

PfA<sup>®</sup>  
**WILDLIFE  
HOSPITAL**



PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS™  
BANGALORE

WILDLIFE RESCUE  
& CONSERVATION  
CENTRE

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2022

## Contents

1. Organisation Details
2. PfA Bangalore at Glance
3. Our Mission, Vision & Values
4. Trustees
5. Accountability & Transparency
6. Total Income & Expenditure
7. Rescues
8. Visits to PfA
9. Webinars, Workshops, and Awareness Programmes
10. Volunteers & Internship Programmes
11. Achievements
12. PfA in News
13. Celebrations at PfA
14. Miscellaneous

## Organisation Details

Name of the Organization	People for Animals, Bangalore		
Type of registration	Trust		
Registration No. with date	183/98-99 DT: 18.11.1998		
Registration Certificate No.	80G(5)(iii)- AAATP2817Q22BL02	12A(1)(ac)(iii)- AAATP2817Q22BL01	PAN NO. AAATP2817Q
Registered Address	No. 67, Next to BGS Global Hospital, Uttarahalli-Kengeri Main Road, Kengeri, Bangalore 560060		
Phone No.	9900025370, 9980339880, 080-28612767, 080 28611986		
Website address	<a href="http://PfAWildlifeHospital.org">http://PfAWildlifeHospital.org</a>		



## PfA Bangalore at Glance

People for Animals, Bangalore (PfA) was founded in 1996 as a non-profit organisation dedicated to wildlife rescue, conservation, and the rescue and rehabilitation of urban wildlife. It was founded by Founder Trustees Alpana Bhartia, Namrata Dugar, Gauri Maini Hira, and Arushi Poddar.

PfA works to create a more harmonious world between humans and the natural environment, one in which humans are embedded in the web of activity on Earth rather than at the centre. We recognise that animals, like us, experience pain and emotions and, as a result, deserve certain fundamental rights that protect them from adversity caused by humans.

### **We aim to:**

Give injured urban wild animals prompt, specialised veterinary care, rehabilitate them, and then release them back into their natural or adopted habitats. We also believe that raising public awareness about the importance of urban wildlife and the environment is critical to realising coexistence between humans and the natural world, and our awareness programmes play an important role in this. We are actively involved in community outreach and education about our local environment and how we can enrich and protect it, and as a result, we frequently collaborate with institutions and organisations to raise awareness. Our goal is to create a practise that uses better wildlife care techniques by bringing in specialists and veterinarians from all over the world. Essentially, we aim to employ our resources to create a better world for our precious wildlife.

### **The Dire Need for Urban Wildlife Hospitals**

A 2011 census revealed a 53% increase in human population in Bangalore since 2001, with a population growth of 0.496 million per year during the last nine years. Areas like the Turahalli Forest can visibly see the issues of population expansion leading to accelerated unplanned urbanisation, which has negatively impacted the city's lakes, parks, and partial forests. This indicates a significant disruption of the balance of nature. Hence, there has been an increase in displaced, hurt, and orphaned animals. The Wildlife Acts are intended to conserve the species of the country, yet they are unable to protect the wildlife that resides in urban areas. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the people of Bangalore to assist and save the urban wildlife.

PfA has been at the forefront of tackling animal rescue, cruelty incidents, and myths and conducting extensive outreach programs on the significance of coexistence. In our opinion, the journey toward promoting animal welfare and protecting the environment is never-ending but incredibly rewarding. Crisis management and giving prompt, effective relief to animals in need are PfA's top priorities.

# Our Mission, Vision & Values

## **Mission:**

For PfA Wildlife Rescue & Conservation Centre, Bangalore to be a Centre of Excellence; to be able to provide a new chance at life to each injured or orphaned wild animal, and for every citizen to be sensitive to animal welfare, actively prevent acts of cruelty, and aid animals in distress. To strive for values that promote ecological harmony.

**Ultimately, we'd like to be a centre of excellence for animal care, focused on urban wildlife and conservation.**

## **Vision:**

Bangalore has vast numbers of wildlife that get injured, orphaned, or abandoned because of unplanned urbanisation, lack of empathy for and awareness about the wildlife around us. PfA Wildlife Rescue & Conservation Centre exists for the provision of quick and efficient aid to the wild animals that require it the most, and to educate and support a dynamic citizenry that prevents environmental degradation and animal cruelty.

## **Values:**

- Promote honesty and integrity in all our work
- Commitment to have dynamic and motivated staff
- Dedication to animal and environmental welfare
- Innovate to provide cost-effective solutions to environmental issues

## Trustees

Sl. No	Name	Age	Gender	Occupation	Position in the Board	Total amount paid in last financial year (Rs.)	Form of payment Salary/ Consultancy/ Honorarium/ Sitting Fees/other (Specify)
1	Namrata Dugar	57	Female	Business	Trustee	Nil	Nil
2	Arushi Poddar	51	Female	Creative Consultant and Therapist	Managing Trustee	Nil	Nil
3	Gauri Maini Hira	53	Female	Facilitator with Children for Civil Emotional Well Being	Trustee	Nil	Nil
4	Nagesh Manay	49	Male	Brand Communications	Trustee	Nil	Nil
5	Mahalakshmi Parthasarathy	49	Female	Environmentalist	Trustee	Nil	Nil
6	Sunita Prabhakar	43	Female	Director - Gopalan Organics	Trustee	Nil	Nil

# Rescues

Throughout the year, our team saved 3232 urban wildlife, including several rare species found in the city. The year ended with a significant increase in the number of animals saved compared to the previous year, indicating that we are getting closer to a safer world where they can thrive on their own.

## AVES - 2016



ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET	102
ASHY CROWNED SPARROW LARK	1
ASHY PRINIA	11
ASHY WOODSWALLOW	1
ASIAN KOEL	614
ASIAN PALM SWIFT	2
BARN OWL	956
BARN SWALLOW	1
BARRED BUTTON QUAIL	5
BAYA WEAVER	6

BLACK BITTERN	1
BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERON	138
BLACK DRONGO	2
BLACK EAGLE	1
BLACK EARED KITE	1
BLACK HEADED IBIS	3
BLACK KITE	6934
BLACK WINGED KITE	4
BLUE FACED MALKOHA	2
BLUE HEADED ROCK THRUSH	1

BLUE ROCK PIGEON	352
BOOTED EAGLE	5
BOOTED WARBLER	2
BRAHMINY KITE	537
BRAHMINY STARLING	1
BROWN HAWK OWL	2
BROWN WOOD OWL	1
CATTLE EGRET	69
CINEROUS TIT	11
COMMON BABBLER	1

COMMON COOT	1
COMMON HAWK CUCKOO	10
COMMON IORA	2
COMMON KESTREL	3
COMMON KINGFISHER	10
COMMON MOORHEN	2
COMMON MYNA	384
COMMON QUAIL	12
COPPERSMITH BARBET	5
CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE	5

CRIMSON BACKED SUN BIRD	16
EGYPTIAN VULTURE	2
EURASIAN SPARROW HAWK	3
GREATER CORMORANT	5
GREATER PAINTED SNIPE	1
GREEN BEE EATER	13
GREENISH WARBLER	14
GREY FRANCOLIN	39
GREY HERON	5
GREY PELICAN	5

GREY WAGTAIL	1
HANGING PARROT	3
HILL MYNAH	1
HOUSE CROW	1558
HOUSE SPARROW	26
INDIAN CORMORANT	4
INDIAN CUCKOO	14
INDIAN DARTER	2
INDIAN EAGLE OWL	18
INDIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE	9

INDIAN HOOPOE	4
INDIAN NIGHT JAR	9
INDIAN PEA FOWL	162
INDIAN PITTA	89
INDIAN POND HERON	189
INDIAN ROBIN	5
INDIAN ROLLER	6
INDIAN SCOPS OWL	29
INDIAN THICK KNEE	1
INDIAN TREEPIE	1

JERDON'S BAZA	1
JERDON'S LEAF BIRD	1
JERDON'S NIGHTJAR	1
JUNGLE BABBLER	2
JUNGLE CROW	540
JUNGLE MYNA	104
JUNGLE OWLET	4
LARGE PIED WAGTAIL	3
LAUGHING DOVE	1
LESSER GOLDENBACK WOODPECKER	3

LINEATED BARBET	35
LITTLE CORMORANT	56
LITTLE EGRET	29
LITTLE GREBE	5
LITTLE SWIFT	63
MALABAR PARAKEET	3
MALAYAN NIGHT HERON	1
MEDIAN EGRET	4
MOTTLED WOOD OWL	24
OPEN BILLED STORK	1

ORIENTAL MAGPIE ROBIN	9
ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE	29
ORIENTAL WHITE EYE	16
PAINTED STORK	18
PALE BILLED FLOWERPECKER	25
PEREGRINE FALCON	1
PIED BUSH CHAT	3
PLUM HEADED PARAKEET	9
PRINIA SP.	7
PURPLE HERON	8

PURPLE MOORHEN	15
PURPLE RUMPED SUNBIRD	41
PURPLE SUNBIRD	4
RED HEADED FALCON	3
RED VENTED BULBUL	10
RED WATTLE LAPWING	7
RED WHISKERED BULBUL	122
ROCK BUSH QUAIL	1
ROSE RINGED PARAKEET	1621
ROSY STARLING	2

RUFOUS TREEPIE	1
SCALY BRESTED MUNIA	59
SHAHEEN FALCON	1
SHIKRA	92
SHORT EARED OWL	1
SLATY BREADED RAIL	1
SLATY LEGGED CRAKE	1
SMALL BUTTON QUAIL	3
SOUTHERN COUCAL	197
SPOT BILLED DUCK	1

SPOT BILLED PELICAN	3
SPOTTED DOVE	63
SPOTTED OWLET	91
TAILOR BIRD	107
TAWNY EAGLE	3
TRICOLOURED MUNIA	388
UNIDENTIFIED CHICKS	6
WATER RAIL	1
WHITE - NAPED WOODPECKER	3
WHITE BREADED WATERHEN	26

WHITE BROWED WAGTAIL	3
WHITE CHEEKED BARBET	588
WHITE EYED BUZZARD	1
WHITE ROSE RINGED PARAKEET	1
WHITE THROATED KING FISHER	27
WHITE THROATED MUNIA	6
WHITE THROATED THRUSH	1
YELLOW BILLED BABBLER	6
YELLOW LEGGED BUTTON QUAIL	27
YELLOW LEGGED GREEN PIGEON	3
YELLOW WATTLED LAPWING	3



## REPTILES - 760

BANDED RACER	31
BANDED KUKRI	28
BARRED WOLF SNAKE	3
BEAKED WORM SNAKE	5
BRAHMINY WORM SNAKE	10
BRIDAL SNAKE	2
BUFF STRIPED KEELBACK	58
CHECKERED KEELBACK	334
COMMON BRONZEBACK TREE SNAKE	89
COMMON CAT SNAKE	13
COMMON GARDEN LIZARD	33
BENGAL MONITOR LIZARD	38
COMMON KRAIT	35

COMMON SAND BOA	72
COMMON TRINKET	205
COMMON WOLF SNAKE	112
DUMERIL'S BLACK HEADED SNAKE	3
ELLIOT'S SHEILD TAIL	4
FLAP SHELL TURTLE	129
GREEN KEELBACK	12
GREEN VINE SNAKE	34
INDIAN BLACK SPOTTED POND TURTLE	34
INDIAN CHAMELEON	14
INDIAN POND TERRAPIN	211
INDIAN RAT SNAKE	2781
INDIAN ROCK PYTHON	23

INDIAN TENT TURTLE	7
MARSH CROCODILE	4
OLIVE KEELBACK	56
PHIPSON'S SHEILD TAIL	2
RED SAND BOA	58
REED SNAKE	1
ROCK AGAMA	9
RUSSELS KUKRI SNAKE	18
RUSSEL'S VIPER	822
SAW SCALED VIPER	23
SPECTACLED COBRA	6342
SPINY TAILED LIZARD	25
STAR TORTOISE	121



## MAMMALS - 454

ASIAN PALM CIVET	23
ASIATIC GREATER YELLOW HOUSE BAT	16
ASIATIC LION (CIRCUS)	11
ASSAMESE MACAQUE	3
BLACK BUCK	4
BLACK NAPED WILD HARE	110
BONNET MACAQUE	1544
COMMON GREY MONGOOSE	22
EGYPTIAN FREE TAILED BAT	4
FIVE STRIPPED PALM SQUIRREL	1
FOX	2
FULVOUS FRUIT BAT	3
GREY SLENDER LORIS	74
HANUMAN LANGUR	1

INDIAN FLYING FOX	85
INDIAN JACKAL	34
INDIAN MUNTJAC	1
INDIAN PANGOLIN	15
INDIAN PIPISTRELLE	109
INDIAN PORCUPINE	2
INDIAN WILD BOAR	2
JUNGLE CAT	9
LEOPARD	1
MALABAR GAIN T SQUIRREL	1
RHESUS MACAQUE	16
SHORT NOSED FRUIT BAT	267
SLOTH BEAR	23
SMALL INDIAN CIVET	6



## Visits to PfA

Faculty and learners from various institutions in Bangalore come to our centre to learn about our work. Our centre serves as an excellent environment for both students and adults to gain hands-on exposure to the fields of environmentalism and welfare of animals. At the 'Knowledge Centre,' they are given a brief introduction to PfA and its goals, after which they are divided into groups and escorted around the centre under the close supervision of our staff.

Students are given a 1-2 hour interactive tour of the 6-acre campus. The groups then study the animals in treatment, the dangers faced by wild animals in the city, and the kinds of wildlife that inhabit our surroundings. The session is followed by an activity and a 'Reflection Session,' in which the group discusses their learnings. The learning experience concludes with students making a pledge to help preserve wildlife, and to speak out against any violence perpetrated against wildlife.

In addition to educational institutions, businesses and social organisations from all over Bangalore also visit PfA as part of their CSR and team building activities. We invite you to participate in our work by supporting various activities such as: creating enrichment for animal enclosures, gardening, planting trees, painting, etc.

The visit begins with a presentation about our work, followed by a tour of the campus. This helps the group understand the conservation needs of animals and wildlife and raises awareness of our goals.

### **Some of our visits in 2022 include:**

1. In January, a group of 17 students who are part of the Green Skill Development Program funded by MoEFCC Govt. of India, organised by EMPRI had visited us. They were given a presentation and a centre tour to better understand the work we do and the benefits of our urban wildlife.
2. In March, We gave the students from PES University a centre tour, educating them about Bangalore's urban wildlife and creating awareness about our work. The students also helped with some enrichment activities after the tour.
3. In April, 18 Students from PESU Rotaract Club, 22 School Children from Theme Decor Team and 33 Students of Journalism & Mass Communication from Dayanand Sagar University were given a centre tour, educating them about Bangalore's urban wildlife and creating awareness about our work. The students also helped with some enrichment activities after the tour.
4. In May, we gave the Inner Wheel Ladies Club a centre tour.
5. In June, 18 Employees of Laguna Clothing visited PfA and contributed to the shelter activities including tree census (70 trees numbered in half an hour), mat making for the macaques, and store room cleaning. They cherished the experience and intend to bring their

other teams along with their management

6. In June, 36 students of Raman Science Club, Government Science College visited us along with their teacher and helped us with tree tagging activities.

7. In September, 22 students from Nitte International School along with 3 teachers of grade 12 visited us and assisted us with renovating the kite enclosure

8. 35 children and parents of grade 1 & grade 4 students of Aditi Mallya visited us and the children helped us with feeding activities.

9. 72 children from Neev Academy along with 6 teachers of Grade 2 visited us and donated groceries

10. Also in September, 45 students from MBA of ISBR College, led by Lets Tag On team visited us to learn about our work.

11. In October, 52 students and their teachers from Christ Academy Institute for Advanced Studies visited us and donated fruits and vegetables.

12. 18 volunteers from Byju's with 2 volunteers of U & I visited us and helped us with enrichment activities. They donated several items of daily essentials.

13. 45 children aged 6-10 years from Sadhu Vaswani International School along with 7 teachers visited us. We were also supported by the Sishu Griha interns along with our regular interns.

14. In November, we had the visit from 76 children of Grade 3 from Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Banashankari visited us, followed by another batch of 52 students of Grade 4. Both the classes enjoyed thoroughly and were very keen to learn more about the snakes and urban wildlife.

15. A team of 25 visitors from Deluxe Media Entertainment visited us in December for enrichment activities. They not only enjoyed the activities and look forward to more such visits, but also are willing to volunteer with us!

16. A team of 4 members from Intuit visited us in December and have assured to visit again with a larger group. They have been extremely happy and appreciated the work PfA does including the enrichment activities and the upkeep of the centre as they also happened to see the other team working along with them.

17. We also had a team of 35 students of AIMS College visit us for a presentation and Centre Tour.



## Webinars, Workshops, and Awareness Programmes

We have committed to our goal of raising awareness about environmental conservation and animal welfare by conducting some of our programs online. We held a total of 29 webinars/seminars for approximately 2557 students and 2 outreach programs on various topics related to urban wildlife and ecology. These included:

1. In January, we conducted 17 webinars for Gopalan International School, Sishu Griha School, Mallya Aditi International School and Bhavan Bangalore Press School. There were a total of 1030 students who attended the webinars.
2. In February, We conducted 3 webinars for Cauvery School, Gopalan International School, Aditi Mallya International School and Stonehill International School. There were a total of 652 students who attended the webinars.
3. We attended the B.Cause event at Bangalore International Centre on the 26th & 27th of February to create awareness about what we do and our cause.
4. In Feb, we conducted a virtual tour for the employees of Accenture, educating them about Bangalore's urban wildlife.
5. In March, we conducted 6 webinars for Gopalan International School. There were a total of 425 students who attended the webinars.
6. From May 16th to 21st, we held a summer camp for children aged 9 to 15 years. There were 20 sign-ups. Over the span of six days, the kids learned about urban wildlife in Bangalore, attended nature walks, bird watching, snake workshops, insect workshops, camera traps and more, and had a great experience.
7. PfA conducted an urban wildlife rehabilitator workshop for wildlife enthusiasts and rescuers, who came from different districts and wildlife groups of Tamil Nadu. They learned about various aspects involved in the rehabilitation, feeding intervals, and preparation of various feeds for orphans, injured and infected patients, handling wildlife while feeding and how to hand feed, different species, and so on. We had 14 people who were very happy to learn and explore, including veterinary students, rescuers, and an engineer as well. We received positive feedback and they look forward to more camps like this in the future.
8. In July, 25 visitors from Novo Nordisk Pharma along with the Eco Edu team visited us for a nature walk. The Eco Edu Team, not just educated us about the various flora and fauna, but also helped us with tree identification and assured us to conduct similar camps for the staff as well.
9. In September, We also conducted webinars/seminars on the topic 'Importance of Urban Wildlife' for 30 students of Grade 5 & 6 from Valiants Academy (webinar) and 120 children of Grade 6 from Bhavan Bangalore Press School (seminar).

10. In October, we ran an outreach programme at St. Joseph's College of Arts and Science during their inter-college festival, Wild 12.0, to educate young people about the value of urban wildlife.

11. In December, we conducted snake awareness workshop for the staff & security of the Indian Institute of Humanity Settlements in our campus for a team of 25 security executives. They were thrilled and willing to know more about the snakes. We also conducted another session in their campus for another team of 25 staff willing to learn to co-exist peacefully.

12. We conducted 2 seminars in December for the 90 children of Grade 3 Sishu Griha on Ecosystem Story and Wildlife Tracking for the 240 students of Grade 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of Bhavan Bangalore Press School. The response has been phenomenal and both schools have requested us to continue with the sessions.







## Volunteers & Internship Programmes

In 2022, 119 people have registered with PfA Bangalore as volunteers. They are an integral part of our centre, bringing new ideas and participating in a wide variety of activities. Volunteer responsibilities include enriching habitats, planting trees, maintaining enclosures, arts and crafts, preparing food, and participating in awareness programs.

Available to both Indians and foreigners, our internship programmes offer hands-on experience in a variety of fields including Veterinary, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Animal Behavior, Communication and Public relations, etc. We provide interested students with intensive training to start getting involved.

### Our interns this year came from:

- Mumbai Veterinary College
- Flame University, Pune
- Hansraj college, Delhi
- Christ (Deemed to be University), Bangalore
- Edinburgh University, Scotland
- Symbiosis University, Pune
- St. Joseph's College of Arts & Science
- PES University, Bangalore
- Veterinary College, Hebbal
- National College, Basavangudi
- St. Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangalore

We began taking in virtual volunteers this year who are largely involved with communication related activities and other aspects such as graphic design, data compiling, drafting emails, content writing for reports, writing social media captions, etc. 11 people have virtually volunteered with us in 2022. We are inviting all interested individuals from any background to help us save our wildlife through their work and increase the reach of our activities.



## Achievements

1. 2022 marked PfA's 26 years of working towards Wildlife Conservation
2. PfA was awarded the Gold Olive Crown IAA Award 2022 for being the Green NGO of the year



# PfA in the News

PfA's work was featured in 32 stories highlighting our work in wildlife rescue, conservation, veterinary work, action against animal cruelty, among others.

## World is hot enough this summer in B'luru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

many as 165 black kites in March this year for dehydration and injuries related to it.

"In the past, we used to get a higher number of rescue calls for birds falling due to dehydration only in April. However, this year, we were busy with such cases in March as well. While we rescued 85 black kites suffering from dehydration in March 2021, we received 165 dehydrated cases this time. Also, the percentage of such cases has gone up. While 65% of rescued black kites were dehydrated in March last year, around 75% were found to be dehydrated this time," Dr Navaz Shariff, chief veterinarian at PfA, told BM.

Black kites are raptors that soar at a high altitude to have a good view of



the surroundings and locate prey. This puts them at a higher risk of getting dehydrated. Moreover, a high level of humidity worsens it.

"Black kites fly at a higher altitude and thus get dehydrated faster due to sun exposure. These birds also have a longer flight duration and they perch or rest only after covering some dis-

tance. While most birds are comfortable at around 30 degrees Celsius, mercury has gone up to 35 degrees and above. Moreover, high humidity adds to their plight. It enlarges their cell pores resulting in higher water loss," added Dr Shariff.

Apart from dehydration cases, a higher number of black kite fledglings are in trouble as well.

"We are also rescuing adults involved in collisions and birds stuck in manja. The breeding season of black kites is just over, and young birds are fledging. The fledglings are not confident immediately after they fledge and take their first flight. This leads to many dropping on the ground and rooftops," said Subiksha Venkatesh, rescue manager at Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC).

If you find a bird that has fallen from the sky, cover it with a cotton cloth and do not try to force-feed the bird, experts suggested.

"They should never be force-fed. We had cases of unaware citizens force-feeding and giving water to the birds; this leads to serious complications. Food might enter the lungs of the birds and cause pneumonia. Moreover, in the case of fledglings, people should call us immediately. This gives us the option to reunite the bird with its parents. A word of caution: do not move the fledglings from the location as it will be difficult to reunite them," said Venkatesh.

Experts stressed that while the birds falling due to heat and dehydration can easily be revived, there is no way to save them if water or food material enters their lungs.

## Firemen, volunteers pull off amazing baby monkey rescue



Belle Thomas  
@timesgroup.com  
TWEETS @Belle\_MIRROR

A baby macaque, not more than a month-old that had got trapped in a metal mesh of a balcony of a second-floor apartment in Basavanagudi, was rescued in the wee hours by fire personnel and volunteers from the People for Animals Hospital.

The macaque's hind limbs were trapped in the mesh so the other monkeys in the troop including its mother waited for sometime, but they could not do much, so later they

moved away. The baby macaque was crying bitterly through the night when a resident of the apartment, Mohan, called the animal rescue volunteers around 11.40 pm.

Wildlife rescuers Mohan Gowda, Mohammed Ashfaq, and Salman Khan immediately set out to the rescue location and reached the spot at 1 am. They found that the monkey was trapped on the second floor, around 50 feet above ground level, so they informed the Fire and Emergency services. Within 10 to 15 minutes, a team of four fire-men came along with a fire-truck ladder, they could access the balcony from where the macaque was



safely rescued.

"The baby macaque had some kind of a spinal deformity, likely a spinal diverticulum and it was unable to stand and had no sensation in its

hindlimbs which had gotten trapped in the mesh. The macaque did not have any fresh wounds except for the deformity. This needs prolonged treatment," veterinary surgeon colonel Dr Navaz Shariff told BM.

Soon after the rescue, an animal lover posted about the incident on social media and there were all praises for the three PfA wildlife rescuers, and the four firemen identified as Vincent, Chandrashekarappa Madar, Shreenivasa, and Mallappa for reaching out during the wee hours to save a baby monkey's life. The baby macaque has been named Gollu and will be rehabilitated with all care, veterinarians at PfA said.

## Li'l bird reunited with parents

Shreyash Mukherjee  
c-shreyash.m@timesgroup.com  
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

People for Animals, a wildlife refuge in the city recently saved a Purple Rumped Sunbird and helped it reunite with its parents. The officials mentioned that they have received an increased number of these kinds of rescue calls.

Dr Navaz Shariff, chief veterinarian and general manager, of PfA, said, "It was a very heartwarming incident. It was a Purple Rumped Sunbird fledging that had fallen on the balcony and the parents were not to be seen. We immediately sent two of our officials. They found that the bird was very small and it was dehydrated. They fed the bird a rehydration solution with a special sugar solution. Initially, the bird was too weak to move, however, with time the bird gradually started regaining its strength. It was decided that they will wait there and try to reunite it with the parents."

After an hour and a half, the sound of the parent birds could be heard as they were hovering nearby. First, the



male bird approached and after it recognized the fledging and finally the female bird came and took the fledging with them.

"It felt really good to see them get reunited. Otherwise, we would have to bring the bird back and it would have been quite difficult," added Dr Shariff.

He added that these kinds of rescue calls have increased quite a lot.

"We are getting a lot of rescue calls like this. The reason behind this is the rapid commercialization, the increasing pollution. Even the bright lights have a role in this as they cause the birds to get disoriented. Since the birds are quite small, they lose their balance and end up falling and getting dehydrated and not every time we are able to reunite

them with their parents. When the parents do not come back, we bring these birds back and put them in the incubator and then start the rehabilitation process," he said.

Concerned residents told Bangalore Mirror that cutting down of trees may be the reason for these incidents. Praveen Kumar, a resident of Jalahalli, said, "In my area, there used to be a lot of trees and we would see a lot of birds. However, over the years, the trees were cut and houses were made. As a result, the birds started disappearing and some started building their nest inside houses and apartments. But often the eggs would end up falling and breaking. Or some were even thrown by the owners."

Abhijith K, an environmentalist, said, "These kinds of incidents of small birds falling and losing their life will continue as long as we keep taking up their space and make it our own. It is important to plant more trees and not build houses and apartments near areas with a lot of trees. In addition to that, the people should switch off all the lights when they are not required to prevent the birds from getting disoriented."

## NGO on mission to save the humble lizard

Melvin Mathew  
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com  
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bangalore-based NGO People for Animals (PfA) is artificially incubating 22 lizard eggs at their facility in an attempt to increase the slowly dying population of house lizards. According to experts incubating lizard eggs is quite rare owing to difficulties in finding those eggs.

Lizards that are commonly seen in Indian kitchens are slowly disappearing from urban spaces and experts attribute their slow disappearance to multiple factors like pesticide use, road kill, disturbance in the food chain, etc.

The NGO received 22 eggs of Oriental Garden Lizard from a person in Bommanahalli. Colonel (Dr) Navaz Shariff, chief veterinarian, PfA Wildlife Hospital said, "The population of lizards is visibly on the decline in the city. With the disappearance of lizards, the population of smaller insects like flies and mosquitoes is increasing uncontrollably. Increase in pollution, becoming victims of road-kill owing to loss of habitat, use of toxic



PfA is breeding the Oriental Garden Lizard

pesticides is some of the other reasons."

Using 3-6 lakh worth artificial incubators, PfA hatching the eggs in an oxygen, humidity, and temperature-controlled environment. Periodically, the eggs are moved inside the incubators automatically and panels outside display the respective levels. There are small

compartments inside the machines where the eggs are kept, added Shariff.

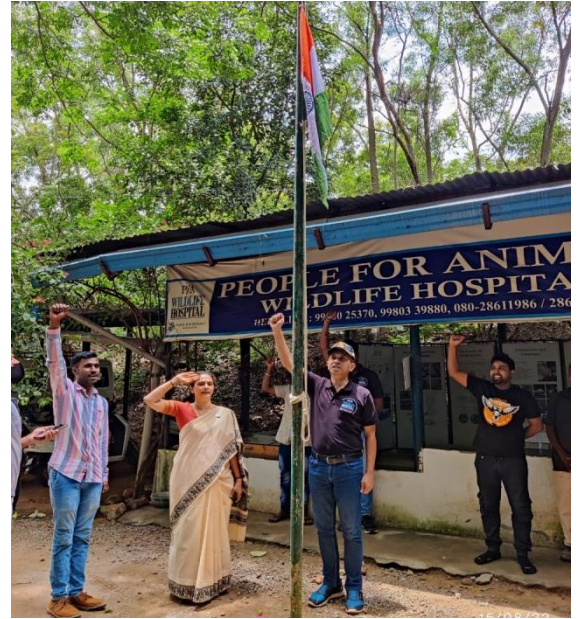
Using candling technique - where a light source is placed underneath the egg - the stage, fertility and sizes of the egg before placing inside the incubator. Dr Mathew of PfA said that reptile eggs do not require high temperature to incubate. "The portion inside the egg containing air is placed on top to allow breathing for the hatched animal. The eggs will be kept in the incubator for 51-60 days. Every five days, candling is done to take report of the development," he added.

Lizard eggs hatch at ideal 70 percent humidity and under 25-29-degree Celsius temperature. The breeding season for lizards is between the month of May to October and during October the NGO receives the most eggs. It takes roughly 51-60 days for the eggs to hatch.

According to an IISc research paper, with a lot of natural environment lizards have resorted to sleeping on urban structures that mimic their natural habitat. Researchers found that they were more likely to sleep in rough concrete blocks.

## Celebrations at Pfa

- On August 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Independence Day with a flag hoisting ceremony
- On October 4<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Ayudha Puja as a part of the Dasara festival



## Miscellaneous

1. Our Yelahanka Ambulance has been immensely supporting us in the rescues towards Yelahanka, Devanahalli, Yeshwanthpur etc. We intend to start similar nodes in other parts of the city as well.