

ARUNACHALA ANIMAL SANCTUARY & RESCUE SHELTER

ABC STERILIZATION & ANTI-RABIES PROGRAM
CLINIC & SHELTER FOR SICK & WOUNDED ANIMALS

IN COOPERATION WITH THE TIRUVANNAMALAI MUNICIPALITY

WWW.ARUNACHALASHELTER.COM



"THE GREATNESS OF A NATION AND ITS MORAL PROGRESS
CAN BE JUDGED BY THE WAY ITS ANIMALS
ARE TREATED" MAHATMA GANDHI

--- PROFILE OF THE SHELTER ---

Our web address is www.arunachalasansctuary.com (in order to see the unabridged site it must be viewed on computer or laptop)...Another informative site is <http://www.anafloa.com/articles/fe-ther-ani/india-shelter.html> . (It has two short videos. One taken inside the Shelter. The other, excerpts from an interview of Leslie).

Bio on Leslie: He's a US citizen. Has spent 22 years in India and considers it his home. He had undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Michigan in business and actuarial mathematics, finishing in 1959. Spent several years on one of the country's finest actuarial staffs. Then a couple of years as the Chief Actuary of the State of Michigan. And then several years in his own consulting firm. He met his guru in 1975, moved into his ashrams, and has been on the spiritual path ever since. He spent ten years in the ashrams of his guru, managing one of them for a year. Spent four years in the mountain gonpa of one of the elder Tibetan masters, fourteen months of those in solitary silence in a remote retreat on three hundred acres of sacred land.

How the Shelter started: In 2006 Leslie came to Tiruvannamalai for the first time intending to stay for two weeks. Several days before he was to leave, word came out that the Municipality was going to start killing dogs street by street to cull the population. He had heard awful stories of past killings. It was late Friday. The killing was to begin on Monday. He must have made 100 phone calls. And was able to stop it. But with the caveat that a population control program be put in place. There was no one else to do it. It was clear to him that if he left it was only a matter of time before the killing would start again....He felt he couldn't not do it. And so he has said that his life as he had known it ended...We managed to open January, 2007.

Staff size: We have a devoted staff of eighteen, including two full-time veterinary doctors. The number of animals in house varies from 125 to 175. Approximately 60 of those are permanent sanctuary creatures, too weak to survive outside on their own.

Core of our work: Our mission is to lift suffering from the Animal Realm. The core of our work is demonstrative love. Stroking, hugging, kissing, reassuring. Our belief is that deep healing will only take place if an animal feels secure, cared for, and loved. We will treat any animal in need. Large. Small. Wild. Domestic. (including birds and reptiles).

When we opened:

- There were 4,000 to 5,000 homeless dogs.
- The population was out of control.
- There was no small animal veterinary doctor within seventy miles.
- No facility for treatment.
- Well over 250 suffering and dying animals on the streets. Mostly homeless dogs and puppies, but monkeys, cows, and others, too.
- Rabies.
- A terrible relationship between animals and people. Widespread abuse. Thus, many aggressive dogs and dog bites.
- Unbounded suffering.

We have now been open 8 1/2 years:

- The homeless dog population is decreasing for the first time in forty years---AND it is rabies-free.
- There are no more suffering and dying animals on the streets.
- There are 7,000 fewer puppies born each year, almost all of whom would have suffered and died.
- There is no more widespread abuse, and thus very few aggressive dogs, and only a small fraction of dog bites.
- The most important thing that has happened is that the relationship between the animals and the people amongst whom they live has been totally transformed.
- In the poignant words of a longtime Tiru resident, Dev Gogoi, made at the fourth anniversary puja.....*"Public memory is short. Few can recall the rampant stray dogs everywhere, young and aged, starving and diseased, scavenging in the garbage heaps, fighting amongst themselves, ignored and abused by the human population, while remaining a menace to all including themselves. In four short years, the roads are more peaceful, with few strays to be seen, and the naturally loving relationship between humans and animals restored to its true state."*
- "Tiruvannamalai is possibly the only municipality of size in the Nation that has no animal problem.

We have seven main programs:

- An ABC Sterilization/anti-rabies program.
- A busy clinic.
- Hospital facilities.
- Sanctuary. If an animal can't make it on it's own, it spends the rest of its life in the Shelter, runs free, and is happy.
- An effective adoption program.
- 24/7 emergency rescue. If an animal is injured during the night, we'll be there in 20 to 30 minutes. Our vets are on 24 hour call.
- Hospice. We are a no-kill shelter. We do not euthanize, but offer hospice support to allow for a good death masked from pain, and surrounded by caring and love. Animals that die are put on a prayer list for forty-nine days. The pujas are done by an advanced group of Tibetan Buddhist yogis each morning before sunrise for forty-nine day.

Monthly:

- We are doing 50 to 120 Sterilizations.
- Giving 70 to 125 anti-rabies injections.
- Going out on 30 to 100 emergency rescues.
- The clinic is busy. We are getting 400 to 600 out-patient visits, most of whom are "owner dogs."
- Giving 1000 to 1200 treatments to in-patients.
- Placing 8 to 15 puppies in good homes.
- Treating 30 to 65 animals other than dogs.

Since opening (thru Sept. 2015):

- We have performed 5,953 Sterilizations.
- Given 10,577 anti-rabies injections.
- Gone out on 2,879 emergency rescues.
- Had 30,778 out-patient visits for treatment in our clinic. (We have seen over 4,500 "owner dogs").
- Given 91,482 in-patient treatments.
- Found good homes for 735 puppies/dogs, and 27 cats/kittens.
- Treated 2,759 animals other than dogs: 432 cats, 572 birds, 726 cows & calves, 595 goats, lambs & sheep, 142 monkeys, 111 rabbits, 18 squirrels, 30 donkeys, 14 pigs, 24 peacocks, 26 parrots, 3 eagles, 36 horses, 6 bullocks, 6 deer, 5 snakes, 6 turkeys, 1 owl, 6 ducks.

If the Shelter closed because of lack of funds

If the Sterilization/Anti-rabies program continued to keep the population down, but all other Shelter activities stopped...It would still be a disaster.

- The unbounded suffering of the Animal Kingdom has been lifted. It took 8 ½ years of devoted effort to get here and close to \$900,000. (I took nothing. And spent my entire savings). Each year it steadily got better and better. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, the condition is not static.
- If the Shelter's activities stopped, those awful, awful days would not return steadily and gradually, but come back like a floodtide. In the first month alone there would be 40 to 100 suffering and dying creatures on the streets. Within four months the whole situation would collapse and that horrible scene from the past would be back...Over 300 suffering and dying puppies and dogs on the streets... Widespread abuse...The compassionate relationship between dogs and the people amongst whom they lived would be over.
- No more emergency rescues.
- No place to bring suffering animals for care.
- No more adoptions
- Puppies who have lost their mother, or who are sick or injured would just suffer and die.
- No care for "owner dogs". We presently care for most of the owner dogs thru the clinic. (At this point we have treated over 4,500.) We're the only ones experienced in small animal care.
- Rabies would return.

If the Sterilization/Anti-rabies program were also stopped, within three years the homeless dog population would once more be out of control with thousands of puppies being born almost all of whom would just suffer and dies.

Our monthly operating expenses are 6 1/4 lakh.

I'm including several documents that support the worthiness of the Shelter.

- A public letter of endorsement from a former Secretary of the Animal Welfare Board of India saying, **"In the short span of time that they have been in existence, they have established themselves as one of the very best animal sanctuaries, veterinary clinics, rescue shelters and hospices in the Nation"**
- A letter of support from Tiruvannamalai Collector Dr. Pingale.
- A letter by Smt. Maneka Gandhi (MP, Lok Sabha...and Cabinet Minister in the present government), to the Consulate General, San Francisco written at the time Leslie was applying for his visa saying, **"He is the Founder/Managing Director of one of the best Animal Sanctuaries in India...It serves as a training ground for many other shelters"**
- A letter of appreciation and support from the President of Ramana Ashram, Tiruvannamalai.
- A letter of support from Lama Shenpen Drolma, Spiritual Director, Chagdud L'hundrub Ling saying, **"The...Sanctuary saves and protects the lives of thousands of beings with no other source of refuge, offering food, medicine, shelter, loving care and so much more. Contributions to the Sanctuary made with pure-hearted motivation and dedication will surely support one's bodhisattva path..."**
- Newspaper articles that appeared in the New Indian Express and the Hindu.



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA
(Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)

D. RAJASEKAR, IFS
Secretary

D.O. No. Misc. / SECY /AWBI/ Dated 8.10.2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Arunachala Animal Sanctuary & Rescue Shelter opened on the 10th of January, 2007 in Tiruvannamalai, a municipality with a human population of over two lakh. In the short span of time that they have been in existence, they have established themselves as one of the very best animal sanctuaries, veterinary clinics, rescue shelters and hospices in the Nation .

Tiruvannamalai has a population of between 3000 and 3500 homeless dogs and, perhaps, as many as 2000 to 2500 owner dogs. The programs undertaken by the Arunachala Animal Sanctuary and Rescue Shelter include: ABC Sterilization & anti-rabies program; hospital facilities; a fully operational clinic; an animal sanctuary for animals who can't survive on their own; a hospice; a 24 hour/7days a week emergency service; and an effective adoption service. All of these services are provided free of cost. People with pedigree dogs are asked to pay a small amount, but are given free care if they cannot.

The streets of the city are now free of suffering animals and the population's attitude towards homeless dogs has profoundly changed. Dogs are treated much better now, are healthier, and are leading happier lives. The dogs' attitudes towards people have also changed. There is a growing bond of harmony and trust between humans and dogs.

The Shelter is expanding their services into other areas in all spheres of Animal Welfare works.

Please, whether you are a government agency or a private individual / organization, accord whatever help or assistance you can to support this very important work. This shelter/sanctuary has lifted a great amount of suffering from the animal kingdom and has educated their town's people in the proper care and treatment of animals. Their motivation is pure, their actions are imbued with loving care and they are profoundly effective.

I found them as a truly dedicated Team of Animal Welfare and extending excellent services to the cause of speechless animals. I strongly recommend them for any kind of financial, physical and material assistance for extending their unrelenting services for the animal kingdom. I wish them all the very best in all their endeavors.

Dr VIJAY PINGALE, I.A.S.,
Collector and District Magistrate,
Tiruvannamalai - 606 604.



Office : 233333
Resi : 233366
Fax : 04175 - 232222

Letter No. PD.2 / 9497 / 2013, dated 17.6.2013

To

The President,
Seshadri Ashram,
Tiruvannamalai 606 603.

The President,
Ramanashram,
Tiruvannamalai.

The President,
Yogi Ram Surat Kumar Ashram,
Tiruvannamalai 606 603.

Sir,

This is an appeal that Arunachala Animal Sanctuary & Rescue Shelter, Tiruvannamalai is doing very good work and bringing harmony between the animals, especially, the dogs and the human population of this spiritually important town. Hence, I am suggesting you that your Ashram can consider of coming forward to support this Institution.

Yours faithfully,

COLLECTOR
TIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT
TIRUVANNAMALAI

Copy to the Secretary, Arunachala Animal Sanctuary & Rescue Shelter,
Chengam Road, Tiruvannamalai 606 603.

COPY



सत्यमेव जयते

Smt. Maneka Gandhi

M.P. (Lok Sabha)

Shri N Parthasarathi
The Consul General
Indian Consulate
540 Arguello Boulevard,
San Francisco,
CA 94108-4912, U.S.A.

March 15th 2012

Dear Shri Parthasarathi

I am writing to request you for a 5 year entry visa for Leslie Robinson. NGO volunteers are normally accommodated under Employment Visas. Employment Visas are only issued up to one year by the Consulate. Extensions may be gotten within India, but they are not multiple entry. Mr. Robinson flies back to the States every several years.

The Employment Visa is inappropriate for him. He is not an NGO volunteer in the ordinary sense.

He is the Founder/Managing Director of one of the best Animal Sanctuaries in India. It is located in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu called the Arunachala Animal Sanctuary and Rescue Shelter. It serves as a training ground for many other shelters and partners the local municipalities in the anti rabies programme. It has been visited by many foreigners since it began. In 2007 you gave him a 5 year visa.

Leslie Robinson is the head of the shelter, which has a staff of eighteen. He also manages the finances of the shelter. He has raised two crore rupees from abroad to support its many services. He is in the process of building a foreign donation base, and developing a corpus of \$1,000,000 US to support its services into the future.

There is a category under "Entry Visa" for "applicants whose purpose of visit to India does not match any other type of visa".

Can you issue him a five year, multiple entry, Entry Visa? He has been given one before but I am told that is no longer available in that category. He is a valuable addition to India. I would request this as we need more people like him.

With best wishes

Maneka Gandhi
(Smt Maneka Gandhi)

Sri Ramanasramam

Sri Ramanasramam PO, Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu - 606 603



LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Date: 23/11/2012

Arunachala Animal Sanctuary & Rescue Shelter has transformed the plight of animals in Tiruvannamalai. They are proactively caring for all the animals i.e., large, small, homeless, owner, domestic, wild etc.

When they first opened in January 2007 there was widespread and visible suffering on the streets. Over 4000 homeless dogs, with the population out of control, several hundred injured, sick, starving and dying, without any facility for treatment. In these six years they have transformed the situation. They say, now, for the first time ever, the homeless dog population is decreasing and has been so for almost three years. It is rabies free and the streets are clear of suffering animals. More importantly, perhaps it is the relationship with the humans amongst whom they live that has changed their situation, which is visible. Tiruvannamalai may be one of the few municipalities in whole of India to take pride of this situation for animal caring.

With a dedicated and committed staff numbering eighteen, their records say that they have performed 5,000 sterilizations, given over 8000 anti-rabies injections, found good homes for over 500 street puppies, treated over 1600 animals other than dogs, with overall 17000 out-patients visits for their clinic.

The ashram supports the activities they are involved with and is deeply appreciative of their work. The shelter runs on donations. We encourage those who are moved in that direction to support their work.

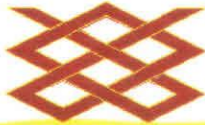
Sri SRI RAMANASRAMAM

PRESIDENT

Telephone: (91) 4175 - 237200 / (91) 9244937292

Email: ashram@sriramanamaharshi.org

Website: www.sriramanamaharshi.org



Chagdud L'hundrub Ling

Iron Knot Ranch

PO Box 215

Duncan, Arizona 85534

March 9, 2013

Dear Dharma Friends

The great master Kyabje Chatral Sangye Dorje Rinpoche has said regarding the importance of saving lives:

"Don't take life.....Be diligent in giving [beings destined to suffer or die] refuge from fear. The benefits of this are inconceivable. It is the supreme practice for longevity, and there is no higher practice for nurturing good health or for dedicating virtue to the dead. It is my main practice to help beings.

It clears away misfortune that arises due to outer and inner obstacles and creates harmonious circumstances effortlessly and spontaneously. When it is guided by positive motivation and concluded with pure dedication and aspirations, its effect is that you will reach perfect enlightenment and accomplish the two goals – benefit for yourself and for others. Have no doubt of this!"

The Arunachala Animal Sanctuary saves and protects the lives of thousands of beings with no other source of refuge, offering food, medicine, shelter, loving care and so much more.

Contributions to the Sanctuary made with pure-hearted motivation and dedication will surely support one's bodhisattva path, serving as the cause of temporary and ultimate benefit for oneself and these and all motherly beings.

With all best wishes,

Lama Shenpen Drolma

President, Spiritual Director

Chagdud L'hundrub Ling

Healing homeless animals with love

Tamil Nadu's Tiruvannamalai has an exemplary dog shelter that has managed to redefine the attitude of its people towards animals. **V NarayanaMurthi** speaks to its Westerner owner who has made the tropical temple town his home in his later life



M eet one-year-old Pooja, the blind half Dalmatian who is the first to sniff you as you walk into the premises. She then alerts fellow inmates. Most of them are ill, disabled and aged, but they'd still wag their tails in joy. In a jiffy, you are encircled by scores of dogs, yearning to reciprocate your love. They romp around you in ecstasy, snuggle and try to play with you.

A Mahatma Gandhi quote displayed on the compound wall sums it up: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated". This is a home for 'orphan' animals, especially stray dogs. The clean surroundings and quiet ambience are accentuated

by the low chanting of mantras from inside the shelter. Welcome to the Arunachala Animal Sanctuary and Rescue Shelter at the pilgrim town of Tiruvannamalai in northeast Tamil Nadu.

Its head is a bearded 73-year-old American, who affably says he is "happily divorced". Leslie Robinson has under him a dedicated team of veterinarians, paramedics and 12 staff members including a part-time cook. "The focus," explains Leslie, "is to reduce the suffering of small animals, especially the stray dogs. The shelter undertakes the animal birth control programme in association with government agencies, provides medical treatment and vaccination round the clock, besides healthcare services for disabled animals, hospice care,

adoption and emergency service."

Almost all the services are free of cost. A small amount is collected for the treatment of domesticated dogs, it's free if the owner can't afford. Leslie estimates Tiruvannamalai alone has around 3,500 street dogs. Since its inception three years ago, his team has sterilised around 90 per cent of the dogs in and around the town.

The stray dogs are captured gently by the shelter crew and kept there for six days after the sterilisation, when they are given

utmost attention besides the anti-rabies injections, before letting them back to the streets. "The plan," Leslie says, "is to eliminate rabies deaths among the dogs as well as us humans." The shelter has a fully equipped air-conditioned operation theatre, out-patient and intensive care wards, a separate ward for contagious diseases, eight retaining lobbies for sterilised dogs, aged dogs, dogs with skin diseases, an open ground for the dogs to play around, bathroom and kitchen (where nutritious food for the inmates are cooked).

"Initially," recalls Leslie, who first visited Tiruvannamalai in February 2006 while on a trip to the Himalayas, "our clinic used to get around 50 to 75 dogs per month, owned by the residents here, for various treatments. It slowly increased. Today, it's roughly 500 a month — some brought from far off places also." He notes the community's attitude towards the stray dogs has changed profoundly of late. "The love, the stroking and the gentle talk we have with them have fascinated many, and helped dispel myths about dogs." Interestingly, the shelter has documented the interaction between its animal inmates (each one gets a name after enrollment), their health problems, the treatment given and their overall change in behaviour.

In fact, many furious dogs, disowned and dumped here, have been tamed, thanks to the alternative medication using herbal preparations. "We administer some 150 sterilisations and anti-rabies vaccinations a month," says senior veterinarian Raja Sekar. Adds Viswa, the manager: "It's not just the dogs, we have also sheltered hundreds of cats, cows, goat, sheep, horses, donkeys, pigs, monkeys, squirrels, rabbits, eagles, parrots, peacocks, doves and pigeons among others in the past one year."

The shelter has embarked on a programme to promote adoption of stray puppies. So far around 250 puppies, 9 adult dogs and seven cats have been adopted by homes in and around Tiruvannamalai.

— narayanamurthi@expressbuzz.com



THE HINDU METROPLUS

CHENNAI • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010

**PETPALS. POOJA NEEDS A
SPACE OF HER OWN.**

8

pet pals

For a good life

Pooja is a one-and-a-half year-old dog and is half-Dalmatian, half-Indian. Our vet Dr. Rajasekar first saw her in the clinic when she was a month old. He diagnosed her as completely blind and that she would be for the rest of her life. The next time we saw her was six months later when two young boys brought her to us, saying she was found lost on the street, apparently abandoned by her owners. She was terrified, starving and barely had the strength to stand. We put her in a small contained area just off the verandah with two puppies for company. We put boards across the door leading to the verandah, and gave her a lot of love and affection until she was stronger and felt more secure.

After a month, we removed the boards from the doorway. It took Pooja several days of putting her foot through the doorway and retracting it, to summon the courage to step out onto the verandah. It was tough going, as she was walking into dogs and stepping on resting dogs' heads. They were hostile at first but when they understood that she was an innocent, sweet creature that couldn't help it, they became more forgiving. After months of moving around, she settled for hanging around near the kitchen and is now in the verandah again, recovering from a minor injury to her tongue.

Pooja is a timid, affectionate dog and needs a better life in a place where there are not so many things or animals. The shelter is not a good place for her. She needs a home with a contained space where she can just be loved. An ideal family would be an older couple without young children. Pooja needs a regular living area with safety and the warmth of people. We have been looking for someone who will give her the good life she deserves.

Leslie Robinson

(The author, an American, moved to India in 2006 and founded Arunachala Sanctuary in Tiruvannamalai. To adopt Pooja, reach him at 93645 31348 or email arunachalashelter@yahoo.com)



HOLD MY PAW

Hi, I'm a 12-year-old Tibetan Lhasa Apso called Pluto and I'm looking for a new home. I'm super-friendly, neutered and adjust easily to new situations. Please call 98409 65742 or 90429 20758 for details.



TAKE ME HOME



This glossy black beauty is a healthy, affectionate Indian puppy. To adopt her, call 9962 281817 before 10 p.m.

These boisterous, beautiful kittens were rescued as newborns and have grown into healthy young ones. To adopt them and take good care of them, call 99402 62855



Pet Pals is a weekly column that appears on Wednesdays

HERO OF THE WEEK

Varadarajan nominates his daughter Maha for rescuing a newborn kitten that was stuck in a PVC pipe. After a struggle, the kitten was freed and returned to its anxious mother.

Know of a hero who has performed an act of kindness to animals? Write to metropetpassion@gmail.com

THE HINDU METROPLUS

CHENNAI • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010

**PET PALS. A SANCTURAY
FOR DESTITUTE ANIMALS. 6**



pet pals

Hope and healing

In early 2006, homeless dogs in Thiruvannamalai had a sudden change of fortune. They escaped brutal killing that might have involved them being clubbed to death or strangled. Instead, an animal birth control programme was put in place, and Arunachala Sanctuary, a dream come true for destitute animals, was founded in a single-room space.

American spiritualist Leslie Robinson was about to pack up and leave for the Himalayas after a visit to Thiruvannamalai, when he heard horror stories about a dog culling operation. With Prema Veeraghavan (then with the PFA), they went from pillar to post, contacted the Commissioner, and stopped the illegal killing. "It was very, very dramatic," says Leslie, who confesses that setting up the sanctuary was the last thing he would've chosen, considering how difficult it was. "If we didn't put a population control programme in place, it was only a matter of time before something happened. I couldn't walk away from it."

His "before-after" photo album (animals before and after treatment) is likely to make people wonder if they are, in fact, the same animals. A dog with a nightmarish mouth tumour becomes a cheerful pet, back in the arms of its grateful owner. A monkey receives a row of neat stitches for grievous wounds and a pup with a rash that exposed the flesh becomes unrecognisable with a honey-coloured velvety fur.

An animal that's rescued by Arunachala Sanctuary isn't just a patient. Leslie treats them the way people would treat a sick family member. "He hugs them before they go into surgery," says Prema. His reasoning — "According to Advaita Vedanta, every living creature has an Atman."

The Sanctuary now operates in a 12,000-sq.ft area granted by the Municipal Council. Although financial pressure mounts due to skyrocketing rescue numbers, Leslie sees the upside of the situation — "this means people are becoming more sensitive to animals' suffering. It's a really good sign".

(To help, visit www.arunachalasansanctuary.com or call 93645-31348)

SRIYA NARAYANAN



BOW WOW



One cannot look deeply into the eyes of an animal and not see the same depth, complexity and feeling we humans lay exclusive claim to

Nan Sea Love



If an animal does something, we call it instinct; if we do the same thing for the same reason, we call it intelligence

Will Cuppy

TAKE ME HOME



Three pretty kittens in good health are available for adoption. They're very playful and love being petted. Call 98842-78466.

These energetic male kittens are naughty, healthy and simply adorable. Adopt them by calling 24615866 between 7.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. or from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.



Pet Pals is a weekly column that appears on Wednesdays