

FOR THE KIND ATTENTION

OF

Shri Manohar Parrikar
Chief Minister of Goa

Subject: -

THE URGENT NEED FOR A

WILDLIFE RESCUE AND LIFETIME CARE FACILITY IN GOA

From

John Hicks

Co-opted member of Animal Welfare Board of India

Founder of

International Animal Rescue (Worldwide)

International Animal Rescue Goa

The Primate Trust (UK)

and

The Primate Trust India



Spock a baby Bonnet Macaque

January 2013

Dear Sir

On the 2nd August 2005 Dr. Sharma (who was the Member Secretary of the Central Zoo Authority at this time) sent a letter to the Chief Wildlife Warden of each State requesting them to establish a Wildlife Rescue Centre. I believe I am right in saying that no action has been taken on this issue.

(Appendix 1)

Due to the lack of proper facilities in this State I have taken in, with the written agreement of the State Forestry Department, a number of monkeys that for one reason or another needed urgent and long term care and attention.



Tuffty brought to us with horrendous injuries

Dr. Sharma visited the rescued monkeys at my house in Camurlim and congratulated me on their care saying he had never seen such good care and environmental enrichment anywhere before. I am now holding 39 monkeys that all require lifetime care. I stress these are all being held by agreement with the Goa Forestry Department.

To ensure we continue to provide the best professional care, attention and treatment possible I requested Mr. Jonathan Cracknell BVMS Cert VA Cert Zoo Med MRCVS from London Zoo to visit the facility. He was amazed at the high standards already being provided which he considered some of the best he had seen anywhere in the world. (Appendix 2)



Environmental enrichment is as vital as good food

Dr. R. M. Kharb Maj.Gen.(Retd.),AVSM the Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India, has twice stayed at my house and he now tells everyone of importance in animal welfare to come and learn how to care for monkeys at our facility. Furthermore we are confident that the whole board of the Animal Welfare Board of India all support the work we do and the standards we set.

We can also confidently state that the whole board of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations likewise support the work we do and recommend that all animal welfare organisations dealing with monkeys visit our facilities to learn how to properly look after monkeys.

In addition to this we have had primatologists from many countries visit our monkeys and they have all been truly amazed at the care, enrichment and the way they are professionally handled and treated.



Phooka a highly intelligent and sensitive baby Langur

Mrs. Maneka Gandhi MP is also well acquainted with our work with primates and has asked for our advice on a number of occasions. I have no doubt that she would give her full support to this proposal.

For 15 years my centre, International Animal Rescue Goa in Assagao, where I employ 6 vets, has frequently and routinely treated a wide range of wildlife including snakes, lizards, birds, injured monkeys, turtles and even deer.



International Animal Rescue Goa sets and maintains high standards

However, International Animal Rescue Goa simply does not have the facilities or space to cope with and provide the right environment for wildlife. For this reason all the monkeys that require care are automatically brought to my house in Camurlim and are cared for by my new charity, The Primate Trust India which was started specifically to look after these wonderful creatures.

We are lucky that in Goa we have probably the best Forestry Department in India and in Richard D'souza certainly the best Chief Conservator of Forests in India.

Despite this with all the good will in the world there is no Forestry Department in India that has the staff with the specialised training and the skills to look after injured and orphaned wildlife. This is a skill that needs a particular form of dedication and ability to handle animals without causing undue stress.



Primate babies need 24 hour care

Our facilities, which over the past 7 years have been extensively used, are fast becoming over-crowded and we are at the stage where we cannot handle the increasing range and number of wild animals that need urgent and/or long term care and attention at our facility. We therefore turn to you and the Forestry Department for your kind support and assistance.

We appeal to you to provide sufficient land to build a world class wildlife rescue and lifetime care facility.

My domestic animal rescue centre in Assagao is considered one of the best in India by the Animal Welfare Board of India. If suitable and sufficient land can be provided to the Primate Trust India, which is a registered charity in India, the Primate Trust India will provide the finance to promptly and professionally build and operate the new facility to the highest possible standards.



The Tree House, designed and landscaped by John Hicks

Such is our commitment that my wife and I are prepared to donate our own property, The Tree House, which I designed and landscaped, to the Primate Trust India. This will ensure that not only are there funds to build the new wildlife rescue facility, but also to ensure its long term financial security. We have also set up The Primate Trust in the UK so we can raise funds for the centre in the UK and leave our UK properties to the Charity.

There is also one more urgent need in India and that is somewhere that monkeys which have been used in vivisection can be taken care of for the rest of their lives. It would be our desire to provide these facilities within the lifetime care facility at the new wildlife rescue centre.



Released laboratory monkeys deserve only the best care

Although under existing legislation, rescued wildlife cannot be put on display to the public we have little doubt that we can also make this new wildlife rescue centre into a major first class world tourist attraction. We can do this by the use of video cameras set up in the various enclosures so that the general public (and others) can view the animals in real time.

By using recorded film that can be edited, interesting, and informative and, most essential, educational talks and presentations can be given at the new wildlife rescue centre and elsewhere around India and the world. This coupled with a first class information centre, gift shop and restaurant would ensure the generation of additional funds for use in ongoing and future wildlife projects.

Another important aspect would be as a training and research facility. We would wish to train people to professionally look after and handle animals in the right way. It would also educate people in the design and maintenance of a facility and most vital of all in the environmental enrichment of the pens, in accordance with the requirements of the individual animal.



A simple cardboard box can provide hours of amusement

Research would be carried out as to the viability of rehabilitating animals, including mammals, birds and reptiles, back to the wild and if possible the best way of doing so. We would also be looking at a range of conservation issues and at ways of eliminating man and wildlife conflict, especially regarding monkeys.

Veterinary excellence would be another important role and we would want to train veterinary doctors in the many specialised skills that are lacking in their normal veterinary training. We would build a state of the art veterinary hospital with x-ray and ultra sound equipment and employ top veterinary doctors in the field of wildlife.

Another important consideration is the opportunity for employment within the State. My centre in Assagao employs over 30 full time staff but we would expect the Wildlife Rescue Centre we propose to employ in the region of 100 staff by the time all the facilities are open.



Just some of IAR's staff and helpers.

Because we envisage that we will need space to expand as the centre grows and because we believe the animals should be in large enclosures we are looking for between 30 to 50 acres of land with some tree cover, good road access and a good water supply. Ideally we would need mains electric supply, but if this is not within reach we could use generators.

If there is interest in this exciting ground breaking proposal and you want additional information we would be delighted to provide it.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this proposal.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully

John Hicks
Founder and Hon.CEO
Primate Trust India

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केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण
Central Zoo Authority

(STATUTORY BODY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, GOVT. OF INDIA)

Dr. B.R. SHARMA
MEMBER SECRETARY

Bikaner House, Annexe VI,
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website : <http://envfor.nic.in/cza>

F.No. 26-1/2005-CZA(N)

Date : 2.8.2005.

To
The Chief Wild Life Wardens
of All States & UTs.

Sub:- Creation of Rescue Centres for wild animals.

Sir,

As you are aware that with the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002 (16 of 2003), the Rescue Centres have been brought under the definition of Zoos. Rescue Centre is an establishment for the care of (rescued) animals specified in the schedules of the Act and not open for exhibition to the public.

The Technical Committee of the Central Zoo Authority, in its 41st meeting held on 19th July, 2005, decided to ask the State Governments not to create Rescue Centres near National Parks & Sanctuaries out of the grants made available by the Government of India for development of National Parks & Sanctuaries.

Now the Rescue Centres dealing with wild animals are to get recognition from the Central Zoo Authority for operation. Accordingly, 53 such Centres have applied for recognition to the Central Zoo Authority.

It was also decided to ask the State Governments to close down all non-viable Rescue Centres which do not meet the minimum standards and norms prescribed under the Recognition of Zoo Rules.

It was also decided to develop a strategy for upgrading the Rescue Centres which can be made viable without incurring large amount of financial resources. In the circumstances, it will be worthwhile to create properly planned Rescue Centres for rehabilitation of wild animals rescued because of man-animal conflicts/ straying in human habitations/ orphaned wild animals (young ones)/ captured injured wild animals and wild animals from derecognized Zoos in the off display areas of the Zoos having sufficient land for the purpose (wherever

Contd.2/-

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possible) so that such Centre can utilize the veterinary care facilities and other infrastructure and services of supervisory staff of the existing Zoos. This is added that this has to be done State-wise as no State will be agreeable to accommodate rescued animals from other State.

The Central Zoo Authority may consider providing financial assistance for creation of such viable Rescue Centres in phased manner. Later maintenance including food and health care will be the sole responsibility of the State Governments.

Therefore, you are requested to send a proposal stating the extent of the problem, name of the species for which there is immediate need to have Rescue Centres and suggesting the name of the Zoos/ Rescue Centres in your State which can be developed as properly planned Rescue Centre for accommodating such animals.

Yours faithfully,

B.R.

(B.R. Sharma)
Member Secretary

c/c
Immed/3/8/05



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20th February, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Macaque facilities at The Tree House, H.No 599, Justa Vaddo, Camurlim, Bardez, Goa, 406 5017, India

I visited the International Animal Rescue Monkey Rescue Centre macaque facilities at The Tree House, H.No 599, Justa Vaddo, Camurlim, Bardez, Goa, 406 5017, India on the 7th and 8th February, 2008, as part of a visit to see various rehabilitation centres in India and to aid in the introduction of inhalation anaesthesia techniques at the International Animal Rescue (IAR)/ Wildlife S.O.S. facilities in Agra, Bannerghatta and Goa.

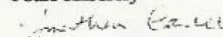
On my arrival at "The Tree House" I was pleasantly surprised by the high standard of the husbandry and care provided for the eleven Bonnet Macaques (*Macaca radiata*) and the single Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) in the IAR Monkey Rescue Facility. Having spent two days reviewing the maintenance systems, the diets, management, and the superb enrichment programme provided for these animals I must say that I have not seen a better facility maintained by a rehabilitator in all of my travels in India or internationally. My experiences have included consultation work for many organisations and veterinary care for zoological collections. Having seen the set up by Mr Hicks and his staff I found that there was little that I could contribute to improving this superb facility.

In addition to the superb IAR Monkey Rescue facility I was suitably impressed by the level of expertise that was exhibited by his team of veterinarians and animal workers. The facilities and knowledge were second to none. IAR consults international veterinarians to get the best possible treatment for the animals in their care and this was clearly visible at all of the centres that I visited during my stay in India. IAR funded my travel to the centre to update their anaesthetic equipment and train the veterinary surgeons on the use of the gaseous anaesthetic isoflurane. In addition I was glad to provide support and advice on the husbandry of the primates and wildlife that the centre also sees in addition to the domestic species admitted by the centre.

I have found International Animal Rescue to be a highly professional organisation that exhibits a commitment to supporting the animals in their care. I would fully support any application for sanctuary status that is required for the Monkey Rescue facility.

If you require any further information, or wish me to clarify any points, then do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely


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Veterinary Department, Zoological Society of London

INSTITUTE OF ZOOLOGY
LONDON ZOO WHIPSNADE WILD ANIMAL PARK
The Zoological Society of London is a registered charity. No: 206728