

Annual Report

2023

# Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care



## Annual Report 2023

In pursuit of Gross Animal Happiness

P.O. Box 120 – Thimphu – BHUTAN  
www.barc.bt - info@barc.bt - bhutananimalrescue@gmail.com  
77103517 /17605878

## Word from the President

In 2023 the BARC continued setting up the essential facilities of the Centre for Animal Happiness (C4AH) on the new location in Tshaluna, to which BARC moved end of 2022. We also developed the C4AH masterplan and designed the facilities, to capture the philosophy and vision of BARC as a center where people and animals can connect for mutual benefit. We like to see a change in value attachment and behaviour of humans to nature and animals, as this will contribute to Gross Animal Happiness.

At the same time we continued our animal rescue and care work, despite the lack of adequate facilities. On behalf of the Board of the Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the many animal lovers who also in 2023 have brought sick and injured animals to our rescue center. Without your compassion in action and proactive 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!



Rescued dog 'Popje' finding a new home at BARC

The BARC Board is pleased to present the Annual Report 2023, which comprises an overview of key achievements and financial accounts of the BARC. BARC has been able to provide medical care and sanctuary to many animals. We hope that with your support we can raise the funds for the Centre for Animal Happiness and programs, so we can help more animals in need and further improve the care we give. Together we can do so much more! I therefore hope that you will enjoy reading the Annual Report 2023.

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



BARC Board members 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: Rinpoche Mynak R. Tulku; Mr. Kinlay Gyaltshen; Mrs. Peldon Tshering; Mrs. Yeshey Choden; Mr Thinley Dorji; and Mr. Hendrik Visser.

## How we came about

The Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care (BARC) emerged over the past 25 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. Touched by the suffering of animals they decided to rescue and treat animals in need. With an increasing attention for animal welfare in Bhutan over the years, the number of sick and injured animals 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. The BARC can only help animals and promote animal welfare, because of a large group of friends and supporters who likewise act out of compassion.



*Puppy ‘John’ rescued unable to walk and with gastric problems*

## 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**

Our existence and actions are based on the intrinsic value of animals, independent from the utility value animals have for humans.

We protect welfare of animals in the broadest sense; and  
We promote healthy co-existence of animals and humans

## 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 sanctuary at our shelter.

**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'.



**Left:** Cat, rescued after car accident with damage to back legs.



**Right:** Rescued paraplegic cow, injured in car accident on Bjemina Road.

## Key Achievements over 2023

### Patient Care

#### ***Patient numbers***

The average number of in-patient animals at BARC Thimphu over 2023 was 259, of which 178 dogs, 18 cats, 58 macaque monkeys and the rest others as birds and large animals. In 2023 we rescued 2 orphaned baby macaques and one injured (electrocuted) young macaque, which need(ed) intense nursing and care, bringing the total group size of macaques by end 2023 to 58. Bhutan is continuing to face 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 15 are under Intensive Care treatment; 80 have chronic disease as e.g. epilepsy, diabetes or kidney disease; 35 are handicapped, as e.g. paraplegic, blind; 10 are abandoned or orphaned puppies; and 30 are geriatrics. We were able to have only 5 dogs adopted in 2023. Adoption rates are low in Bhutan, as most compassionate people already care for free dogs around their homes.



*Dog with ascites, rescued by compassionate youth in Babena, Thimphu*

Over 2023 we provided out-patient care to 570 animals in total, of which 286 were pets, 134 were rescued animals brought by people to our rescue centre and the rest were rescued by BARC itself. Out-patients are mostly dogs (80%) and cats (10%), but can be any kind of animal as birds, cows, bulls, mules, horses.

#### ***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.

#### **Surgery**

BARC conducts a variety of surgeries under its animal rescue and treatment services. Marianne Guillet performed about 168 surgeries over 2023, of which 53 OVH on female dogs (removal of uterus and both ovaries); 64 testiclectomy on male dogs; 18 orthopaedic surgeries and amputations; 43 wound surgeries, 3 mastectomy (tumour removal); 2 hernias; 3 eye surgeries; and in addition numerous other less invasive surgeries (cysts, abscesses, bite wounds, burn management, fistulas and general health check-ups).

### Nursing/Care

In 2023 we nursed 2 baby macaque monkeys, dozens of orphaned kittens and some puppies. The dozens of kittens brought to the centre remains a key challenge for BARC in terms of intensity and duration of care required for survival.

### Medical Treatments

Over 2023 BARC provided medical treatment to many patients in need.

- 348 Pyoderma (skin infectious disease);
- 512 Scabies (contagious skin infestation by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*) and Mange (skin disease caused by parasitic mites);
- 733 Fungal infections of skin or ear;
- 124 Gastro-Enteritis;
- 867 Parasites (deworming);
- 329 Tick-Borne Diseases (Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis);
- 16 Eye patients (e.g. glaucoma, cataract);
- 57 Arthritis;
- 28 Heart related diseases; and
- 7 wildlife trap injuries

### ***Many Opportunities with the Centre for Animal Happiness in place!***

Over 2023 the master plan and facility design have been developed. The C4AH area will have an integrated 24/7 animal rehabilitation and treatment facility 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.

Once the C4AH is in place, BARC will expand its animal rescue and care programs and also support community-based dog care and sterilization programs, which is to contribute effectively to controlling the stray dog population. 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.

### ***Funding and Sustainability***

The exact financial requirement for building the Centre for Animal Happiness is still to be worked out in 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;
- 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 live 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.



*Rescued dog, returned to happy owner after treatment*

### Help us help Animals

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.

### Financial Accounts

#### Clean Audit opinion over 2023

On the next pages the Financial Accounts of 2023 are presented, which have been audited by the Royal Audit Authority in April 2023, through appointment of the auditing company ‘Choezen and Associates’. BARC received the Audit report in May 2024.

**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 2016 and RAA therefore issued an unmodified or clean audit opinion on the financial statements of BARC.**

The audited financial accounts for 2023 are presented below.



*Training of dog owner on giving deworming*



*Ultrasound on dog to identify pregnancy*

**BHUTAN ANIMAL RESCUE & CARE**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

RECEIPTS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT (Nu.)		PAYMENTS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT (Nu.)	
		2023	2022			2023	2022
<b>Opening Balance:</b>							
Cash in Hand		-	219,223.00	<b>Expenditure:</b>			
Cash at Bank				<b>Operational Expenses</b>			
BNBL No# 5000082785027	<b>1</b>	2,108,184.95	5,189,572.00	Dues & Subscription		66,433.00	48,158.00
BOBL No# 202383118		4,345,707.92	1,916,436.00	Fuel Expenses		271,493.05	365,400.85
				Insurance		900,000.00	63,066.00
				Miscellaneous Expense		167,482.00	69,602.00
<b>Prior Period Adjustment:</b>				Other Operating Expenses		586,595.20	150,434.00
BNBL No# 5000082785027		-	22,223.40	Office & Stationaries Expenses		8,170.00	
BOBL No# 202383118		-	(0.31)	Office Rent	<b>4</b>	252,000.00	375,000.00
				Repair & Maintenance - Equipment		61,874.00	402,546.95
<b>Fund Received:</b>				Repair & Maintenance - Vehicle		99,053.00	280,131.00
Donations	<b>2</b>	13,893,842.97	8,312,948.21	Salary & Wages		1,694,512.60	2,239,330.94
				Telephone & Internet Charges		53,518.70	71,156.89
				Utility Bills		32,421.36	108,512.00
<b>Other Income:</b>				Hiring charges		12,000.00	-
Interest Income	<b>3</b>	251,962.63	176,546.43	Advertisement Expenses		5,815.00	-
				Professional Fees		-	43,838.00
				<b>Program Expenses</b>			
				Animal Food & Supplies	<b>5</b>	290,194.00	142,397.75
				C4AH		133,868.00	4,726,202.48
				Medical Supplies		198,042.91	201,679.00
				<b>Purchase of Fixed Asset</b>	<b>6</b>	358,250.96	95,600.00
				<b>Closing Balance:</b>			
				Cash in Hand		76,796.98	-
				Cash at Bank			
				BNBL No# 5000082785027	<b>7</b>	6,948,403.44	2,108,184.95
				BOBL No# 202383118		8,382,774.27	4,345,707.92
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20,599,698.47</b>	<b>15,836,948.73</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20,599,698.47</b>	<b>15,836,948.73</b>



*(Signature)*  
 (Kinlay Gyalsishen)  
 Executive Director

*(Signature)*  
 (Hemrick Visser)  
 Treasurer

*(Signature)*  
 (Rosy Chettri)  
 Partner

