

I. ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM FOR DOGS:

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) had extended our territory five times to include 32 panchayats (villages) encompassing an additional area of 200 Kms. This brings under our fold an additional estimated 40,000-50,000 dogs besides other related animal problems. In addition, they are all located in semi urban and rural areas with hard to reach areas included.

Therefore, under the circumstances, we have to safely improve our procedures for the dogs in meeting this extension as best we can. We aim to reach 90% if not full coverage of the city based dogs -- we are now hovering at 70% coverage. Our normal average of 5,000 dogs in a year for sterilizations has been raised to 10,000 dogs per year. Thanks to the initiative of the Chairman of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), Chennai who reached an agreement with GVMC in providing a matching grant. Thus our progress continues but it is more or less the same kind of situation when we were doing 5,000 per annum for the city. It would have been much better to at least conduct 20,000 per year, which will have an immediate resultant effect on the project and we are very capable of reaching this target. We received help from the Animal Rescue site for dog ABC recently and this will help us increase in additional areas. We are grateful that the GVMC and the AWBI have funded at least the 10,000 dogs this past fiscal year.

Statistic data:

1st April 2007-31st March 2008	
Month	No of Dogs Operated
April-2007	589
May-2007	496
June-2007	583
July-2007	961
August-2007	1502
September-2007	842
October-2007	736
November-2007	855
December-2007	416
January-2008	832
February-2008	813
March-2008	1375
Total	10000



Vets conducting operations



our vet checking the conditions of dog



Dogs are ready to be released in their original place



Happy Dog

II. ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM FOR CATS:

We have noticed that were the dog population has come down despite the open garbage, cats were seen more visibly in these dustbins. And as we progress in spreading our activities for the animals, we are getting more information from the public and mostly domestic complaints of the cat population. We are also receiving more inquiries about the cats and their problems than the dogs.

These practical incidences have made us to realize and set a system for the cats of this region almost similar to the street dogs. In this regard, we are very fortunate to have the assistance from Ms. Olive Walker, U.S.A towards the infrastructural development of one A.C. operation theatre, one isolation quarantine ward, and one building for the abandoned kittens. We are also obliged to the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, U.K. to have provided some of the most basic financial help towards the maintenance of these cats and also towards the ABC programme for the cats which is more community based at the moment.

Statistic Data:

1st April 2007-31 st March 2008			
	Male	Female	Total
Cats	83	117	200

We have gotten comments from many westerner visitors that our cats look as happy and healthy as the best cat shelters in the west.



Happy Shelter Cats



Happy Shelter Cat

III CATTLE PROTECTION:

We presently give refuge to almost 600 cattle including 34 buffaloes and 220 bulls. These are all rescued from illegal slaughterhouses and illegal transportation. Since the past two years, we are not bringing in any cattle from the illegal transportation areas because we do not have space to accommodate them. The moment we get extra land it will be our honor and obligation in our animal welfare work to continue rescue these most useful living beings from being victims of horrendous traveling conditions on the way to makeshift slaughterhouses.

Adoptions have greatly come down because the farming activities have lessened because of developing urbanization.

However, we do take in those cattle that arrive from people who rescue themselves and from government authorities. We are developing alternatives and educating the available farming communities the usefulness of bye-products of these cattle. It is our ambition to make each village self-sufficient based on economical value of the cattle bye-product.

Statistic data:

1st April 2007-31 st March 2008			
	Cow	Bull	Total
Rescued	3	5	8



IV. HORSES:

For the past few years, we have watched with growing concern as working horses were brought to our area. Increased tourism developments and the related beach activities begin at our city of Visakhapatnam and go for another 30 Kms up northwards to Bemelipatnam. We are seeing that with this kind of tourist development the issue of horses is going to be another major problem for us.

Already there are 75 horses under abused conditions and under exploited situation. We are getting inquires and pleas from the public as many are distressed to see their condition and want us to help but they are unable to provide the funds to do so.

Aside from their ill treatment, poor working conditions, being left without any shelter whatsoever under the alternating punishing Indian sun and rain they are also being abandoned. **We already had an emergency of having to rescue two very weak horses.**

So we added two horses to our 900 animals and may have to add more. With only 2 acres, we do not have the space for them at all but cannot leave such intelligent and domesticated animals wandering on the street eating garbage for their survival.

We would like to conduct a regular horse camp and to bring awareness of horse care and the rules to follow for animal welfare. Based upon these activities any medicinal and veterinary expertise would also be greatly appreciated.

Horse camp			
	Male	Female	Total
Horse Camp	8	10	18

V. DOMESTIC SOS (Save Our Souls):

We have strengthened our efficiency and technical details in providing a more compact and practical manners of emergency works. Our team has a vehicle to provide emergency rescues all hours within the shortest time possible and these include areas of other districts also.

1st April 2007-31 st March 2008					
	Male	Female	Unknown	Death	Total
Dogs	75	43	-	-	118
Puppies (Dogs)	10	9	-	-	19
Cats	24	16	-	-	40
Kittens	6	8	-	-	14
Pigeons	24	23	-	-	47
Rabbits	2	3	-	-	5



Rescued Dog



Rescued Cat



Special type of pigeon rescued from
Lalithaambika Exhibition



Rescued rabbits from Yellamanchili

VI. WILDLIFE SOS (Save Our Souls):

We are in cooperation with forest department towards the field rescues of the wild animals. The wildanimal rescues assume complications and risks as it involves confrontation with well developed and planned poacher gangs who are after the monetary gains from the sale of the wild animals. We have been quite successful in reducing the incidence of such poachings, which includes display of animals vide entertainment programs.

1st April 2007-31st March 2008

Animal	Rescued	Action Taken	Under Rehabilitation
Snakes	6	Released at Kambili Konda	-
Parrots	26	-	26
Crow	6	-	6
Owl	1	Released	-
Patharoid	1	Handed over to zoo	
Mongoose	1	Handed over to zoo	-
Finches	41	-	41
Small Finches	2	-	2
Love birds	2	Released	-
Budgerigar	39	Released	-
Eagle	1	Handed over to zoo	-
Monitor Lizards	3	Handed over to zoo	-
Common Langur	2	Handed over to zoo	-
Civvies cats	2	Handed over to zoo	-
Guinea Pigs	3	-	3
Pythons	3	Handed over to zoo	-
Porcupine	1	Handed over to zoo	-
Star Tortoise	14	-	14
Rabbits	4	-	4
Fox	2	Handed over to zoo	-
White rats	6	-	6
Dove	2	-	2



Porcupine from Yellamanchili Exhibition



Fox from Yellamanchili Exhibition



Common Langur from Yellamanchili Exhibition



Pythons from Yellamanchili Exhibition



Civvies cat form Yellamanchili Exhibition



Mongoose from Yellamanchili Exhibition



Star Tortoise from Yellamanchili Exhibition



Monitor Lizards from Akkayapalem

VII. SEA TURTLE PROTECTION:

We are in our 12th year of the first ever field protection campaign of sea turtle protection in our area. With sustained determination, commitment and extreme persuasion combined strongly with field protection we turned the poachers into protectors, lobbying with the related Government Departments and networked with other Animal Welfare Organizations we applied the feelings for religious sentiments with a comprehensive innovative awareness and education sustained campaigns for the related fishing villages. The result has been extremely advantageous and has greatly helped the protection and conservation of the sea turtles on our Visakha urban beaches up to the beach areas of Pudimadaka and Bheemili.

In 2007 we have been very fortunate, for the first time ever to have received a grant successfully and exclusively for the Sea Turtle protection of this region from the Rufford Foundation. This grant has helped us plan our programs more systematically and with more resources allowing us to cover more space and spend more time with more communities at the village level for creating awareness and educating all sections and ages of the village people.

Most surprisingly, the nestings in the most disturbed areas has increased by 20% and this brings into fold the fact that the Sea Turtles are in desperate need of a comprehensive protection guaranteed procedures during the nesting seasons. Thus, we are looking at all the angles involving many stakeholders for this co-operation and co-ordination.

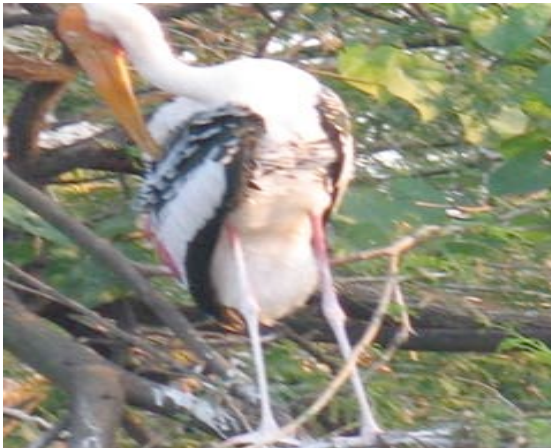
Statistic data of sea turtles for the season of 2007-08:

	Numbering	
Coastal Battery to Vuda	154	} 476
Vuda to Endada	174	
Endada to Bheemili	69	
Bheemili to Annavaram	79	

VIII. MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION:

Since 2000, when we have taken up this issue there has been a lot of change in outcome of final result and we hope that we will have the resource to meet the obligation of protecting these birds. In 2004, we have been playing the role of monitoring and evaluation of these migratory birds along with the community of Tinelipuram, Srikakulam district. The forest department has been actively involved and maintaining a strict vigil in these areas.

This last year we have concentrated to bring awareness and educate the people of the nine villages that are vulnerable to hunting the birds. The villages comprise 10,000 acres of mixed wet lands abutting the sea coast where these birds come for food.



Migratory birds at Telinelipuram of Tekkali



Migratory birds at Telinelipuram of Tekkali

IX. ANIMAL SACRIFICE:

Animal sacrifices in the city and surrounding places have greatly diminished as we make successful protests with the help of the police department.

However, the issue of animal sacrifice during the Dhasara festival period (in October) is still very bad as everybody considers it as a compulsory religious act. We have been trying for many years to persuade the government to provide a blanket Government Order to stop this major animal sacrifice. We have been successful in stopping these sacrifices in public areas including offices, etc. . However, still we are far away from a complete stop of these atrocities by the public. We are seeking legal procedures in this regard.

V. AWARENESS & EDUCATION CAMPAIGN:

We consider that the goal for the ultimate animal welfare achievements lies in mass participation and changing the attitude of people towards animals.

Within this perspective has been our objective to spread awareness and educate by all methods possible that will bring a fast relief and a permanent solution for all species.

We are in the process of developing an innovative and versatile education and awareness strategy permanently throughout the year with specific teams that are well supported by the community.

VI. FUND RAISING TEAM:

We are extremely grateful to Ms. Olive Walker, U.S.A., for sponsoring an exclusive fund raising team, which was coupled with the awareness campaign for the past year. Finance, as you all know, is the most vital organ for an animal welfare organization and therefore we have set up a separate wing along with the awareness team to branch out exclusively towards the respective issues. We are not expecting immediate miracles, but the system is being promoted to have in place an efficient machinery towards fuelling needed resources for carrying out and fulfilling our fast-expanding activities of this region.

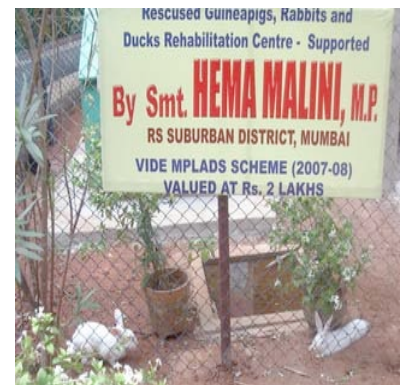
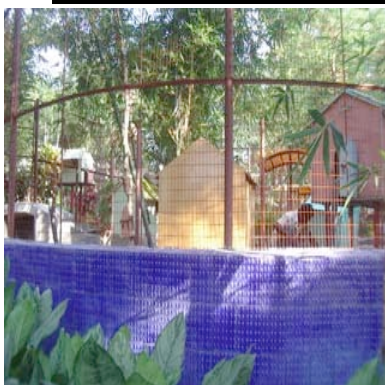
XII. SHELTER ACTIVITIES:

Our shelter is been promoted as a place with a heart for animals. We are not able to provide their original habitats but we are doing our utmost best to develop and provide the animals the nearest habitat and comfortable place for them to spend their lives happily. We are their guardians.

Our shelter with all inviting landscapes has been attracting more and more visitors each year. Our approach towards animal freedom under rehabilitation care has been providing a new concept and knowledge. Our shelter development on the basis of co-operation among the different species with accompanied affection from our staff has been touching and humane.



X. CONSTRUCTION AT SHELTER



Newly constructed rehabilitation center



Ongoing construction for octagon house for the dogs

X. VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION:

We welcome participation at our shelter from volunteers of national and international background -- vets, vet students and general. Despite the serious difference in the cultural issues, political and regional factors and weather conditions we believe that volunteer participation is very important. There is a lot of potential in developing these relationships that can do wonders for animal welfare from those volunteers who have selfless objectives for the cause.



In the calendar year of 2008, we gratefully received the following major donations and help from Ahimsa Foundation (operating expenses and disaster relief); Animal Rescue League of Boston (supplies and visits of expertise from Dr. Gal); Animal Rescue site; Animal People, Inc. (funds channeled for donors for USA tax deduction purpose), Jane Courtney (help for the horses); Dog Trust UK (conference sponsorship); Brigitte Bardot Fondation (new ambulance), Ms. Maneka Gandhi (advocacy); Maria Norbury Foundation (funding for 2 vet salaries), Ms. Margaret Gebhard, Ms. Hema Malina (new dwelling for the smallest animals); Mr. Matt Pascall (sponsorship of a vet salary); Ms. Olive Walker (numerous projects); Winsome Constance Kindness Trust, WSPA (conferences sponsorship), as well as many kind individual donors.

However, our greatest need is our operating expenses which has recently increased greatly due to inflation of **Rs. 10,27,898 a month and at today's favorable exchange rate (November 9th) equals approximately USD 22,000** a month. It is easier to get help for fixed expenses than the most important need of meeting daily operational expenses of animal feed, medicines, wages, maintenance etc. We salute all of donors who are coming forward in providing this vital financial help.

Now VSPCA has facilitated substantial changes towards animal welfare in the minds of the people, government and central areas of our state of Andhra Pradesh. We have also made deep inroads in influencing, inspiring and motivating all individuals to set up new NGOS and creating a link to all these areas has moved us into the role of animal welfare leadership.

VSPCA is gradually moving towards developing a system of self sufficiency but is taking years to achieve. Until then, we need all your help and support and your guidance to reach all of our objectives.

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