

Annual Report

2020

# Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care



## Annual Report 2020

In pursuit of Gross Animal Happiness

May 2021



# Annual Report

# 2020

# Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care

## Word from the President

On behalf of the Board members of the Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care, I would especially like to express my sincere gratitude to the many animal lovers who have brought sick and injured animals to our rescue center. Without your compassion in action and pro-active engagement, the BARC could not have reached the growing number of animals in need, over these past many years. We are very grateful to have you as part of our growing network of animal-care volunteers!

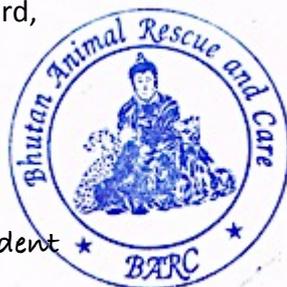
I would like to especially highlight our happiness with the collaboration between Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care and Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law on the course 'Environmental Ethics and Animal Welfare Law & Policy'. The course is perceived as very valuable in creating a better understanding of the underlying values of mainstream global development models and the critical difference with Bhutan's Gross National Happiness concept, which is based on Bhutan's Buddhist spiritual heritage. The course therewith highlights how the relationship of humans and the natural environment is shaped, in the context of environmental destruction and the climate crisis; as well as in regards to animal exploitation and welfare. BARC sees this conversation as essential in Bhutan;s society for creating better animal welfare practices and indeed an Animal Welfare Act.

The BARC Board endorses and is pleased to present the Annual Report 2020, which comprises an overview of key achievements and financial accounts of the BARC over the year 2020. BARC has been able to provide medical care and sanctuary to an ever-increasing number of animals. We have also presented our strategies for the near future, for the establishment of the Centre for Animal Happiness and taking up the community-based dog care and sterilization programs. We hope that we can raise adequate funds for the Centre for Animal Happiness and programs, so we can help more animals in need and further improve the care we give. With your support we can do so much more! I therefore hope that you will enjoy reading the Annual Report 2020.

Thank you for walking with us on the path of compassion-in-action for Gross Animal Happiness.

On behalf of the BARC Board,

Marianne Guillet - President



Rinpoche Mynak R. Tulku; Mrs. Chime Wangmo; Khandroma Dorji Phagmo Rinpoche; Mr. Kinlay Gyaltshen; Mrs. Peldon Tshering; Mrs. Yeshey Choden; Mr Thinley Dorji; Mr. Hendrik Visser.



## Gross Animal Happiness

The vision of the BARC is to promote Gross Animal Happiness, which entails stimulating the progression of Bhutan's society towards Gross National Happiness (GNH), where animals are treated and cared for with respect, kindness and compassion, and where a healthy and happy co-existence of animals and humans is the norm. BARC conducts advocacy, awareness and education programmes to promote the importance of animal welfare and of practicing kindness and compassion-in-action towards all animals.

**Our purpose is to promote the welfare and health of animals**

We base our existence and actions on the intrinsic value of animals, independent from the utility value which animals may have for humans.

We protect the welfare of animals in the broadest sense; and

We promote healthy co-existence of animals and humans

## How we came about

The Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care (BARC) emerged over the past 20 years from a personal initiative of Marianne Guillet (also known as "*Rochi Ama*" or "Mother of Dogs"), a French architect and geographer turned veterinarian and Hendrik Visser, a Dutch civil engineer and sociologist. With an increasing attention for animal welfare in Bhutan over the years, the number of animals in need of care kept growing and in June 2013 Marianne, Hendrik and their close friends and supporters therefore established the BARC as a civil society organization in Bhutan.

## Who we are

The Board members of the BARC are all animal lovers and promoters of animal welfare in their personal lives. The BARC is very grateful and pleased to have the following Board Members:

1. Mrs. Marianne Guillet - President
2. Mr. Kinlay Gyaltshen – Treasurer/ED
3. Rimpoche Mynak R. Tulku
4. Mrs. Chime Wangmo
5. Khandroma Dorji Phagmo Rimpoche
6. Mrs. Peldon Tshering
7. Mr Thinley Dorji
8. Mrs. Yeshey Choden
9. Mr. Hendrik Visser - Secretary



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### BARC: What we do

#### **Animal Rescue**

The BARC is rescuing animals in need and provides sanctuary to those who have no chance to survive without our support. We have a 24/7 rescue service, pick-up animals in need and organize transport through our caring supporters. We strive to re-integrate or relocate recovered animals, but those who are handicapped or suffer from chronic diseases find a warm permanent welcome at our shelters.

#### **Medical Care**

In our Intensive Care Unit with quarantine, our clinic with surgery and treatment rooms and our post-care facility, we provide medical treatment for wounds, infectious diseases, cancer/tumours, gastroenteritis and skin infections, as well as orthopedic surgery, prosthetics and cesareans.

#### **Sterilization**

To support a small and healthy stray animal population, we also conduct weekly sterilization campaigns with DHPPI-L vaccinations. Our animal care programme is building upon a network of caring citizens who bring stray dogs from their neighborhood or assist us in catching them. This makes release of sterilized dogs back into the community and follow-up care also successful. We promote Animal Happiness in support to Community Happiness!

#### **Advocacy**

Many people who visit us are interested to know more about animal care as well as how to genuinely practice humanitarian values and compassion in action. This often results in a lively engagement with mutual reflection and learning; and indeed an empowerment for doing 'good'.



*Pictures above: Dog hit by a car on the head in Hongtsho, brought to BARC by compassionate locals.*



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## Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care

### Key Achievements over 2020

#### A Royal Gift for the Animals

It is a great Honour for BARC to have been gifted an animal rescue vehicle by The Druk Gyalpoi, His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, in appreciation of the animal rescue work done in the past, as well as an encouragement to BARC to continue and further expand its services.



***Pictures: Above** -Vehicle donated by His Majesty the King of Bhutan for support to animal rescue series of BARC. **Right** – pick-up of donated expired food items for dog feeding at BARC by compassionate shopkeepers.*

#### Patient Care

##### **Patient numbers**

The average number of in-patient animals at BARC Thimphu over 2020 was 350, of which 280 dogs, 15 cats, 40 macaque monkeys and 15 others as birds and large animals. In 2020 we rescued 3 baby macaque orphans, which need(ed) intense nursing and care, bringing the total group size of macaques by end 2020 to 40. Bhutan is facing an ever-longer distemper epidemic every year, with thousands of dogs dying a terrible death in the streets. BARC promotes DHPPI vaccinations and provides shelter and supportive care to those in need, but most distemper patients have sadly little chance to survive and palliative care is often all we can do.

Of the dogs in our care, on average about 25 are under Intensive Care treatment; 80 have chronic disease as e.g. epilepsy, diabetes or kidney disease; 50 are handicapped, as e.g. paraplegic, blind; 55 are abandoned or orphaned puppies; and 40 are geriatrics. The remaining dogs are recovered, now healthy, dogs, which have no other place to go. We were able to have only 3 dogs adopted in



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2020. Adoption rates are low in Bhutan, as most compassionate people already care for free dogs around their homes.

Over 2020 we provided out-patient care to 1320 animals in total, of which 500 were pets, 200 were rescued animals brought by people to our rescue centre and 620 were rescued by BARC itself. Out-patients are mostly dogs (1,000) and cats (50), but can be any kind of animal as birds, cows, bulls, mules, horses (others: 270).

### ***Patient Treatments***

Many thousands of patients have been treated by Marianne Guillet, starting in 1997 in Zhemgang, and over the last many years at the Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care facilities in Yoeselpang.



**Picture above:** *Two macaque monkeys, Tandu and Dema, brought to BARC by a family who initially rescued them in a village in Tsirang*

### **Surgery**

The BARC conducts a variety of surgeries as part of its animal rescue and treatment services. Marianne Guillet performed about 430 surgeries over 2020, of which 275 OVH on female dogs (removal of uterus and both ovaries); 25 testiclectomy on male dogs; 50 orthopaedic surgeries; 50 mastectomy (tumour removal); 30 eye surgeries; and in addition numerous other less invasive surgeries (cysts, abscesses, bite wounds, burn management, fistulas, hernias, as well as general health check-ups).

### **Nursing/Care**



In 2020 we nursed 3 baby macaque monkeys, and dozens orphaned puppies and kittens. Due to a lack of sustainable dog sterilization campaigns the number of street dogs and seasonal litters remains high and many compassionate people rescue sick and injured puppies and bring them to BARC. The dozens of puppies brought to the centre remains of the key challenges for BARC in terms of intensity and duration of care required for survival and re-integration.

**Picture left:** *Rescued Crow with broken wing, from Buddha Statue at Centennial Park Thimphu*



**Pictures:** Dogs with severe skin diseases **Left:** 'Lobeysa' rescued from Lobeysa vegetable market and taken to the BARC; and **Right:** Street dog in Punakha, which was provided food, ivermectine and deworming as part of a local clinic.

### Medical Treatments

Over 2020 BARC provided medical treatment to many patients in need.

- 150 Pyoderma (skin infectious disease);
- 700 Scabies (contagious skin infestation by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*) and Mange (skin disease caused by parasitic mites);
- 300 Fungal infections of skin or ear;
- 130 Gastro-Enteritis;
- 1000 Parasites (deworming);
- 135 Tick-Borne Diseases (Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis);
- 30 Eye patients (e.g. glaucoma, cataract);
- 35 Arthritis;
- 30 Heart related diseases; and
- 32 wildlife trap injuries

### Animal Care and Dog Sterilization Strategy

BARC has not yet joined collaboration with the Department of Livestock on dog sterilization campaigns in Thimphu, as these campaigns still have a same-day release policy, which results in too many casualties due to infections and e.g. opening of the surgery incision. BARC is promoting an animal care and dog sterilization strategy, which is driven through a community network of caring volunteers and based on continuous weekly sterilizations with permanent teams in local governments and municipalities. The present project-based approach with large campaigns in few municipalities and local governments driven



**Picture right:** Nima, casualty of the dog sterilization campaign with intestines out as surgery incision opened, rescued from Nima Secondary High School in Taba.



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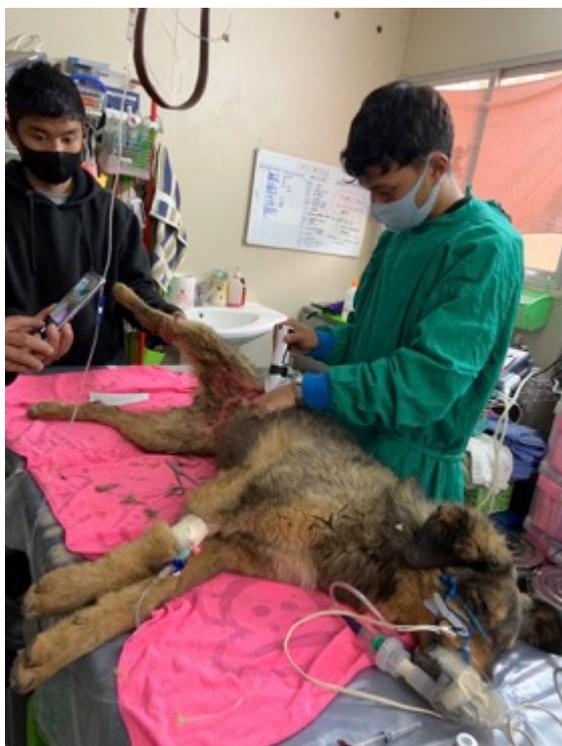
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through a central project team alone, is not sustainable, does not provide the required nation-wide coverage and does not build local capacity in local governments and communities. BARC hopes to start the development of a long-term animal care and dog sterilization strategy in 2021, to create a basis for durable collaboration between animal welfare organizations and local governments, based on long-term roles and capacities.

### Dogs caught in illegal wildlife traps – snares

A sad continuing occurrence over the years is dogs being caught in illegal wildlife traps, and unfortunately the number of casualties keeps increasing. The snares poachers use are meant to catch deer and wild boar, which is prohibited but still a regular feature of rural Bhutan. Dogs are regularly trapped in these snares and the lucky ones manage to escape. The very lucky ones are brought to, or taken by, the BARC for treatment. BARC aims to develop an awareness campaign to prevent illegal traps and to therewith avoid such cases of dog injuries.



**Pictures:** Dog injured by wildlife trap (steel cable snare) causing severe injury to abdomen and penis. After initial recovery and urinary catheter placement, penis reconstruction is required.

*BARC has dozens of such cases every year. Most animals are, however, unable to escape the snare and die an agonising death. Such traps are illegal in Bhutan but awareness and*



## BARC COVID-19 Challenges and Response

The COVID pandemic is caused by the destruction of nature by humans, the resulting loss of habitat for many animal species, the ever-greater interaction of humans with wild animals and through human's large-scale animal exploitation. BARC therefore advocates for structural changes in the relationship between humans and nature, for human self-preservation, animal welfare, as well as for preventing the next pandemic, which is already in the making.

BARC supports restrictions posed by the COVID emergency as this is the only way to prevent further infections and to get back to some kind of normalcy as soon as possible. We regularly deal with outbreaks of contagious diseases as e.g. dog-distemper and know that strict protocols for preventing further spreading of such a disease is critical in stopping pandemics. BARC therefore implemented strict COVID protocols at the animal rescue center in Yusupang for staff, patient intake and visitors.

The closing of the borders and the stop on tourism was very challenging to us. Instead of collecting left-over food from hotels and restaurants we had to purchase a professional rice cooker and prepare food for our 300 plus dogs on a daily basis. But stray dogs were suffering even more as they had limited access to food. We therefore organized a BBS, social media and newspaper campaign to encourage our community volunteers and ordinary people to feed the dogs in the street and also to help us with donations to feed the dogs and other animals in our care. It was really heartwarming to see the compassionate response of people and through people's kindness many dogs have been saved from starvation. Please keep buying some biscuits or cook some extra food for them!

### Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care (BARC) COVID Resilience Story



“

We are consequently immensely grateful for the benevolence and foresight of His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo to direct military personnel to feed all the stray dogs during the lockdowns, and for the De-suung for helping animals in need, which undoubtedly saved many lives

”



UN and JICA Bhutan's joint initiative - Resilience tools for COVID-19



The lockdowns are a very difficult time for everybody. During extended lockdowns we also suffer from a lack of food for the animals, especially fruits and vegetables for our 40 rescued macaque monkeys. We constructed a large store at the center and also have extra stock in a store in Olakha, provided for free by a friend. But for animals who depend on perishable food items we can only



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manage about two weeks stock. We usually take leftover vegetables from the Subju Bazar (CFM) and vegetable shops on a daily basis, which is not possible during lockdowns.

We also only had limited staff at the center and we were not able to pick-up sick and injured street dogs due to movement restrictions. This, while we received many calls from people seeing animals suffering in the streets because of starvation and disease. We could also no longer provide treatment for pets with regular medical needs, as e.g. cancer treatment with chemotherapy. Giving advice over WhatsApp and phone continued but that is not always enough, which is tragic. Once collaboration with other animal welfare organizations became possible, we received many sick and injured animals at our centre, which was in turn overwhelming. We are hence working on extra space to shelter more animals and extra staff to provide medical care.

We are consequently immensely grateful for the benevolence and foresight of His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo to direct the feeding of all stray dogs during lockdown, and for the De-suung helping animals in need, which undoubtedly saved many lives! We are also really grateful to our supporters who occasionally managed to bring (left over) vegetables and some animal food to our center. This is truly lifesaving! Without their compassion and personal action our animals would have suffered greatly.



The well-being of animals during COVID emergencies and especially lock downs is an issue of importance for many citizens and sustainable sterilization programs are essential to prevent the largest suffering. Through joint actions of citizens, government agencies, civil society and De-suungs, we can make a real difference, also in difficult times!

**Picture left** – De-suups based on Hongtsho help with rescue of a cow hit by a truck on the National High Way near Yusupang. The cow was brought to BARC for treatment and rehabilitation.



### BARC Programs: Leaving no Animal Behind!

#### 1. Collaboration with JSW School of Law

BARC signed an MoU with JSW School of Law to jointly develop and provide a course on 'Environmental Ethics and Animal Welfare Law & Policy'. The design of the course started end 2020 and the classes will start in March 2021 for fourth year students. The course will focus on the ethics and values underlying the relationship between humans and the natural environment, including animals, and how this influences animal welfare considerations in society.



**Picture above** – The first class of the JSW Law course on Environmental Ethics and Animal Welfare, with joint lecturers Prof Kesang (JSWLaw) and Prof Hendrik (BARC).

From an environmental ethics perspective, the allocation of 'moral significance' to animals and other parts of nature by humans is an evolving and expanding movement. Historically, moral significance within the human race evolved from initially 'only white man' to now a much broader collection of human identities, including women and people with different appearances.

In many societies, with a diversity of cultural and belief systems, there is acceptance that animal welfare is important and discussions are ongoing to which extent animals would in

themselves have moral significance and therewith have legal rights. Importantly, the UN made the declaration of the rights of the Great Apes in 2005, as the Great Apes are genetically and sentimentally close to humans. This expansion of moral significance and the subsequent embedding of rights in global and national laws, is thus a continuing contemporary discussion, also expanding beyond individual animals and species towards the moral significance of e.g. trees, forests, ecosystems, etc.

Although environmental ethics was historically purely shaped and based on a Western Judeo-Christian frame of mind, its subsequent global exploration now integrates a variety of cultural perspectives and concepts as for example 'sentience'. Multiple countries have subsequently in different ways translated 'sentience' and animal rights within their national laws.

Bhutan has its own strong historical vision of a harmonious and compassionate coexistence between humans and animals, as part of Bhutan's natural environment. Bhutan's ancient legal code



of 1629 stated that, “if the government cannot create happiness for its people, then there is no purpose for government to exist”. The code stressed that Bhutanese laws must promote happiness for all sentient beings – and the cultivation of compassion stems therefore from this ancient wisdom.

The collaboration also aims to create awareness and an engagement process towards an Animal Welfare Act for Bhutan.

### ***2. Animal Care and Dog Sterilization Programs***

BARC will develop a program for stray dog sterilization and care in one or two selected Dzongkhags, jointly with international animal welfare organizations:

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and RCSC have agreed to provide BARC with a Japanese veterinary doctor on a voluntary basis for two years. Recruitment is ongoing by JICA and the vet will arrive in 8-12 months;
- Foundation Brigitte Bardot (FBB) is interested to support a dog sterilization and training program in Bhutan and has identified BARC as the most appropriate entry point for more strategic engagement in Bhutan. FBB is already providing support to Jangsa Animal Saving
- Worldwide Veterinary Services UK has a vet training centre in south India and they work with a continuously rotating volunteer veterinary doctors pool. WVS is willing to include BARC/Bhutan in the volunteer rotation schedule (next to India and Sikkim) so we can benefit from long-term (at the BARC centres) and short-term vet volunteers to help in dog care and in sterilization campaigns and to train local government staff and graduates from College of Natural Resources (CNR Lobeysa);
- World Vets USA has shown interest to also provide support to BARC and to provide volunteer vets for sterilization campaigns and training;
- Vet Beyond Borders Australia (VBB) has shown interest to also provide support to BARC and to provide volunteer vets for sterilization campaigns and training.

### ***3. Strengthening knowledge and skills College of Natural Resources graduates***

The community-based dog sterilisation programs in selected Dzongkhags will be linked to support to the College of Natural Resources (CNR) in Lobeysa under the Royal University of Bhutan. BARC will aim to establish collaboration with CNR. It is hoped that Vet Beyond Borders Australia would be interested to support such a program with CNR as they have good linkages with Australian Universities.

BARC aims to develop jointly with CNR a program, which may cover e.g.:

- Assess the present curriculum of the CNR BSc in animal sciences and identify areas for strengthening veterinary medicine curriculum and (especially skills). A present the curriculum has very limited study and practical skill training which would be required for future BSc graduates in their animal care work as extension agents or for dog sterilization programs. It can be identified if e.g. half a year specialisation in veterinary medicine can be integrated under the BSc degree;



- Develop post-graduate practical skill training in collaboration with VBB and the WVS UK institute in south India. These trainings can be given in-country at the BARC and subsequently trained graduates can participate in BARC organised dog sterilization campaigns in selected Dzongkhags for further skill development. Such practical training and attachment to BARC dog sterilization programs can be made compulsory by CNR for final certification (as for Technical and Vocational Education);

#### **4. The new Centre for Animal Happiness!**

The BARC hopes to finalise in 2020 the land lease for the land identified for the new Centre for Animal Happiness (C4AH). BARC also hopes to develop the facility designs and initiate a fundraising campaign over 2020, so construction can start by second half 2020. The C4AH area will have an integrated 24/7 animal hospital for in- and out-patient treatment, as well as an animal rescue and care facility and a sanctuary for animals that will not be able to survive without support.



With the C4AH in place, BARC will also implement a community-based dog care and sterilization program, which is to **contribute effectively to controlling the stray dog population in Dzongkhags and major public and tourism areas**, starting in the capital city Thimphu. This will be achieved through sustained and closely monitored sterilisation, full-coverage vaccinations, and de-worming campaigns, coupled with awareness, education and advocacy programmes to create caring relationships between humans (local population and tourists) and dogs.

*Picture left – Rescued baby macaque Lili with her cat friend Jigme.*

#### **5. Outreach Programs for Compassion in Action**

BARC will also develop outreach programs for stimulating a society based on a happy and healthy co-existence of humans and dogs. Through the engagement with citizens, and especially children and youth, a large network of animal welfare actors will be established, which will create a larger outreach of the BARC. C4AH programs will include:

- **Awareness programmes** and events for youth, citizens and hotels/restaurants on all aspects of dog welfare, as well as building a network of hotels/restaurants to look out for sick/injured dogs and to care for dogs within their environment;
- **Educational programmes** and events for schools on all aspects of dog welfare, including establishing school clubs;



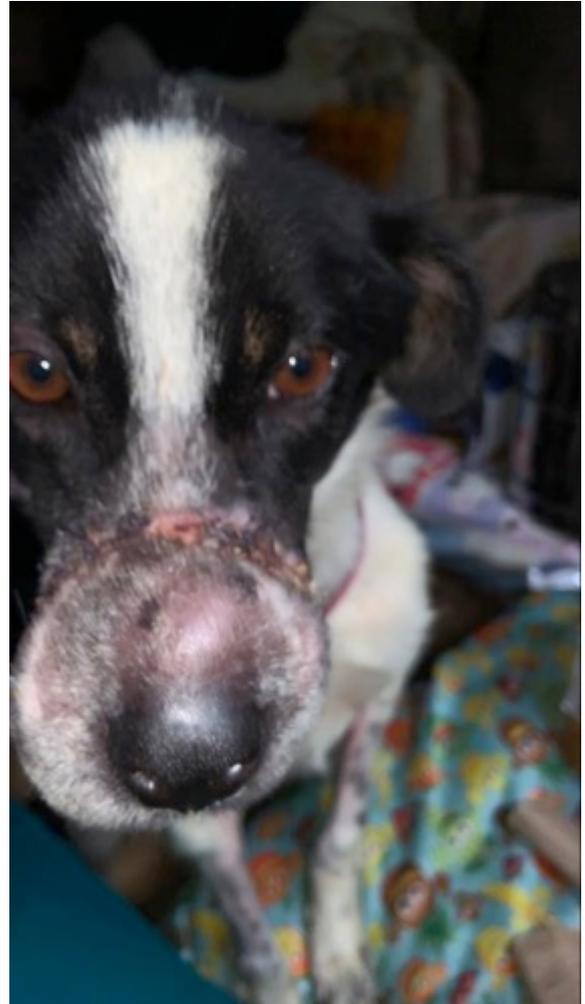
- Provide programmes in collaboration with other CSOs, for an **integrated approach to caring for people with social challenges through interaction with dogs**, as e.g.:
  - Work opportunities for the less fortunate in society as e.g. women-in-need (RENEW), former drug-abusers under rehabilitation, interaction between differently abled children and handicapped dogs (e.g. SELWA, Drak-Tsho, Ability Bhutan);
  - Provide in collaboration with RBP and the judiciary alternative punishment and sentences for juveniles, where they can work as volunteers at the C4AH in lieu of a prison term (we have already created a few opportunities in the past);
  - Training of dogs as special companion animals, e.g. for people suffering from severe anxiety or disabilities;
- **Tourist** visit and meditation programmes for practical exchange with dogs at the C4AH and more in-depth discussions on Gross Animal Happiness;
- Providing opportunities for **volunteer work** and organising events to create practical experiences with caring for dogs, to strengthen the bond between people and dogs;
- **Training of pet owners** on pet care and provision of pet-care services;
- **Behavioural adjustment programmes** for dogs with behavioural challenges and training people how to deal with 'aggressive' stray dog groups and pets (next to the sterilization programmes conducted);



**Picture above** – Dog Skippy, lost both front legs due to a reckless driver. Rescued by a compassionate family on the RBA compound and brought to BARC when the care requirements became too much to handle.

**Picture right** - Skippy having a happy life at BARC and able to stand on both back legs.





**Picture Left Upper** – Dog Lippy, with cruel injury cause by somebody putting an elastic band around the mouth.

**Picture left** – Lippy after surgery with stitches for repairing the upper and lower lips.

**Picture above** – Lippy a while after surgery with good healing of both lips.



### Key Achievements over the Years

#### *Year 2019*

The average number of **in-patient** animals at BARC Thimphu over 2019 was 326, of which 245 dogs, 25 cats, 37 macaque monkeys and 19 others as birds, rodents and large animals. In 2019 we rescued 2 baby and 2 adult macaque orphans, which need(ed) intense nursing and care, bringing the total group size of macaques by end 2019 to 37. Of the dogs in our care, on average about 40 are under Intensive Care treatment; 65 have chronic disease as e.g. epilepsy, diabetes or kidney disease; 30 are handicapped, as e.g. paraplegic, blind; 35 are abandoned or orphaned puppies; and 30 are geriatrics. The remaining dogs are recovered, now healthy, dogs, which have no other place to go. We were able to have 10 dogs adopted in 2019.

Over 2019 we provided **out-patient** care to about 1010 animals in total, of which 319 were pets, 211 were rescued animals brought by people to our rescue centre and 480 were rescued by BARC itself. Out-patients are mostly dogs (956) and cats (37), but can be any kind of animal as birds, cows, bulls, mules, horses (others: 27).

The BARC conducts a variety of **surgeries** as part of its animal rescue and treatment services. Marianne Guillet performed about 450 surgeries over 2019, of which 250 OVH on female dogs (removal of uterus and both ovaries); 40 testiclectomy on male dogs; 45 orthopaedic surgeries; 30 mastectomy (tumour removal); 15 eye surgeries; and numerous other less invasive surgeries (cysts, abscesses, bite wounds, burn management, fistulas, hernias), as well as general health check-ups. In 2019 we also nursed 2 baby macaque monkeys, 23 orphaned puppies and 7 kittens.

#### **Medical Treatments**

Over 2019 BARC provided medical treatment to many patients in need.

- 120 Pyoderma (skin infectious disease);
- 500 Scabies (contagious skin infestation by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*) and Mange (skin disease caused by parasitic mites);
- 32 Fungal infections of skin or ear;
- 150 Gastro-Enteritis;
- 500 Parasites (deworming);
- 110 Tick-Borne Diseases (Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis);
- 45 Eye patients (e.g. glaucoma, cataract);
- 40 Arthritis;
- 20 Heart related diseases; and
- 2 Burn patients.

#### *Year 2018*

The number of in-patient animals at BARC Thimphu over 2018 was 358, of which 295 dogs, 18 cats, 32 macaque monkeys and 13 others as birds, rodents and large animals. In 2018 we rescued 4 baby macaque orphans, which need(ed) intense nursing and care, bringing the total group size of macaques by end 2018 to 32.



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Of the dogs in our care, about 40 are under Intensive Care treatment; 80 have chronic disease as e.g. epilepsy, diabetes or kidney disease; 25 are handicapped, as e.g. paraplegic, blind; 40 are abandoned or orphaned puppies; and 30 are geriatrics. The remaining dogs are recovered, now healthy, dogs, which have no other place to go. We were able to have 12 dogs adopted in 2018.

Over 2018 we provided out-patient care to about 625 animals in total, of which 218 were pets, 195 were rescued animals brought by people to our rescue centre and 212 were rescued by BARC itself. Out-patients are mostly dogs (552) and cats (30), but can be any kind of animal as birds, cows, bulls, mules, horses (others: 18).

BARC provided medical treatment over 2018 to many patients in need:

- 150 Pyoderma (skin infectious disease);
- 250 Scabies (contagious skin infestation by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*) and Mange (skin disease caused by parasitic mites);
- 190 Fungal infections of skin or ear;
- 120 Gastro-Enteritis;
- 600 Parasites (deworming);
- 90 Tick-Borne Diseases (Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis);
- 32 Eye patients (e.g. glaucoma, cataract);
- 32 Arthritis;
- 24 Heart related diseases; and
- 3 Burn patient

### **Year 2017**

BARC further improved on functionalities of facilities. Three more dog cages/pounds were constructed to accommodate more dogs, and 2 open shelters were constructed for sheltering of the increasing dogs population at the center. BARC continued its animal rescue services, by providing animal ambulance service to injured and sick free dogs and occasional large animals (cows, horses, mules, pigs, goats).

Over 2017 BARC provided the following animal rescue and treatments:

- Sterilizations: dogs 258 and cats 18.
- In-patient dogs/cats: 412.
- Out-patients dogs/cats: 521.
- Large animals: 22.
- Total animal population at rescue center (year end): 329.
- Macaque monkey population (rehabilitation): 28.



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### Year 2016

BARC received the **National Order of Merit Gold, from His Majesty The King**, on National Day 2016, which is the highest civilian medal for service to the nation. The medal was given to BARC *“For volunteering time and effort towards promoting humanitarian values, our culture and tradition, and our national objectives; for working passionately and tirelessly for the benefit of others; for taking on the responsibility to provide support and assistance wherever the government is unable to reach, and for keeping alive the sacred values of compassion and empathy.”*

BARC participated in the CSO Fair with a stand to promote its animal welfare and rescue work, and provided a free pet clinic. The work of BARC was much appreciated by Her Majesty The Queen, who paid a prolonged visit to the BARC stand.

Over 2016 BARC provided the following animal rescue and treatments:

- Sterilizations: dogs 202 and cats 16.
- In-patient dogs/cats: 379.
- Out-patients dogs/cats: 456.
- Large animals: 16.
- Total animal population at rescue center (year end): 274.
- Macaque monkey population (rehabilitation): 25.



### Year 2015

BARC was elected as a member of the CSO Core Committee, which represents all registered CSOs in Bhutan and which promotes the strengthening of civil society in Bhutan through dialogue and advocacy.

BARC conducted maintenance and repair on the animal rescue center at Yusupang, and improved on functionalities of facilities. Two dog cages/pounds were constructed to accommodate more free dogs, especially for paraplegic dogs (car accidents and neurological diseases). BARC also developed its website to increase outreach and transparency.

BARC continued its animal rescue services, by providing animals ambulance service to injured and sick free dogs and occasional large animals (cows, horses, mules, pigs, goats).

Over 2015 BARC provided the following animal rescue and treatments:

- Sterilizations: dogs 206 and cats 18.
- In-patient dogs/cats: 279.
- Out-patients dogs/cats: 384.
- Large animals: 10.



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- Total animal population at rescue center: 233.
- Macaque monkey population (rehabilitation): 22.

### **Year 2014**

BARC is utilizing the animal rescue center constructed at the location in Yusupang, which is provided for free by Hendrik Visser and Marianne Guillet. The center has a clinic/hospital, Intensive Care Unit, animal food preparation kitchen, washrooms, office, guesthouse and macaque rehabilitation center.

BARC continued its animal rescue services, by providing animal ambulance service to injured and sick free dogs and occasional large animals (cows, horses, mules, pigs, goats). BARC is also utilizing the three vehicles owned by Hendrik Visser and Marianne Guillet, for free, for animal rescues, daily dog food collection, weekly vegetable/fruit collection for the macaque monkeys staff movement and for daily operations.

Over 2014 BARC provided the following animal rescue and treatments:

- Sterilizations: dogs 181 and cats 10.
- In-patient dogs/cats: 211.
- Out-patients dogs/cats: 323.
- Large animals: 7.
- Total animal population at rescue center (year end): 186.
- Macaque monkey population (rehabilitation): 21.

### **Funding and Sustainability**

The exact financial requirement for building the Centre for Animal Happiness is still to be worked out on detail as part of the design. We hope the Government of Bhutan and Municipalities will also be motivated to contribute to the programmes of the C4AH, considering its clear benefits to human health and animal welfare.

BARC will make every effort to implement a sustainable fundraising program for maintaining its programs and assets. Funds raised both within and outside the country will be utilized in a transparent manner in accordance with the laws governing Civil Society Organizations in Bhutan. The following are some of the elements of the BARC fundraising program:

- Establishing a (small) trust fund for animal welfare in Bhutan;
- Active fundraising through contacting animal welfare organizations and interested individuals;
- An annual membership scheme and targeted fundraising events;
- Collaboration with ethically responsible tourism businesses, by allowing donations through their websites, as well as 'tourist programmes' at the C4AH, to allow visitors to experience a meaningful connection with animals and to contribute to day-to-day care activities;



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- A fee structure per sterilized and treated dog from Thromdes, who in essence have the responsibility to provide this service;
- A fee structure for pet-care activities (e.g. grooming) and training for dog owners on dog care and behaviour;
- Collaboration on programmes with likeminded national and international organizations, who could support in terms of expertise, volunteers and financial contributions;
- Income generating activities, such as sales of animal inspired products.

### Your Support makes BARC Possible

We would like to sincerely thank those who have donated to and volunteered with the BARC in support of our animal rescue and care work. We are really touched by the many citizens and foreigners who have provided us with in-kind donations as e.g. rice, milk, biscuits, dog/cat food, soya chunks; as well as by the monetary contributions received. Animal rescue work is inherently challenging because of all the suffering we encounter and the knowledge that there are always more animals in need than we can reach. The BARC team believes that preventing and mitigating this suffering is an important way to live a meaningful life and the BARC team experiences immeasurable gratefulness and joy from the rescued and recovered animals.

We are also touched by the support we receive every year from hundreds of compassionate people and we would like to thank you for helping us as your compassion makes us believe that a happy society based on Gross National Happiness is possible and you help us to continue on the path we all have chosen.



**Picture left** – Large electrical rice cooker donated by animal lovers in the beginning of 2020 for cooking daily 50kg of rice for feeding the dogs.

*Due to the COVID-19 border closure the tourism industry has been hit hard in Bhutan and subsequently many hotels and restaurants closed. This also interrupted the left-over food collection of BARC, which was the primary source of dog food.*

*With generous donations of equipment, rice and nearly expired food items, BARC is able to continue to feed the about 300 dogs at the rescue centre.*



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### How to Help Us

With your help and co-operation, we can continue to provide animal rescue and care services to the numerous stray animals and wildlife in need in Bhutan. Your donations are directly and 100% helping animals in need!

There are many opportunities for people to contribute in-kind to rescuing and caring for animals. On a daily basis collect left-over food from larger hotels and restaurants, which is mostly sufficient for feeding our dogs. We also use e.g. hotel's disposed shampoos, bath foam, soaps for cleaning purposes at the rescue facility and e.g. unwanted bed linens, towels and uniforms for creating warm sleeping places for our dogs.

We have experienced a wealth of warmth from many people who help us in many different and important ways, such as running adoption programmes for our recovered dogs, developing PR materials, scouting for sick and injured dogs in town, volunteering for our animal rescue and care facility work, maintenance and programmes, as well as donating food items, buckets, building materials or any other items of use to us.

Building upon the evident compassion present in Bhutan's society, our goal is to create a self-sustaining organization, which over time can continue independently with rescue and care for dogs in need and promote Gross Animal Happiness. You can volunteer at the shelter and participate in the daily care and rescue. You can also adopt or sponsor an animal and become a BARC member. We are always in need of: (used) blankets, clothes, fabric and buckets; soya chunks, dog dry food and goodies, floor cleaners and bleach.



*Picture left – baby owl rescued by compassionate people during COVID lock down in Tsirang and brought to the BARC.*



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## Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care

### Financial Accounts

#### Grants received

Below a brief overview is provided of the main donators of 2020. Details on all monetary donations received are provided in the 2020 Audit Report. We would like to especially thank:

- **His Majesty The King of Bhutan** for the benevolent donation of Nu. 1,098,400.- for the purchase of an ISUZU D-max pick-up vehicle for sterilization campaigns and animal rescue;
- **Marianne Guillet and Hendrik Visser**, founding BARC Board members, for their cash contribution of Nu. 1.639,210.-, for making their personal assets available and for their tireless 24/7 work for BARC without remuneration.

We are immensely grateful for all donations received, 'big and small'. Your acts of compassion and generosity allow us to continue and there are no small acts of generosity!

#### Clean Audit opinion over 2020

On the next pages the Financial Accounts of 2020 are presented, which have been audited by the Royal Audit Authority in May 2021, through appointment of the auditing company 'Tra Doen Associates Pvt. Ltd.'. The audit took place over May 2021 and BARC received the Audit report in June May 2021.

The Royal Audit Authority assessed that all financial statements of the BARC are in all material respects in accordance with the financial rules and regulations and RAA therefore issued an unmodified or clean audit opinion on the financial statements of BARC.

The BARC Board is pleased with the clean audit opinion and will strive to continue to further strengthen performance and transparency. The audited financial accounts for 2020 are presented below.