

KARUNA SOCIETY FOR ANIMALS AND NATURE



Annual Report 2018 – 2019



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Introduction

The most consequential events this year was the online registration of our edited Memorandum of Association, including the new Human Resources policy, and the overhaul of all our administration and accounting practices. Our accountant for the past many years left our services and we appointed the services of a chartered accounting firm to oversee our accounting on a monthly basis. At the office one person is in charge of the day to day accounting.



Rewriting the Memorandum of Association was like "spring cleaning" of the house; you start opening up one cupboard and suddenly the whole house is falling apart. One issue after another came up and needed to be dealt with. Now, June 2019, all statutory duties are clear and dealt with in time. Divya, our long-time volunteer, spent many weeks reorganizing Karuna's collection of tens of thousands of digital photos, and sorting digital and physical documents dating back to Karuna's inception in the year 2000. This included both remote organizing online and spending several weeks physically with an assistant in the Karuna office.

Another major issue was the de-recognition of Karuna's Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre by the Central Zoo Authority on August 23rd, 2018 and our appeal to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi, to reconsider the de-recognition in view of the fact that we are the only rescue and rehabilitation centre for wild animals in this district.

The ministry responded to our appeal by calling us to Delhi on March 11, 2019 and we received a one-year recognition to enable us to present our Master Plan (designed by B.R.S.A, Delhi) to the committee.

We agree that our old wildlife centre can no longer function as a recognized centre, and the construction of the new centre next to the reserve forest is ready to go forward pending the approval of the Master Plan by the CZA.

The animals in our old centre are well looked after by the Wildlife Centre Manager, Crystal Fernandes, who has upgraded all the wildlife administration to the CZA's requirements; but the facilities cannot be changed for the better. The animals deserve to be moved to the new centre where they will have spacious accommodation.

In the mean-time Karuna has become more interested in the possibility of applying for CSR grants. Two members of the administration attended a one-day workshop in Bangalore. CSR demands a high professional level of accounting and administration.

Total Income: ₹. 68,27,958

Total Expenditure: ₹. 98,98,054

Total number Animals Treated: 2,543

Total Number of Treatments: 23,189

Total number of permanent animals on 31st of March 2019: 387

THANK YOU, DEAR SUPPORTERS!!!

Thanks to all our donors, nothing can be done without your help! We thank all our donors, the "Marchig Animal Welfare Trust", UK, "Help Animals India", US, "Vital Solutions", Singapore, the "Rural Development Trust", Anantapur, Animal Care Austria and private donors for their regular and unwavering support and special thanks to our social media volunteer Divya from Mysore.



Small Animal Clinic

In and out patient department.

From the inception of Karuna Society all injured and sick animals have received first aid and inpatient care free of charge. Over time, as more people became aware of our services, more and more dogs and cats arrived at our doorstep, not only from Puttaparthi but also from far away and not just stray animals but also owners with breed dogs. Although some owners donated a small amount, real payment cannot be asked for as we are a non-profit organization. For the last few years the pressure has been growing on the OPD to such an extent that the inpatient animals were getting less attention. Then we knew that we needed to change! The most important point is that we are NOT A PET CLINIC but a rescue centre for stray animals only. In November 2018 after much discussion, we implemented new rules for our Out-Patient dep. The new signboard is ready stating the hours and regulations of the clinic.

1. All animals are allowed to receive first aid.
2. In patient facility is allowed for rescued and stray animals only.
3. Pet dogs are allowed only one-time treatment and thereafter they will be advised to seek treatment somewhere else.

At present, we only have part time veterinarians and no x-ray nor laboratory we cannot provide high qualified service to owners with breed dogs, and certainly not for free. This is causing painful situations where we have to send animals and owners away after the first treatment as there is no real alternative available in the area. We have since decided to continue our search for a full-time veterinarian who can also take up a part time "Ahimsa Pet Clinic".

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Our Clinic is busy every day with a line of patients. Here, several puppies are being treated for skin problems.

Small Animals	No. of Animals	No. of Treatments	Recovered	Natural Death	Euthanized
Dogs	1518	9670	1484	23	11
Dogs - Distemper	396	4702	350	31	15
Dogs - Parvo	211	3762	203	7	1
Cats	183	2797	164	9	10
Other Surgeries - Dogs	44	44	44	0	0
Other Surgeries - Cats	1	1	1	0	0

Permanent Animals 31/03/2019	
Dogs:	Cats:
60	19

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

Although it is the responsibility of the government to manage and pay for ABC projects, like most small municipalities and villages, the Puttaparthi Municipality is not providing these funds.

Karuna Society is bearing all the costs of ABC surgeries, vaccinations and general surgeries. This means we always depend on our donors.

This year we have been able to perform 288 ABC surgeries.

ABC Surgeries	Male	Female	Recovered	Natural Death	Euthanized
ABC - Dogs	56	205	258	1	2
ABC - Cats	8	19	25	2	0

Total ABC:	288	Total Anti Rabies Vaccinations:	626
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We can all agree on the fact that ABC/AR is the only way to control the stray dog population. It is advised by the WHO and it is the law in India. The underlying assumption is that dogs in uncontrolled numbers become an unwanted species, a pest that needs to be managed by sterilization. This is only for the sake of the human population and rabies control.



The animal rights/welfare view is that street 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. Only a community-based animal birth control program, including free medical care and inpatient facilities can result in a healthy and rabies free dog population where human and animal interests are equally taken into account.

We are so grateful to Help Animals India and Animal Care Austria for their ongoing contributions which help fund our weekly ABC Surgeries.

Karuna Society has been implementing the ABC/AR program for the last 15 years from one local base. Because of new dogs constantly entering the area there is never an end to the ABC surgeries. ABC cannot be stopped as the population would grow back quickly.

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 life of the dogs in our area has much improved, they fight less for females and for food, are accepted by the local communities as there is less fear of rabies and less overcrowding.

The Animal Welfare Board of India AWBI has provided a clear Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for animal shelters performing surgeries.

In addition to this we have the following guidelines for the shelter management to keep in mind:

- i. When you can see that a dog is pregnant the surgery should be avoided as the dog can go into shock and the pups are quite big. Recovery is more difficult.
- ii. Dogs in heat cannot be disturbed and should not be brought to the clinic. The surgery cannot be done, it is too risky. It is also too risky for the dog catchers as attacks by the males are not uncommon.
- iii. Young females, from the last batch six month ago, are too young for operation. Technically it is possible but we have seen many dogs getting distemper afterwards and die as at that age they catch the seasonal viruses and need to depend on their natural immune system. The surgery disturbs this. It is advisable to wait till they are around one year and after the distemper season.
- iv. The veterinary doctor with the ABC - in charge is responsible for every incoming/outgoing dog and has to personally check the suitability for surgery and release according to procedures.

MoU Between Karuna Society and The Municipality of Puttaparthi

Nov 18, Reg: Memorandum of Understanding between the Municipality of Puttaparthi and Karuna Society for Animals and Nature, Puttaparthi

Subject: Cooperation and mutual support in the field of dog population control for the purpose of human health and animal welfare.

Keeping in mind the existing rules and regulations regarding dog population control, the Puttaparthi Municipality and Karuna Society pledge to support each other on the following issues that are locally relevant.

1. Animal Birth Control/ Anti Rabies vaccinations: Since the municipality is unable to extend or continue the contract to financially assist Karuna Society in its Animal Birth Control program, Karuna Society is willing to bear all costs of the surgery, so that a healthy dog population is maintained in our town.
2. Karuna Society is willing to vaccinate all street dogs / animals within Puttaparthi Municipality limits against rabies, at our own cost.
3. As many dog owners are reluctant or unwilling to bring their dog for sterilization, the municipality will provide an order to dog owners to get their pets spayed/castrated. To encourage and help the local

people understand the importance of spaying/ castrating their pets, the municipality will allot a representative of the Puttaparthi Municipal Office, to accompany our staff while picking up dogs for surgery.

4. Any animal, legally seized by the municipality (nuisance or cruelty case in which case the owner loses ownership), will be legally handed over to Karuna Society with the understanding that from that moment on Karuna Society is the legal guardian of the animal and will act in the interest of the animal, (treatment, sheltering or adoption). Any action will be documented and reported to the municipality.

5. An effort will be made by the municipality, the health department and Karuna Society to prohibit people from unnecessarily feeding dogs on the road. This causes a lot of health issues to the dog and attracts plenty of other scavengers to the town.

6. Responsible ownership and illegal breeding of breed dogs for profit. The municipality will clarify this subject for all citizens and foreigners by stating who is/can be the legal owner/breeder of any animal. Responsible ownership always means taking care of the welfare of the animal, seeking medical care in case of disease or accident and bearing all cost.

a) How many dogs or cats can a person legally care for or own (registration?)

b) When is a person considered an "animal hoarder", causing suffering to man and animal alike?

7. The Municipality will implement the ban on illegal breeding of dogs for profit as it causes untold suffering to the breeding bitches and many puppies end up discarded on the road, adding to the stray dog population.

This is one of the many accident cases that come to our clinic for first aid every day.



Cattle Rescue Project

To rescue one cow is a huge commitment as it needs to be taken care of till the end of its life!

Most of the rescued cattle at Karuna Society are with us for many years. Some have become very old, 18 -20 years and are with us since 2002. Some have been born at Karuna since in the beginning we did not sterilize the cows and buffaloes. Still, not all are sterilized as the surgeon is first of all coming for the ABC surgeries for dogs. Apart from the ongoing sterilizations there is not much news.



What a treat! The Prasanthi Nilayam (Sai Baba ashram) canteen is very nice to let Karuna pick up their leftover vegetables and fruits every day, which are a real treat for our large animals - including cows, buffaloes, horses, donkeys and even our camel!



It is no joke feeding hundreds of animals every day! It takes a lot of effort to produce feed, especially in drought ridden Andhra Pradesh state, and also to grind up certain types of feed into smaller pieces so there is no wastage. It is an ongoing effort everyday.

Maybe Karuna is the only cow shelter in India and in the world where cows are free from most human interference. They are not tied up, move freely in the herd, graze in the forest and they are not kept for profit; no milk, only the dung is sold. We believe that the sterilization of cows and buffaloes is a good management tool for all overcrowded Gaushala's in India to limit the numbers.

We will start documenting our experiences and providing information to others.

The biggest hiccup every year is of course the summer drought with fodder and water scarcity and the huge expenses that come with it.

Bullocks	Cows	Buffaloes	Donkeys	Horses	Pigs	Camels
103	51	82	9	5	1	1

Total number of permanent animals on 31st of March 2019:	252
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Large Animals	No. of Animals	No. of Treatments	Recovered	Natural Death	Euthanized
Resident Cattle	97	476	95	2	0
Donkeys	1	104	Chronic	0	0
Horses	3	312	Chronic	0	0

Cattle ABC	Male	Female	Recovered	Natural Death	Euthanized
ABC - Cattle	9	17	26	0	0

At present we have a total of 252 large animals.

It is thanks to our main donors; "the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust UK", and "Help Animals India", US, Vital Solutions, Singapore, and individual donors that we manage year after year.



Birds of a feather flock together; or in this case, three-legged cattle flock together - four together in one picture! Looks like they find comfort and community in each others' company.

Plastic Cow Project Update

28 April 2018, Karuna Society was mentioned in a BBC (Telugu Edition) article, "Who kills these cows?". It is in Telugu but after clicking on the link below, right-click your mouse to see an option to "Translate into English".

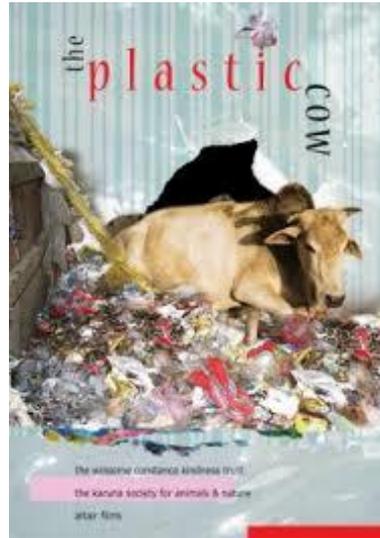
<https://www.bbc.com/telugu/india-43882831>



BBC.COM

BBC Special: ఈ ఆవులను ఎవరు చంపుతున్నారు?

'ఈ ప్లాస్టిక్ ఆవులు 5-10 సం. కంటే ఎక్కువ కాలం బతకవు. వాటి కడుపులో...'



28 June 2018:

Fundraiser by Elizabeth Tavella as part of her "Plastic free July", at the end of it she sent \$500.

29 Dec 2018, Karuna's "Plastic Cow" film wins FIRST PRIZE at the International Film Festival in Pune! The winning 34-minute film is on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/Nf2V0GT8OJg>

Here is the article about the Prize: <https://punemirror.indiatimes.com/.../articleshow/67293578.cms>

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Rayalaseema

Recognition Issues

The overview of this year's activities is dominated by a few important issues: The Karuna Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre was de-recognized on August 23rd 2018 by the Central Zoo Authority, Delhi; after which we appealed before the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and explained our situation. We were then called to the ministry to meet with the Secretary and the panel in person on March 11, 2019 and reiterate our case; following



this, a verbal permission and recognition for one year to continue rehabilitating wild animals in the current centre was granted before the panel and we were asked to send our Master Plan for the new site for approval.

Several inspections have taken place and it is clear to all parties that the existing rescue centre cannot provide the housing quality the animals need and that the animals should be relocated to the new location as soon as possible. Important improvements have been made on the level of administration as per CZA rules and regulations which have been applied.

As we now avail of the professional services of the team of Zoo Experts, Brij Raj Sharma and Associates (BRSA), New Delhi, the detailed designs of the animal enclosures will be provided as soon as the Master Plan is under scrutiny by the committee. We hope to receive permission for the construction soon.

Objectives of the Rescue Centre

The main objective of the Karuna Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Puttaparthi is to complement and strengthen the national efforts in conservation of the rich biodiversity of the country, particularly the wild fauna through the following protocol: -

- To function as rescue and rehabilitation centre for life time care of the captive/captured/seized/abandoned/orphaned/old/diseased wild animals particularly leopards, sloth bears, monkeys, deer, antelopes and land/flying birds, subject to the availability of appropriate housing and upkeep infrastructure.
- Providing opportunities for scientific studies useful for conservation in general and creation of database for sharing between the agencies involved in in-situ and ex-situ wildlife conservation.
- To further advance best practice animal husbandry, health care and welfare that ensures physical and behavioral wellbeing of the animals in collection.
- To promote sustainable practices in all aspects of the rescue and rehabilitation operations.

S. No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Opening Stock as on April 1st 2018				Births			Acquisitions			Disposals			Deaths			Closing Stock as on March 31st 2019			
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
Bird			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
1.	Peafowl	Pavo cristatus	4	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	6	0	9
Total Birds			4	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	6	0	9
Mammal			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
1.	Sloth Bear	Melurus ursinus	3	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	6
2.	Black Buck	Antelope cervicapra	9	4	0	1	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	8	2	2
3.	Bonnet Macaque	Macaca radiate	6	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	6	0	1
4.	Rhesus Macaque	Macaca mulatta	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
5.	Grey Tufted Langur	Semnopithecus priam	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total Mammal			2	1	0	3	0	2	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	4
Total Animals			2	1	0	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	2	5
			4	9	0	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	3	2	0

Other than endangered species

S. No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Opening Stock as on April 1st 2018				Births			Acquisitions			Disposals			Deaths			Closing Stock as on March 31st 2019			
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
Mammal			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
1.	Sambar Deer	Cervus unicolor	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Total Animals			0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4

Organic Farming and the Karuna Shop

As an animal welfare society, we are opposed to the cruel practices of the bio industry. We promote a vegan lifestyle. There is also a worldwide growing awareness that "factory food" is not the healthiest food. It is full of chemicals, preservatives and artificial colouring. Many people prefer organic food if available. Karuna's organic farm uses the dung and urine from our 350 rescued cattle to prepare healthy compost for our organic garden. We deliver fresh salad and other vegetables to our shop in Puttaparthi from August to March each year. It is not very profitable as it is rather small but it connects the local people and visitors of Puttaparthi with our animal welfare activities and provides a healthy alternative to other food sources. The Karuna Shop is also a place where visitors can donate towards our animal rescue activities and can inform us about any animal in need.

Total agricultural expenses this year: ₹. 1,18,065/-

Total agricultural income this year: ₹. 2,95,609/-

Public Relations and Humane Education Program

Humane Education

14 October, Happy Home (22 children). Humane Education Session:



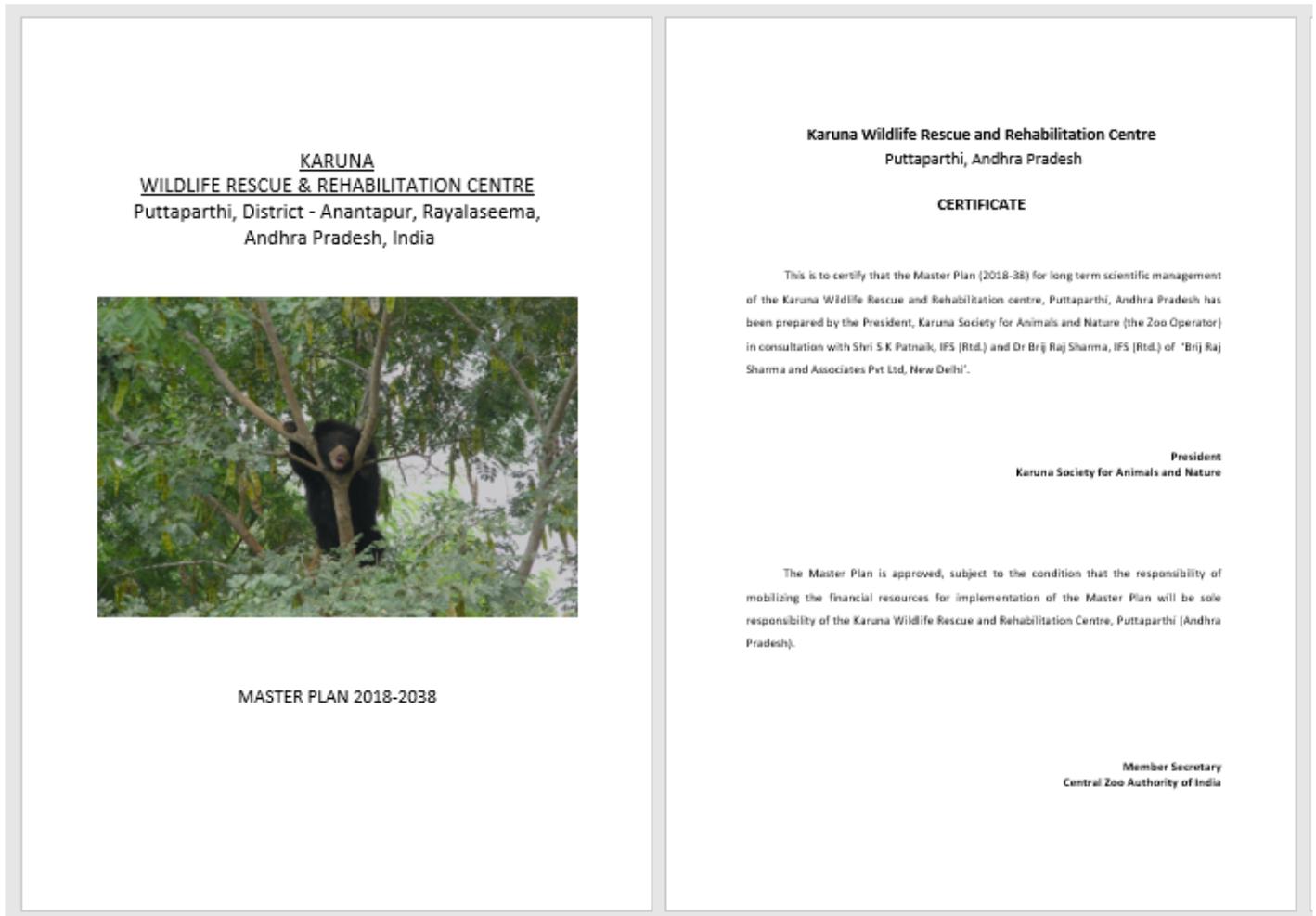
14th October, Karuna's Vice-President Romula D'Silva conducted an interactive session with the children of Happy Home - Puttaparthi from 10 am to 12 pm. The 22 children were of different age groups, from 8 to 15 years. The main topics of discussion were the environment and, of course, the animals - their welfare and rights as well as our duties towards them.

At the end of the session, the documentary "Compassionate Citizen" was screened. "The Plastic Cow", DVD was also handed over to the Director for viewing at a later date.

PLANNING

To establish a firm ground for all Karuna projects in terms of fundraising, administration, qualified veterinary care and Wildlife Rescue Centre construction.

- i. To secure the Rs.1,20,000,00/- One Crore Twenty lakh for running cost and approx. 60 lakhs for wildlife centre construction.
- ii. Make an effort to find an all-round administrator.
- iii. Start applications for CSR funding.
- iv. Find and appoint an experienced veterinary surgeon.



In April 2018, we have submitted the Master Plan which has been designed by Brij Raj Sharma and Associates and we are awaiting approval.

Our wish list at present:

Support for the salary of a full-time veterinary surgeon. (Rs.50.000/- per month)

Support for the salary of an accomplished administrator who can deal with CSR fundraising/general administration. Our office is dangerously understaffed.

A substantial grant and donations for the second phase of the construction of the wildlife rescue centre.

Contributions to create a corpus fund. At present we have no financial security/back-up system for our 450 animals and 31 employees. Please remember us in your will.



The new 18-acre Wildlife Rescue Centre at the foothill of the Reserve Forest

For more information write to karunasociety@gmail.com