



**2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

Wildlife SOS USA

## ELEPHANT MEDICAL OUTREACH

**What is the program?** Teams of skilled veterinarians and caregivers going out into communities to help elephants in need. It requires coordination with the Forest Department, well-equipped teams of experts in the field for extended periods, and direct interaction with elephant owners.

### Why is it significant?

2023 began with a begging elephant named Moti collapsing and tragically dying on the side of the road. To everybody who followed his story, the most demoralising part was how preventable it was, if we only would have known about his situation sooner. We made a pledge to help elephants in need wherever they are. The program requires uneasy relationships with elephant owners to provide critical care to elephants, and at the same time use the Forest Department to enforce anti-poaching and abuse laws whenever possible. The program has proven to be extremely successful in relieving suffering of elephants, and, demand continues to grow.

## ELEPHANT RESCUE

**What happened?** In 2023, we rescued three elephants - Rama, Taj and Tara. Rama is a rambunctious young bull who suffered significant leg and spine injuries due to abuse. Taj is a young bull closely bonded to female friend Tara, and the pair were severely traumatised and suffered from a variety of ailments. All three elephants came to the Elephant Hospital Campus with little fanfare and public notice.

**Why was it significant?** These three elephant rescues were all a direct result of our new Elephant Medical Outreach programs. We learned about them when our expert caregivers were in remote locations offering treatment to captive elephants. While rendering care, investigators researched the legitimacy of owner-

ship, paperwork, and pursued evidence of abuse and neglect. The Forest Department remanded the three elephants to the care of Wildlife SOS. As we promised Moti, our new programs helped these elephants before they became critical.



## KASHMIR BROWN BEAR RADIO COLLARING

**What's happening?** Brown bears in the Kashmir Valley are a highly threatened population that has been feeding in garbage dumps. The dumps are a result of a huge influx of tourism, and infrastructure that can't adapt to the added pressures. The human-bear conflict arises from close encounters with people, putting the bear population at risk.

**Why is it significant?** Our goal is to help protect these bears. One of the first steps was understanding the movements and behaviours of the bears. Six of the animals received radio collars and their movements have been monitored since early 2023.

## HOSPITAL 5TH ANNIVERSARY

**What happened?** Wildlife SOS celebrated the 5th anniversary of India's first dedicated elephant hospital.

**Why was it significant?** The facility is a model for other elephant hospitals, and has proven to be a beacon of knowledge for the sharpest minds in elephant care. Not only are vets and caregivers learning new care techniques, but also sharing their knowledge with "traditional" elephant caregivers in India.

# WORKING THROUGHOUT INDIA



**3x** ELEPHANT RESCUE CENTRES



**2x** BIG CAT RESCUE CENTRES



**5x** BEAR RESCUE CENTRES



**6x** URBAN RESCUE CENTRES AND 24/7 HOTLINES



**1x** PRIMATE RESCUE CENTRE



**2x** FIELD STATIONS



**9x** AMBULANCES AND MEDICAL CLINICS



**4x** RESEARCH AREAS

Conserving a vast ecosystem like the Indian subcontinent requires a huge coordinated effort. But in saving a species, we can't ignore individual animals in need. That's why our research and protection efforts are complemented by extensive programs for rescue, treatment and release of wildlife.

For animals too injured or debilitated to be returned to the wild, we have thirteen rescue centres fully equipped to provide the physical and emotional care they require.



Blind and elderly, Ginger loves her dust baths at the Wildlife SOS Elephant Hospital Campus.



**Kartick Satyanarayan**  
is the Co-Founder and CEO  
of Wildlife SOS.

*“We just have to sit and watch an elephant play in the river or receive treatment at the Elephant Hospital, a leopard peek out of his den, or a bear climbing a tree at the rescue centre, and we are at peace knowing we have brought these animals dignity and freedom.”*

**Geeta Seshamani** is the acting Senior Wildlife Conservationist, Co-Founding Director and Secretary of Wildlife SOS.

*“I feel incredibly fortunate to have experienced so much, connected with so many lives and been able to make a difference to help India’s wildlife, no matter how small it may seem”*



# MAKING AN IMPACT IN 2023

Wildlife SOS continues to work tirelessly to rescue and release thousands of animals that are injured or displaced due to human activity every year. Along with our ability to help countless species in emergency situations, we are developing solutions for long term wildlife protection and conservation. Protecting a species without forsaking individual animals in distress is a hallmark of our approach to saving India's wildlife. In 2023, Wildlife SOS was able to build these programs in important ways.



An eagle owl that was rescued and released

## JUDICIAL WORKSHOPS

**What were they?** Two legal workshops were organised, hosted and conducted by Wildlife SOS. We brought the Indian judiciary and law enforcement together to discuss and better understand the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

**Why were they significant?** The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 (WPA) is a visionary piece of legislation that has broad-reaching impacts intended to help wildlife, yet the enforcement of the laws continues to be a challenge. The workshops were training opportunities for judges, police and Forest Department officials to learn more about the WPA, discuss enforcement codes and penalties, and learn how to better recognize infractions of the law to help wildlife.

## VETERINARY TRAINING WORKSHOPS

**What were they?** Three workshops were held at the Elephant Hospital Campus to provide both classroom and field training in diagnosis and caring for captive elephants. These workshops had international experts participating as well as opportunities for licensed veterinarians to get hands-on training with elephants.

**Why were they significant?** Many who provide care to elephants have not had specific coursework in caring for these unique animals; therefore, the care they get is often substandard. One of our goals is to train more veterinarians and caregivers to have the skill set to treat elephants to improve the welfare of these animals throughout India.

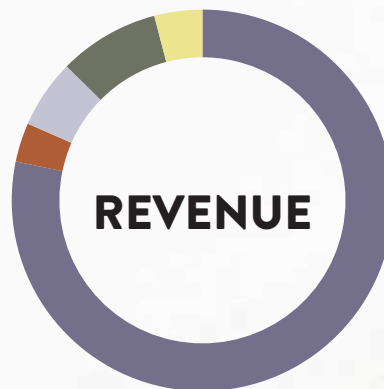
*“The lifesaving work of Wildlife SOS is supported by individual donors from around the world, and by like-minded organisations who recognise the importance of protecting India’s rich and unique biodiversity.”*

**Nikki Sharp** is the Executive Director of Wildlife SOS USA

# 2023 FINANCIALS

	REVENUE (IN 000'S)	PERCENTAGE
Individual Contributions	\$2,477	79%
Foundations and Grants	63	2%
Program Revenue	123	4%
Events and Other	245	8%
Donated Goods and Services	209	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,117</b>	<b>100%</b>

	EXPENSES (IN 000'S)	PERCENTAGE
Animal Rescue, Care and Conservation Programs	\$2,544	85%
General and Admin	350	12%
Fundraising	101	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>	<b>100%</b>



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- Foundations and Grants
- Program Revenue
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- Animal Rescue, Care and Conservation Programs
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