



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2023 – March 2024



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
INDIA

About us



Humane Society International: India is proud to be part of the world's largest and most effective family of animal protection organizations.

HSI: India is a not-for-profit Section 8 company registered under the Companies Act 2013 (formerly Section 25 under Companies Act, 1956). We work to protect all animals through fieldwork, policy changes, direct care and services, awareness and education.

Our mission is to protect ALL animals: farmed animals, animals in laboratories, companion animals, wildlife and those found in disaster or cruelty situations.

From our managing director



I am delighted to present Humane Society International: India's annual report, covering the period from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. For years, my colleagues and I have believed in the power of our work. We know that the work we do does not limit itself to animals only; it has a wider, unseen impact. The world we are living in proves our theory. This year, the ripple effects of our work are profound, and this annual report offers a glimpse into the lives transformed by our collective efforts on behalf of both animals and humans.

As part of a restructure that was done to further strengthen our organization, this past year we welcomed new staff and partnerships from across different sectors. Our journey this year has been marked by both challenges and triumphs, but through it all, our commitment to making the largest possible impact for animals has remained steadfast. The easy and quick wins are long gone. We are now in the long and difficult game to ensure that animal welfare becomes part of our system and our being.

Whether we are working with government officials, large corporate houses, scientists or the community, we have made significant strides to ensure our work is intersectional and sustainable and promotes the greater good of mankind. We are fighting for justice for animals, but this will not come at the cost of justice for human beings or by pitting one against the other. Animal welfare is the foundation for human welfare, and I know that we have the privilege to see it this way, even though many don't. The work my colleagues do (and have been doing for decades) shows the sheer fire they have in their bellies for making this a better world! I am immensely proud of our team's dedication and resilience. Their passion for our cause is the driving force behind our success.

As we look ahead, we are committed to expanding our reach and deepening our impact. I am sure that our work in India and globally is only going to create a brighter future for generations to come.

I invite you to explore this report to discover the remarkable stories of change and to learn more about our plans for the future.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Alokparna Sengupta, Managing Director
Humane Society International: India



OUR TOP ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR



WE WORKED WITH food service providers and the government to transition **OVER 405,000 ANIMAL-BASED MEALS** to plant-based dishes.



WE TRAINED OVER 5,500 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS across three states in Karnataka, West Bengal and Telangana.



WE HOSTED INDIA'S FIRST WORKSHOP with government and industry participants to develop a road map for replacing animals in vaccine safety testing.



WE SUCCESSFULLY STERILIZED AND VACCINATED 93% of dogs in Nainital, 78% in Dehradun and 71.9% in Lucknow. Despite our handing over the Vadodara Animal Birth Control program to the local government in 2022, Vadodara continues to maintain an 86% sterilization rate.



WE DEVELOPED INDIA'S FIRST PLANT-BASED culinary training curriculum and implemented it in two universities.



THE GREAT PLACE TO WORK INSTITUTE CERTIFIED HSI: India as a "Great Place to Work"!



HSI: INDIA WAS NAMED A "SHAKER OF THE STATE" by the nonprofit DOI Foundation in Karnataka for our mobile animal clinic work.



WE PROVIDED RELIEF to over **1,000 CATTLE** and **700 DOGS** in the Delhi floods of 2023.



WE HELPED OVER 630,000 PEOPLE IN KERALA prepare for disasters by providing information, education and communication materials, training and more.



SNAKEBITES WERE DECLARED A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN KARNATAKA, making it mandatory for government agencies to report snakebites across the state. Karnataka is the first state to make such a declaration. This move will increase the surveillance of snakebites significantly, paving the path for specific interventions to prevent them.

Farm animal protection

OUR FARM ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAM works to end the suffering of farmed animals. We do this through a two-pronged approach, first by replacing animal-based meals with plant-based meals, and second by improving the welfare of animals by moving them out of intensive confinement. We work with both the state and central governments as well as the hospitality industry, food service providers, educational institutions and communities. This year we were able to transition over 405,000 meals, making them plant-based. We trained 177 chefs on plant-based cooking and trained over 50 chef trainers in a “train the trainers” program. Through our work, a hospital made a commitment to reduce its animal product procurement by 40%. We presented the first Swarnali Roy Vegan Advocacy Award, which honours our late colleague, Swarnali Roy. We received 75 nominations, and three fabulous vegan activists together won prizes amounting to 1,00,000 Indian rupees.

405,000 animal-based meals were replaced.

The Swarnali Roy Vegan Advocacy Award saw three vegan advocates win a total prize of 1,00,000 INR.

Over 200 chefs received training on plant-based cooking.







Ending animal testing

OUR RESEARCH AND TOXICOLOGY PROGRAM aims to replace obsolete animal tests with modern, cutting-edge, non-animal technologies in the sectors of biomedical research, vaccine testing and chemical testing. Last year, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released an Amendment to the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules (2019), allowing the use of non-animal methods for testing the safety and efficacy of new drugs. Despite these legislative advances, the adoption of the new, emerging non-animal technologies has been slow, due to a lack of standard operating procedures and policies to increase confidence in these methods.

To address this, we initiated a global collaboration with regulators, industry leaders and academic participants on the urgent need to globally harmonize the guidelines toward the standardization of non-animal methods. This collaboration resulted in a peer-reviewed publication proposing a framework for establishing scientific confidence and regulatory approval of these methods. We also organized a well-received global webinar on this topic, featuring interested parties from academia, industry, regulatory bodies and public/private funders.

Our partners at the Centre for Predictive Human Model Systems, which was co-established by HSI: India and the Atal Incubation Centre–Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, conducted intensive non-animal methods training bootcamps for researchers and regulators. These bootcamps have increased the capacity of these participants to assess and increase the use of non-animal methods in biomedical research.

In the area of biologicals, HSI: India organized a workshop attended by multiple major vaccine manufacturing companies and regulators, focusing on the replacement of animal tests in the batch safety testing of vaccines. These tests are performed to assess the safety of every batch of vaccine. We are currently working with vaccine manufacturers in the country to develop a road map for replacing animal tests in this sector.

India's first workshop on a road map for **replacing animals in vaccine testing** was held.

HSI: India's Surat Parvatam released a **global paper** on the need to **harmonize and standardize non-animal methods** such as microphysiological systems (MPS).

HSI: India partner Centre for Predictive Human Model Systems held the **country's first two training bootcamps on MPS**.



Wildlife protection

THE WORK IN OUR PROTECTING WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT continued to focus on mitigating human-wildlife conflicts and promoting coexistence.

As part of our human-snake conflict mitigation work, we conducted a pioneering study on the psychological impact of snakebites on survivors. This often-overlooked aspect of snakebites will have long-standing ramifications, primarily in policy reform, by mandating mental health counseling for every snakebite victim and enabling the creation of a regional snakebite survivors network, which can be a support system for those affected.

Additionally, snakebites were declared a “notifiable disease” in Karnataka, which became the first state to do so. This move has ramped up surveillance of snakebites significantly in the state. In 2023, the Karnataka government recorded 6,596 bites. In the first six months of 2024 alone, 5,418 bites with 36 deaths have been recorded. Going by the average, this is a 160% increase in reporting, which leads to invaluable location-specific data, allowing agencies to develop region-specific, seasonal interventions to prevent bites. We also contributed to several chapters to the National Centre for Disease Control’s *National Action Plan for Snakebite Envenoming*. This is the first time the Government of India has developed and launched a strategy document to guide states and other agencies on an integrated approach to solve the snakebite crisis in India.

Following last year’s manual of snake handling and management, we conducted Karnataka’s first training and certification program under the umbrella of the operation manual on human-snake conflict; the manual was launched by the Karnataka Forest Department and co-authored by HSI: India. A total of 35 forest officers were trained in several aspects of snake handling, conflict management, personnel safety, crowd management and more. We also completed an analysis of India’s first radio telemetry program on Russell’s vipers, which revealed hitherto unknown aspects of the snakes’ lives. This crucial information will aid in the development of better-designed prevention interventions and allow for further studies on other ecological and behavioral aspects of the species.

Karnataka became the **first state in India** to declare **snakebites a notifiable disease**.

HSI: India conducted Karnataka’s **first snake handling and management training and certification** program.

The Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation Program, a joint **initiative with APOWA**, our partner organization, will be winding down after **12 years of work and over 3 million turtles saved**.





In our work to mitigate human-elephant conflicts in Kodagu, Karnataka (Coorg), we secured a collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department to initiate long-standing elephant monitoring, population assessment, conflict mitigation and coexistence in Kodagu. This led to collaboration with various other interested parties to address the issue of human-elephant conflict cohesively, with a focus on prevention. We are also collaborating with Columbia University to research the driving forces behind human-elephant conflicts in Kodagu.

After more than a decade, HSI's India's program on olive ridley turtles is a conservation success and will hence be scaled down to focus on other vital areas that need attention. In this time, a total of over 3 million hatchlings have been protected and released back into the ocean, while more than 3 million turtles have been protected in-situ, all while we reached out to hundreds of community members and forest officers on the importance of conserving this species.





Companion animals and engagement

OUR COMPANION ANIMAL AND ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT FOCUSES ON STREET DOG ISSUES including population and conflict. In 2023-2024, the department implemented integrated dog management and community engagement programs across eight locations in Uttarakhand-Dehradun, Mussoorie, Nainital, Rishikesh, Vikasnagar, Doiwala, Herbetpur, Selaqui and in Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow. Our mobile animal clinic in Hubli-Dharwad provided much-needed veterinary treatment and care to street animals and built local capacity.

Our community engagement work is growing and evolving. In Vadodara, community engagement work focused on local capacity building through an animal welfare directory and intense capacity-building workshops for local community volunteers to ensure that over time, local communities manage the issue of humans and street dogs.

Uttarakhand and Lucknow celebrated five and four years, respectively, of community-led street dog management. We held events to honour community members and government officials in Dehradun and Lucknow, and over 200 people participated in each event.

This year, we sterilized and vaccinated 27,729 dogs and 51 cats, with 32% of the animals brought in from the community. We achieved a 93% sterilization rate in Nainital, 78% in Dehradun and 71.9% in Lucknow. We met with over 5,200 community members across 777 meetings and addressed over 9,100 complaints related to street dogs.

Apart from our street dog programs, in our end dog meat trade campaign, we completed the first survey and developed a report related to the dog meat trade in India in Nagaland and Mizoram. On our campaign to end illegal dog breeding and pet shops, we completed a first of its kind report on pet abandonment in Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

Achieved **93% sterilization rate** in Nainital

Sterilized over 27,729 dogs and 51 cats across **three locations** in India

Uttarakhand completed **5 years** of a community-led **dog management** program



Model District Program

OVER THE PAST YEAR, OUR INITIATIVES IN KARNATAKA have significantly advanced animal welfare through comprehensive training programs, citizen engagement and robust collaborations. We trained 4,284 officers in animal laws, protection and welfare; this group included 781 forest officers, 310 police officers, 3,076 panchayat officers and 117 judiciary Uttarakhand officers, resulting in increased enforcement of animal protection laws. Our efforts also extended to citizen engagement, where we conducted “First-Aid for Animals” training sessions, workshops on human-animal conflict mitigation, and vaccination camps in remote villages, leading to improved community involvement in animal welfare. Additionally, we strengthened our partnerships with key institutions such as the Karnataka Judicial Academy. We received commendations from various departments for our impactful work, further solidifying our commitment to animal welfare in the region and enhancing our influence on policy and practice.

In West Bengal and Assam, through legislative advocacy, capacity building and participant engagement, we successfully sensitized 475 veterinary doctors, 275 police officials and 25 judicial officers, enhancing their ability to enforce animal protection laws. Additionally, we initiated zonal training for Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals members and promoted animal birth control programs. By conducting workshops for 18 nongovernmental organizations and training 125 animal caregivers, we bolstered local capacity to address cruelty cases. Our collaborations with local interested parties, including municipal corporations and animal activists, have strengthened community involvement and support for animal welfare initiatives, leading to tangible improvements in policy enforcement and animal care across the region.

In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, we successfully collaborated with the Telangana State Police Academy and the Andhra Pradesh State Animal Welfare Board. Our notable achievements include the integration of animal protection laws into the curriculum for judicial officers through the Telangana State Judicial Academy. In Telangana, we facilitated two workshops for 46 judicial officers, including 34 judicial first-class magistrates and 12 district judges on animal protection laws at the Telangana Judicial Academy. In collaboration with the RBVRR Telangana State Police Academy, we trained over 300 under-trainee sub-inspectors on animal protection and associated laws. We conducted workshops for nodal police and animal husbandry officers across all 26 districts in Andhra Pradesh, and we trained 26 police officers and 35 veterinarians.

Trained over 4,200 law enforcement officers in Karnataka.

Collaborated with **the West Bengal government** as knowledge partners during **Animal Welfare Fortnight**.

Launched **capacity building work** in **Telangana** and **Andhra Pradesh**





Disaster response and relief

IN RECENT YEARS, THE INSTANCES OF DISASTERS HAVE INCREASED MULTIFOLD, and there is a desperate need for professional and trained response to animals in need. This year, we reached nearly 630,000 people in Wayanad, Kerala, through community radio, raising awareness about heat waves and flood preparedness for animals. Our monsoon preparedness programs, now in their third successful year, have supported 500 families and over 35,000 animals against floods, landslides and cyclones. We developed educational materials on six different hazards in six languages, making vital information accessible to diverse communities. The District Disaster Management Authority of Wayanad has engaged us to prepare panchayat and district-level disaster management plans for animals. Additionally, we initiated a study to understand the mental health impact of losing animals during disasters in Kerala. We also responded to the Delhi floods, helping over 1,000 cattle and 700 dogs by providing them feed and medicine.

We responded to **Delhi floods** in 2023, **providing relief to over 1,000 cattle and 700 dogs.**

We reached out to over 6,30,000 people on monsoon preparedness in **Wayanad, Kerala.**

We provided support to partner organizations through grants for responses to **the Odisha cyclone and the Joshimath land subsidence.**







Financial brief

For financial year ending March 31, 2024

SUMMARY OF INCOME

Income from grants and voluntary contributions 20,92,05,280₹

Other income 16,51,810₹

Total income 21,08,57,090₹

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

Employee benefit expenses 11,06,01,080₹

Expenditure towards programs 6,15,48,980₹

Depreciation and amortization expense 41,16,350₹

Other expenses 96,48,090₹

Total expenses 18,59,14,500₹

Surplus for the year 2,49,42,590₹

Our mission

HSI: India is part of Humane Society International. Advancing the welfare of animals in more than 50 countries, HSI works globally, and HSI: India nationally, to promote the human-animal bond, rescue and protect dogs and cats, improve farm animal welfare, protect wildlife, promote animal-free testing and research, respond to disasters and confront cruelty to animals in all its forms.



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
INDIA

Registered office: Shop No: 39, Shreeji Shopping Arcade, Sheth Gopalji, Hemraj High School Compound,
M.G. Road, Borivali (E) Mumbai - 400066 | CIN No: U93030MH2012NPL237151 | hsi.org



©2024 HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

PHOTO CREDITS: COVER: KARMA SONAM BHUTIA/AP IMAGES FOR HSI; PAGE 3: HSI: INDIA; PAGE 4: SHRUTI SINGH/HSI;
PAGE 6 (CLOCKWISE): KHAICHUIN SIM/GETTY IMAGES; VARUN SHARMA/FOR HSI; COLIN HATHERILL/CHAT PHOTOGRAPHY; FRANK LOFTUS/THE HSUS;
PAGE 7: ERIN VAN VOORHIES/N/A; PAGE 8: ADAM GAULT/GETTY IMAGES; PAGE 9: THOM LEACH/GETTY IMAGES; PAGE 10: CAPT SURESH SHARMA/GETTY IMAGES;
PAGE 11 (TOP TO BOTTOM): NOMADNES/GETTY IMAGES; ADRIAN HEPWORTH/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; PAGE 12: SUSHMITA/HSI; PAGE 13 (ALL SHOTS): HSI;
PAGE 14 (ALL SHOTS): HSI; PAGE 15: HSI; PAGE 16 (TOP TO BOTTOM): DRR DEPT./HSI; INDIA; HSI; PAGE 17: HSI; PAGE 18: SHRUTI SINGH/HSI.