



**KARUNA SOCIETY FOR  
ANIMALS AND NATURE**

RECOGNIZED BY ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA,  
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*Annual Report*  
**2013-14**

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## ***Introduction***

During this financial year we have been facing several challenges, each of totally different natures.

Just when the annual drought started, we were presented by the police with a new batch of 146 rescued cattle. Our careful planning to feed our animals during the drought was painfully destroyed. We needed to plead with all our donors to help us out.

This was followed by drying up of all our bore wells, both at the clinic and at the Ahimsa Farm. Boring new wells is a costly affair and no support from AWBI or other government agencies was available.

A challenge of a different nature was the information that dogs were poisoned within the Ashram. A small group of devotees started an international petition to stop the poisoning which caused a lot of unrest and misunderstanding. The board members of Karuna contacted the ashram and the result was a better understanding by the Ashram about the permanent resident dogs, the animal laws and the rights of animals. It was clear that the ashram authorities had nothing to do with the poisoning.

The poisoning of dogs is a recurring problem in this area, and several goat herders spread poisoned meat after a baby goat has been killed. Dogs and chickens, who have nothing to do with the killing die! At the Karuna outpatient department we receive these dogs regularly; some die and some can be treated and get well.

The stealing of good dogs from owners by chikaries is another problem we face. These dogs are used for hunting and are sometimes again abandoned.

This year we were forced to look into the financial viability of the Karuna shop and information centre. There is not enough profit the whole year around to make a significant contribution towards the maintenance of our animals.

A decision was taken to start a separate company: "Ahimsa Organic Products Pvt. Ltd" which will be a wholesale company and start production in a bigger way as we still believe that the "organic way" is the road to follow for 'Animals and Nature" to improve.

The good news is that for the dogs in and around Puttaparthi the situation has improved over time; most dogs are sterilised, most are vaccinated against rabies and all accident cases and sick animals receive the help they need.

We still need to continue the sterilization as new dogs enter the area from outside

**Total Income – 59,34,873/-**

**Total Expenditure – 60,67,554/-**

## *Clinic for Small Animals and ABC project*

In India there is a huge shortage of animal shelters with inpatient care for small animals like dogs and cats. In the cities most animal shelters are involved in the Animal Birth Control program for street dogs. Pet owners go to a veterinary clinic with their dog or cat. But what about the thousands of stray animals who are also in need of medical care in case of accidents or sickness? Only a few of them will be picked up by a shelter or an animal lover. Most of them suffer!!!

At the Karuna Outpatient department about 20 patients arrive every day. Most of them are local dogs/cats owned by farmers and families. They were treated for accidents, distemper, tick fever, cancer and skin problems. Our surgeon will pin or amputate fractured legs, remove tumours, stitch up big wounds and advises on in-patient care. **All treatment and inpatient care for local animals are free of charge.**

After finishing all the painting and cleaning of the facilities, Karuna looks much better. It makes huge difference to be surrounded by bright colors, clean kennels and treatment rooms. There is just more happiness all around.

This called for a celebration! We could celebrate three events together: the existence of Karuna for 12.5 years, the gift of the projector and screen we received from "Help Animals India" to show the Plastic Cow film in the villages, and the upgrading and painting of the clinics.

We showed the film for the first time in Telugu (the local language) to our own staff and their families, and we thanked them all for the years of hard work for the animals.

We request all our Friends of Karuna to become "patrons" and commit, even in a small way, to the basic needs of our animals in distress by a regular monthly donation to provide them some security.



[www.helpanimalsindia.org](http://www.helpanimalsindia.org)



**A dog is brought in after being bitten by a wild pig and has surgery.**



**Amputation**



**Pinning**

One of the shelters in Kerala, Animal Rescue Kerala, had to be closed because the owner, Mrs. Avis Lyons, was going back to the United States due to ill health.

We accepted in our Karuna family five of her disabled animals, 4 dogs and one cat, who are now living with us.



Radha

This is our rescued German shepherd, Radha. She has chronic infections in her ears, and her owners left her on the street with maggots in both her ears! We treated her ears, sterilized her and made sure she was vaccinated.

Little Swami

Karuna has its own little Swami.

This is "the flat dog" living with us for many years. She came in with distemper, recovered but never walked. She is one of the last ones of "the old batch"

Receiving more attention than the others she is still content with her life. A Sainly dog in our opinion.



## ***Cat House***

Our cat patients are enjoying their new airy and brightly colored room with cushions and playthings, thanks in part to a donation given specifically for upgrading our clinics and shelter with a badly needed paint job, amongst other improvements!

This is love: our rescued kitties have plenty of space, but they want to be together in one comfy box! How many cats can you count?



### **Animals treated**

**Dogs : 549**  
**Cats : 47**  
**No. of treatments : 5043**

**Expenditure of the small animal's clinic: Rs. 17,16,111/-**

**Includes clinic Medicine, Food, Salaries, administration and other maintenance**

## ***ABC/AR Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies Vaccination***

In Puttaparthi and surrounding villages Karuna Society has already sterilized almost 9000 dogs. All dogs, mostly females which are sterilized, can easily be recognized by the clip in the right ear. Almost no new puppies are being born and anti rabies vaccination is being conducted on an annual basis.

For the last few years, we have not applied for any ABC grant from AWBI as the compensation for the work is insufficient, the procedures have changed and there is little or no support from the municipalities and local administration. This has forced us to continue the surgeries only for Puttaparthi and surrounding villages with the help of donations to create a safe area for the visiting devotees and ashram.

### **No. of ABC conducted:**

**Dogs - 297**  
**Cats - 44**  
**AR vaccinations - 486**  
**Total Expenditure -**  
**Rs 2,77,524/-**



## ***Cattle Rescue Project***

Cattle Rescue, Drought and Water problems

After end of March??

Karuna has received 146 cattle from Gorantla Cattle market in Andhra Pradesh. Most of them are healthy, local, young and valuable cows, bullocks, a few dairy cows, as well as 50 buffaloes.

The cattle, meant for slaughter, were rescued by Gauayan activists and they were willing to take them to their Gaushala (cow sanctuary) in Bangalore, Karnataka state. Unfortunately, they did not realize that since the FIR (First Information Report) was filed in Andhra Pradesh state, the cattle cannot be moved to another state.



were under a lot of pressure to accept the animals in our shelter. We live in a drought prone area, bore wells are failing and we have 12-hour power cuts. Fodder is not available at this time, due to which people sell off their cattle. We ourselves are in great difficulty to feed our own 350 cattle during summer.

Tens of thousands of cattle are illegally transported through the NH-7 (National Highway) from the northern states during this time of the year.

## Water, Food and Cows

As all our bore-wells are running dry, we were also given a much needed donation to install a new bore well to be able to supply water to all of the animals and staff that live and work at Karuna. The need for water became a real problem in the village as tanks and wells became completely dry. Luckily we were able to share the wealth of these drops of nectar from our newly acquired bore well so that no one would suffer.



Now we provide one bucket of drinking water per family early morning!

Calf was rescued from local slaughter



Black Buffalo;

A kind soul brought us a buffalo bull that is missing his right hind foot. We don't know the story behind it, but we suspect he might have been ready for an animal sacrifice. The bull is well cared for and safe now.



These two horses are mother and daughter. The mother came to use 6 years ago, we found her paralysed in a field. Now she is thriving and both are permanent residents at Karuna. Beggar families use such large ponies to travel from one place to another. Every year we receive one or two such horses that are dying of starvation, as they are not fed by the beggars but left to graze even when there is no grass. We are so grateful for your donations, which help so many different animals! THANK YOU!



 **a well-fed world**

Donated through "A Well Fed World" through Help Animals India, a substantial amount to feed the new rescued cattle during the drought.



## ***Ahimsa Farm at Karunapalli***

At the Ahimsa farm we have approximately 120 cattle of which 52 are male and female buffaloes: all are sterilised and castrated. Here we also have distilled cow urine production, the mango garden and the organic vegetables.

We love buffaloes!

Five thousand years ago the water buffalo was domesticated in India. The animals were mainly used in wet areas for ploughing the rice fields. They are a source of livelihood for farmers, and buffalo milk is much appreciated (it is thicker and richer than cow's milk). Unlike the "Holy Cow" who is revered as a Mother, the buffalo has quite a different image: according to Hindu scriptures, the God of Death, Yama, is riding a buffalo bull; and, in other writings, the buffalo is seen as a demon. It is not difficult to see the duality here: white cattle and black cattle, Holy Cow and Demon.

The cow is legally protected and slaughter of cows is illegal in most states in India; this does not apply for buffaloes. Nowadays the buffalo is the main source of milk, meat and leather production. Male calves are starved and killed for leather and the female buffaloes, once they are of no use to the dairy industry, are slaughtered in large numbers for the export of beef. At present India is 'proud' to be the largest meat exporter in the world.



Karuna Society has rescued cattle of all breeds and color for the sake of saving the lives of the animals. Although in the early years we used buffalo milk to sell milk products, we soon learnt that without selling the male buffalo calves for slaughter, Karuna was breeding an ever-growing buffalo herd which we could not feed. At present we have around 120 buffaloes, half male and half female, and we have castrated and sterilised all of them to stop their reproduction. As a consequence there is no income from milk, but Karuna chooses to feed and take care of the buffaloes for the rest of their lives. Karuna is the first cattle rescue project to have sterilised the female buffaloes.

The existing facilities are not sufficient to shelter all our 280 cows and buffaloes. At present the buffaloes are out in the rain and the cows are under the shelter. In summer when it is very hot, the buffaloes have to be inside the shed and the local cows have to stay outside. Instead of sharing the facilities, the buffaloes need and deserve their own separate shelter. They continue to help our organic production, for instance, their dung is used for biogas and compost.

What are friends for??! Here, two of our happy buffaloes find perfect harmony for a nice, deep rest: a buffalo pillow!



You can see how we have stocked up our grass



New Borewell



At present, it is October and finally there has been sufficient rain ending the hot and dry summer. Most of our cattle are now grazing outside during the day, eating the fresh grass and recovering their strength. We are looking back at the most devastating drought in decades. Had it not been for your love and support it would have made it almost impossible for Karuna to look after all our rescued animals. That is why we want to thank each one of you who helped, Karuna's cows over the last few months

Our many rescued cattle enjoy quenching their thirst at the new water troughs!

Thanks to the generous help of Help Animals India and A Well-Fed World and Mr. Krishnan from Singapore, we were able to buy fodder for our rescued cattle this summer. We are all very grateful!



**Cattle Project cost – 32,38,977/-**

## ***Organic Garden and Produce***

### *The Mango Story*

We have about 250 mango trees in Karuna's Ahmisa Farm. Instead of spraying them with pesticides and picking when unripe for quick cash like other farmers, we pamper them with organic compost and keep them on the vine to ripen. Our crops still produce weeks after other farmers are finished with their harvest. Not only do many birds and small creatures enjoy them in the wild, but some of the ripened, sometimes damaged mangoes are joyfully devoured by our patients and residents such as monkeys, bears, cattle, donkeys, horses, our camel and even our dogs. Not only do we sell the heavenly-tasting, fresh organic mangoes in our shop, but also make them into pickles, jams, juices and dried pieces, which are like candy. Not only do a range of animals enjoy our mangoes, but they also provide income to care for our patients.

### Karuna's Mango Giveaway!

Our organic mango trees are weighed down with delicious, sweet mangoes! Clementien gives away samples to encourage sales. All proceeds go back to helping our rescued animals.



Our organic garden seedlings are thriving, thanks to healthy compost of by-products from our rescued cattle. We will sell them in our local shop, and all profits go towards caring for the animals.



**Organic Garden & Agriculture Exp – 4,36,427/-**  
**Income from Garden & Agriculture – 6,62,993/-**

## *Our Organic Shop*

Our organic garden produce is sold in the local Puttaparthi shop, all profit goes back to rescued animal care. Here is Karuna's Vice-President Romula D'Silva (in blue) and a staff member, Mrs. Muni, looking after the shop.

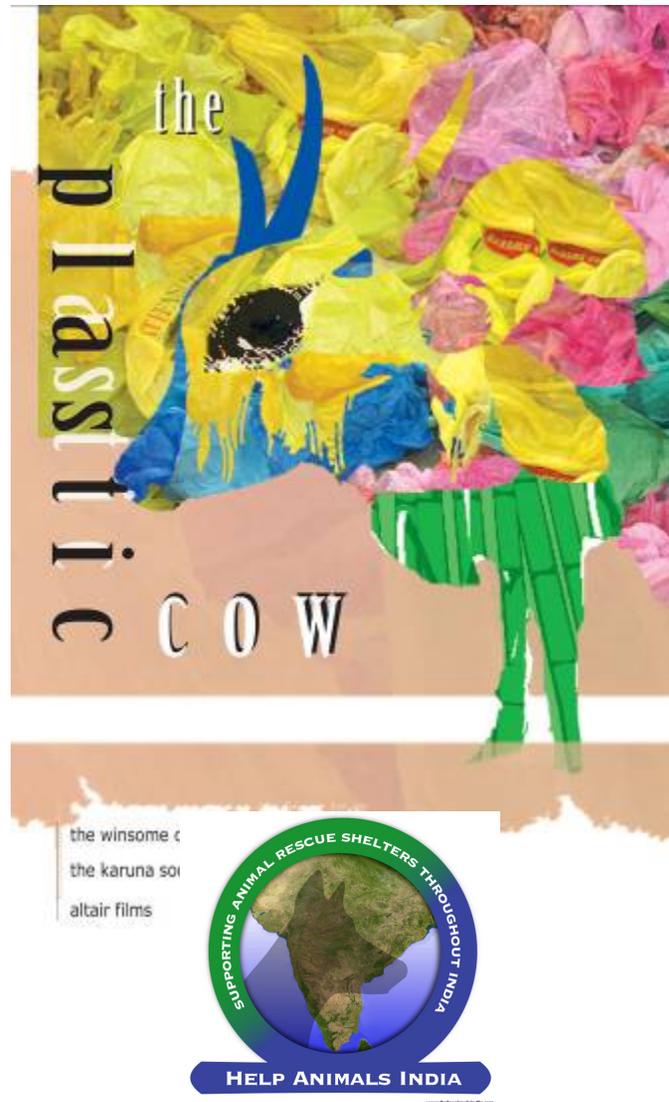
Here, we also receive information about animals in distress and information about the Karuna projects is available



## *The Plastic Cow Project*

In June, thanks to a grant from Help Animals India, USA, the Plastic Cow brochure was printed and together with the DVD was sent out to hundreds of addresses all over the country.

At present we are still waiting for the final ruling of the Supreme Court regarding our PIL.



## ***Awareness Programs***

Due to the anti-Telangana agitations for almost 4 months, the local schools suffered a lot as they were forced to stay closed. When normalcy returned, the schools were extremely busy catching up with the main syllabus. Hence, they were hesitant to dedicate time for humane education sessions.

Nevertheless, with difficulty, I managed to get permission to conduct the sessions at the Varadhi School at Beedupalli.

### **1. Visit of TREP Program School**

On 10th Jan. 2014, some senior students of TREP Bangalore (Total Residential Education Program) visited the Karuna clinic and shelter. It was a great learning experience for them as can be seen by their report (attached).



### **2. Humane Education sessions at Sri Sathya Sai Varadhi International School – Beedupalli**

From January 2014 to March 2014, ten sessions were conducted at the Sri Sathya Sai Varadhi International School, Beedupalli.

A total of 240 students of different age group/grades attended these sessions.

The topics for the sessions were related to the relevance of animals in our life, the importance of caring for animals and the environment as well as our duty towards respecting and protecting them.

An interactive discussion with visual aids was followed by the video, Compassionate Citizen. Older students took part in an animal/environment related quiz session.

## ***Wildlife Rescue Project***

On 26.02.2014, a Panther rescued with the help of forest department official and then he was sent to Tirupathi Zoo for further treatment





Here is an elderly monkey brought in after suffering electrocution on live wires.

This is the same monkey, now recovering and eating his favorite food! As he is old, he will remain with our other rescued monkeys for the remainder of his life.



Our rescued monkey named 'Okati' (because she only has one leg) recently

gave birth to a baby! The baby's father is very protective.



A little monkey patient gets used to his arm all wrapped up, after being electrocuted in the village

A baby deer rescued by Karuna, now safe and sound, with nothing to fear!



Black Buck at our Wildlife Rescue Centre

Release of a spotted deer:

More than one year ago a young spotted deer was brought in by the forest department. Her leg was deeply infected, inflamed and paralyzed. The chances of recovery at this



stage were minimal.

2012 on arrival



After one year, fully recovered, this beautiful spotted deer was released back to its original habitat with the help of the forest department officials. The wildlife doctor from Wildlife Trust of India is still amazed that the deer survived.

Release 2014

## *.Rescue n release of young sloth bear*



In the early hours of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014, Narendra Reddy, the secretary of Karuna Society, received a call from the Forest Department that a young Sloth Bear was trapped in barbed wire on the boundary of the mango garden of a farmer from Gunipalli village, (20 KM away from our shelter) close to the forest

The Karuna Rescue Team immediately set off with our ambulance and all necessary equipment and medicine and joined the Forest Department official and a veterinary officer at the location. The bear was found in a bad condition with blood in his mouth and some wounds on his back. His fur was really tangled in the barbed wire. After observing the condition of the bear, our team and the forest official decided to bring the animal to our shelter for treatment.

The barbed wire was carefully removed from the bear, he was then put in a cage inside the truck and transported to Karuna's Wildlife Rescue Centre.

We provided the bear with water and food and kept him in a dark room under observation where he settled down for the night. Our Veterinary Officer came back one more time to the shelter to examine the bear's condition and everything seemed stable. We discussed the options with the local official and decided to release the bear back into the forest.



Finding the right place for release was confirmed when we heard the call of other bears

The next morning, Narendra Reddy along with the forest department officials went to the Gunipalli village and asked the local people about the movements of the Sloth Bears in that area. Once they identified the appropriate location for releasing the bear they returned to the rescue centre and it was decided to release the animal the next day.

The following evening around 6 PM, the Karuna truck, bear and rescue team arrived at the location where the local Forest Officials and people from surrounding villages joined the operation to release the Sloth Bear.



The bear was very aggressive and very restless. Thinking that the bear may not find food in the night, he was given some fruit to eat to sustain his energy. However, when Narendra Reddy checked the possibilities of the releasing the bear, suddenly he observed some bears moving far away on the hill. They were being called by the cries of the young rescued bear.



So quickly they open the cage and released the bear who ran as fast as he could up the hill to join his family. Once reunited, they disappeared into the forest. Rescuers find safety as bear goes free for all parties, including the bears, this was a very happy ending!!



Snake rescued from a farm, it was dehydrated, can not survive



Rescue and release of another snake near a school in Puttaparthi



Beaten up by the shepherds. Rescued and kept in our shelter till it recovers and released

**No. of Animals Rescued - 37**

**No. of Treatments - 128**

**Wildlife maintenance expenses: Rs. 3,54,515/-**

## ***Publications***

### *Devotees & Dogs*

**Devotees around the Globe,** Over the last few months there has been confusion, pain and sadness about the alleged killing/poisoning of a group of nine dogs inside the Ashram. I am writing to you to inform you about the larger picture of the lives of street dogs in India, the killing of dogs that still continues by municipalities of cities, towns and by individuals and about the solution: the animal laws and their implementation. Please discuss this in your centre, especially "conclusions and how can you help?" at the end of this Newsletter.

### **Background**

India has an open garbage system. In the past in the rural and agricultural society that was not a big problem as all waste was gradually being decomposed and taken back by nature. Here the Indian stray or community dog had its natural function.

Unfortunately, because of the growth of the human population, urbanization and the use of many unnatural materials in the garbage, the picture has changed dramatically. Municipalities are not able to control the garbage and the huge landfills outside towns are choking with garbage that cannot be composted. Garbage is left everywhere on the streets and backyards, and the local residents do not have a solution for their garbage management.

The number of dogs in India is closely connected with the amount of food/garbage available.

Indian dogs are scavengers. They roam around, they know what to eat and how to survive. They live in packs/families and have their own territory which can be quite extensive. Indian dogs love their freedom and are independent free spirits. When they befriend human beings, they are good watchdogs and make wonderful pets.

As the number of dogs is equally growing with the amount of garbage in the cities, the municipalities have always resorted to mass killing of dogs to protect the human population from nuisance, dog bites and rabies. This has never solved the problem, as the dog population grows explosively after the killings, filling up the open space. Millions of dogs have been sacrificed over time without result. In most cities and towns there is still an overpopulation of dogs and a failing garbage management system.

There is only one scientific, internationally accepted way to control the stray dog population and to protect the people from bites and rabies, and that is a systematic sterilization and anti rabies vaccination program – where the sterilized dogs are returned to their own territory to keep other intruders out and thus create “safe” areas.

In 2001, thanks to Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, then minister, the “dog rules 2001” came into force as part of the animal laws and the PCA act (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) (see link [HERE](#)).

<http://www.karunasociety.org/animal-laws-in-india>

### **Implementation of the ABC/AR Program (Animal Birth Control/Anti-Rabies Program)**

Although the solution is there, the implementation is a huge problem. The ABC program requires facilities like operation theatres, shelters, trained veterinary doctors, huge amounts of money and the willingness to do a job good.

In the cities, the ABC program is mostly conducted by the municipality in coordination with the local Animal Welfare Societies (AWO). Mismanagement, unskilled veterinary doctors, lack of funds and infrastructure problems have caused the failure of many efforts and have cost many a dog its life.

Even in cities where the ABC program is successful like Chennai, Vishakapatnam, Mumbai, Bangalore and New Delhi, it seems almost impossible to work up to the large numbers of stray dogs in the expanding cities. In the rest of the country, old practices continue.

In Puttaparthi and surrounding villages Karuna Society has already sterilized almost 9000 dogs. All dogs, mostly females which are sterilized, can be recognized by the clip in the right ear. Almost no new puppies are being born and anti rabies vaccination is being conducted on an annual basis.

The Karuna clinic provides first aid for injured and sick animals and many local farmers and poor people bring their sick or injured dogs for free treatment. Because of our 15 year service to the community, there is a growing awareness among the population about their animals.

It is crystal clear that in Puttaparthi there is no need for anybody to kill a dog. Whenever it happens, it is mostly for the following reasons:

1. Fear of dog bites and a deadly fear of rabies. If people are not informed and they don't know where to turn with their problems, they might resort to killing. This happens mostly by pesticide. The larger municipalities on the other hand have special people who use a human medication to inject the dogs in passing and the dogs are dead within minutes.

2. The other reason is the threat to loss of livelihood. Poor people who own goats kill dogs if a dog kills one of the goats or baby goats. They lace the dead body with pesticide and throw it to any number of dogs that will eat it. These people are uneducated, never heard that killing of dogs is illegal and they only think about their goats without giving them proper protection.

Recently nine dogs were killed like this in Kammavaripalli, a village next to Puttaparthi. Four of the dogs were owners' dogs.

Karuna Society has prepared a police complaint and we will also contact the Animal Husbandry department, as they are in touch with the goat owners.

### Implementation of the Animal Laws

Many awareness programs are being conducted at present about the animal laws by Animal Welfare Organizations, for police personnel, government officials, municipalities and for the general public.

With the growing awareness, people are encouraged to file cases at the police station in case of cruelty, animal sacrifice, cow slaughter and many other offences. Here we run into the same problem of implementation. The judicial system is completely clogged up. Without being able to process the cases, they take years before they are heard, in the meantime requiring many days of attendance, losing working days and incurring many expenses.

On one hand the public is encouraged to take up justice for animals, on the other hand the police have instructions NOT to file cases as they simply cannot be processed. The police are requested by the higher authorities to solve the problems on a local level.

This is not very encouraging if you seek justice for an animal that cannot speak for itself.

One of the volunteers of Karuna Society had given a complaint at the police station about the dead dogs in the Ashram, but the officer refused to take it.

Karuna Society has a lot of experience with police and the judicial system. Rescued cattle cases are still in court. The case for our Camel, rescued from slaughter 8 years ago, is still pending in High Court. Before a Judge is able to rule, the camel might already have a natural death. We have been many times to the police station complaining about animal sacrifice, cutting of the ears of puppies which is a custom here, and other offences. Our latest case is the rescue of the 146 cattle from illegal transport to slaughter. They are with us and adding up our cattle herd to 450!

Within two months our Animal Rights case will be heard for the "Plastic Cow" at the Supreme Court in New Delhi against the Union Government of India for cruelty against animals.

### Conclusions

In the 15 years that Karuna Society is active in Puttaparthi to serve the animals, we have never heard of any killing of an animal in the ashram, although there are regular complaints by overseas devotees and visitors about dog bites and nuisance. In the past, when there were many more dogs and puppies in the ashram, many diseased and sick, the Ashram management resorted to removal of the dogs but this has stopped as it is illegal and not effective. The situation has greatly improved thanks to our ABC program and the First Aid Clinic.

Recently board members of Karuna had two meetings with the Ashram authorities. First three officials visited our clinic and we discussed the problems and possible solutions. The second time the meeting included the Secretary of the SSS Baba Trust, Mr. Prasad Rao, and we met at his office.

We came to the conclusion that the ashram authorities understand the "dog rules" and its importance.

At present there are around 30 resident dogs in the Ashram. It is acknowledged that these dogs have the right to be there and will be fed by ashram residents. Visiting dogs should not be encouraged to hang around by feeding them. Most of them have owners in the village and should return home. Visitors are discouraged to feed any dog.

## How Can You Help?

- Do not feed dogs in the ashram. Feeding them makes them dependent on ashram food and gives rise to packs of dogs that are then considered a nuisance due to their aggressive and noisy behavior. These dogs also provoke fear among ashram residents and visiting devotees.
- Keep an eye out for any dog in distress and inform Karuna Society or bring the animal to the clinic.
- Report any unsterilized female – the ones that do not have a small clip in their right ear.
- If you come to India, make sure you are vaccinated against Rabies.

## ***Planning 2014-15***

The different projects will continue as they are for the next year.

At the cattle rescue project we have to continue to sterilise not only buffaloes but also the cows as we are in great difficulty to feed these animals during the hot summer.

Adoptions of young bulls by local farmers have proved to be complicated and will not always secure their well being.

Our main focus at present is the development of the Ahimsa Farm, providing the electricity and bore wells.

Only after these facilities are in place can we think about the extension of our organic production and the shifting of the Wildlife Rescue Centre to the Ahimsa farm.

We have to focus on finding the funding to realize this project.