



# KARUNA SOCIETY FOR ANIMALS AND NATURE

Recognized by Animals Welfare Board of India  
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## Annual Report April 2017 – March 2018



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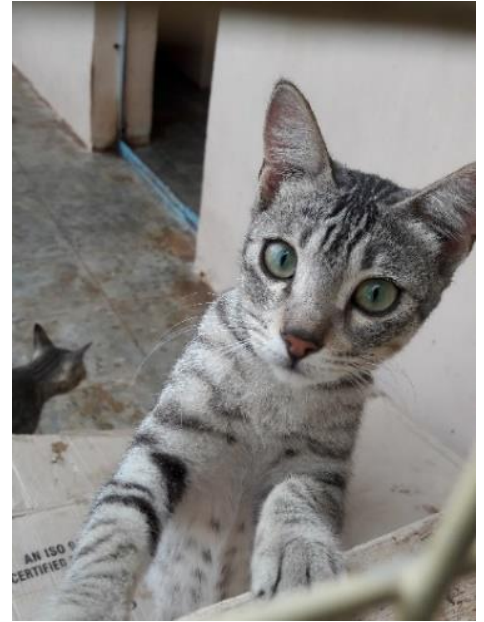
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## Introduction

### “It is All in a Day's Work”

The different projects at Karuna Society are the result of 17 years of day-to-day animal care, and now by experience and qualified support the projects have found their form and run smoothly. The inpatient and outpatient department for local dogs and cats, the ABC sterilisation program, the cattle project and organic farming now all have established routines.

Several long-time Friends of Karuna and donors support most of our feeding, medical care and maintenance. However, so many more vital aspects of running an organization require additional financial support and therefore fundraising needs to be a continuous effort through Newsletters, Facebook posts and all forms of public relations.



Smoky, our curious and friendly rescued cat!

For example, this year we received an unexpected visit from Anne Ferrer of Rural Development Trust (RDT), Anantapur, and she shared with us her wish to support us as and when possible and needed. She is a much needed and appreciated new donor!

### The Rescue of our “Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre”



Our wild animals and rescue activities are still located at the old centre at Beedupalli, which was inspected by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) this year, and which resulted in a request from the CZA office to attend in person in Delhi to explain our difficulties. After our visit we were lucky to find qualified help in the professional support of Brij Raj Sharma and Associates, who have 20+ years experience in this field. They have taken up the improvement of the Master Plan to be submitted to the CZA.

We were also very lucky to find Crystal Fernandes who was hired this year as “Wildlife Rescue Centre, Project Manager”. She has taken up all aspects of the centre for improvement: animal care, administration, communication with veterinary doctors and veterinary labs, and personnel management.

Total Animals Treated	2,081
Total Number of Treatments	10,227
Total Expenditures	Rs 95,11,104/--
Total Income	Rs 84,80,031/--

### **Karuna Receives an Award**

*On 8 March 2018, Women’s Day, Karuna’s President Clementien A. Koenegras was Honoured with the prestigious 'Nari Shakti Puruskar' by our Honourable President Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji in New Delhi. The event was widely broadcast on National TV and media outlets.*



## Small Animal Clinic

In our small animal clinic we provide free treatment at our inpatient and outpatient facilities for local dogs, cats and emergency cases. We treat parvo, distemper, tick fever, accidents, general surgeries, amputations, and much more. We keep disabled animals in our life time care.

### **Animal Hoarders**

Only few understand the nature of the Indian dog; it is a wonderful companion but it wants to be free. It is a scavenger and likes to roam around which is still possible when it belongs to a house and is still part of a territorial group of dogs in the area. When they are isolated as a private pet they sometimes become neurotic and ill tempered. The dogs suffer but they also love their owner.

Our area has a problem with several animal hoarders. In September 2017 we rescued nine cats from two tiny flats in Puttaparthi. They had been locked up for four years with no proper food, no fresh air, no sun and hardly any human contact. They only received cheap and substandard cat biscuits which were often left untouched; the cats had been starving for a long time. The air in the rooms was saturated with cat urine. It was a clear case of cruelty to animals. The former owner, a lady from USA, left India due to visa issues and was sending substantial money to a local rickshaw driver to care for the animals. Recently she had no more money to send and we obtained permission to rescue the cats. Needless to say, they were traumatised and difficult to handle.



One of the nine cats, soon after being rescued.

As soon as the cats were rescued, we realised that they were in terrible health and required immediate medical attention. They were severely dehydrated and continued to lose weight rapidly in spite of good food and treatment. After the death of the first cat, the post mortem revealed a shocking condition: these cats were all infected with Feline Hepatitis (a condition which affects the liver) and the disease had progressed far beyond from being treatable, even infecting the bile duct system. Unfortunately, we lost 8 out of the 9 cats to bad food, bad hygiene and years of traumatisation. These cats were only fed biscuits which contain

mostly slaughter waste, fat, and artificial colour, flavouring and preservatives.

The same "owner" kept a small shelter where there were initially 48 dogs who were never allowed to go out nor were they given for adoption. At present nine are left, the rent is not paid and for several weeks the dogs went without food. Karuna has taken them in as well, to provide food and treatment (mainly for ticks).



Buddy the Labrador and his friend Rex.

There are two other animal hoarding ladies, one from Italy who is also having a flat full of cats and no money; and one from UK who at present is in hiding, locking herself up in her house with around 12 dogs because the police are after her for being here illegally.

There are two points to be made here:

1. No cat or dog can live only on poor quality commercial food; they will suffer and die.
2. Foreigners visiting and living in India should think twice before interfering in the lives of free animals. When animals need help they can provide support but should not take away their independence.

### **Defamation of Karuna Society by Change.Org Petition**

This year we continued to have problems with defamation due to the Change.Org petition online. On 19 December 2017 a new post was published, "Blacky is Missing", which included shocking and entirely false accusations against Karuna Society. This damaged our ability to fundraise and thus directly affected the care of our rescued animals. We were inundated with emails from concerned individuals around the world which we had to deal with, affecting functioning due to being short staffed.

We finally met with the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and submitted a police complaint against a Danish foreign national who is administrator of the petition. Our complaints: cyber harassment/stalking and defamation of Karuna Society through anonymous information on Change.org petitions. This foreigner is a tourist visa holder and unauthorised to interfere in local matters

## Purchase of Jeep

In January 2018 we were very happy with the visit of Anne Ferrer of Rural Development Trust, Anantapur (RDT). She immediately provided the funding for a much-needed jeep for our animal rescue operations. We purchased a Mahindra THAR CRD jeep for Rs 12,26,316/-. RDT also provided funding for a new Sony digital camera, so critical for documenting our activities!



Permanent Dogs	80
Permanent Cats	22
Small Animals Treated	1,634
Total Treatments	10,008
Total Expenses	Rs 12,61,243/--
Food Expenses for Dogs & Cats	Rs 3,06,334/--



**THANK YOU** to Help Animals India" (HAI) from the US ([www.helpanimalsindia.org](http://www.helpanimalsindia.org)) who supports us with generous ongoing donations for several varied urgent needs, including ongoing expenses for our rescued cattle and grants for general upkeep of all our animals

**THANK YOU** to RDT for the wonderful ongoing financial help supporting our Small Animal Clinic and other special needs & projects!



*Aaloo's owners brought him to Karuna in October 2017 for treatment of deeply infected maggot wounds. After receiving a few treatments, they abandoned him to Karuna. At first he was very scared and confused, and would snap at caretakers in fear. However, after a lot of gentle coaxing and loving care, he is now friendly and trusting. His wounds are slowly healing and he has joined us as a permanent resident of Karuna.*



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

It is our experience that the ABC/AR program can only succeed within the context of a general dog welfare effort where ALL dogs and cats receive first aid in emergencies, general surgeries and inpatient care when needed.



Pepper, one of our rescued cats.



A village dog brought for ABC surgery.

Over the years we have performed over 13,000 ABC surgeries, mostly on females. We have a good operation theatre and inpatient rooms enough to house 30 ABC dog patients.

Our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Puttaparthi municipality ended in September 2017 and was not renewed because they did not have sufficient funding resources. However, we continue to do many sterilizations on a regular basis with the help of individual donors.

The overall result in our area is a healthy dog population: sterilised, vaccinated and with almost no puppies. We have realised that the ABC/AR project cannot be a one-time project (after which you move to the next area), but it is part of a never-ending effort to care for all animals in the area in need of medical care, food and shelter.

*When puppies come to us, they receive loving care and are often adopted to local residents after being sterilized and given anti-rabies vaccination. Here is one little fellow awaiting adoption.*



## The Solution to Controlling Stray Dog Population in India

We can all agree with the fact that ABC/AR (Animal Birth Control / Anti-Rabies) is the only way to control the stray dog population: it is advised by the WH organisation and it is the law in India.

Then the problem starts: There are not enough Animal Welfare Organizations (AWO's) and Animal Husbandry (AH) departments to conduct the surgeries, not enough well trained and caring veterinary surgeons, not enough adequate facilities for postoperative care, and rampant corruption, payments for signatures, etc. All of this results in cruelty, mismanagement and death.

The underlying assumption is that dogs are an unwanted species, a pest, that needs to be controlled by sterilization. People think the ABC program is only for the sake of the human population and rabies control.



It is our assessment that in India the Government-supported, contract-based ABC/AR programmes, moving from one area to the next, does not result in a smaller dog population or less suffering. After many dogs are sterilised the project moves to another place, leaving the former area alone, without animal welfare groups and without follow-up. Within one or two years the total dog population grows back because the unsterilized dogs

have reproduced and without garbage control there is plenty of food.

The ABC/AR project as promoted by the government at present is subsidised animal cruelty and abuse. All effort and money are wasted in the long run. Dogs pay the price.

The animal rights/welfare view is that dogs are part of the community with ties to local people, having different functions and they should not be seen as a threat but as a valuable part of daily life. Just like the human population they deserve first aid and shelter when they are in distress. This is even more vital than the ABC/AR program.

## SOLUTION?

Community based dog care projects need to be established in every town, village and city. Just like there are government hospitals for people everywhere, the Animal Husbandry (AH) hospitals need to change course and be assisted by AWOs. At present they are only serving the bio industry and the owners of food animals.

Every AH hospital needs to provide:

- Free medical care for the local street dogs at the in- and outpatient departments of their clinic/shelter.
- Rescue of dogs in distress/cruelty or accidents, and ambulance service.
- Free lifesaving surgeries for dogs after accidents, cancer, amputations, pinning of fractures, etc.
- Lifetime care for those dogs that cannot be returned to their territory or owner.
- Veterinarians must be trained to serve and respect the lives of all animals.

Karuna Society has been implementing the ABC/AR program for the last 15 years from one local base. Because of the new dogs entering the area the ABC surgeries are ongoing. It cannot be stopped as the population would grow back. Garbage control is a must to prevent more dogs entering the area.

It is our experience that only an extensive local and continuing ABC program reduces the number of pups being born; there are less distemper/parvo cases, less accidents, less cruelty cases and more willingness from the local population to bring sick animals for free treatment. In the early years the kennels and rooms in our shelter were always overcrowded. Now there are sometimes empty kennels and less permanent dogs.



The lives of the dogs in our area has much improved: they fight less for females and for food and are accepted by the local communities as there is less fear of rabies and less overcrowding. We are also working with the local Forest Department regarding hunting in the local forest area for which packs of dogs are used and many times they are attacked and injured by the wild boars.

## CONCLUSION

Only a community-based animal birth control program, locally based, including free medical care and inpatient facilities can result in a rabies free, healthy dog population where human and animal interests are equally taken into account.

In April 2017 there was a strong storm in Puttaparthi which blew away several roofs of our canine ABC holding rooms, resulting in unforeseen repair expenses.

*July 2017: We were happy to get a donation of an Oximeter thanks to our ongoing donor, Help Animals India. The dogs being operated on at Karuna Society are now much safer and comfortable. They will not wake up during operation and the vet can top up the anaesthetic in time. He is also warned if anything else goes wrong.*



ABC Dogs	387
ABC Cats	26
Anti-Rabies Vaccinations	716
ABC Expenses	Rs 5,70,359/--



**THANK YOU** to Animal Care Austria ([www.animalcare-austria.at](http://www.animalcare-austria.at)) for the ongoing financial help since 2012 towards our ABC programs!

## Cattle Rescue Project

From 2002 onwards we have rescued approximately 700 cattle which includes cows, buffaloes and working bulls from illegal transport to slaughter. Many animals from that time are still with us. At present we have approximately 300 rescued large animals including some horses, donkeys and one camel.



We need to look at the starting point: the breeding of cattle for milk and meat. When dairy products are in demand and calves are born, in most cases there is no other end other than slaughter. Years ago we started sterilising cows and buffaloes when we realised that our rescued cattle can only be truly free if they are made unproductive. At first we castrated all the males but with the grazing outside in the forest there was always a

male around from the village who would do the job. So, how to keep our cows free grazing, not tied up in the shed and not to get pregnant?

In India many women have their tubes tied after two pregnancies. That gave us the idea. Our veterinary surgeon who has performed many Plastic Cow rumenotomies gave it some thought and we tried the same very successfully. Only local anaesthetics is needed for the surgery.

All cows, bulls and buffaloes are sterilised and castrated in our cattle hospital with operation theatre. There is no reproduction and no profit from milk. All cattle live free in the compound and go out grazing if possible. They are not tied up and they are free to live out their life. Their dung is used for compost, biogas and for sale.

We keep all disabled and three-legged cattle. Their upkeep can only be secured by donations!



## Scarcity of Fodder

We heaved a sigh of relief in June and July 2017 when the temperature finally came down and we received a few blissful showers. However after that promising start, the monsoon left us dry and without rain; there wasn't any grass in the forest for our grazing animals.



We then faced a new threat to the lives of our rescued cattle: it was almost impossible to buy fodder! The farmers in the area couldn't grow their crops due to the drought, so there wasn't any maize or rice grass. Whatever was available in the area was expensive because of scarcity. We had to search 50-60 km further away, which made the cost even higher because of transport. Our situation was bleak and we barely got by with

the help we received after several donation appeals.

In-Patients	
Cows	6
Bulls	2
Buffaloes	5
Horse	1
Number of Treatments	12

Permanent Large Animals	
Bullocks	54
Cows	85
Buffaloes	87
Camel	1
Horses	5
Donkeys	9

Total feed purchased	32.88 Tons
Total water	11 Tractors
Total Maize Grass	105 Tractors
Total Green Grass	24 Tractors
Feed for Cattle:	Rs 12,30,885/--
Total Large Animal Expenses	Rs 32,57,105/--

Marchig Grant	
Feed for Cattle	Rs 12,30,885/--
Food Expenses for Dogs & Cats	Rs 3,06,334/--
Food Expenses for Wildlife	Rs 2,16,852/--
Medicine (excluding ABC)	Rs 2,12,282/--
Total Food & Medicines	Rs 19,66,353/--
Grant Total	Rs 14,70,080/--

**THANK YOU** to the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust for their ongoing extraordinary financial and moral support enabling us to make our new Wildlife Centre a reality, and for their extraordinarily generous and critically important annual animal feed & medicines grant!



## **Plastic Cow Project Update**

We know that owners leave their cattle to graze freely on the roads, and over the years they cannot help but ingest tens of kilos of plastic that will never be digested. Gradually all that plastic kills them. Plastic cow surgeries for our rescued cattle is only performed in individual cases as we have to keep the cow for life after surgery.

Karuna Society's "Plastic Cow " film has brought attention to the suffering of the animals caused by plastic and other garbage. However, since we won the Supreme Court Case in 2016, there hasn't been much news because the ministry has to implement the ruling.

We know that several states have made much progress; Karnataka has banned all plastic carry bags but in the markets you will still find the illegal coloured ones. Nationally there is a huge effort to get a grip on the plastic/garbage situation because it is a disaster for all cities and municipalities.

The reality is that not much has changed for the animals. Garbage and cows are still on the road. It will really depend on the states and national effort to clean up!





## Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Rayalaseema

Karuna Society for Animals and Nature has been involved in the rescue of local wildlife from its inception in 2000. There is little or no structural support for wild animals in distress in our area. The closest zoo or rescue centre is hundreds of kilometres away. We receive injured wildlife from the Forest Departments of surrounding areas on an almost daily basis. Initially we did not have proper facilities to treat and keep injured wildlife. Slowly we improved and developed our facilities year by year, adjusting to the needs of the animals and the requirements of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA).

Our existing 5-acre plot rescue facilities in Bedupalli (4 km from Puttaparthi) has a rescue and general rehabilitation purpose but is now unsuitable for wildlife, mainly because of the residential housing developed in the past years, as well as the presence of a nearby local airport.



In 2008 we purchased 18 acres of land near the reserve forest of Bukkapatnam Range, near Rayalavaripalli village and 6 km from Puttaparthi. Since 2010 we have been planning to relocate our wildlife rescue centre there. All facilities and land are the property of Karuna Society; after relocation we will have secure medical care and shelter for all animals in distress in our area.

In the new centre we can protect and conserve global biodiversity and wildlife. We will provide firstly, medical care and rehabilitation for every wild animal in distress in our area, including shelter and life time care for those animals that cannot be rehabilitated. Secondly, we can analyse the causes of the existing problems and create solutions and improvements where the suffering of wildlife can be relieved and prevented.

## Inspections and Visits

On 15 April 2017 we had an unexpected evaluation by T. Ajay Kumar from the CZA. After that, we received 'Show Cause' notices on June 7<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>, alerting us to the need of improving deficiencies. We were invited to come to New Delhi to discuss our situation.

On August 09, 2017, there was an inspection of our Wildlife Centre carried out by the Sub D.F.O of Penukonda - Sri. P Samuel, S.F.S and D.F.O

Anantapur - Sri. A Chandra Sekhar S.F.S. Also present was our Consultant – Sri. N. Rajashekar (IFS/ Retd CCF/ Ex Director of Mysore Zoo) along with the Board members and staff of Karuna Society.



## Visit to New Delhi

In November 2017 Karuna Society's President, Clementien A. Koengras, went to the CZA in Delhi to discuss the Master Plan and recognition of our Wildlife Centre. She met with Member Secretary Sri. D.N. Singh, who has the authority to certify zoos and rescue centres.

Sri. D.N Singh listed all the things that we could improve upon at the current wildlife centre and we agreed with our short comings. The rules and regulation for rescue centres were amended in 2009 and as our centre was already built in the year 2004 with little or no help, we put our best foot forward and improved things at the centre with the available resources and funds.

## New Wildlife Centre Master Plan

This is our third year of creating and submitting a Master Plan for our planned new wildlife centre for CZA approval. An updated plan was submitted in December 2016 but subsequently, in late July 2017, we were informed that it was rejected as technically incomplete.



In November 2017 we contracted the professional services of Brij Raj Sharma and Associates Private Limited, Delhi, to provide their professional expertise for the completion/revision of our Master Plan. They visited Karuna Society's lands and projects near Puttaparthi along with Mr. N. Rajasekhar, who was confirmed as honorary consultant/advisor regarding all wildlife related issues at

our General Body Meeting in June 2017.

The new Master Plan was complete and was sent to the Central Government in February 2018. We were still awaiting CZA review and feedback as of the end of this fiscal year (March 2018).

### **Appointment of Wildlife Project Manager**

Fulfilling a long-standing urgent need, in July 2017 we appointed Ms. Crystal Joan Fernandes as Karuna's Wildlife Project Manager. Since then she has been invaluable with assisting wildlife rescues and its associated required paperwork. She audits quality of conditions in the centre to assure compliance with rules and regulations, supervises employees, and maintains quality control. She is also enthusiastically and efficiently taking part in many other duties vital for the smooth running of Karuna Society. A hearty and loving welcome to Crystal onto Karuna's Team!



### **Black Bucks Affected by Rains**

In October 2017 we had heavy rains and several of our rescued Black bucks started dying. Blackbucks usually live on open woodlands and semi-desert areas, but also enjoy areas with thorn or dry deciduous forest. They are not fit for a wet climate and they develop diseases. Sri. N. Rajasekhar came immediately with a veterinary surgeon, Dr Srinivasa Murthy (Veterinary Surgeon & Ex Deputy Director of Bannerghatta NP) to investigate the situation. We acted upon their advice



Dr. M. Shivraj, right and Dr. V. Manjunath, left with Sri. N. Rajasekhar in white shirt.

and immediately the situation improved. Later, Dr. M. Shivraj and Dr. V. Manjunath also visited to advise. To help the Back Bucks cope with the change in weather conditions, we started them on various supplements and improved feed. We even built a bigger shed for them to have protection from the rain during monsoon.

## Hunting Near Wildlife Centre

In April 2017, we contacted the Forest Department regarding the increased hunting by villagers who use packs of dogs. Outside our new wildlife centre we constructed a pond for the use of drinking water for wildlife. As this pond attracts wildlife during the summer, it also brings the hunters with their packs of dogs. We requested strict action against the culprits, so the water facility should not become a death trap for the animals.

Permanent Animals	
Peafowl	10
Sloth Bear	6
Black Buck	13
Sambar Deer	4
Bonnet Macaque Monkeys	12
Rhesus Macaque Monkeys	1
Wildlife In-Patients	20
Wildlife Treatments	99
Wildlife Expenses	Rs 16,99,024/--
Wildlife Centre Construction	Rs 1,27,862/--
Food Expenses for Wildlife	Rs 2,16,852

*Karuna's dedicated staff take their daily work seriously! Here is a picture from March 2018, when Karuna's Secretary Narendra Reddy and Wildlife Project Manager Crystal removed this serpent from a populated area and relocated him far away in the jungle. Another day, another job well done to protect both humans and animals safely!*



## Cruelty Free Organic Farming & Organic Shop

Karuna Society has approximately 6 acres of land available for organic farming. We grow grass for the cattle and when the climate allows, vegetables, lettuce and herbs for our local shop in Puttaparthi.



Besides selling produce, our Karuna shop also functions as an information centre for local residents and visitors, where we receive info about animals needing rescue and/or treatments.

The organic garden at Karuna Society needs to rest between March and July; nothing can grow during the hot and dry summer. The plots must be cleaned, and the compost prepared. We sell the excess compost and this year sales exceeded Rs 66,000/--, which was spent on project expenses.

After the first rains, the compost is given to the hungry soil. From August onwards, there will again be a season of fresh lettuce, vegetables and herbs which will be sold in the Karuna shop in Puttaparthi.

In May 2017 we had an inspection by Dr Srinivasa Gowda of Aditi Organic Inspection and soon afterwards, our organic certification was renewed.

Agricultural Expenses	Rs 164,247/--
Agricultural Total Income	Rs 237,105/--



## **Vana Manam**

In July 2017 Karuna Society for Animals & Nature participated in the government initiative launched by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, VANA MANAM. Its objective is to increase green cover in the state by 50%. We planted dozens of saplings at our up-and-coming Wildlife Centre and our rescued animals will enjoy the wonderful greenery for many years to come!



## **Public Relations and Humane Education Program**

### **Humane Education**

In Feb 2018, four (4) Humane Education sessions were held at the Z.P. High School, Chinnapalli, Puttaparthi, for students of grade 6, 7, 8 & 9, conducted by Karuna's Vice President, Mrs. Romula D'Silva. A total of around 200 students from the four grades attended these sessions. The importance of animals in our life, their rights and our duties as well as the protection of the environment were discussed. Education is critical and Karuna is doing its part!



In late March 2018 Romula conducted another Humane Education session, this time for the school children of Prema Dharma Trust in Puttaparthi. The children ranged in age from 8 to 15 years old. Topics covered included the importance of compassionately caring for and protecting animals and the environment.

The video “Compassionate Citizen” was screened and a copy of The Plastic Cow was given out for later viewing.

## **Media Outreach**

On 17 April 2017 we were contacted by Juhi Tyagi of NDTV for information on a report she was writing regarding plastic waste.



On 7 June 2017, Eva Hirschi from Switzerland also wrote an email asking for details of the plastic waste situation in India, for an article.

On 28 June 2017 we were contacted with a request for photos for an article on the ashram of Prasanthi Nilayam and Karuna Society for a publication in Santa Cruz, California, USA. We corresponded with Rachel Kaplan who later, in September 2017, said the article had been published.

In October 2017 we were disappointed to learn from filmmaker Aaron Gross, who had visited Karuna several times and filmed for the documentary "Eating Animals", that the entire India section of the film had been edited out due to time constraints. As a silver lining, we learned that this may mean a shorter film just on India might be released at a later date, which would prominently feature Karuna Society.

## **Corporate Social Responsibility**

On 27 August 2017 two Karuna staff members attended a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) training workshop in Bangalore: Crystal Joan Fernandes (Wildlife Project Manager) and Radha Krishna Reddy Devagiri (Accountant). Fund raising on this level might be one more road to financial security.

The training gave valuable information on how to become CSR-complaint. We immediately started on concentrated efforts to update Karuna’s official documentation such as the Bye-Laws.

## Visit of Help Animals India Founder

On 14 December 2017 we were delighted to have the first time visit from Eileen Weintraub, the Founder & President of Help Animals India, one of our most loyal and important donors. She spent the day touring with several members of Karuna's staff and several well-wishers, including media volunteer from afar, Divya from America. Later, an article on Eileen's visit was published in NW Dharma News, Seattle, Washington, USA.



*Here is Ramaa, the bear we rescued as an orphaned cub, enjoying a dip in her swimming pool! She thrives along with five other rescued Sloth Bears living a comfortable life in their own private compound.*



## Updated Documents: MoA, Human Resources Manual & Bye-Laws

After many months of concentrated effort including finding professional help, by the end of 2017 we completed an updated Memorandum of Association (MoA), Human Resources manual and our Society's Bye-Laws. These documents are critical to several aspects of Karuna's annual registration and fund-raising efforts. We are overwhelmingly grateful especially to our Wildlife Manager, Crystal Fernandes, who spent countless hours in her efforts to finalise the documentation.

## Open Letter to Volunteers

In May 2017 we completed information to share with prospective volunteers of Karuna Society.

### *Open Letter to Volunteer Veterinary Doctors, Students, Nurses and Other Volunteers*

Karuna Society for Animals and Nature appreciates your offer to volunteer with us. Your love for animals, knowledge and training is much appreciated. However, please consider the following:

- If you are a veterinary doctor or nurse from abroad, you are legally not allowed to practice in India except when you are registered with the Indian veterinary council. This is not possible when you come for a short period on a tourist visa. A volunteer visa is a lengthy process. If you want to come for a longer period, Karuna Society would be legally responsible for your stay, which is an obligation we cannot accept.



- You could be very much disappointed with our clinic and animal care as we do not have the scientific level and diagnostic testing which you are used to. You want to practice your skills but there is no Laboratory in-house or nearby, which means no X-ray, no blood testing, etc.

- It will take a lot of attention from our side to introduce you to the local situation. After 20 years we have figured out what works and what does not. This can be very frustrating for you as your training might tell you differently.
- Our patients are mostly local dogs from farmers and villagers and there are very few breed dogs. We receive many accident cases. Apart from medication and inpatient care, observation is most critical, and we have extensive experience in that regard.
- There is only one way of serving the animals here: open your mind to the fact that the animals in India live in a different world than in the West. There are religious and political issues, laws and cruelty. Your point of view might not be relevant or helpful.
- The minimum volunteer time is one month full time (one day off per week). We are not a cheap hotel for traveling youngsters who love animals. We do not provide food or lodging. You are responsible for yourself. Puttaparthi is a nice little town with cheap places, many foreigners to talk to and good vegetarian food.

Once a week the district veterinary surgeon comes for sterilisations and other surgeries. He is very well qualified and has trained our attendants well.

We have castrated and sterilised all our rescued cows and buffaloes. Our animals are not for profit or reproduction, they move around freely and are not tied up. None of them goes for slaughter.

If you are looking for a life changing experience, if you are willing to let go of your own preconceived ideas and if you are willing to help where it is needed, you are WELCOME!



*Guddi is a sweet girl who is blind, so she cautiously approaches new people to see if they will lovingly pet her. Her owners brought her in several years ago when they noticed a serious condition in her eyes. They didn't want her back, so she became one of our permanent residents.*

## Planning 2018 – 2019

The planning for the year 2018-19 follows from this year's activities and problems.

- We will follow through with our effort to create a new Wildlife Rescue Centre.
- There is a strong need to improve our office activities: accounting, filing, keeping records and all aspects of administration.
- We need to review our policies regarding in- and outpatient department and our relationship with the public in general.
- We are looking for separate funding for a big clean-up and maintenance of all projects.

We still have dreams: looking into the future we see the need for a separate ABC Centre outside Puttaparthi where more sterilizations can be accomplished for a much larger area and where long time disabled dogs and cats can live in peace.

