals. We operate two facilities - the Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre (BRC) and the Elephant Care Facility (ECF). Besides wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, WRRRC is also involved in the prevention of cruelty, humane education, campaigns, and legal battles, research, and surveys on captive elephants. WRRRC is recognised by the Animal Welfare Board of India (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying) and is also certified to receive donations under Section 80G of the IT Act and is FCRA approved under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MISSION

- Promote welfare and prevent cruelty to animals, prevent killing of wild animals, with a focus on endangered species
- Rescue wild animals in distress, provide treatment and rehabilitate them.
- Protect wildlife and environment from destructive forces.
- Strive for balance in man-animal-nature relationship.
- Campaign against confinement or captivity of wild animals for entertainment or commercial use.
- Inculcate humanistic values in humans and spread the message of kindness and compassion towards animals and respect for the environment.



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

For the first time in the 20 years of existence of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRRC) we truly understand the meaning of resilience, loyalty and support.

The last weeks of the year 2019 – 20 saw the pandemic hit us but our committed staff have been working against tremendous odds to continue serving animals. Ably supported by our generous donors and with support from the entire WRRRC family, including trustees and members of the public. We are confident that we will not waver in our commitment to serving animals, whatever challenges posed by the pandemic. We are determined not to turn away any animal, bird or reptile in distress that needs rescue, rehabilitation, and relief, brought in baskets, boxes and cartons to our gates.

The elephants in our care blossomed with the care and nurturing given to them. Their rations, fodder, medications were planned well in advance so that neither of the two centres suffered any negative consequences of the lock-down. This, despite all the enhanced protective arrangements introduced and implemented, for the first time at our two centres, separated by more than 50-60 km.

WRRRC social media has been active, trying to spread awareness about the horrific consequences of numerous common practices – glue traps put out for trapping mice and rats but very often get endangered snakes and squirrels in throes of a painful death, of electrical lines and transformers maiming and fatally wounding bonnet macaques in the city and injured wild birds with little expertise available for their care.

There are still many milestones to achieve; we hope that we will be able to achieve at least some of them.



The outreach that we do has tremendous value as a means of informing citizens about ways they can contribute toward urban wildlife conservation

Both our centres are tucked away, far from the public gaze. In a world where connection and engagement often depend on personal relationships between the shelter inhabitants and potential donors, visitors and volunteers are not freely allowed due to restrictions placed by the Forest Department. Hence, we are unable to rely on general donors to give us the resources to continue but our existence hinges on a small group of extremely committed conservationists and wildlife lovers. This group gives us the courage to continue on a very modest budget, stretching every rupee to meet the best in affording health care, medications and nutrition for all the wildlife housed with us.

We look hopefully forward to a lively and dynamic 2021 where conservation and compassion join hands to create more awareness and safety nets for small and large wildlife and have the environment and green energy dominate debates and public policy.

SUPARNA BAKSI GANGULY
HONORARY PRESIDENT & TRUSTEE



Conservation and compassion must create a safety net for wildlife large and small, and we must hold important conversations on the direction of public policy.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As in earlier years, 2019 to 2020 has also been busy and eventful. Work at the Elephant Care Facility at Malur and at the Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre continued as usual, with its highs and lows depending on the animals that came in and their health.

At Malur, Aneesha and Gowri seemed very happy to have the company of their own kind, but with Aneesha's handicap and Gowri's size, we needed to be sure that Aneesha would not get hurt. So Gowri was left free in her own enclosure and Aneesha free to roam in the rest of the centre, with a common feeding area. It very soon became evident that Gowri recognised Aneesha as an elder, and Aneesha just needed to tap on the ground with her trunk, and Gowri would rush to her from wherever she was. The dynamic of this relationship continues to this day.

In Bannerghatta, Dr Roopa was kept busy with the influx of wildlife that came in daily. Birds, snakes, tortoises & turtles, monkeys and lorises, all in varying stages of injury, were treated expertly. Some couldn't make it, but many were successfully released.

On the legal front, unfortunately, we have not been very fortunate. In February of 2019, one Muralidharan S from Chennai, who had been trolling all animal welfare activists all over the country for years, filed a petition in Madras High Court asking for the closure of the Marakkanam facility, which housed 3 elephants, Sandhya, Indu and Jayanthi. WRRRC had been jointly supporting them, along with TREE foundation, a local Animal Welfare NGO. The case was wound up in a surprisingly record time of just over 6 months, with the court specifying that the elephants should be transferred to the Elephant Rescue Centre in Trichy. The court had given four weeks for the transfer.



As citizens, we need to learn how to coexist with the abundant urban wildlife around us.



Yet again, in an unseemly hurry, the Department acted within a week and the elephants were moved. (Videos and newspaper reports have mentioned that they were moved using brute force).

WRRRC and TREE Foundation immediately filed Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) in the Supreme Court against this order. Both petitions were admitted and are awaiting a hearing.

Later, WRRRC filed civil defamation and criminal cases against Muralidharan in Bengaluru for his fabricated and totally inaccurate posts and abusive language against the organization and its Trustees on social media.

In the Supreme Court case 743/2014, which is now in its sixth year, there was a ray of hope when, in its hearing on 6th March 2020, the Honorable Court directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFFCC) to send a team of veterinary doctors, including Dr Manilal Valliyate of People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), to examine the elephants at Amer Fort and Haathi Gaon, in Rajasthan.

We are all aware of how long any court case takes, in India. But, we are hopeful that with the wealth of information submitted by WRRRC, there will be a positive outcome, sooner rather than later. We are extremely grateful to Ms Diana Ratnagar of Beauty Without Cruelty, Pune, for her unhesitating support in our legal cases.

We are also deeply indebted to our many supporters, both in India and outside, who have faith in our work and continue to support us. Their names have been mentioned in our Report, and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. We would never have been able to survive for 20 years without their consistent contributions and donations. My sincere thanks to all of you.

DR SHIELA N RAO

HONORARY SECRETARY & TRUSTEE



One of the simplest ways that we can support urban wildlife is to encourage planting of indigenous species of plants in both private and public spaces



ABOUT BRC

It has been 20 years now since the Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre (BRC) first opened its gates. The centre sits on a seven-acre piece of land within the Bannerghatta Park premises and provides rescue and rehabilitative treatment to the wildlife residing within Bangalore city and the surrounding rural areas. These animals include mammals, reptiles and avians that have been involved in some man-animal dispute, used for profit, some superstitious ritual or were being illegally kept as pets. The animals that are brought to this centre usually undergo treatment for an extended period of time and experience minimal human interaction. This is done to discourage them from venturing near human habitats in the future. Over the years, the number of animals brought into BRC has increased. The main reason being that urban wildlife bears the brunt of Bengaluru's unregulated development and expansion.

The rapid growth of the city and the demolition of old structures and greenery affects animals not only in terms of injuries but by destroying their homes also. Many times we have felt we are fighting a losing battle but have carried on hoping there will be a better tomorrow. Unless the citizens of Bangalore make a huge effort to save greenery, water bodies and plant more trees, the future for urban wildlife is bleak.

We are grateful to the Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka, Chief Conservator & Executive Director of Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) and the officials and staff of Karnataka Forest Department and BBP for their support. We thank Dr Roopa Satish, Anand Nair and all our staff at BRC for their sincere and untiring efforts in caring for vulnerable animals and birds.

DR ROOPA SATISH

SENIOR WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN



Despite perceptions of urban areas as devoid of nature, where humans live, so, too, will wildlife. It is our duty to protect them.

— Dr Roopa Satish

THE VET'S DIARY

The year 2019-2020 was eventful with numerous species of mammals, birds and reptiles rescued and rehabilitated successfully back into the wild. I would also like to thank all the generous donors as well as the Trustees and Staff of WRRRC. I mention 10 cases which represent merely 2-5 % of the 454 animals brought to us. Of these, 308 were released and 70 unfortunately died.

BONNET MACAQUE (*MACACA RADIATA*)



An adult female weighing 9.565 kg was rescued from Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru on 14 Oct 2019 by BBMP forest cell. She had injured her left hind limb. Upon arrival at centre, she was sedated and examined. Her left hind limb was fractured and needed surgery. She was stabilised and surgery performed under general anaesthesia to fix the fractured bone. An internal fixation device called 'Steinmann pin' was used to immobilise the two fractured bone segments, muscle and skin sutured. A bandage was placed which she pulled off as soon as she recovered from anaesthesia and started to work on her sutures. However, due to internal fixation, the bone healed completely in a months' time and due permissions were obtained to release her back at the same spot from where she was picked up.

#DidYouKnow

The male bonnet macaques are generally far more laid back and carefree in their social lives than many other macaque species. Competition among male bonnet macaques is much more subdued and there is a much higher emphasis on pacifism.



INDIAN ROCK PYTHON (PYTHON MOLURUS)

An abandoned gunny sack was found in a train compartment of the Chennai Mail by the Bengaluru railway authorities on 30th Sept 2019. They investigated and found to their horror that the sack contained a huge live snake. They immediately called the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) forest cell who rescued the snake and brought it to our centre. Upon arrival the snake was identified, weighed and physically examined. The python weighed 7.295 kg and had no injuries or signs of trauma or torture on her body.

Gender was not identified as it is an invasive process in snakes and causes unnecessary stress. After routine deworming and rehydration, the beautiful python was left in a quiet enclosure for observation.

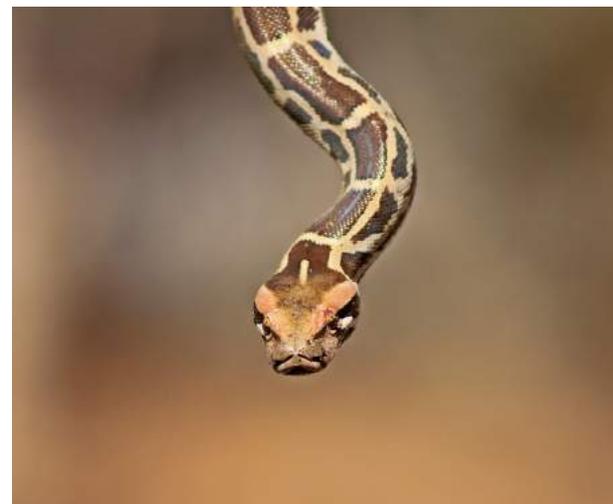
Being nocturnal, fast and agile movements were noticed at night when he /she was investigating and looking for escape routes from the enclosure.



After a 72-hour observation and necessary permissions from the forest department, the python was released in a safe, protected forest in Karnataka itself, as we were unsure of the location of its capture.

#DidYouKnow

The Indian Rock Python exhibit timidity and rarely try to attack even when attacked. They are excellent swimmers and are quite at home in water. They can be wholly submerged in water for many minutes if necessary, but usually prefer to remain near the bank.



SLENDER LORIS (LORIS TARDIGRADUS)

An adult healthy male weighing 280g was rescued from a house in Anekal, Bangalore on 30th Dec 2019. Being a protected Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 a case was filed and the people who had kept the loris captive questioned. They claimed that he was their pet. On physical examination, the loris appeared to be very shy, scared and unlike a pet who have lost their fear of humans and interact freely.



These beautiful nocturnal primates are commonly used in black magic rituals as living voodoo dolls. They are poked and maimed all over their body especially their eyes, nose tips, paws, feet, forelimbs and hindlimbs.

Rarely, internal organs like heart and genitalia are also poked with tiny needles. Luckily there were no injuries or signs of trauma/torture on his body. He was housed in a quiet dark sky kennel and observed for any signs of illness.

His appetite was good for insects like cockroaches and fruits like banana, and faeces normal. Since he was very shy and wild already, he was released deep inside a safe, patrolled and protected forest in presence of the Range Forest Officer in 10 days' time on 10 Jan 2020.

#DidYouKnow

The endangered slender lorises are poached to be used as living voodoo dolls in black magic rituals.



BLACK KITE (MILVUS MIGRANS GOVINDA)

A sub adult bird weighing 585 g was rescued on 4 November 2019 from Mysore road. A nylon thread (Manja) was found to be entangled in her legs and wings. As a result she was unable to fly or perch on trees. Luckily she was rescued before she was attacked by dogs or cats or was weakened due to starvation. The string was cut off and body examined for any injuries. She was rehydrated and dewormed orally.



Within a week her appetite and flight improved and she was ready to be released. She was released at our centre in presence of forest officials. These strings are the left over from the previous year's kite flying seasons which get entangled on tree branches and other tall structures like billboards. Young inquisitive birds get entangled in them when happen to fly close by.

#DidYouKnow

The black kite or the Small Indian Kite is found throughout the subcontinent. Easily distinguished by the shallow forked tail. They were called *Pariah Kites* earlier. The name *pariah* originates from the Indian caste system and usage of this name is deprecated.



INDIAN SPINY-TAILED LIZARDS (SAARA HARDWICKII)

Also called 'Sanda', these Schedule II tiny lizard like reptiles are found exclusively in the dry arid deserts of Thar in the Indian states of Gujrat and Rajasthan. Ten of them were confiscated from poachers and illegal pet traders by the Koramanagala police on 12 Dec 2019. These reptiles weighing between 60 to 110g were dehydrated and stressed. They were immediately rehydrated and placed in an enclosure prepared with lots of sand to mimic their natural environment.



Poachers easily pick them up from the wild since they don't have any defence like venom, and transport them to Bengaluru via road or rail. From Bengaluru, they are smuggled to South-East Asian countries for meat or for use in traditional medicine. These were identified as sub-adults based on body length and fed on insects like caterpillars, butterflies, spiders etc. Adults are herbivores feeding on grasses.

They are burrowers and burrow deep in the sand to maintain their body temperature.

Since they were poached from Rajasthan and are not found in Karnataka, we need to acquire the necessary forest department permissions to transport and release them back in the same state which has been a hurdle due to the pandemic and lockdown. Several of them have died in captivity due to the high humidity and low sunlight in Bengaluru.



#DidYouKnow

The greatest threat to the Indian Spiny-Tailed Lizards are humans, who poach them for the mistaken belief that their fat is an aphrodisiac!

INDIAN RAT SNAKE (PTYAS MUCOSA)

An adult weighing 1.475 kg was rescued from Rajajinagar, Bengaluru on 29th Oct 2019. The hapless snake was brutally tied up using nylon thread and binding wire in a chokehold and thrown in a garbage pit. Rescuer Simhadri patiently cut off the numerous nylon bindings using a cutting plier and sent it to our centre for treatment of the injuries. Antibiotics and pain killer injections were administered as the injuries were deep and chances of infection high.



With alternate day rehydration therapy and wound dressing, the injuries gradually began to heal. Deep skin wounds heal very gradually in layers as they shed old injured layers which are replaced by new healed layer of skin. After shedding the skin twice, all the wounds healed completely and he was released in a safe, protected forest since area of rescue, Rajajinagar was deemed not safe for release.

#DidYouKnow

Rat snakes are not venomous. Rat snakes usually hunt and kill mice by biting with their teeth and suffocate them by constriction of its own body.



INDIAN PANGOLIN (MANIS CRASSICAUDATA)

An adult female weighing 8.36 kg and her male pangopup weighing 700g were rescued by Crime Investigation Department of the forest cell from poachers in Sandur, Karnataka and brought to our centre on 21 oct 2019. Case has been booked against the culprits under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The mother and son duo were physically examined thoroughly for any external injuries. Usually poachers catch them for meat and scales which are used in traditional Chinese medicine.



The scales which are deeply embedded in the underlying muscles are tough and cannot be just pulled or plucked out. Both had no external injuries, were well hydrated and the pangopup was curious and active. However the mother was rolled up into a ball which is their normal and only defence mechanism when disturbed or threatened.

No medication was administered since the mother was lactating.

They were housed in a calm and clean enclosure with a concrete floor as pangolins are excellent burrowers and would be able to dig their way to freedom in no time. Boiled eggs were given which were left untouched. So freshly caught ants and termites from the forest was given. Pangolins being Myrmechophage (ant and termite eaters) consumed all of it in no time. After a week of observation, they showed a body weight gain of 20g, and very good activity during night time, so it was decided to release the pair in a safe, protected forest without further delay.



#DidYouKnow

Pangolins are believed to be the world's most trafficked mammal, accounting for as much as 20% of all illegal wildlife trade.

INDIAN SPECTACLED COBRA (NAJA NAJA)

An adult cobra weighing 740g was rescued from Yelahanka in Jan 2020. This was a rare cobra since it had very light pigmentation on the body but showed the typical cobra spectacle pattern on its hood and the eyes also had normal pigmentation. Hence it's a Leucistic cobra and not a true albino. Due to its peculiar colouration it was spotted and picked up in spite of having no serious injuries.



On physical examination, there was a small wound on the tail tip and thin body condition but had reached adult length. The wounds were treated which healed soon and the snake was feasting on the live wild rats and gained good body condition. After a lot of discussions, it was decided to release the leucistic cobra back into the wild since he had survived well enough till adulthood on his own, and there was no cause to doubt his ability as a predator.

Nature experiments and throws up various permutations and combinations of skin colour pigmentation in all species of animals like albino (no pigment), melanistic (dark pigmentation) and leucistic in order to handle the fluctuations in the sunlight intensity in different regions. It's just we humans who are fascinated with certain skin colour pigmentation and consider certain colour special or 'magical'.

#DidYouKnow

The Spectacled Cobra or Indian cobras are important in the ecosystem as they help to maintain the balance of prey species and control agricultural pests such as rats and mice.



INDIAN POND TERRAPINS (*MELANOCHELYS TRIJUGA*) AND INDIAN FLAPSHELL TURTLES (*LISSEMYS PUNCTATA*)

A temple well in Malleshwaram, Bengaluru was cleaned and found to contain 11 Pond Terrapins and seven flapshell turtles living in it along with several species of fish. Being a deep well with no direct sunlight and basking spaces, all were rescued and brought to our centre by the temple authorities on 4th March 2020 for rehabilitation into the wild.

They were all weighed and thoroughly examined. The Pond Terrapin is a hard-shell turtle, while Flapshell is a softshell turtle both commonly found in all freshwater bodies in the entire Indian subcontinent. The pond terrapins weighed 905g, 880g, 1.145kg, 1.610kg, 1.590kg, 700g, 970g, 760g, 1.730 kg, 1.120 kg, 330g, while the flapshell turtles weighed 2.810 kg, 400g, 380g, 125g, 580g, 575g, 125g.



Out of them, two Pond terrapins and one flapshell turtle had severe bite wounds on the forelimbs and hindlimbs probably due to the stress of overcrowding. All had moss grown on their shells with normal body condition. They were all cleaned and left in a specially prepared enclosure with water for swimming, stones for basking and hiding as well as adequate sunlight filtering through the enclosure. Local fish was given as feed. The injured were separated and treated with antibiotics and pain killer and wound dressing. All were released after an adequate observation period in batches of three or four into clean, well-stocked, protected water bodies inside Bannerghatta forest in presence of the Range Forest Officer.

#DidYouKnow

The Indian flapshell turtle is a freshwater species of turtle found in South Asia. The "flap-shelled" name stems from the presence of flaps of skin cover the limbs when they retract into the shell.



SPOT-BILLED PELICANS (PELICANUS PHILLIPENSIS)

Two young Pelicans from Kokkarebellur were brought by Forest Department in February 2019. Both had fallen from their nests and injured their wings. They were gently restrained by placing a big towel over their head to cover their eyes in order to minimise stress and also secure their long powerful beaks. One was a sub-adult bird weighing 4.56 kg and fractured right-wing at radius ulna bone (forearm) close to joint with a maggot wound. The other was a juvenile weighing 2.89 kg, fractured its right radius ulna the previous month, which had healed already in a slight drooping position. Both were treated for their fractures by immobilising the fracture; pain killer and antibiotic injections started; maggot wound dressed; dewormed for internal parasites and were administered rehydration therapy.

They were shifted to an enclosure with a special wooden platform for their webbed feet and water hosed from afar on them since they could not be left in water due to the bandaging. They had to be initially handfed the local fish but soon were feeding on their own and protested most vocally when handled.



In a month both were active, alert, growing well and the wounds healed. Being large water birds with wide wingspans they needed a huge aviary for the next stage of rehabilitation which is physiotherapy for the healing wing and flight practice. Hence they were shifted back to Kokkarebellur in March 2020 and eventually soft released there by the Forest Department.

#DidYouKnow

Like most other pelicans, the spot-bill catches fish in its huge bill pouch while swimming at the surface. Unlike the great white pelican it does not form large feeding flocks and is usually found to fish singly or in small flocks. Groups may however sometimes line up and drive fish towards the shallows.



LEGAL ADVOCACY

WRRC has been very active on the legal front for protection of captive elephants from cruelty. The cases filed by WRRC in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India are pending adjudication.

STATUS OF WRIT PETITION FILED IN THE SUPREME COURT

Writ Petition was filed in 2014 praying for the implementation of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and The Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act, 1960 to protect elephants in captivity effectively. There was also a prayer to the effect that census is conducted of all captive elephants in India.

The development regarding the case are listed below:

- Order directing the Chief Wildlife Warden for the State of Kerala to ensure that all the captive elephants existing in the State are counted. Additionally, the temples and the Devaswoms owning elephants were also directed to register themselves with the District Committee. The Court had directed that no further ownership certificates be issued to persons in possession of elephants.
- Application to bring to the attention of the Supreme Court the circular dated 7 January 2020 issued by the Chief Wildlife Warden for the State of Kerala extending the period of registration for captive elephants in the possession of temples / Devaswoms by one month from 20 January 2020.



- The issue of elephants being used for rides and exhibitions at Amer Fort, Rajasthan and at two resorts in Goa was also brought to the Court's notice. Regarding the issue of elephants suffering from tuberculosis at Hathi Gaon and Amer Fort, Jaipur, the Supreme Court directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests to send a team comprising veterinary doctors to examine the health of the elephants and submit a report. Another application was filed before the Supreme Court apprising the Court of the health condition of the elephants in Hathi Gaon and Amer Fort.
- Direction to the Chief Wildlife Warden of each State to identify elephants in captivity and to ascertain whether the owners have ownership certificates.

STATUS OF CASES FILED FOR THE KANCHEEPURAM ELEPHANTS IN THE SUPREME COURT

WRRRC supported the upkeep and maintenance of three elephants namely, Indu, Sandhya and Jayanthi at the ECF, managed by Tree Foundation Chennai, after obtaining the necessary permissions from Tamil Nadu Forest Department. The elephants were voluntarily handed over to the Marakkanam Centre by their owners, the temple of Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya Swamigal Srimatam Samsthanam, Kancheepuram .

In 2019 on a petition filed by an individual before the Madras High Court, the Court directed the transfer of the elephants to a facility in Tiruchirappalli. Aggrieved by the said order WRRRC has approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

A Special Leave Petition (SLP) was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the Madras High Court order transferring the three elephants Indu, Sandhya and Jayanthi to the M.R. Palayam Elephant Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Tiruchirappalli.



The Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued a notice in this matter and the case is pending hearing.

Another SLP was filed in the Supreme Court on the same matter.

DEFAMATION CASES

For the past few years, WRRRC has been defamed and maliciously attacked by one Mr Muralidharan, on social media, questioning the organisation's credibility and making false and reckless allegations against WRRRC.

WRRRC remained resilient through most of his baseless allegations as our priority is the welfare of animals and we devote our time and energy to helping animals that are in distress. However, Mr Muralidharan continued his tirade against WRRRC and WRRRC filed both civil and criminal defamation cases against Mr Muralidharan. The cases are pending.

As an NGO, we have always stood by the best standards for the animals under our care; truth will triumph and we will continue to work for the welfare of the voiceless animals.



OUTREACH & EVENTS

Outreach and events are a very important part of the work we do at WRRC. They create opportunities to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders in jointly enhancing the understanding of biodiversity and encourage positive attitudes towards conservation. In addition to creating awareness, it helps us with volunteer sign ups, donations and most importantly reach out to the younger generation.

Below is a snapshot of the activities we had undertaken in the year 2019 - 20.

DONATION DRIVE AND REPUBLIC DAY TALK

WRRC volunteers Mrs. Riccha Vyas and Mr. Deepak Jois organised a nature walk and donation drive at the Raja Aristos Apartment complex at Doddakamahalli Main Road, Hulimavu, Bengaluru. The awareness drive conducted on 30 December 2019 was to educate the residents of the needs of urban wildlife and the life-threatening situations they faced. The funds raised were donated to WRRC.

“HELP US,HELP THEM” TALK BY DR ROOPA SATISH

Dr. Roopa Satish, the WRRC Veterinarian was invited by the Raja Aristos Apartment Complex, Hulimavu, Bengaluru to give a talk to the residents on 29 February 2020. She presented on WRRC, her experience of working with wildlife and the current residents of the BRC. This talk was aimed at encouraging children to take up conservation and rescue of wildlife.



URBAN WILDLIFE OF BENGALURU

WRRC volunteers Riccha and Deepak gave a talk on the urban wildlife of Bengaluru on 26 January 2020 at the Raja Aristos apartment complex. To keep the audience that consisted of both children and adults engaged, the topic was introduced as being about the non-human residents of India, specifically the urban wildlife. The wild creatures encountered and rescued at the apartment complex were discussed, as also their rehabilitation at WRRC.



URBAN WILDLIFE AND WRRC

The staff at BRC celebrated Ayudha Puja at BRC in October 2019 with traditional fervour and fun. It is an event that our staff look forward to every year.

Compassion is the best virtue we can equip our children with

– Anonymous



VOLUNTEERING

- Students from the Christ University volunteered at BRC in February 2020 to paint the animal cages. They loved the hands on experience of doing their bit for wildlife.
- Students from a veterinary college in Bangalore volunteered at BRC in July 2019 to clean up plastic waste from the areas surrounding BRC. The young, enthusiastic, and passionate to be vets also made seeds balls and planted them in the areas around BRC to ensure a green future for the planet.
- To celebrate the World Environment Day on 5 June 2019, a group of volunteers undertook a tree planting program at BRC. They then were rewarded with the opportunity to release healed black kites at the centre and watch them take to the skies.
- Veterinary students of the Kansas State University with their professors Dr. Raghavendra and Dr. Walter Renberg visited the BRC on 24 May 2019.
- A group of young visitors to the BRC on 2 October 2019 painted cages, boards and finished the day by released some animals back into the wild.
- On 15 November 2019 visitors Ms. Suraksha and her friends released a previously injured and now fully healed black kite.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

– Margret Mead



WRRRC COLLABORATES WITH MAUVE UNITX!

WRRRC collaborated with The Mauve Unitx, a jewellery boutique in Indiranagar, Bengaluru, run by jewellery designer Ms. Neha Arora, to help raise awareness on the welfare of elephants in the country. Mrs. Suparna B Ganguly, Co-Founder of CUPA and WRRRC spoke on the extensive work that goes on during the rehabilitation process of elephants and the importance of preserving balanced ecosystems for generations to come. The session was very informative and interactive. People were very supportive towards the cause of urban wildlife rescue and conservation.



The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man.

– Charles Darwin



KOKKARABELLUR CONFERENCE ON PELICANS

Dr. Roopa Satish, our veterinarian attended a meeting on pelicans held at Kokkarabellur by the Karnataka Forest Department on 26 November 2019. The meeting was convened to discuss the findings of a Ph.D scholar who studied the pelicans, especially their repetitive deaths at Kokkarebellur. A plan was drawn up to diagnose the diseases and set up a rehabilitation centre in the same village for orphaned and injured pelicans.



CSR & RELATED VOLUNTEERING

- Team Bosch had a fun day painting the aviary which they also funded on 9 August 2019. The same was inaugurated on 27 September 2019.
- Team Discovery Channel turned up, all charged up and enthusiastic to paint cages on 20 September 2019. They were rewarded with some kite releases in return for a day of hard labour.
- CSR program by Team Google on 21 June 2019 to clean the cages and premises at BRC was followed by an interactive session on urban wildlife and the perils they face. The team enjoyed releasing black kites and flap shell turtles.



“No matter how few possessions you own or how little money you have, loving wildlife and nature will make you rich beyond measure.”

– Paul Oxton



TREASURER'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report this year.

As the Balance Sheet shows, 2019 - 2020 expenses are marginally lower than the last year, down from over Rs.72 lakhs to around Rs. 70 lakhs. But, this is no cause for celebration. Many expenses that were reduced were in the areas of animal feed, animal care, travel and conveyance etc. This was due to the closure of the Marakkanam Elephant Centre near Chennai, as a result of the Madras High Court order, as explained in the Secretary's report. Subsequent to the order, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department very hurriedly transported Sandhya, Indu and Jayanthi to the Forest Department camp in Trichy.

Our legal expenses were double that of the previous year, fighting this case. We had to file Special Leave Petitions in the Supreme Court, in connection with this seizure. The Honorable Supreme Court has admitted the petitions.

Our other activities carried on as usual, and, at the Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre, injured and sick birds, mammals and reptiles continued to be admitted in a steady stream. Our elephant centre in Karnataka, near Malur, is doing well and Aneesha and Gowri live their retired lives in peace and tranquillity.

To end, I must emphasise how extremely grateful we are to the public, individuals, companies, large corporations, for their unwavering support and their faith in the work that we do. We are grateful to our staff, who work tirelessly at our centres. We are truly grateful and thankful to the legal teams in Bengaluru, Chennai and New Delhi, who champion our cause, often pro bono, or at very minimal charges. It is due to the support of all these wonderful people that we are able to continue our work year after year. Our thanks to them all.



Just because the animals can't speak, it doesn't mean that they can't feel. They feel and speak too. We aren't listening hard enough!



AUDITED FINANCIALS 2019-2020

CA. B. ASHOK B.Com., FCA
Chartered Accountant



Membership No. 209296

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To

**The Trustees of
Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre
Southern Cross, 9A Myrtle Lane,
Richmond Town, Bangalore -560 025**

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the trust Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2020 and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion and to the best of my information and according to the explanations given to me, the aforesaid financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of their state of affairs as at March 31, 2020, and its surplus for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by ICAI together with the independence requirements that are relevant to my audit of these Financial Statements and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAI's Code of Ethics. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion on the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the TRUST in accordance with the Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



#945, 'JYOTHI' 10th Main, 6th Cross, BSK 1st Stage, 11nd Block, Bangalore - 560 050
Ph : 080-26615151, Mobile : 98442 89925, e-mail : bhatashok@rediffmail.com



AUDITED FINANCIALS 2019-2020

CA. B. ASHOK B.Com., FCA
Chartered Accountant



Membership No. 209296

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these Financial Statements.

I further report that:

- I have sought and obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my audit.
- In my opinion, proper books of accounts as required by law have been kept by the Trust so far as it appears from my examination of those books.
- The Balance Sheet and the statement of Income and Expenditure dealt with by this report, are in agreement with the books of account.

ASHOK
2



B. ASHOK
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
(Membership No:209296)
UDIN: 21209296AAAAAE9293

B. ASHOK, B.Com., FCA.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Membership No. 209296
945, "Jyothi", 6th Cross, 10th Main,
B S.K. 1st Stage, 2nd Block,
BANGALORE - 560 050

Place: Bangalore
Date: 30.12.2020



AUDITED FINANCIALS 2019-2020

NOTES ON ACCOUNTS

1. The trust has followed cash basis of accounting.
2. Investments are valued at Cost.
3. Depreciation has been charges as per the rates prescribed under Income -Tax Rules.
4. Fixed asset has been accounted at cost of purchase and the cost incurred to bring the asset to the present location.
5. Figures have been rounded off to the nearest rupees.

For Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre

B.Ashok

Chartered Accountant

Suparna Baki Ganguly
Ms. Suparna Baki Ganguly

Hon. President

Shiela N Rao

Dr. Shiela N Rao

Hon. Secretary

Place: Bangalore

Date: 30.12.2020



“To make a difference in the world, you don't have to be perfect, clever or beautiful. You just need to be kind.”

— Paul Oxtan

DONOR LIST 2019-'20

We are grateful to the love, compassion, and generosity of our supporters. Many of these names in the following pages are individuals and organisations who have been supporting us for years now, because they believe in our mission. We hope our work has proven us worthy of your trust and commitment. We sincerely are appreciative of all that you do and look forward to your continued support.

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- Abdul Rehman
- Adarsh Raja
- Aditi Ravindra
- Adrija Roy Chowdhury
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- Christine Thelesklaf
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- Deepak Anand
- Dr Chaitanya Sridhar
- Dr Shiela Rao
- Drisana Roy Chowdhury
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- Jaideep Singh Shinh
- Jaishree



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- Dr Sunanda Kulkarni

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Azim Premji University
- Co-ordinator, Captive Elephant Policy
- Corner House
- NASSCOM Foundation
- One97 Communication
- Sapling Nursery
- Sapling Day
- Scan Holding
- Theorem India Pvt Ltd



DONATION BOXES

We are grateful to the following establishments for kindly allowing us to keep our donation boxes at their premises:

- Bangalore International Airport
- Corner House
- Marriott Hotels
- Raja Aristos Apartment Owners Association
- Mauve Unitx

OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Elefanten In Not
- Help Animals India
- The Crystal Rogers Animal Welfare Trust
- UK Online Giving Foundation



VOX POPULI

You guys are doing an amazing job and it's such a pleasure to see everyone here so happy and dedicated

— Ipsita Chakrabarti

It was such a lovely experience. I am so happy to see these rescued elephants having a pleasant life, filled with love

— Y Ponnappa

Aneesha and Gowri are looking like absolute divas!

— Anushree Thammanna

It was so lovely to meet Aneesha, Gowri, and their kind and lovely mahouts.

— Nayantara Jain

I am amazed by the work you are doing here at BRC. Hats off to Dr Roopa, Anand, and the rest of the team there.

— Naveen Narayanan

I always love to come here to the rescue centre where i see true love - in the way your team takes care of the animals. The dedication shown by Dr Roopa and the rest of the team is inspirational

— Nisha J K

Bowled over by the care, love, and companionship given to these gentle giants by your team.

— Dipa Chaudhary

Thank you for all that you are doing for the animals in need. You are heroes in my book.

— Joji Varghese





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