



"IDA INDIA is a project of In Defense of Animals
and a non-governmental organisation in India."



In Defense of Animals, India ***(a project of In Defense of Animals)***

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Animal Birth Control & Health Care Centres:

- (1) Municipal Dog Kennels, near Deonar Colony, off Mankhurd Link Road, Bainganwadi, Deonar, Mumbai 400 043. Tel: (22) 65212681 / 9969015124
- (2) Swan Niyantran Kendra, Kopri Gaon, Koperkhairne, After petrol pump, Sector 28, Navi Mumbai: Tel: (22) 32935076 * Fax: (022) 27822417
- (3) Mohachi Wadi, Neral 410 101, Taluka Karjat, Dist. Raigadh. Tel: 9860344750

Office bearers:

Ms. Goodicia Vaidya, President	Ms. Fizzah Shah, Vice President
Dr. Sangeeta Vengsarkar Shah, Hon. Treasurer	Ms. Sudnya Patkar, Hon. Secretary
Ms. Aban Bhote	Ms. Vivienne Choudhury
Ms. Gauri Keskar	Dr. Makarand Chavan
Dr. Dinesh Vinherkar	Ms. Naina Athale

Adoptions:

Ms. Nandita Saigal / Ms. Vivienne Choudhury

Wild Life Rescue

Dr. Dinesh Vinherkar

Ambulance monitoring:

Ms. Goodicia Vaidya

Animal Nutrition/Waste management

Ms. Vivienne Choudhury

Quarterly Reports:

Ms. Gauri Keskar / Ms. Vivienne Choudhury

Vashi Centre

Ms. Naina Athale

Education Programmes:

Ms. Naina Athale / Ms. Aban Bhote

Legal Issues

Mr. Rahul Thakur / Ms. Fizzah Shah

Auditor:

Mr. Suyash Patwardhan

Consultant – Accounts

Mr. Girish Tendulkar

Animal Birth Control & Health Care Centre at Deonar, Mumbai:

Visiting Surgeons	Dr. H. G. Ghanawat & Dr. Makarand Chavan
Centre Manager / vets	Dr. Guru Prasad Mahadik & Dr Hareshwar Vedpathak
Animal Welfare Officer	Mr. Krishna Shenoy
Ambulance Drivers	Mr. Sanjay Ubale & Mr. Navnath Phadtare
Dog Catcher	Mr. Nitin Pathsute
Wardboys	Mr. Prashant Jadhav, Mr. Ranjit Mohite, Mr. Deepak Shinde, Mr. Sunil Chavan, Mr. Niwas Chavan, Mr. Yuvraj Shirke, Mr. Mahendra Waghmare, Mr. Hemant Salunkhe, Mr. Sopan Ubale, Mr. Rahul Pawar, Mr. Mahendra Rajeshirke, Mr Vicky Suryavanashi, Mr Deepak Sawant, Mr Shankar Salunkhe

Animal Birth Control & Health Care Centre at Vashi, Navi Mumbai:

Visiting Surgeon	Dr. H. G. Ghanawat
Centre Manager / vet	Dr. Santosh Yadav
Ambulance Driver	Mr. Uddhav Ubale
Dog catching supervisor	Mr. Aslam Sheikh
Wardboys	Mr. Vikas Chavan, Mr. Shekhar Rajeshirke Mr. Prashant Chavan, Mr. Sarjerao Gulge

Health Care Centre for ponies at Matheran:

Centre Manager / vet	Dr. R. M. Bhosale
Wardboy	Mr. Sudarshan Bhalerao

Mobile Clinic for street animals:

Vet	Dr. Shailesh Khade
Driver-cum-helper	Mr. Ravi Salunkhe

Office Staff:

Ms. Rajeswari Balaji, Chief Functionary Officer
Ms. Sheetal Thakur, Accounts Assistant
Mr. Dnyaneshwar Raotole, Office Assistant

Volunteers:

Ms. Aban Mistry	Mr. Jinesh Shah	Ms. Sharmila Kshirsagar
Ms. Joanita Belly	Ms. Bharati Shah	Ms. Padma Vala
Ms. Priya Somaiya	Ms. Angel Monteiro	Ms. S. Vaz
Mr. Rajendra Somaiya	Ms. Roshni D'Silva	Mr. Deepak Dand
Mr. Sunish Subramanian	Dr. Shailaja Telang	Ms. Armaity Tirandaz
Ms. Thrity Gazder	Ms. Bachoo Amaria	Mr. Jetha Singh
Mr. Binsky Khatau	Mr. Rajesh Khanna	Ms. Chandra Singh
Mr. Ashitraj More	Mr. Rahul Gavande	Mr. Nilesh Bhanage
Ms. Madhavi Bhatkar	Mr. Rajesh Naik	Mr Prahlad Advani
Ms. Rinku Saini	Dr. Eunice D'Souza	Ms Jenny Singh
Mr Jay Chatterjee	Ms. Poonam Jaykar	Ms Neeta Pednekar
Mr Pradeep D'souza	Ms Sandhya Wagle	Ms Mamta Yadav
Mr. Suresh Naidu	Ms Aparna Sagar	Ms Shirley Advani
Ms. Roopa Shah	Ms. Rohini Banerjee	Ms Chandrakanta
Ms Niranjana Mansur	Mr. I. Mathew	Ms Sarita Hegde
Ms Roshni D'silva	Ms. Padma Kashalkar	Mr. Harpreet Singh Jassi
Ms. Dinaz Kavarana	Ms. Arnavaz Poonegar	

Volunteers for Pony Project:

Ms. Vivienne Chaudhry	Ms. Priya Somaiya	Dr. Ravi Gaurat
Mr. Rajendra Somaiya	Mr. Ankit Thakkar	

In Defense of Animals, India is:

Registered under the Society's Registration Act XXIX of 1950. Registration No. 1404/1996 dated 31st October 1996.

Registered with the Charity Commissioner, Greater Bombay. Registration No. F 18786 (Mumbai) dated 18th January 1997.

Donations are exempted from Income Tax under section 80-G of the Income Tax Act 1961, as per certificate No. AN I MN /80-G / 1980 / 2005/2004-05 dated 1st April 2005 and valid up to 31st March 2008.

Registration for Foreign Contributions under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) received, and number is 083780752, given by Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India by letter No.II/21022/68(127)/2000-FCRA-III dated 13th December 2000.

Contributions from foreign countries can be sent to **IDA India** through the website: www.remit2india.com by which, amount will get credited directly into our bank account, at **no cost** both to the donor as well as to **IDA India**. www.remit2india.com is a reputed site of the Times of India Group. **IDA India** supporters from foreign countries can safely use this site to remit funds to **IDA India**.

(Extracts from a letter to IDA India by the great Philanthropist, Mr. Philip Wollen of Winsome Constance Charitable Trust, Melbourne, Australia.

"From the land that gave us Gandhi, we have temple slaughter. From the land that gave us Mandela we have "canned" lion hunting.

My passion for animals has taken me to six continents and my conclusion is simple. Humans are not a species. We are a virus.

But India gives me hope. In my speech I said "The most beautiful word ever written in any language in human history came from the Upanishads, three thousand years ago Ahimsa".

Compared to China and the Middle East, India is a Garden of Eden. That should give you an idea how barbaric other countries are."

(Sundaram Art Printing Press has printed this Annual Report free of cost, and we are extremely grateful to Sundaram and to Shri Ashokbhai & Shri Shivanand Bagwe for this assistance.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Patrons, Friends & Well-wishers,

Once again it's time to sit down and write about our progress in the year gone past. We have progressed immensely in the field of sterilizations at Deonar & Vashi – the numbers keep increasing every month; as also the colossal number of dogs & cats brought in for treatment for various types of injuries. Some cases are so badly battered and bruised, it is appalling – yet, we have been privileged to give them a new lease of life.

I think that animal welfare has practically become a movement, which has sensitised almost every second individual in this city, making them more responsive to animal distress. People are becoming more aware of the fact that our four-legged friends, whether big or small, have the same right to live as we do. A few years back, most newspapers never printed stories of malpractices done by humans against animals nor did they give much credit to animal welfare organizations who tried to mitigate the suffering of these poor dumb creatures – but today we have a press which headlines atrocities and takes our side in bringing justice to these long-suffering creatures. The recent massacre of dogs that took place in Bangalore and the subsequent coverage it received in the print and television media, shook the nation by bringing home the sheer brutality in killing innocent dogs, and even puppies; that even the most hard-core anti-animal activist was sickened! Finally it was the pressure brought about by the media that brought this madness to a halt.

Unlike other cities, the Mumbai High Court has given a favourable verdict to save our strays, & given them a chance to co-exist peacefully. Recently by giving a directive that each housing society should adopt a stray dog, they have shown that our judiciary has a heart to judge compassionately that man-animal relationship benefits both.

In January 2007 we attended a Conference – “Asia for Animals” at Chennai which was mind-blowing, in the sense that it showed us that what we are now doing in our city towards animal welfare is just a drop in the ocean – there is so much more horrendous cruelty to all animals all over the world – which we, animal activists are unable to curb. The South Asian countries like China, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia in particular are barbaric in their treatment of both wild and domesticated animals – but a ray of hope comes from the Western countries where volunteers are leaving the comfort and security of their homes to work towards saving and bringing succour to these poor cruelly-treated animals.

To get back to the progress that **IDA India** has achieved in this past year: We inaugurated a Free Mobile Clinic for Street Animals, which treats roadside animals for small wounds etc. on the road itself thus reducing the pressure on our Deonar Centre. The response to this Mobile Clinic has been overwhelming – as it has been busy from the day it started covering most of our city and suburbs.

On the 20th of May 2007, we inaugurated our second Mobile Clinic – this time for Navi Mumbai and its surrounding areas, which will be a very welcome feature for the animals there. As with our previous large ambulance, this new Mobile Clinic for Navi Mumbai is also donated by our Vice President **Mrs. Fizzah Shah & Mr. Navanilal R. Shah** – without whose unstinted generosity towards suffering animals, we at **IDA India** would have been totally incapacitated to carry on our humane work.

With the help and support of our donors, both Indian and foreign, we have achieved a lot for our stray and homeless animals, by constructing large comfortable airy kennels and 2 open-air Puppy Pens and lots of open space for our homeless strays to move about. The cats are not left behind either, as we have constructed an open-air shelter for our old, sick & homeless cats. This face-lift has changed the entire outlook of our Deonar Centre.

We are greatly indebted to **IDA**, our American principals, and their **Founder President, Dr. E. M. Katz** whose generosity and unstinted support every month, has made us financially

stronger and better, to continue with our humane work. Since the time they took us under their wing, there has been no looking back, we have always gone one step ahead and succeeded in our endeavours. Board Member of IDA, **Mr. Alex Hershaft** and Project Coordinator of IDA, **Ms. Alicia Robb**, who visited our centres during the year, were very appreciative of our work and our progress made in the field of sterilizations and animal care.

We now find that a very large number of pedigree dogs are being ruthlessly abandoned. This is a very cruel and heartless practice, which these so-called “owners” cannot seem to understand, that a dog who has been sheltered in a home of his own from the time he was young, suddenly finds himself discarded like unwanted baggage on the road in hostile and unfamiliar surroundings. The fear and insecurity that the animal experiences, is really heart breaking. Fortunately, we have a saviour in the person of **Ms. Nandita Saigal**, who has been finding loving adoptive homes for these unfortunate dogs. She has ‘rehomed’ innumerable such cases and has also been successful finding homes for strays.

Our grateful thanks to: our surgeons, **Dr. H. G. Ghanawat** and **Dr. Makarand Chavan** for their dedication in performing any number of surgeries, tirelessly and cheerfully, and to our vets: **Dr. Guru Prasad Mahadik** (Deonar Centre) and **Dr. Santosh Yadav** (Vashi Centre) for looking after and treating sick dogs and cats, to **Dr. P. M. Bhosale**, (Neral Centre) and **Dr. Ravi Gaurat** (Mumbai Pony Project) who look after and assist the ponies working hard for their livelihood. Special thanks to our Animal Welfare Officer, **Mr. Krishna Shenoy** for maintaining an amazingly well-kept and up-to-date record of all the animals brought in from various corners of the city – to ensure that they go back to their respective places, as well as looking after every aspect of their welfare – especially feeding. Our ambulance drivers who tirelessly battle the heavy traffic to attend to calls from all over the city and suburbs, often working late into the night and last but not the least our ward-boys at Deonar and Vashi centres, who strive to keep the kennels clean and who endlessly dress the wounds of the sick and maggot wound dogs, till they are ready for release.

Before I close, I'd like to add a few lines of **Crystal Rogers** of New Zealand, who was so moved by the state of animals in our country, that she stayed back and went on to establish “Help in Suffering” at Jaipur and “Compassion Unlimited Plus Action” (CUPA) at Bangalore. Crystal said: “We need to fight on every front. If we run away and hide our heads to avoid seeing the sight that horrifies us, we are unworthy of the compassion that has been granted to us by the Almighty.” So let us follow the guidelines set by Crystal and let justice prevail for our four-legged friends.

Yours truly,
For All Creatures Great & Small

Mrs. Goodicia Vaidya
President

ANNUAL REPORT for the year 2006-07

Having been registered on 31st October 1996, **IDA India** celebrated its **10th birthday** this year on **31st October 2006**. What started off as a small beginning on 8th March 1997 by

starting a sterilization camp in two garages in Usha Nagar, Bhandup, **IDA India** has grown from strength to strength, and today we have:

- A centre at **Deonar** in Mumbai,
- A centre at **Vashi** in Navi Mumbai
- A centre at **Neral** for horses in **Matheran, Kalyan & Titwala**.
- Two **ambulances** to bring in ill / injured animals.
- Two **Mobile Clinics For Street Animals**
- **Pony Project** for ponies giving joy rides in Mumbai city.

Today we sterilize every month around 650 dogs and cats at Deonar and Vashi, render treatment to 150 small animals and around 200 horses / ponies in Mumbai and Matheran. All this has become possible because of tremendous wholehearted support to our work from home and abroad, all throughout this eventful journey of a decade,

IDA India's 10th Birthday

We celebrated the 10th birthday this year, with a **Mass Vaccination Drive** for street dogs between 29th October and 4th November 2006, and we vaccinated more than 2000 dogs in both suburbs of Mumbai. We also inaugurated our '**Free Mobile Clinic for Street Animals**', to treat minor ailments on the road itself. **Mrs. Shaila Jhangiani**, a great supporter of **IDA India** very graciously sponsored this event. **Vice President Mrs. Fizzah & Mr. Navanilal Shah** spontaneously agreed to sponsor the Mobile Clinic for the first year of its operation, and **Mrs. Priya & Mr. Rajendra Somaiya** agreed to do so in the second year.

In Defense of Animals (IDA)

IDA India is considered as a project of **In Defense of Animals (IDA)**, an international organisation based in U.S.A. Their financial assistance during the last two years has helped us to reach out to more and more animals in Mumbai and outside. Our collaboration with **IDA** has been the biggest boon to us and we gratefully acknowledge our thanks to **Founder President of IDA, Dr. Elliot M. Katz**, and **Members of the Board of IDA**, for their unconditional support to our endeavours to reach out to animals suffering in India.

Visitors from IDA to Deonar & Vashi Centres:

IDA India had two eminent visitors from **IDA USA** during the year. **Mr. Alex Hershaff, Member of Board of IDA**, had come to Goa for the World Vegetarian Congress and was kind enough to make a special trip to Mumbai to visit us. We were privileged to have **Mr. Hershaff** alongwith **Mr. Saurabh Dalal**, President of Vegetarian Society of the District of Columbia, USA amongst us, as he is the first visitor from **IDA** to visit us to see the work we are doing.

Ms. Alicia Robb, Project Coordinator of IDA and her husband **Mark** visited us in February 2007. She visited **Deonar and Vashi Centres** and was impressed with the facilities available and the care taken of animals. During her visit she was taken to **Elephanta Caves by Goodicia, Fizzah and Vivienne**, and what began as a pleasure trip for sight seeing, may actually turn out to be the beginning of another animal welfare project for **IDA India**. The island has a big population of monkeys and stray dogs that are proliferating, and there is an urgent need to sterilize the dogs on the island. **IDA India** hopes to take up this project on hand in the near future.

Animal Birth Control Programme (Deonar & Vashi Centres):

During the year, the ABC programme did very well with total involvement of the surgeons **Dr. H. G. Ghanawat** and **Dr. Makarand Chavan**, with **Dr. Guru Prasad Mahadik** and Animal Welfare Officer **Mr. Krishna Shenoy** managing the **Deonar Centre** and **Ms. Naina Athale** and **Dr. Santosh Yadav** managing the **Vashi Centre** with efficiency and precision.

The figures of sterilizations performed by us since the time we first started the ABC programme in two small garages at Usha Nagar, Bhandup in **March 1997** are as under:

Financial Year	Mobile camps at different locations	Deonar Centre	Vashi Centre	Total Dogs
1997-1998	252	--	--	252
1998-1999	710	--	--	710
1999-2000	802	--	--	802
2000-2001	--	2290	--	2290
2001-2002	--	2448	--	2448
2002-2003	--	2460	--	2460
2003-2004	--	2010	--	2010
2004-2005	--	2361	--	2361
2005-2006	--	3942	--	3942
2006-2007	--	4024	1582	5606
Grand Total	1764	19,535	1,582	22,881

Cat Sterilization:

Cat sterilization is done at **Deonar Centre** regularly. Record of last three years is as under:

Financial Year	Total cats
2003-2004	97
2004-2005	172
2005-2006	237
2006-2007	282
Total cats sterilized by IDA India so far	788

Cat sterilization cannot be increased, as the present cat ward is quite small and space is also taken up by clinical cases that cannot be ignored.

Total surgeries performed during the year::

While sterilization of dogs and cats has been at the top of our agenda, during the year we performed several surgeries to save the lives of animals and bring them relief from pain. **Dr. H. G. Ghanawat** and **Dr. Makarand Chavan** performed these surgeries and we wish to place on record our appreciation for their dedication. Details are as under:

Deonar Centre

Types of surgeries	Cases	Types of surgeries	Cases
Sterilization of dogs	4024	Sterilization of cats	282
Hernia	220	Removal of V. G. growth	108
Haematoma	47	Amputation of limb/digit/tail, etc	37
Removal of tumour	70	Fistula / wound suturing	53
Eye ball / tooth extraction	16	Prolapse	3
Surgeries performed during the year 2006-07 at Deonar			4860

Vashi Centre (centre started from 26th July 2006)

Types of surgeries	Cases	Types of surgeries	Cases
Sterilization of dogs	1582	Removal of V. G. growth	30
Hernia	18	Amputation of limb/digit/tail, etc	04

Haematoma	02	Fistula / wound suturing	04
Removal of tumour	06		
Surgeries performed during the year 2006-07 at Vashi			1646

Treatment and rescue of animals:

During the year we treated innumerable ill or injured animals, at the two centres for dogs and cats, mostly brought in by our ambulance and volunteers, and also for horses at Matheran and Mumbai. Details are as under:

Deonar Centre:

Type of illness	Cases	Type of illness	Cases
Maggot wounds (dogs)	863	Maggot wounds (cats)	40
Accident cases (dogs & cats)	301	Gastro-Hepatitis	53
Distemper	70	Rabies	37
Skin infection	95	Ear infection	9
V. G. / cancer	9	Other ailments	304
Abandoned pets	12		
Animals rendered treatment during the year 2006-07 at Deonar Centre			1793

Vashi Centre (centre started on 26th July 2006)

Type of illness	Cases	Type of illness	Cases
Maggot wounds (dogs)	06	Wounds	06
Accident cases (dogs & cats)	02	Gastro-Hepatitis	03
Skin infection	03	Other ailments	29
Blind	02		
Animals rendered treatment during the year 2006-07 at Vashi Centre			51

Neral Centre (centre started on 28th August 2006)

Type of illness	Cases	Type of illness	Cases
Wound	113	Urinary Tract Infection	8
Lameness	79	Rectal Prolapse	3
Tetanus Toxoid vaccination given	124	Inappetance	60
Deworming	39	Lacrimation	45
Strangles	40	Fracture	2
Surra Vaccination given	88	Others	71
Animals rendered treatment during the year 2006-07 by Neral Centre			672

Total Animals that got aid during the year 2006-07 at all centres	9022
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While the Mobile Clinic was started in Mumbai in November 2006, in initial few months the record of treatment was not preserved, hence record of animals treated is not reproduced. However during the current year the record is being well maintained.

Similarly, there is no record maintained of innumerable injured birds like kites, owls and pigeons that are rescued, treated and released. While **IDA India** does the rescue of these injured birds, treatment of the big wild birds is generally rendered by the birds specialist **Pradeep** at his own house. He has dedicated his life to help injured birds. Once recovered, he releases them back to fly in the blue skies. Treatment to kites, egret, owls, etc. and so on is also rendered by **Mr. Suneesh Subramaniam**, who helps these birds to recover and releases them in an appropriate area with the help of the forest department.

Ponies in Mumbai are treated at regular camps, by way of first aid and vaccination. Only serious cases of calves, ponies and donkeys that are rescued are admitted to the **Bombay**

SPCA's animal hospital for treatment. We are grateful to **Bombay SPCA & Col. J. C. Khanna** for this assistance.

'**Dhingroo**' the donkey, who was rescued as a young foal when his mother died, and has grown up at **IDA India Deonar centre**, now has a little brother. '**Jhingroo**' is another male donkey whose mother had seizures when she was brought to our centre with her young foal. She died at our centre, leaving young '**Jhingroo**' to our care. After his mother's death, **Jhingroo** has been following **Dhingroo** all over and getting all the paternal affection that he desperately needs.

Waste Management:

We have always been keen to try out ways to keep our premises at IDA India Deonar as clean as possible, thus keeping the animals healthy and strong. From December 2006, **Ms Priya Salvi**, a waste management expert, has implemented a project to manage all the waste generated, in an environmentally friendly way. This involves careful segregation and disposal of waste, utilizing all bio-mass within the Centre itself, greening of the entire area and using bio-friendly cleansers for all surfaces. With this on-going project, we have managed to avoid any major disease out-break this monsoon, something that was quite common in previous years

Ambulance Service:

The two ambulances **Tata 407** are rendering tremendous service to animals, running nearly 80 to 100 km every day to the nook and corner of the city to rescue ill or injured animals. One ambulance takes calls in the western suburbs and the second one in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai. For ambulance service following persons may be contacted:

Ms. Goodicia Vaidya, President Tele: 98210 74659

Ms. Fizzah Shah, Vice President Tele: 98210 36075

Mobile Clinic for Street Animals:

The **Maruti Omni** has been converted into a '**Mobile Clinic for Street Animals**'. With a vet and a driver-cum-assistance, the Mobile Clinic renders treatment to street animals with minor ailments like skin problem, V. G., cough & cold, small wounds, etc. with regular follow up. The intention of starting this Mobile Clinic is to reduce the load on Deonar Centre, which is packed chock-o-block with animals, and to avoid needless hospitalisation of animals for minor issues. This Mobile Clinic is being sponsored for the first one year by **Mr. Navanilal R. Shah, Chairman of Ashapura Group of Companies** by donating Rs. 25,000/- per month.

Additional Community Kennels for dogs:

The number of injured and maggots infested dogs has increased so much in recent times that there was a bit of over crowding in the kennels, especially since **IDA India's** policy is never to say 'no' to any animal in distress and we rush our ambulance to help the animal as soon as we get the call. To reduce the over crowding, there was a need to construct one more kennel. We approached industrialist **Mr. Rohit J. Patel** for financial assistance to construct this kennel, and he spontaneously donated a sum of Rs. 1 lakh towards this kennel. We are extremely grateful to **Mr. Patel** for this assistance.

Pony Project in Mumbai:

The Pony project to help ponies used for joy rides in Mumbai is in place, with the Mobile Clinic holding camps for these ponies in different areas. The ponies at Ghatkopar and Nariman Point are showing signs of improvement with constant counselling to the "owners" by our team and free medical aid to the animals.

We wish to place on record our appreciation of the dedication with which **Ms. Vivienne Chaudhury, Ms. Priya Somaiya, Mr. Rajendra Somaiya** and veterinarian **Dr. Ravi Gaurat** are handling the **Pony Project**, which has improved the condition of these ponies.

Pony Project in Matheran:

IDA India's Neral center started working on 28th August 2006. **Dr. P. M. Bhosale** received practical training for 3 weeks from **Brookes Hospital for Animals, India**, who specialise in equine treatment, and is now fully involved with improving the condition of ponies in Matheran / Neral. While the Centre is at Neral, **Dr. Bhosale** commutes to Dasturi, which is the point where all vehicles terminate and the horses take over the cargo.

Since **Dr. Bhosale** visits Dasturi 3 times a week, he is relatively free on other days. He has therefore started visiting **Kalyan**, and holding camps as plenty of horses are used to draw buggies (pony carts) in **Kalyan**. The pony-cart owners are responding positively to Dr. Bhosale's counselling to take better care of their animals. Once the veterinary care reaches out to all animals in Dasturi and Kalyan, Dr. Bhosale has also started going to **Titwala**, the temple town, where about 200 horses are drawing carts. Thus we are trying to reach out to more and more animals in this manner.

A special mention needs to be made here about **Mr. Navanilal R. Shah, Chairman of Ashapura Group of Companies**, who sponsored the Matheran Project for the first six months from start up by donating Rs. 30,000/- per month, which helped the project to find firm footing. **Mr. Nimesh Shah**, Trustee of **Karuna Charitable Trust** and **Gyan Bodhi Charitable Trust**, who has all along felt the need to help the horses of Matheran, has also been funding this project regularly. Similarly **Ms. Vishakha Shah, Mr. Pankaj Shah** and **Mr Dilip. R. Doshi, Entrack International Trading Pvt Ltd**, Rajkot who have believed in our project have been donating monthly Rs 35,000/- since May'07. We wish to place on record our deep appreciation of the kindness of these persons.

Adoption Programme:

The Adoption programme of **IDA India** has received a major boost due to efforts of **Ms. Nandita Saigal**. This is a unique programme as not only are abandoned dogs found good, loving homes, but **Nandita** pre-empts people from abandoning their pets, by counselling them to keep the pet until she finds a home for him or her. During the year she found homes for **105** dogs and **20** cats. Nandita has found the adoption activity a very fulfilling experience and shares one of her very touching experiences with us – *(Please read her small write up later in this report).*

Foster Home:

The concept of a foster home is really beautiful, but it fails to catch the attention of people who love animals, but cannot afford to keep animals due to cost factor. If people come forward to render this service to young babies and abandoned pets that need special attention, **IDA India** is willing to pay to such foster families for their effort. Those who wish to take up such a noble work may please write to info@idaindia.org or telephone **Ms. Nandita Saigal** on 9820057576

Be a Guardian Angel to shelter animals:

IDA India has a few animals that are abused, handicapped, blind or old, and cannot return to the street. The concept of sponsoring these animals at **IDA India** has caught up very well, and presently following people have become **Guardian Angels** to our shelter dogs:

Guardian Angel	Beneficiary	Guardian Angel	Beneficiary
Ms. Prasanna Menon	Chhotu	Ms. Tushna Irani	Sweetie
Mr. Ghanshyam Mehta	Pom	Mr. Shapoor Irani	Paandya

Mr. Mithun Sharma	Lhasa	Ms. Paulomi Mukherjee	Pandi
Ms. Bina Kejriwal	Buzzo	Mr. Ramesh Pandya	Rani
Mr. Jai Mishra	Raja	Mr. Shiraj Dej	Blackie
Ms. Rajeswari Balaji	Jumpy	Mr. Dhimen Thakkar	Brownie
Ms. Hema Ramani	Moti	Ms. Kanchan Verma	Muchhad & Butka
Mr. Sashi Kiran	Whity	Ms. Shakuntala Kulkarni	Kaalya
Ms. Pooja Malani	Shanti (blind)	Ms. Rajashree Kagal	Brownie
Ms. Shenaz Sahakari	Rusky (at Vashi Centre)		
Ms. Monica Mysorekar	Tulsi & 4 blind dogs Arjun, Kalingti, Helen & Kismat		
Mr. Yezdi Desai	Blackie, Peda, Dalmi, Chingi, Gajya, Chingut, Sher Khan, Jackie, Chicku, Prema, Rocky, Peppe, Nitin,		
Ms. Shobhana Pant	Bajirao, Lalu, Arjunrao, Tiger & Blind dog Simran		

To sponsor an animal, one has to pay Rs. 450/- (U.S.\$ 10) per month or Rs. 5,400/- (U.S. \$ 120) per year. One can also sponsor the sterilization of an animal at the same cost. Those desirous of becoming Guardian Angels to some of these animals may please write to info@idaindaia.org.

Animal Defense Foundation, U.S.A.

Indians settled down in the U.S.A. who feel compassion towards the animals living on our streets, have registered an organisation named '**Animal Defense Foundation**' in **Atlanta Georgia, U.S.A.** **Ms. Sarita Raturi** who regularly comes to Mumbai is appalled at the plight of street animals and wants to support animal organisations like **IDA India**. She visited the Deonar Centre during one of her visits and was taken aback to see the number of animals receiving aid. Besides raising funds for **IDA India**, **Sarita** is doing everything possible to make celebrities take up the cause of animals, in order to create awareness amongst citizens.

'Compassionate Children's Club':

We at IDA India have always perceived the Compassionate Children's Club as a very important activity with a great potential for the future. We would now want to take up the club's activities on a bigger platform. We are currently investing our energies in designing and shaping the CCC as a separate programme itself. We have started designing a separate web page where we would impart knowledge on animal laws, cruelty & all other relevant areas.

We have also approached **Mr. Mayur Vaishnav**, a reputed television director, to make short educational films to create awareness amongst children about kindness and compassion.

We thus are edging forward and putting all efforts to reach out to maximum number of children.

Awareness programmes for school children:

IDA India hopes to formulate proper training programmes for school children, with proper audio-visual presentations. This programme is being designed by **Ms. Naina Athale**, Managing Committee Member, who herself is a counsellor and understands how best to reach out to young minds.

Ms. Aban Bhot who has been conducting programmes for school children, is a little disheartened as she finds it difficult to convince school authorities to spare a couple of hours from their tight schedules, for such programmes. Those who can organise such programmes in schools, may please contact **Aban** on 9821792861.

Special mention:

This year **CCC** member, **Ms. Radhika Sarkar** celebrated her birthday by donating 450 kg. rice to Deonar Centre. Another family viz. **Mr. Rajesh & Mrs. Nauka Jhaveri**, and their two daughters **Mausam** and **Utsavi** have decided not to spend money on birthday celebrations, but to donate the money to **IDA India** for the benefit of animals. **Ms. Beverly Mathew**, an ardent supporter of **IDA India**, sold her old car and donated the entire proceeds of Rs. 22,000/- to **IDA India**. **Mr. Julien Tellis** donated towards the cost of advertising for adoption of pups and kittens. We truly appreciate the gesture of all these people, who understand what we are striving for.

Legal Issues:

There were no legal issues this year. The suit filed **IDA India** against the Municipal Corporation, preventing them from taking away a part of the Deonar Centre and demolishing any sheds, is still pending. The Court has granted an injunction against any such move of the Corporation. Also the case in the Mumbai High Court for the Dog issue is still pending.

Marathon Run:

Ms. Bhavana Balsavar, eminent film and television star, participated in the **Standard Chartered Marathon 2007**, held in January 2007 on behalf of **IDA India**, and she raised sponsorship amount of Rs. 20,426/- for **IDA India**. We are extremely grateful to her for her thoughtfulness in raising funds for **IDA India**. We are hoping that next year more people will join **Bhavana** in the run, and not only raise funds but also to create awareness.

Rescue of wild animals:

Dr Dinesh Vinherkar's rescue operation of wild and other animals has been quite interesting and lists the rescue of a chameleon, black colour snake, parrot, sand boa, ducks and snakes. The Chameleon rescued from the Grand Hyatt at Santacruz and a parrot rescued from Vakola was released back at the Kalina University Campus after having rendered appropriate treatment. A non poisonous black colour snake found in a temple in Juhu Koliwada area was rescued and given to SPCA. A duck found in Vakola chased by stray dogs was treated for a wound on the paw and given to a gentleman who claimed to be the owner. A Sand Boa found on the Airoli highway was rescued, treated and given to SPCA. **Dr Dinesh** has been periodically rescuing snakes that enter the Port Trust hospital area and releasing them back at the nearby forest cover area. **Dr Dinesh** is really grateful to the people who keep calling to rescue these animals without acting in panic and causing any harm of them. (Picture of the rescued snake and chameleon on the back cover)

Rescue of aquatic animals:

Fish, turtles and other marine animals are confined to small tanks and kept in homes for decorating our living rooms. It is a cruel practice to confine any creature to such small areas, whereas they should be actually swimming merrily in the huge water bodies. If anybody who has such a fish tank and has a problem of overcrowding and desires to rehabilitate the fish, or has injured fish in their tank, they may contact **Dr. Ashish Bhakoo** on 26424245 or a.bhakoo@gmail.com for assistance.

Jumble Sale:

Our programme for collecting used clothes and articles and holding Jumble Sale is quite successful. We hold such Sales twice a year, once before Diwali and again in May. **IDA India** is extremely grateful to **Mr. Pushpakant Vaidya**, who very graciously lends his premises at Bandra Reclamation for the sale, and to **Ms. Angel Monteiro** and **Ms. Poonam Jaykar**, who manage the sale beautifully for two days.

Those who wish to donate used articles may please drop the same at **IDA India's** office at Dadar. If the quantum of things is too large, they may contact **Ms. Goodicia Vaidya** on **9821074659** to have the stuff picked up.

Quarterly Report, Voice of Animals :

We at IDA India have just realized a particularly elusive dream of bringing out our very own Quarterly Report, Voice of Animals. The brain-child of **Ms. Gauri Keskar** and **Ms. Vivienne Choudhury**, both Managing Committee Members, the Quarterly features 'Animal People of IDA India', Action for Animals, our Kids' Korner and plenty of animal news. The response has been extremely encouraging and we look forward to input from all our members and well-wishers in our future copies. We would like to sincerely thank **Ms Chitrita Majumdar** for the excellent layout of the report.

Asia for Animals 2007 Conference:

AfA 2007 Conference was held at Chennai between 10th and 12th January 2007. It was attended by 5 of us - **Goodicia Vaidya**, **Fizzah Shah**, **Vivienne Choudhry**, **Sudnya Patkar** and **Leena Choudhry-Mahajan**. The expense on travel and stay were borne by each individual participant and not by **IDA India**.

The Conference was very well organized, well attended and very informative. It gave us all an insight into the kind of animal work that is going on in other Asian Countries. We were very much impressed with the work done by some organizations to rescue animals from the cruel trade. For example **Ms. Jill Robinson** has taken on the Chinese Government and got fantastic results in rescue of bears from the bear farms in China. **Wildlife SOS India** has taken up the project of rescue of the dancing bears in India. **Help in Suffering**, Jaipur have taken up the project to help elephants used to take tourists up the steep climb to the Forts of Jaipur. These are some of the things that impressed us the most. We salute such people.

We felt extremely sympathetic towards kind and compassionate people who struggle in countries like China, Korea, Viet Nam, Cambodia, etc. that have no animal laws at all, and are fighting against tyrannical regimes to save the animals.

Events that could not materialise this year:

- Veterinary Meet'. Panel of Eminent Veterinarians.
- The contributory dinner.

Current year (2007-08)

During the current year until the drafting of this report, following is to be reported:

Inauguration of a second Mobile Clinic for street animals:

While Mumbai city has two ambulances to bring ill or injured animals, and a mobile clinic attending to minor cases, there is no ambulance at all in Navi Mumbai. **Mrs. Fizzah Shah & Mr. Navanital Shah** felt it necessary that atleast a Mobile Clinic be deployed in Navi Mumbai to help the animals in that region. They therefore donated a Maruti Omni to **IDA India**, which has been converted into a Mobile Clinic and will soon be sent to Vashi. A function was held on 20th May 2007 at the Indian Merchants' Chamber Hall to inaugurate the function. It was well attended by eminent persons. The inauguration was by **Padmashree Dr. Kumarpalbhair Desai**, President of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad. who also gave a wonderful keynote address on role of animals in our lives and the importance of 'Ahimsa' or 'non-violence'. [The picture taken on the occasion is on the cover page.]

The puppy walk

On 5th June 2007, Managing Committee Member **Ms. Vivienne Choudhry** and Chief Functionary **Ms. Rajeshwari Balaji** organised a unique event for 12 of **IDA India** shelter

dogs. To celebrate **World Environment Day**, 9 pups and 3 adult dogs enjoyed a fun outing at Five Gardens at the Parsi Colony, Dadar.

Enthusiastic volunteers and kids, waited eagerly for the canines to arrive. As soon as the **IDA India** van appeared, there was excitement all around as the dogs spilled out and proceeded to check out the new interesting surroundings. They had been brought all the way from the **IDA India's** Deonar Centre for a 2 hour picnic type outing.

As these dogs have to remain confined within the walls of our shelter, we thought it would be fun for them to visit a large, pleasant open area where they could interact with our volunteers, who have come to help 'walk' all the dogs, do a little grooming and feeding also. The dogs also benefit by such socializing and get much needed group exercise. Both adults and children took charge of the leashes and the whole group walked around the extensive grounds. To make sure everyone enjoyed themselves, the kids competed in an on-the-spot Animal Quiz. Before dispersing, snacks were served and the dogs too relished their biscuits and milk! [The picture taken on the occasion is on the cover page.]

The holy cow outside of temples:

It was observed by our volunteers that the cows tied outside the temples in Girgaum area were put through a lot of pain and suffering. The cows were 'owned' by people who milked the cow in the morning and then gave them out to women, who lodged them outside the temples, and made money by selling green grass to devotees, who felt happy that they have fed a holy cow. On the face of it there is no apparent cruelty in keeping cows outside the temples and feeding them, but the manner in which they are kept is appalling

- These cows are kept standing for hours on end, as long as the devotees continue to throng the temples.
- They are tied on such short ropes that they can neither sit nor move around.
- The place around them is so dirty that if at all, they have to sit in their own muck.
- Despite standing in hot sun for hours together, no drinking water is given to them.
- They are made to stand in such a position, that their backs are towards the road, and can easily be hit by a passing vehicle.

None of the devotees notice that the cow is suffering at the hands of these uncaring people, whose aim is to earn more than what they have paid for the cow for the day. Besides people are too busy to wait and watch.

Ms. Bakul Khatau who felt terrible about these cows, approached **IDA India** to take up this issue seriously. A team comprising of **Ms. Goodicia Vaidya, Ms. Sudnya Patkar, Mr. Prahlad Advani, Mr. Harpreet Singh Jassi and Mr. Kiran Indulkar** visited the Girgaum area alongwith **Ms. Bakul Khatau**, to counsel the women who are in this trade, and to draw the attention of devotees to the plight of these cows. It was observed that the devotees had never given a thought to the plight of these cows, but once they realised what is happening, they instantaneously agreed to ensure that next time around when they see a cow outside the temple they would make the woman improve the condition of the cow. Seeing this reaction, **IDA India** immediately prepared leaflets in the Gujarati (language predominantly used in this area) for distribution among all the shop owners, residents and people visiting the temples, explaining the plight of the cows. At the backside of this pamphlet, educative information regarding caged birds was also provided. **Ms. Bakul Khatau** and her group of friends distributed the leaflets in and around Girgaum and the response has been positive.

We are extremely grateful to **Mrs. Shantaben Somaiya** for helping us to draft these leaflets in Gujarati language.

We have to now watch and see if the condition of the cows outside of temples in this area improves. We then have to spread this message to other areas where cows are seen outside of temples.

Animal Rights 2007 Conference in Los Angeles:

An International Conference on Animal Rights organised by **Farm Animal Reform Movement** and sponsored by **In Defense of Animals** and other reputed organisations between 19th and 23rd July 2007 at Los Angeles, U.S.A. was attended by **Ms. Fizzah Shah** Vice President & **Ms. Sudnya Patkar**, Hon. Secretary. The costs of travel, stay, registration fees, etc. were all borne by them.

The Conference was very informative. The participants were overwhelmed that representatives of **IDA India** had travelled all the way from India to share their experiences. The organisers had allocated time to speak about the situation of animals in India.. **Fizzah** spoke about '**Cruelty to animals in India**' i.e. in India and **Sudnya** spoke about '**Companion Animals**'. Their presentation was very well received. It also gave an opportunity to meet **Dr. E. M. Katz, Founder President** and **Board Members of IDA** including **Ms. Judy Jones, Ms. Rita Anderson, Mr. Jerry Friedman, Ms. Christine Husk** and **Mr. Bill Dyre** (A picture taken during this meeting is shown on the cover page)

Funds:

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India:

IDA India had received during the year grant from the Government of India of Rs.8,99,775/- for the year 2005-06

Animal Welfare Board of India:

The Animal Welfare Board of India released a grant of Rs. 50,000/- (towards medicine and establishment cost) relating to the year 2005-06 during this year.

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation:

The first cheque of Rs. 3,65,119/- was received from NMMC for the period July to November 06 @ Rs. 450/- per dog sterilized in Navi Mumbai.

In Defense of Animals (U.S.A.)

IDA have continued to send USD 3,333/- every month to **IDA India** which has given us the courage to open new centres and reach out to more and more animals that need aid.

Our others donors:

We would like to express our immense gratitude to all our donors, who have contributed towards this cause of animals, but due to constraint of space in the Annual Report, we have published the names of donors who have contributed a sum of Rs. 2,000 or more. We wish to reiterate that we are extremely grateful to all our donors, and absence of their names from this list should not be construed as our lack of gratitude.

M/s. Esjay International Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. Sunil & Ms. Shaila Jhangiani	Mr. Rohit J. Patel
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Mr. Ranganath, Mr. Venkatesh, Ms. Sumitra & Ms. Padma Char	Ms. Sudnya Patkar

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Mr. Rajesh, Ms. Nauka, Ms. Mausam & Ms. Utsavi Jhaveri	Ms. Bachoo Amaria		
Mr. Pushpakant Vaidya – In Memory of his sister Ms. Surekha A. Manjrekar	Ms. Nila Shah		
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Ms. Shirin H. Vakil & Mr. Kersi H. Vakil in memory of dogs 'Sweta' & 'Lucky'		Mr. Rajesh Thakur	
Mr. S. Swaminathan in memory of dog 'Dexter'		Ms. Theresa Pereira	Mr. Paresh Chheda
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Mr. Gordon Fernandes	Mr. John Myrthoni	Mr. Julian Tellis	

Donors who contributed to the Foreign Contribution Account:

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We wish to place on record our deep appreciation of tremendous support given to us by various individuals and companies, which has enabled us to continue with our work for animal welfare with zeal and enthusiasm. Due to space constraint, we have mentioned here only a few names, but we are grateful to each and every person, who has donated to us in kind, and absence of their names should not be construed as our lack of gratitude.

Mr. Ashokbhai & Mr. Shivanand Bagwe, Sunderam Art Printing Press	Printing of our Annual Report free of cost
Mr. Eric Mathais, Jesta Processors	Printing of our stationery free of cost
Mr. Mahesh Wagle, Wagle Process Studio & Press	Printing of our stationery free of cost
Mr. Navanital & Ms. Fizzah Shah	Rs. 30,000 per month as sponsorship for the Matheran Project for six months between Sept 06 and February 07
Mr. Navanital & Ms. Fizzah Shah	Rs. 25,000/- per month for sponsorship of the Mobile Clinic for Street Animals for one year between April 07 and March 08.
Ms. Priya & Mr. Rajendra Somaiya	For commitment to sponsor the Mobile Clinic for Street Animals for the second year i.e. April 2008 to March 09.
Mr. Baldevsinghji Saini, Saini Electricals	For fitting 3 new fans, 25 tubelights & 3 Halogen lamps at Deonar Centre
Ms. Chitrita Majumdar	Design of annual report cover, all the stationery and quarterly reports.
Mr. Vishal Shah, Managing Director, M/s. Puratech (Ashapura Group)	Website designing and updating the website at regular intervals.
Mr. Pushpakant & Ms. Goodicia Vaidya	Venue for Jumble Sale
Dr. S. P. Potnis	Payment of all pathology laboratory bills.
Ms. Bharati Shah	Fund raising during festival of 'Paryushan'
Mr. Dollar Mathuria, Kanad Systems	Free computer servicing
Ms. Pramodini Khanolkar & members of "Anam Prem Pariwar"	Giving a hearty meal to all animals at Deonar Centre on occasion of 'Ram Navami'.

Ms. Rupal & Ms. Radhika Sarkar	450 kg. Rice on Radhika's birthday
Ms. Rinku Saini	200 kg. rice
Ms. Priya Nagvekar	100 kg. rice
Mr. Rajesh Khanna	50 kg. rice
Mr. Ganesh Shenoy	50 kg. Rice
Mr. Suresh Kandhari	50 kg. Rice
Mr. Ashitraj More	50 litres of kerosene for fumigating the kennels
Mr. Vipul Chheda	200 packets of Gluco Biscuits
Innumerable people who donate old things regularly for the Jumble Sale.	

Vashi Centre:

Ms. Priya Somaiya	1 Inverter to overcome power failures
Ms. Padma Kashalkar	1 computer table
Ms. Asavari Iyer	20 kg rice
Mr. Ramesh Gala	5 kg Parle G Biscuits
Mr. Ashok Pator	10 packets of Marie
Mr U.S. Samanta	3 packets Parle biscuits

Monthly contributions:

Ms. Fizzah Shah, Vice President	Rs. 5,000/-
Ms. Shaila Jhangiani	40 kg. Pedigree Puppy & Dog Food
Chembur Naka Vyapari Association	50 kg. Rice
Group "Adore" comprising of Ms. Daksha Verma, Ms. Pinky Thakkar, Ms. Ami Jambusaria, Ms. Versha Doshi and Ms. Parul Shah	40 kg. each of rice, soya, lapsi, and 8 kg. gluco biscuits
Ms. Daisy Zatakia	50 kg. Rice & 25 kg. Lapsi
Mrs. M. C. Romani	10 kg. Rice, 1.5 kg. Lapsi & 5 litre milk.
Ms. Sudnya Patkar, Hon. Secretary	Rs. 1,500/-
Mr. Uday Kini	Rs. 1,250/-
Ms. Yasmin Mody, England	Sterling Pounds 10/-
Ms. Sarita Gupta & Ms. Shella Gupta	Rs. 1,000/-
Mr. Soli & Dr. Bhaktawar Vajifdar	Rs. 500/-
Ms. Gauri Keskar and Ms. Urmila Dabholkar	Rs. 1,000/-
Ms. Veera Das	Rs. 600/-
Mr. M. E. Ramamurthy, Hyderabad	Rs. 100/-
Sonik Travel, Mr. Shreedharan	Rs. 100/-

Our Staunch Supporters:

We wish to place on record our deep appreciation of the support rendered by following. Without their help we would truly feel helpless:

Ms. Diana Ratnagar	Ms. Maneka Gandhi	Mr. Dady C. Dady
Mr. Sunil & Ms. Shaila Jhangiani	Ms. Neerja Khatau	Advocate Raju Moray
Ms. Manju Sawhney Mahindra	Ms. Piloo Tata	Mr. Kavas Warden
Dr. S. P. Potnis	Ms. Bakul Khatau	Advocate Ashok Shahani
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Bombay SPCA, Secretary Lt. Col. J. C. Khanna	Asst. Secretary Mr. Suresh Kadam	
Dr. Nimish Shah	Mr. Pushpakant Vaidya	Mr. Pesi Bhote
Mr. Amit Choudhury	Mr. Ramesh Patkar	Dr. Prashant Athale

Mumbai:
6th September 2007

My mission in life:

- Nandita Saigal

On the 1st of January 2007 at around 11:00 noon, I was looking out of my restaurant's compound, when I saw a pregnant dog walking slowly in the corner of the street. Right in front of my eyes, the water bag burst and she started delivering the babies.

I helped the mother deliver eight healthy male pups. Out of the eight, four were labrador look alikes, one was black with a tikka on his forehead and three were the colour of a pug.

I cleaned up the pups and rested the mother comfortably. The next morning as usual I was about to start my days activities, the mother picked up each pup and put them at my feet as if to say - "Nandita now you are more of a mother to them than I am" . I was extremely touched at this gesture and felt more than responsible to provide the tiny pups with good homes.

During the three months that they stayed with me, the mother made it a point to see that only I took care of the pups. I was thus morally bound to provide them with good homes. I found all of them good homes within 2 months, except Pooch who was found a home after 4 months.

The mother is now spayed and is back at Shivaji Park leading a comfortable life. The kind of love, affection & bonding that I have experienced with the pups is something that cannot be expressed in words. Even today the mother looks at me with her eyes filled with gratitude as if I am born in this world only to have saved her children and find them good homes.

I too personally feel that, I have been brought into this world to be a guardian for all these unwanted animals. A guardian who has to find not large homes but loving homes for all these lovely four- legged creatures who have a right to share space, love and affection on this planet along with other living creatures.

This work truly makes me a complete person".

- Naina Athale

Hi to all of you at Vashi!

Mithun here!! How are you doing? How are my friends Blackie, Spotty, Chirkoot, Joey etc? I'm doing fine here in heaven. No, don't cry again please!! Really, I'm doing well for myself believe me! After a very long time, I'm knowing freedom from pain.....In my entire life of 12 years, I have known real love from humans, only when I came to your centre in Vashi in March 2007. Ironically, after I was abandoned.

Let me tell you my story... This very rich man Haribhai, brought me as a little pup to his big bungalow in Sector 7 of Vashi, around 12 years ago. I was thrilled when I saw that a little pom female pup already there. She was my friend and companion all these years. When I was small, I used to crave for attention and love from the family, but soon realised, it was not to be. They didn't care for us, they just wanted unpaid guards. We were tied up to their gate the whole day, come rain or sunshine. But we never gave up, we were loyal and hence thought "Never mind, lets make the most of the situation. Atleast we have each other..."

Years passed, and the couple started having severe differences. Then 4 years ago, the wife left with her kids without even a backward glance at us, we were sooo hurt... all along, we used to hope that some day she would pet us, the kids would play with us as other kids do with their pets, but all our hopes for love from them were crushed that day. The husband started leading a dreadful self-destructive life, and we suffered more and more in this period. The watchman and drivers used to throw dry bread for us to eat, and one day 2 years ago I was abandoned near the mini seashore. I spent almost a month in the streets, hungry lost and grieving, till one day my vet saw me and recognised me. He was furious and called my 'master' and fired and threatened him, and they took me back into the house. Life was not very much better there though, except that I had my friend and companion with me again. The poor thing had gone very thin and listless in my absence and was ecstatic when I returned! 6 months ago, the 'master' also left without a backward glance at us, and we were totally at the mercy of the cruel watchman.

Throughout we had a gaurdian angel in the form of Ms. Mona Mehta, a neighbour who tried to help whenever she could. In Jan 2007 my lifelong friend was taken away on a whim, to the wife's home in Porbander, Mona pleaded that either she should also take me, or leave my friend behind, but it was no use, they wouldn't listen. In March I was let loose on the streets. I was already broken hearted by then. Mona was frantic, but she already had 10 rescued dogs in her house, and couldn't possibly take me in, so she requested you, and you people at IDA Vashi took me in gladly.

Do you remember when I first came in? I would not eat at all, and all of you took turns to need me with your hands, petted me a lot, gave me a much needed bath, cleaned the maggot wounds on my chest (the nth time I had maggots in my body in 12 years. I was used to it, but I remember you people were horrified!). But I had given up by then. All kinds of experts were contacted. I was medicated, given saline regularly, heat rays for my weak back legs, specially made food, even cerelac, the works. Much more was done for me in 2 months that I was with you, than was done for me in 12 years. But I had lost my will to live, because I had lost 2 of my most precious things - my companion and my hope. All hope died in January. Though you did a lot and I kept showing you all how grateful I was I couldn't continue without my companion and my hope. I died on May 5th 2007.

I'm now happy in heaven at last released from my tormented life! honestly! So don't grieve, especially you Naina, for heavens sake, you cry too much, so enough! You have still a lot to do and you have to get stronger. There is so much to do.

I have heard that there is this wonderful PCA Act in India, but its implementation HA!! So strengthen the grass root networking, awaken the general population, people dont know enough, and information is the best known awakening, so you should also educate, especially the children. Catch them young. Be vigilant to acts of cruelty in your vicinity. Spread the word that you will not take any more nonsense against animals lying down! Get more and more people to join and empower them enough to handle their own areas well themselves.

Finally can I tell you something? Of course I'm a mere dog sharing words of wisdom with a superior species, i.e. you! But I do know that all you people at IDA are lucky, you have found your purpose in life. Most humans have nowhere to "go" you know what I mean? That's why so many suffer so!

Remember, "The purpose of life is to matter - to count, to stand for something, to have it make some difference that we lived at all. " - Leo Rosten. And you people have found your purpose. Lucky you! So just focus and work towards your goal, alleviating animal suffering, to the best of your ability. .And yes, please dont cry! Like Rajesh Khanna would say, "I hate tears"! Even the wardboys get moist eyed talking of me, 'bass karo yaar!' and get to work! I'm happy here with Rocky, and all other heart broken pets, and we are searching for my companion, I'm sure she too has reached heaven already! Meet you in the after life,

Yours forever,

Mithun the Alsatian.

(Mithun stayed with us at Vashi Centre for two months. It broke our hearts to see him suffer. Having lived all his life outside his house, he was reluctant to enter the centre and spent all his time in the compound. He was also comfortable being chained as he never knew freedom. His picture taken in his last days on the cover page)

Meaningless life to all the selfish human beings

- Zarine D. Jamshedji

She roams this earth all alone and sad
The bones sticking out from the belly flat
Wagging her tail for just a morsel of food
With saddened eyes she walks on and on
But who will tend to her needs?
What does she get?
A kick here and there with a painful yelp she slinks away,
Seeking for food in a garbage can,
Hopeful to get some food from there.
But a beggar much quicker than her gets his hand on the food
With a heavy heart she lays her self down
Crouching tight she curls up there
Closing her eyes for there is nothing left
How cruel can this big world be,
Her life is meaningless to all the selfish human beings.

(Zarine writes about IDA India:

God be with you all each passing day,
Your selfless service that you spare
On these animals that stray.
You all bestow on these animals, so sweet
That your love and care shall not go unheeded.
For God loves such souls more and more.
So go ahead and serve these poor lost souls.
For they need you more and more each day.

Thank you **Zarine** for your kind words of appreciation & encouragement

– IDA India

Inheritor of my animal wealth

-Fizzah Shah

On a lazy Sunday afternoon as I was trying to catch up on some sleep, my mind as usual was actively thinking about the huge animal service which I had extended over the period of last 10 years. I always get suffocated by thinking that tomorrow in my absence, 'Who will carry on my animal service which I have established with my hard work and bold steps'. The colossal of my rescued animals which include two camel kaveri and pyari (Kaveri again pregnant) four goats, seven dogs, seven cats, many rabbits, hens, geese and ducks always worry me.

Then all of sudden a familiar delicate voice full of excitement barged into my room breaking the flow of my worried thoughts. Irritated as I opened my eyes, my seven year old grand son Rajat was standing in front of me. His small hands were full with a glass jar and speechless and breathless with excitement his words were breaking. As I got up to hold and relax him, he extended the glass jar towards me. I was just on the verge of screaming and pulling the glass jar from his hands, anticipating it may break and injure him, but I was taken aback when he softly pushed my hands away and said "Nani don't jerk, it will hurt them". Surprised, I wondered what was there in that glass jar that would get hurt if I jerked. Then, slowly he got the jar close to me and my eyes widened when I saw two caterpillars scrawling around some green peas and trying to climb on the small bar kind of thing. "Oh I said from where did you get them" and he very gently said "Nani like you, I too rescued these two caterpillars from mummy's hand". My inquisitiveness now reached to its peak, I stammered and asked what he meant. He replied "Nani, mummy was peeling peas and these two caterpillars sprouted out and fell down on the floor, but I picked them up and put them in a jar so they were safe". I asked him who had taught him to do so. He innocently replied back saying "Nani I saw this in a TV Ad where a boy is saving a caterpillar from his mother". He went on and on with his story on how these two small happy creatures in the jar were eating, playing and also embracing each other.

I was engulfed with a deep sense of relief and tears of happiness started rolling from my eyes, as I embraced him close to my heart. I whole heartedly thanked the TV channel for showing such an inspiring advertisement which sowed the seeds of love and compassion into the delicate heart of the child.

I remembered how Rajat once had saved a butterfly and nursed baby squirrels. At last I had found my crusader. It will be Rajat who will inherit all my animals' wealth and will take care of all which I will be leaving behind me. Slowly I handed over the jar to my young crusader and slipped into my peaceful deep afternoon siesta.

(Picture of Rajat with his pet caterpillars seen on the cover page)

A Kid's Question

- P. H. Bhutani



(Picture above taken at Calcutta by me in 1996 – an utterly famished calf, who is asking an innocent question in poetic form)

It's milking time, they bring the calf
He has hardly few gulps, he's taken off;
The puzzled kid can't understand
why its only food is not even half?

Doctors say mother's milk is nutritious
It is best for the baby's health;
Then why my ma's milk is denied to me
And I'm tied out, to die a starving death?

Just ponder, Oh you selfish 'Man'!!
If you take away all our milk;
Then how're we going to survive?
And increase our decreasing ilk?

There is no end to Homo-sapien's greed
He wants every thing for his plate;
He thinks animals have no right to live
He is the sole dispenser of their fate.