

Annual Report

2024

Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care



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For Animal Happiness

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Word from the President

Over 2024 the BARC continued developing the facilities of the Centre for Animal Happiness (C4AH) in Tshaluna. The C4AH is a place where animals are rescued and treated, and where people and animals can connect for mutual happiness. We like to promote through the C4AH a change in value attachment and behaviour of humans to nature and animals, as this will contribute to Animal Happiness as well as Human Happiness

Our animal rescue and care work also continued, despite the present lack of adequate facilities. I like to express my sincere gratitude to the many animal lovers who also in 2024 brought sick and injured animals to our rescue center. Without your compassion in action and pro-active engagement, the BARC could not have reached out to 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 am pleased to herewith present the Annual Report 2024, on behalf of the BARC Board. The report provides an overview of the animals we saved and sheltered, our key achievements, as well as our financial accounts of the BARC. BARC has been fortunate to have your support, which allowed us to provide again medical care and sanctuary to many animals. We hope that with your continued support we can raise the funds for the Centre for Animal Happiness and our programs, so we can help more animals in need and further improve upon the care we give. Together we can truly make a difference! I hope that you will enjoy reading our Annual Report 2024.

As always, thank you for walking with us on the path of compassion-in-action for Animal and Human Happiness.

On behalf of the BARC Board,

Marianne Guillet
President



Rescued Pup, treated for gastroenteritis and provided a new home at BARC

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



Very Young Mother Cat, undernourished and unable to provide adequate care to her kittens.

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.

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 Animal Welfare Vision

Animals can only live in Happiness, if they are considered an inherent part of Human Happiness.

Our purpose is to promote the welfare and health of animals

Our existence and actions are based on the intrinsic value of animals as interconnected part of nature and human society, independent from the utility value animals have for humans.

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

BARC: What we do

Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation

BARC is dedicated to rescuing animals in need and providing sanctuary to those with no chance of survival without our support. We have constructed new dog pounds and other facilities as part of our relocation efforts, enabling us to host patients requiring continuous care or sanctuary. Our 24/7 rescue service includes pick-up of animals in need and transportation facilitated by our compassionate supporters. We strive to re-integrate or relocate recovered animals, while those with disabilities, chronic diseases, or advanced age find a warm sanctuary at our shelter.

Treatment and Recovery

During the relocation in 2022, BARC constructed a temporary treatment and care outbuilding. From this facility, we provide animal treatments, post-care support, and rehabilitation. We offer medical treatment for wounds, infectious diseases, cancer/tumours, gastroenteritis, and skin infections, as well as orthopaedic surgery, prosthetics, and caesareans. We primarily rescue and treat injured and sick dogs, cats, cattle, horses, and occasionally wildlife. However, our temporary treatment and care outbuilding is insufficient to provide the necessary treatments and space for all animals requiring more intensive care.

Sterilisation

To support a small and healthy stray animal population, we conduct weekly sterilisations of cats and dogs with Panleukopenia (cats) and DHPPI-L (dogs) vaccinations. Our animal care program relies on a network of caring citizens who assist us in capturing stray dogs and cats from their neighbourhoods or bringing them to us. This collaborative approach ensures the successful release of sterilised animals back into the community and facilitates follow-up care. We advocate for Animal Happiness in support of Community Happiness!



Students of Kuzhungchen Middle Secondary School in Kabesa, northern Thimphu, welcoming back one of the dogs they care for at the school premisses, after skin and eye treatment as well as sterilisation at BARC.

Animal Welfare Advocacy

Many individuals who visit us express interest in learning more about animal care and practicing humanitarian values and compassion in action towards all sentient beings. This often leads to lively discussions and mutual reflection, empowering individuals to engage in positive actions. BARC also engages with visiting school children and tourists, fostering conversations on animal welfare.

Animal Therapy - Human Mental Health

Animal therapy offers profound benefits for both mental health and addiction recovery. It provides emotional support, reduces stress, fosters empathy, and promotes a sense of responsibility and purpose. As Bhutan grapples with growing mental health challenges and rising addiction rates, incorporating animal-assisted interventions could provide a unique and valuable approach to healing. Moreover, animal therapy prioritises animal welfare by offering rescued animals a second chance at life and encouraging society to treat animals with kindness, respect, and compassion.

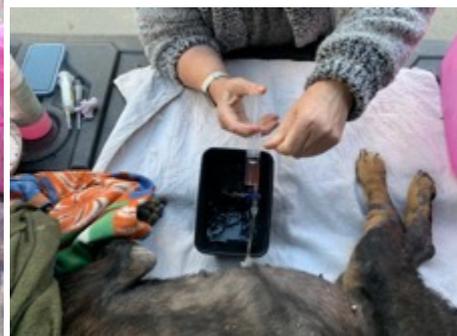


Picture Story: On-site emergency treatment of an old community dog living in Barbesa below the express way. The dog is taken care of by local residents, who noticed on increased swelling of the belly and breathing problems. The dog was diagnosed with severe ascites when the BARC team arrived and was unable to breath as it was 'drowning in fluid'.

Immediate fluid removal was performed in the back of the animal rescue vehicle, as transport of the dog in its present state would have high risk of aggravating the condition and would likely be lethal.



After emergency treatment the dog was stabilised and taken to the Centre for Animal Happiness for further assessment on the cause of the ascites and for in-patient treatment



Key Achievements over 2024

Patient Care

Patient numbers

The average number of in-patient animals at BARC Thimphu over 2024 was 258, of which 160 dogs, 20 cats, 61 macaque monkeys and the rest others as birds and large animals. In 2024 we rescued 1 orphaned baby macaque, which need(ed) intense nursing and care, bringing the total group size of macaques by end 2024 to 61. Bhutan is continuing to face a distemper epidemic every year, even with the reduced dog population, with hundreds 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 20 are under Intensive Care treatment; 100 have chronic disease as e.g. epilepsy, diabetes or kidney disease; 32 are handicapped, as e.g. paraplegic, blind; 11 are abandoned or orphaned puppies; and 50 are geriatrics. We were able to have only 2 dogs adopted in 2024. Adoption rates are low in Bhutan, as most compassionate people already care for free dogs around their homes.

Over 2024 we provided out-patient care to 510 animals in total, of which 286 were pets, 134 were rescued animals brought by people to our rescue Centre, 25 were cows of local farmers and the rest were rescued by BARC itself. Out-patients are mostly dogs (75%), cats (15%) and cattle (5%) but can be any kind of animal as birds, cows, bulls, mules, horses.



Dog attacked by wild boars, treated at BARC with support from a Vet Volunteer from Vet Beyond Borders Australia

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 and Tshaluna.

Surgery

BARC conducts a variety of surgeries under its animal rescue and treatment services. Marianne Guillet performed about 156 surgeries over 2024, of which 48 OVH on female dogs (removal of uterus and both ovaries); 54 testiclectomy on male dogs; 12 orthopaedic surgeries and amputations; 37 wound surgeries, 3 mastectomy (tumour removal); and 1 hernia. In addition numerous other less invasive surgeries have been performed, as on cysts, abscesses, bite wounds, burn management, fistulas and general health check-ups.

Nursing/Care

In 2024 we nursed 1 baby macaque monkeys, dozens of orphaned kittens and some puppies. The dozens of kittens brought to the centre remains a key challenges for BARC in terms of intensity and duration of care required for survival.

Medical Treatments

Over 2024 BARC provided medical treatment to many patients in need.

- 217 Pyoderma (skin infectious disease);
- 350 Scabies (contagious skin infestation by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*) and Mange (skin disease caused by parasitic mites);
- 801 Fungal infections of skin or ear;
- 203 Gastro-Enteritis;
- 956 Parasites (deworming);
- 211 Tick-Borne Diseases (Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis);
- 22 Eye patients (e.g. glaucoma, cataract);
- 38 Arthritis;
- 72 Heart related diseases; and
- 11 wildlife trap injuries



Dog caught in an illegal wildlife trap, rescued from Bjemina. Snare removed and open wound treated for 2 months, after which the dog was re-integrated into the community.

Many More Opportunities with the Centre for Animal Happiness

Over 2024 the master plan and C4AH facility design have been finalised. 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 able to survive without support.

Once the C4AH is in place, BARC will expand it animal rescue and care programs and also support community-based dog care and sterilization program, 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 total cost estimate for all facilities of the C4AH is Nu. 42,281,340.- This includes the construction of the visitor and education facility, stores and staff quarters, all of which are required due to the relative remoteness of the location and the absence of public transport.

Description	Amount in Nu.
A. KITCHEN	1,143,687.50
B. RECOVERY AND CARE	14,035,279.92
C. STAFF CAFÉ / CHANGING ROOM	1,385,649.48
D. LAUNDRY	1,211,353.44
E. STORE A	3,614,817.25
F. STORE B	1,318,597.47
G. STORE C	1,716,578.42
H. TOILET	823,544.78
I. MANAGERS QUARTER	8,913,089.52
J. MASTERPLAN COMPONENTS	6,950,026.42
Works Total	41,112,624.20
Cost Index (Not Considered)	-
OHS 2%	822,252.48
TA for Duration 18 months and Workers 30	346,464.00
GRAND TOTAL	42,281,340.68

Left: Overview of Total Infrastructure Development cost of Centre for Animal Happiness

The following are some of the elements of the BARC fundraising program:

- Active fundraising and collaborations 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.

We hope the Government of Bhutan and Municipalities will be motivated to contribute to the programmes of the C4AH, considering its clear benefits to human health and animal welfare.



Young macaque monkey severely injured from electrocution while climbing an electricity pole at Pasakha industrial estate. Treatment for severe burn wounds and partial amputations were necessary to save its life.

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.



Sambar deer rescued by local farmers and Forestry Officials in Tshaluna, from a pack of dogs, and brought to BARC. After wound treatment, several days of monitoring and rest, the deer was successfully released in its habitat.

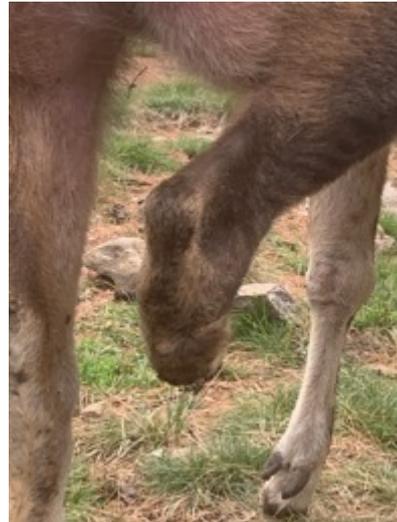
Help us help Animals

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.



BARC (above) conducted an assessment of a Sambar Deer at the Takin Reserve in regard to the possibility of making a prosthetic for its amputated leg (old injury). The assessment was conducted with Barnyard Bhutan who provided the mobile digital X-Ray machine and technical advice.

Similarly, BARC (left) made an assessment of a wild pig at the Forestry wildlife rescue Centre in Taba. The wild pig was diagnosed with a spinal injury for which treatment is not possible.

Financial Accounts

Clean Audit opinion over 2024

On the next pages the Financial Accounts of 2024 are presented, which have been audited by the Royal Audit Authority in April 2025, through appointment of the auditing company 'Choezen and Associates'. BARC received the signed Audit report in May 2025.

The Royal Audit Authority assessed that all BARC financial statements over the years 2013-2024 are in all material respects in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations 2016 and RAA therefore issued unmodified or clean audit opinions on the BARC's finances.

The audited financial accounts for 2024 are presented below.

RECEIPTS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT (Nu.)		PAYMENTS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT (Nu.)	
		2024	2023			2024	2023
Opening Balance:				Expenditure:			
Cash in Hand		76,796.98	-	Operational Expenses			
Cash at Bank				Dues & Subscription		90,651.54	66,433.00
B/NBL No# 650868891	1	6,948,403.44	2,108,184.95	Fuel Expenses		228,821.80	271,493.05
BOBL No# 202383118		8,382,774.27	4,345,207.92	Insurance		58,976.00	900,000.00
				Miscellaneous Expense		34,114.00	167,482.00
				Other Operating Expenses		1,327,493.44	586,595.20
Fund Received:				Office & Stationeries Expenses		15,710.00	8,170.00
Donations	2	2,221,717.31	13,893,842.97	Office Rent	4	374,022.00	252,000.00
				Repair & Maintenance - Equipment		64,797.00	61,874.00
				Repair & Maintenance - Vehicle		359,470.00	99,053.00
Other Income:				Salary & Wages		1,713,416.15	1,694,512.60
Income from Recycling	3	5,051.00		Telephone & Internet Charges		41,815.89	53,518.70
Interest Income		586,238.52	251,962.63	Utility Bills		37,494.53	32,421.36
				Hiring charges		130,300.00	12,000.00
				Advertisement Expenses		98,133.19	5,815.00
				Bank Charges		1,860.00	-
				Program Expenses			
				Animal Food & Supplies	5	261,643.44	290,194.00
				CAAH		-	133,868.00
				Medical Supplies		154,640.94	198,042.91
				Purchase of Fixed Asset	6	1,143,546.00	358,250.96
				Closing Balance:			
				Cash in Hand			76,796.98
				Cash at Bank	7		
				B/NBL No# 650868891		11,729,136.96	6,948,403.44
				BOBL No# 202383118		354,938.64	8,382,774.27
TOTAL		18,220,981.52	20,599,698.47	TOTAL		18,220,981.52	20,599,698.47



(Kinlay Gyalsichen)
Executive Director



(Hemlek Vissor)
Treasurer



(Rooy Chettri)
Partner



