

# BLUE CROSS OF INDIA

50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2013 to MARCH 31, 2014



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

## BLUE CROSS OF INDIA

(Recognised by the Animal Welfare Board of India, Govt. of India)

Founders: Capt. V. Sundaram & Mrs. Usha Sundaram

*The 50th Anniversary of an organisation is not too common an occurrence for most organisations and even rarer for animal welfare groups. This is also an appropriate time to sit down and see what we have really achieved in the last half-century and what we should try to achieve in the next.*

*It is also an even rarer event that five of the original nine founders are still around, with three of them actively involved in the work they began. The other two, in their nineties, are still with us in spirit but even more importantly, the spirit of the four no longer in our presence, guides us in what we do today.*

**Regd. Office :**

1, Eldams Road,  
Chennai – 600 018  
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**Hospital & Shelters :**

Blue Cross Avenue  
Velachery Road, Guindy,  
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Phone: 044-22354959

Kunnam Village,  
Sunkuvarchatram  
Kanchipuram Dist.

Toducadu Village,  
Sriperumbudur-Tiruvellore Road,  
Tiruvellore District

**ABC Centre:**

Lloyds Colony,  
Lloyds Road, Chennai – 600 005

Chairman : Mr. Shantilal Pandya  
Honorary Secretary : Mrs. Saraswathi Haksan  
Honorary Joint Secretaries : Mr. Sathya Radhakrishnan &  
Mr. R. Shanker

**Members**

Dr. Nanditha Krishna  
Mr. N. Sugal Chand Jain  
Mr. L. Nemichand Singhvi  
Mr. Prashanth Krishna  
Mrs. Marion Courtine  
Mr. G. Balasubramanian  
Mrs. Malliga Ravindar  
Mr. Suresh Sundaram  
Mr. Kantilal Chandak  
Mr. Rudra Krishna  
Mr. P. Mohanakannan  
Representative of the AWBI

**Chairman Emeritus:**

Dr. S. Chinny Krishna

## Founders

### Captain Sundaram



It all started one rainy day in 1959 when Captain Sundaram couldn't just walk away from the two pups struggling to stay afloat in the flooded roads of T Nagar. He took them home, and that gesture marked the beginning of Blue Cross, the animal shelter in his house which at one stage had 60 cats, dogs, goats, bandicoots and also a pair of baby mongooses!

Captain Sundaram, born on April 22nd, 1916, had always wanted to care for animals. In his own words, "God had given me so much that I thought I ought to do something in return. There are so many charitable institutions for human beings, but so few for animals. "With total support from his family (his wife Usha and the children built the first few kennels with their own hands), he was soon rescuing and sheltering animals in his T Nagar residence till 1968, when Blue Cross was shifted to new premises, first at Adyar and later to its own premises at Guindy.





Captain Sundaram started his career as a pilot, and was an instructor at the Madras Flying Club. After training in England he returned to India and trained British and American pilots during the war before joining Tata Airlines in 1945. During his tenure as the Mysore Maharaja's pilot with his wife Usha as his co-pilot, he had the privilege of flying Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhai Patel from 1945 to 1951. He enjoyed an accident free flying record in his 35 yrs as a pilot. He and Usha set a world record for flying a De Havilland Dove from London to Madras in 23hrs. This record for piston-engined aircraft remains unbroken till today.

It was a well-known fact amongst the pilots that Captain Sundaram would keep circling around till stray animals were cleared off the runway. He once saw a magnificent cobra in his path as he was taxiing for take-off and rather than run over it, he hopped across, whizzed just a few centimetres above its hood and continued on his way. This incident made headlines the next day!

As a staunch crusader against cruelty to animals, he was instrumental in stopping several animal sacrifices, including a horse sacrifice in Colombo in Jan 1986 and one in Harihar in May 1986. He also organized a seminar against vivisection, and strove to spread awareness about animal welfare. He was a member of the Executive committee of the Animal Welfare Board of India till the end of 1987.

In recognition of his tireless efforts in championing the cause of animals, he won the Queen Victoria Medal from the RSPCA in 1964, the Watamull Foundation Award from the USA in 1987, silver medals from the Madras SPCA and the Mylapore Academy, a Distinguished Service Award from the Rotary club of South Madras and was posthumously awarded the Prani Mitra Award by Shri Krishan Kant, Vice President of India.

Captain Sundaram insisted on free treatment for all animals so that none of them would be denied medication due to lack of money. He dipped into his own reserves during the early days of running the shelter, using his car as the first ambulance by fixing a cage on top and rushing to the rescue of injured animals, even in the middle of the night or at the other end of the city.

It is only apt that Blue Cross today stands as the largest animal shelter in India, symbolizing the love and care that he showed towards these voiceless animals.

With his passing away on the 31st of May 1997, his four legged friends suffer an irreparable loss of a true lover and saviour of animals. But the legacy of love and compassion towards animals that Captain Sundaram left behind will go on for ever.

### **Mrs. Usha Sundaram**

Usha Sundaram was India's first woman pilot felicitated by the National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, on 13 December 2001 as "The First Woman in Aerospace". She was

her husband Captain Sundaram's co-pilot from 1943 to 1951 and shares the world record for flying a De Havilland Dove from London to Madras in 23 flying hours, a record for piston-engined aircraft that remains unbroken till today.

While Captain Sundaram would rescue animals and bring them home, she would care for them at home. After the Blue Cross shifted out of her T.Nagar home, she would visit the animals at the shelters, checking up on their diet and health, particularly of the puppies and kittens. Till the end of her life in 2010 she never stopped checking on the micro details that are so important in the running of an animal shelter.

### **Dr. S. Chinny Krishna**

Dr. S. Chinny Krishna was a member of the AWBI from 1994 to 1997 and in 2001 he was made the Vice-Chairman of the AWBI. In the same year, he was awarded the Jeev Daya Puraskar by the Government of India. In 2002, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Venu Menon Animal Allies Foundation from the Vice President of India, Mr. Krishna Kant.

From 1996 to 2002, Dr. Krishna served as a member of the Central Government's Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals and as Chairman of several of its sub-committees.

Several Lions and Rotary Clubs have recognized his work for animals as has the International Governor of Lions Clubs International who recognized his work for animals in 1987. He was the first District Chairman for Animal Welfare in the seventy-year history of Lionism when Lion S. T. Vanchinathan was the District Governor of Lions District 324.

He is the recipient of innumerable awards - the Lifetime Achievement Awards from Humane Society International and from the Middle East Network for Animal Welfare; the Llewyt Award of the North Shore Animal League; The Hastimal Acharya Award from Karuna International; The Marchig Trust Award; the Jeev Daya Puraskar from the Government of India and many others.

#### **The other founders were:**

- ❖ **Suresh Sundaram**
- ❖ **S. Vijayalakshmi**
- ❖ **T. V. Chandrasekar**
- ❖ **Kamakshi Krishnamurti**
- ❖ **Sundari Nataraj**
- ❖ **D. Daivasigamoni**

Among the note-worthy achievements of the Blue Cross of India are the banning of the export of frogs' legs; the banning of the export of monkeys for experimentation from India the conception and the implementation of the Animal Birth Control – Anti Rabies programme for street dogs for the first time in the world; being responsible for the formation of the Committee for the Purpose of Control & Supervision of Experiments on Animals by the Central Government; and the introduction of pet therapy in schools for special children.

Since the sixties, members of the Blue Cross have been included in many, many committees of the Central Government including the CPCSEA, Central Zoo Authority, Animal Welfare Board of India, and many others.



*Dr. Nanditha Krishna, author, educationist, environmentalist and cultural anthropologist, with Dr. Jumble, India's first certified pet therapy dog.*



## Message from the Chairman

In this, the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Blue Cross as a registered AWO, I can't help looking back with pride and awe upon the work of the Blue Cross, right from its very beginnings. In my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the Chairman of the Board, this feeling of pride is replaced by a very real sense of gratitude to all the visionaries whose hard work went into creating this august institution, something which still amazes me.

Their efforts began over 50 years ago, in 1959, when a group of concerned people started a small advocacy group, which was registered in 1964 as the Blue Cross of India. Established to alleviate the suffering of animals, it has grown from small beginnings to become one of India's largest animal welfare organisations, running active animal welfare, animal rights and humane education programmes; an organisation that has become synonymous with the movement, in fact.

In 2009, Chennai was declared as a rabies-free city. This vindicated Blue Cross of India's belief and efforts to prove that spay - vaccinate – release – the world's *first* programme for street dogs – could alone control rabies and the stray dog population. The number of stray dogs has visibly reduced and the sight of mating dogs is a rarity in today's Chennai.

This programme has been listed by Radford University, Virginia, USA in its Timeline of Major Environmental Milestones in the World.

With the recent boundaries of the Corporation having been extended substantially to form Greater Chennai, many contiguous areas have now been included in the city limits. Many of these areas had no or little of an ABC-AR programme and this is an issue that must be addressed urgently if the zero-rabies claim can be maintained.

At the time of the founding of the Blue Cross of India, there were only two kinds of animal welfare organizations in India – the majority were gaushalas for cattle and the rest were SPCAs started by the British. Most of the latter only prosecuted cases of overloading of animal-drawn vehicles or for using sick and unfit animals to draw these carts.

The vast majority of animals that were subjected to cruelty at the hands of man – In slaughter houses, laboratories, circuses, movies, during transport or capture and for other forms of “entertainment”, science and food were largely unprotected. Over 55,000 monkeys from India passed through London's Heathrow airport each year on their way to the Oakatia Farms and others in the USA. Hunting of animals by the rich was legal in much of the country and the indiscriminate decimation of frogs by hacking of their rear legs for export, leaving the frog on the beach to die after hours and days of suffering was accepted by the Government. Day-old Karakul lambs were slaughtered in Government centres for export to the erstwhile Soviet Union. Many of Chinappa Devar's films showed animal fights, including a bunch of tigers pouncing on a buffalo or a tiger-lion fight.

The Blue Cross of India was the first of a new genre that considered that all animals under all circumstances had the right to be protected from cruelty at the hands of man and that the claims and interests of sport, entertainment, science and the production of food did not override the moral responsibility to prevent the pain and suffering of animals.

During the last half century, the Blue Cross India has been primarily volunteer-driven and much of the work is done by dedicated individuals who donate their time and expertise and continue to do so, on a purely honorary basis. This ensures that most of the money received by the Society is used for animal welfare activities and go directly into projects to help animals.

Looking back over the past, our achievements have been substantial:

- Pressure on the Central Government to get the first Committee for the Purpose of Control & Supervision of Experiment on Animals (CPCSEA) notified in 1964
- The setting up of the world's first catch-spay-vaccinate-release programme for street dogs in 1964 and the introduction in 2001 of the Street Dog Control (ABC) Rules
- An international seminar on vivisection held in Chennai in 1965
- A successful campaign to ban the export of frogs' legs
- A successful coalition campaign by several animal welfare organizations to stop the killing of Karakul lambs by the Government
- One of the 10 groups that went to the Delhi High Court to make dissection made optional at school level
- The ban on the export of monkeys from India for research purposes in 1977
- Introduction of pet therapy for the first time in India

Our work has been recognized by the Government of India and many groups worldwide, as can be seen from the many awards given to the Blue Cross and its office bearers – Queen Victoria Medal by the RSPCA in 1964; Watamull Foundation Award in 1985; Prani Mitra in 1985; Jeev Daya Puraskar in 2000; Venu Menon Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001; Venu Menon Best Organisation Award in 2003; Humane Society International Award in 2005; Elizabeth Llewyt Award in 2005; Proggy Award from PETA in 2006; Middle East Animal Welfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007; Jeanne Marchig Award in 2007; International Lions Governor's Certificate of Appreciation; honouring by many Lions and Rotary Clubs and other institutions; the Life Time Achievement award to our Chairman Emeritus, Dr. S. Chinny Krishna by Humane Society International in 2011; Sathya Radhakrishnan, Hon. Joint Secretary of the Blue Cross of India, received the "Outstanding Contribution by a Volunteer" award, at the inaugural awards launched by Animals Asia, at the "Asia for Animals Conference 2011" at Chengdu; Karuna International's Acharya Hastimull Centenary Award to Drs. Nanditha and Chinny Krishna in 2011 and many others.

**M. Shantilal Pandya**  
**Chairman**



## Events

### World Animal Day

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013, World Animal Day was celebrated with prayers at the Ganesha statue at the Blue Cross of India's shelter at Guindy. Members of the Ganesh Mandal of Sowcarpet, who feed the animals every Sunday, joined us at the pooja.

### The Great Indian Dog Show 2014



**It's official!**  
Blue Cross of India's Annual  
The Great Indian Dog show is back.

Sunday, February 2, 2014 | 3:00pm until 6:00pm  
PSS School Grounds, Mylapore, Chennai  
Only Indian mongrels & cross breeds allowed

For registration call 9952075570/9841040553/07353585508 or visit the Blue Cross of India website [www.bluecrossofindia.org](http://www.bluecrossofindia.org) or write into [bluecrossofindia@gmail.com](mailto:bluecrossofindia@gmail.com) with your details and phone number.

Award categories shown in the image:  
GREAT DIPLOMAT  
GREAT LISTENER  
GREAT SHOULDERS TO CRY ON  
GREAT DRATOR  
GREAT ATHLETE

The Blue Cross of India's Annual Great Indian Dog Show was held on the 2nd of February, 2014, at the PSS School Grounds in Mylapore, for rescued or adopted non-pedigree dogs. The idea of such an event is to encourage more people to realise that all dogs have an inherent beauty to them, and that a "breed-dog" is unlikely to bring us more any joy than a mongrel is capable of. Many of the caregivers also shared heart-warming stories about their dogs, much to the delight of the dog-lovers present. We also used the platform of such an event to drive adoptions by exhibiting the puppies in our care and allowing the many visitors at the event to interact with them and get to know them, in the hope that they would adopt them. It was very specifically a fun-only event, and no animal is ever made to perform.

The categories are of all sorts, ranging from the award for the "Dog with the Waggiest Tail" to "Kissy-est Dog," "Survivor of the Year," etc. The intention is to ensure that we are able to give awards to as many dogs as possible, and to create a bonding experience for them with their families.

## Volunteer Induction Programmes



Our volunteers have always been our greatest strength. Encouraged by the response of the many good Samaritans, we organized a few volunteer-induction meetings through the year, which gave us the chance to get to know each other and also chalk out a personal volunteering plan for each of us, in order to use all our skills most efficiently.

This meeting also saw the delegation of responsibilities on the basis of how much time volunteers could spare, what special skills they could offer and of course, their areas of interest. Most relevantly, of course, we were bringing new people into the world of animal welfare work. Our special thanks to Sujit Vincent for organising and driving these programmes.

## Shelters

As on March 31, 2014, the number of animals in our care was as follows:

ABC Cats	49
Treatment Dogs	106
ABC Dogs	340
Pedigree Dogs	63
Puppies	168
Cats	70
Kittens	30
Cattle	79
Horses & Ponies	2
Donkeys	8
Goats	13
Guinea Pigs	123
White Mice	9
Rabbits	78
Birds	183
Pigs	27
Squirrels	45
Total	1393

Apart from which:

At Lloyds Road 187 Dogs

At Thoducadu 30 Dogs

## Animal Birth Control-Anti Rabies

15604 dogs, including 12848 handed over by the Chennai Corporation, were spayed, vaccinated and returned during the year. The dogs brought in by the Corporation are not returned to their original locations by the Corporation, but by us, based on the information given to us by the Corporation of Chennai.

In addition to the above, 402 cats were spayed, vaccinated and returned to their localities.

### **Assistance Given by Vier Pfoten**

In what we hope might be an annual collaboration, a group of ten doctors and support staff from Romania, working with Vier Pfoten, came to the Blue Cross of India's Guindy Facility and helped to sterilize and treat the following animals between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 2013. In their time here, they treated 130 animals (which includes dogs, cats and cattle) most effectively. They also conducted ABC procedures for 284 dogs and 16 cats. They have promised to return in 2014.

### **Ambulance Services**

Our fleet of 9 ambulances ensured that at least 5 were available at any time. Since the area covered by our ambulance services is large and we are the only ones in Chennai providing this service, it sometimes takes several hours, and even days to respond to a call in some cases.

Four of our ambulances are fitted with GPS tracking devices which help us to divert the nearest vehicle and speed up rescues. These devices were donated by Mr G.V Subbarao.

We also received 59 cattle from the Corporation of Chennai and 12 from the Chengalpet Tashildar's Office.

17,454 calls were responded to and 5,637 animals were rescued. This includes 3511 dogs, 1322 puppies, 219 cats, 333 kittens, 122 birds, 106 cattle, 21 squirrels, 2 goats, and 1 piglet.

45 cattle rescued from illegal transport during the year are currently with us and cases have been filed by us.

### **Shri Vijay Shanthi Surishwarji Jain Bhakta Mandal Out-patient Clinic**

9,717 out-patient cases were treated at the above clinic during the year. They include cattle, goats, birds, dogs and cats. A fee of Rs. 50/- is requested of those who are able and willing to pay. In this manner, the out-patient clinic has earned Rs. 9717/- for the year 2013-14.

## **In-patients**

23,243 in-patients were handled during the year. This includes 13,380 dogs and cattle handed over by the Chennai Corporation. 5,637 were animals rescued using our ambulances or by our volunteers. 4,226 were brought in by the public or from municipalities around Chennai.

## **Adoptathons - Adoptions and Rehoming**

In the year 2013-14, the Blue Cross of India conducted (almost) monthly events which we call adoptathons to encourage the adoption of abandoned adult dogs, including Indian Dogs as well as pedigrees, as well as puppies and kittens. 49 dogs, 1,313 puppies and 356 kittens were rehomed during the year. The puppies and kittens are given for adoption upon the prospective care-giver's signing of a declaration promising to have the puppy/kitten spayed or neutered at the appropriate age. Our volunteers follow up with these care-givers to ensure that the same is done as soon as the puppy or kitten reaches the right age for the ABC procedure.

In addition to this, about 58 cattle were placed in other gaushalas and pinjrapoles, thanks to the efforts of Shri Sugul Chand Jain and Shri Nemichand Singhvi.

All the horses with us have been given to the Madras Riding Club, Guindy, for use by children. Mrs. Saraswathi Haksan, our Honorary Secretary, has personally visited them to check that they are being looked after well and we are delighted that they are being looked after very well.

## **Kunnam Centre**

To more efficiently carry out the ABC programme for Kanchipuram District, an Agreement of Licence was entered into with the Blue Cross of Kanchipuram in 2004. Under this agreement, the Blue Cross of Kanchipuram uses our facilities to do the spay-vaccinate-and-release programme for dogs in Kanchipuram district. All assistance for carrying out the programme is provided by the Blue Cross of India.

Free treatment is provided for all the cattle and other animals brought by the villagers in and around Kunnam on all days of the week. All cattle at both Kunnam and Guindy centres have been vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease. The village cattle in Kunnam village have also been vaccinated free of charge.



## Facility for On-line Donations

The Blue Cross of India’s website was linked for online donations through CC AVENUE, which gives us a worldwide coverage in terms of accepting donations.

## Animals Brought in Person by Members of the Public for Shelter/Re-homing

Dogs	58
Puppies	2513
Kittens	1012
Birds	213
Squirrels	94
Rabbits	28
Turtles	1
Goats	1
White Mice	4
Guinea Pigs	4
Tortoises	1
Baby Monkeys	1
Fowls	4
Lambs	2
Total	3936

## Volunteers

Our volunteers form the core of our organization and take on the responsibility for a lot of activities in Blue Cross of India. Our events, such as the Adoptathons, Well Dog Show and all others are all volunteer-driven.

Our totally hands-on volunteers, Shanti Shankar and Sudersena, have been volunteering with us for over 15 years, through thick and thin. Without them, we would not be what we are today, and our most special thanks go out to them;

Sriya Narayanan, Anand and Karthik Upadhya have been doing an exemplary job in manning all the Blue Cross of India mail accounts and responding to all mails promptly;





Our other volunteers who deserve special mention for their outstanding and dedicated work during the year 2013-2014 are:

- Arvind Vasudevan
- Abhinesh
- Bhargav Arla - Special mention for his involvement in the Water Bowl Project
- Chaitrika
- Christina Wong
- Elaine Philpott
- Ganapathy Raman
- Karthik Murugadoss
- Karthik Dhandapani - Special mention for his involvement in the Water Bowl Project
- Maitreyi
- Nandita Saha
- Nishant B
- Preethi Shankaran

- Priya Kalidindi
- Raghavendra Ravi
- Raghav
- Sujith Vincent – Our Volunteer Coordinator
- Srikanth
- Savitri Sarangi
- Srivalli
- Subashini Raghavan
- Dr Sharvya
- Dr Vaishnavi

A special mention must also be made about Karthik Murugadoss for spearheading our Humane Education Program.

There are scores of other volunteers and we are sorry if we have missed some of the important members of our family.

The other organizations that have helped us immensely with their volunteers

- 1) CSS (Chennai Social Service), who have dedicatedly sent volunteers every 3rd Sunday to work in our shelter and also have donated a major portion of rice which has helped in reducing our purchases significantly. Prithvi and Satish deserve a special mention for driving this initiative;
- 2) Maatram;
- 3) Spaak; and
- 4) Udavam Karangal

## **Special Events**

Blue Cross of India held Adoptathons, our own brand of adoption drives, at the Blue Cross of India's Guindy campus. This was aside from our daily activity of driving adoptions of Indian dogs and puppies. A total of seven such Adoptathons were held during the year.

## CAMPS

These were held in co-operation with other organizations such as the Lions Clubs, the Rotary, Ms. Christina Wong of Mamallapuram etc. Several hundred animals were helped.

## ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES

S. No	Date	FIR Number	CSR Number	Police Station	Complaint
01	08-03-13	1381/13		V-7 Nolambur Police Station	Torturing, Maiming, Murdering and Illegally Relocating Local Dogs
02	08-03-13		70/CS R/K-11/C MBT/2013	K-11 CMBT, Koyambedu Police Station	Neglect of a Sick Cow
03	11-03-13	1283/2013		S-5 Palavaram Police Station	Hit-and-run involving a Cow
04	11-03-13	847/2013		S-4 Nandambakkam Police Station	Murdering a Puppy
05	06-04-13	810/13		V-4 Rajamangalam	Murdering a Dog
06	10-05-13		151/C SR/E2 /2013	E-2 Royapettai Police Station	Neglect of a Sick Cow
07	04-06-13	299/2013		T-16 Nazarthpett Police Station	Illegal Trafficking of 29 Bulls
08	12-06-13		299/13	S-6 Sankar Nagar Police Station	Neglect of a Sick Cow
09	08-08-13	883/2013		K- 11 CMBT Police Station	Neglect of a Sick Cow
10	07-09-13	987/13		K-9 Thiruvika Nagar Police Station	Killing of a Puppy in School
11	10-09-13	150/CH3/13		S-13 Chrompettai Police Station	Hit-and-run involving a Cow

12	06-10-13	210/2013		B-7 Vellai Vedu Police Station	Electrocuting Cows to Death
13	08-10-13	321/13		E-3 Minjur Police Station	Shooting of 26 Dogs
14	11-10-13	2057/2013		T-6 Avadi Police Station	Hit-and-run involving a Dog
15	02-07-14		51/20 14	M-3 Puzhal Police Station	Neglect by Confining Fowls without Providing Food and Water
16	12-09-14	776/2013	CSR 776/1 3	T-15 SRMC Plice Station, Porur	Torturing, Maiming and Murdering a Puppy
17	13/11/2013		481/C SR/J3 L&O/ 13	J-3 Gundy Police Station	Torturing and Maiming a Dog
18	14/1/201	66/P14/14		Traffic Investigation Poonamallee	Hit-and-run involving a Dog
19	14/12/2013	1774/2013		J- 8 Neelankarai Police Station	Murdering a Dog and Threatening the Care-giver
20	14/2/2014		117/2 014	T-4 Maduravoyal Police Station	Assault During a Rescue
21	14/5/2013	358/2013		C-1 Sriperambadur Police Station	Illegal Transportation of 15 Cows and 1 Calf
22	16/12/2013		409/1 3	K-9 Thiruvika Nagar Police Station	Illegal Catching of Cats
23	16/7/2013		384/1 3	S-5 Palavaram Police Station	Abandoning an Aged Dog
24	16/9/2013	504/2013		Tamparam Railway Police	Sexually Abusing an Injured Cow
25	18/10/2013	1572/2013		D- Marina Police Station	Horse Killed due to Owner's Negligence
26	18/4/2013	605/13		J-8 Neelankarani Police Station	Hit-and-run involving a Cow
27	18/5/2013	814/13		K-8 Aurmbakkam Police Station	Vehicle Over-loaded with 80 Goats

28	20/1/2014	54/CHI/14		S-13 Chrompettai Police Station	Hit-and-run involving a Cow
29	21/3/2014		CSR 39/14	B-6 Mappedu Police Station, Thiruvallur	Catching of Sterilised Dogs for Illegal Relocation
30	22/10/2013	1514/PH1/ 13		Traffic Investigation Poonamallee	Accident involving 6 Buffaloes
31	22/2/2014		70/14	S-10 Pallikarani Police Station	Killing a Dog
32	23/2/2013	132/2014		T-6 Avadi Police Station	Electrocuting 6 Cows to Death
33	23/2/2014		CSR/ 150/2 014 S6PS	S-6 Sankar Nagar Police Station	Neglect of a Sick Cow
34	24/1/2014	72/S1/2014		J-3 Gundy Police Station	Hit-and-run involving a Cow
35	24/11/2013		351/2 013/N 1PS/C SR	N-1 Royapuram Police Station	Abandoning a Sick Puppy
36	24/2/2014		42/CS R/S4P S/201 4	S- 4 Nandambakkam Police Station	Catching of Sterilised Dogs for Illegal Relocation
37	25/4/2013	382/13		D-3 Gudavancheri Police Station	Shooting of 6 Dogs
38	25/5/2014	191/2014	191/2 014	S-14 Piakankarani Police Station	Poisoning a Cow
39	25/8/2013		01/CS R/201 3	Railway Police Station Perambur	Neglect of a Buffalo
40	26/8/2013	4306761		Grp Chennai Perambur Railway Police	Train Collision with 7 Buffaloes
41	27/10/2013	932/2013		C-1 Sriperambadur Police Station	Shooting of Dogs in a School Compound

42	27/8/2013	1169/13		E-4 Abiramipuram Police Station	Torturing and Maiming a Puppy
43	28/3/2013	225/CH1/14		S-13 Traffic Investigation Chrompet	Hit-and-run involving a Cow
44	28/5/2014		196/R-2/14	R-2 Nungambakkam Police Station	Bestiality with a Dog
45	30/12/2013	674/13		J-12 Kanathur Police Station	Murdering a Puppy
46	30/4/2013	310/2013		C-1 Sriperambadur Police Station	Neglect Of Sick Cow
47	30/7/2013		V7PS/CSR/92/13	V-7 Nolambur Police Station	Illegal Catching and Relocation of Dogs
48	30/7/2013	1036/13		Mount Traffic Investigation	Hit-and-run involving a Cow
49	31/12/2013	2385/13		T-14 Mangaddu Police Station	Killing of a Dog

### The Dr. DOG Program

Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children (SKLC) is the first full-time school in India for children with Autism, Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, A.D.D., behaviour & habit disorders, established in Chennai by The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation in 1985. Assessment, therapy and education services are provided. It is affiliated to N.I.O.S. for Std. X and Std. XII and vocational education. SKLC uses innovative therapies like Yoga, Art, Dance & Movement, Puppetry, Pet therapy. It has unique facilities: A Soft Room, a Dyslexia Lab and Autism Lab. SKLC has pioneered the use of Animal Assisted Therapy for autistic children in India since 1996.

Jill Robinson of Animals Asia Foundation - who had conceived and developed the Dr. Dog brand and product - came down to Chennai in 2001 to assess and confer the “Doctor” title to Jumble, a mongrel, and we learned to carry out Animal Assisted Therapy systematically. AAT works with animals in a planned way to increase desirable behavior, to improve abilities, to decrease undesirable behavior, and to help individuals communicate. It must be a planned programme.



Dr. Jumble and Dr. Babe, our first two Dr. Dogs, had some outstanding successes, like Roshan Vishal. Dr. Jumble had her diet and feed checked by Sneha every day. Girish regularly asked questions about Dr. Jumble. 2 autistic brothers started speaking to Dr. Babe, another Dr. Dog. Girish petted, played and spoke to the dog (about the dog) for the first time, at age 9. Abhirami, a very withdrawn child, began to mingle in a group after playing with Dr. Babe at age 8. Children wanted to learn more about breeds and looked up the Dog Chart to identify different dogs. Many with motor co-ordination problems started playing ball with Dr. Babe.

A Dr. Dog has to be at least two and spayed / neutered to be assessed, as well as trained to be placid. Mr. Rangarajan of Woodstock Kennels has been of great help in training our Dr. Dogs in a most professional and kind manner, using only positive reinforcement in basic commands. They learn to walk, sit, lie down, come to heel, shake hands and generally became much more subdued. Siva of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation Is also trained to be their trainer.

Dr. Moosa, our last signal success as a Dr. Dog, started work in 2008. It took a while to introduce him to the children of SKLC. He was big and looked intimidating, and some of the children were scared. Initially they feared touching him, but soon realised he was harmless.

Moosa's first students were Rutunjay, Aditya, Saraswathi and Shruthi. The first two patted and kissed him, for they were used to dogs. The last two were scared. Premkumar, an autistic child, was terrified of dogs and refused to respond. On July 8, 2009, he patted and played with Moosa, a major step forward.

More children joined in: Pavithra, Amrutha, Akshay Anand, Swati, Deepti, Pranav, Arjun. The children had varied problems: LD, dyslexia, autism, ADD / ADHD. They were given instructions which they learned to hear, obey and follow. Take Moosa for a walk. Take him to sit under the tree. Shake hands with Moosa. Tell the dog to come, to sit, to shake hands. Count ten steps with Moosa. Swati, who had interacted with Moosa earlier, referred to their past association. Deepti told Moosa how she had played with the dog in her house. Arjun was interacting with a dog for the first time and was very curious, asking questions about Moosa's habits. After some time, the children became bold, welcoming Moosa, taking him for a walk around the campus and so on. There was visible improvement in the children: they began to show excitement when he came, petted him, spoke to him and so on.

Then a new plan took shape. Each child was asked to introduce Moosa to the others of different days. This forced them to acknowledge the other children, a major step for the autistic. There were certain ways to maximize the positive effects:

- Asking questions - Have you ever had a pet? What is your favourite animal?
- Speaking through the dog - Moosa wants to meet you today. He is very excited to meet you!
- Asking the child about the dog - How is Moosa feeling today?

It was important to give the child and dog their personal space, yet allow for contact. The children were empowered to care for the dog (giving water, feeding), and using the dog as a focal point to encourage communication. The bond between child and dog is beautiful. When asked to write an essay on “My best friend”, each child wrote about Moosa.

The therapist had to ensure that children were aware of the dog’s needs and feelings, thereby teaching them to be unselfish, sharing (one child must not monopolise the dog) and caring. Children were allowed to talk freely about what they feel about dogs and other animals. Discipline and acceptable behavior was made clear. The children had to pay attention to instructions. This increased their concentration skills. Dr. Dog has specific benefits for the autistic, such as

- Increase in verbal communication
- Increase in initiative
- Involvement in activities
- Indications of pleasure
- Increased co-operation with teachers
- Decrease in negative and stereotypical / repetitive behaviour, including temper tantrums

Animal therapy engages the attention of children with various learning problems in a way that conventional therapy cannot. They score higher on measures of empathy, self-esteem and self-concept. Cognitive and social development is helped. They develop a longer attention span, co-operation and greater focus in the classroom.

Dogs provide unquestioning love and attention, relaxation and a healthier lifestyle; an outlet for care-giving, making children feel needed; stable and less complicated relationships, security and stability; and provide a link to the natural world. Dr. Dogs are non-threatening. They create a sense of capability – even superiority - in a child with learning problems and disabilities, who would hesitate to respond to adult superiority. They give unquestioning and undemanding love to a battered and unhappy child; and are very calming and soothing.

A Dr. Dog must be at least two years old and healthy; males and females must be de-sexed (to reduce aggression and tension); vaccinated up-to-date, with proof; calm and friendly by nature - no fighting breeds; have basic obedience skills; must have lived with handler for at least 6 months prior to examination; clean - not dressed up in costumes; and must be on a leash whenever he /she is with children.

But the role is also stressful. If the dog shows a reluctance to leave home or even move, a reduced attention span, pants excessively or has loose stools, urinates in unusual places, ignores commands and shows behavioural changes, changes in sleep patterns and unusual activity, he cannot be forced to act as a Dr. Dog. **The key to a successful Dr. Dog programme is happy dogs and happy children.**

Sadly, Dr. Moosa died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2012. Even though his last few days were painful due to liver and then kidney failure, his students had wanted to see him and encourage him to feel better as they hadn't seen him in 2 weeks, which made them anxious and worried. The day before he died, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2012, they all went over to his home to see him. He was tired and ill, but he put out his hand and shook hands with his friends. The next day – February 1, 2012 – Moosa passed away in the lap of his care-giver, Dr. Nanditha Krishna. We had not wanted the children to know, but news travels fast. All his students swarmed around as he was laid to rest under a beautiful flowering Canon ball tree. They were sullen and confused. They did not understand death, but they knew Moosa had gone and that they would miss their “best friend”.



*Dr. Ruffles with the students of the Saraswathi Kendra*

We are pleased to announce that a new therapist, Dr. Ruffles, has recently taken office as the Dr. Dog with the Saraswathi Kendra. Dr. Ruffles is a kind, sweet and gentle giant of a Labrador. He absolutely loves making friends and playing with children, and, of course, loves being the centre of attention. He has lived with one of the Blue Cross of India's senior volunteers and trainers for the pet therapy programme before taking up office as the Pet Therapist for the Saraswathi Kendra.

Dr. Jumble and Dr. Moosa were the companion dogs of Dr. Nanditha Krishna, founder of SKLC who was able to experiment with this programme, conceived by Animals Asia Foundation, at SKLC, which is next to her house, where Jumble and Moosa lived. Dr. Nanditha Krishna is also the care-giver to Ruffles, who occupies her living-room sofa every night.

In spite of the success of the Dr. Dog programme wherever it has been implemented, there are still certain problems. There are several schools clamouring for a Dr. Dog, but there are very few in service. It is difficult to find desexed dogs, since owners of gentle breeds like the Labrador hesitate to sterilize their dogs.



Also, their owners are busy people who do not have time to take their dogs to schools during the day.

The Dr. Dog program has been a very successful therapy programme which can, and already has, changed the lives of children with varying problems and needs. It needs the co-operative efforts of dog owners and special schools to function effectively. We request care-givers to spayed or neutered 2-year old (and older) dogs to come forward to have their pet evaluated for our Dr. Dog programme. The lives of many adversely-affected children may be improved just by them spending a few hours every week with your pet, and that is an opportunity that merits all our efforts.

### **Educational Programmes**

Regular programmes are carried out by volunteers of the Blue Cross in schools, colleges, institutions and clubs such as the Lions and Rotary

Several schools visited the Blue Cross, and collected funds and rice for the animals.

### **Reports for 2013-14**

**26<sup>th</sup> of August, 2013** – Ms. Anca Tomescu, the head of the team sent to us by Vier Pfoten, used slides she had taken in Ukraine to demonstrate and conduct a training session on effective dog-handling techniques for our attenders.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> September to September 28, 2013 – Mission Rabies**

The Blue Cross of India, in coordination with Dogs Trust, UK, and WVS Ooty, we went on a massive vaccination drive across Chennai and some of its adjoining suburbs. 6066 dogs were vaccinated against rabies during the 28-day programme.

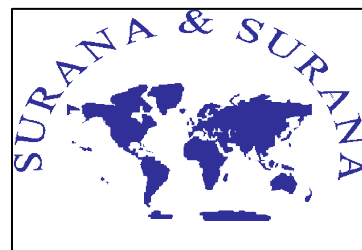
**2nd March to 14th March 2013** – Dr. Ilona Otter of World Veterinary Services (WVS) International Training Centre in Ooty conducted a training programme on our premises. All our Doctors and 4 of our attenders received training on ABC procedures and best-practices for surgeries. They sterilised 35 dogs caught by the Poonamallee Municipality and 2 dogs who were brought in by their care-givers. They also treated 50 dogs and 2 cats and performed amputations on 4 dogs.

## Donors

The story of the Vanara army building the bridge between India and Sri Lanka tells us of the great work done by those forest dwellers who had the monkey as their totem, and yet Rama attributed the greatest contribution to a little squirrel who, in a bid to do all he could, lifted pebbles with just as much gusto as his fellows in the cause. We are, therefore, loathe to mention any individual contributions or rank our contributors, as every drop of water in the ocean is equally vital to the ocean. We do however extend our most sincere appreciation of all the contributions that help us help more animals.







Our sincere thanks also to the Stitching Animal Medical Care Foundation, Maria Norbury Foundation and Susen MacIennan Dambrines.

The work of the Blue Cross has been made possible to large extent by donations received from the public. We have been fortunate that several donors have been making monthly contributions. These include:

- Ash Sundaram and Jay Shah
- C.E. Christopher
- City Pest Control Service
- D. Poongodhai
- Darshan Kumar Clair
- Dinesh Chandrasekaran
- Dr. Lakshmi Bhattacharya
- E.S. Devasena
- G. Swarnamugi
- G. Thirunavukarasu
- Gomathi
- Gopinath Rukmangathan
- H. Kalyan Chakravarthi
- Jini Ramakrishnan
- K. Chandra
- K. Narayanan

- K.M. Pandia Charitable Trust
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- Marion Courtine
- Mavis Johnson
- Mini Krishnan
- Mr. Ravindar & Mrs Malliga Ravindar
- Philip Wollen
- Prabha Sarangi
- Pradeep Kumar B, Pattabiram
- Prarthana Revanoor
- Priyadarshini
- Priyalakshmi
- R. Gowthaman
- Rajesh
- Renu Bist
- S. Subramanian
- Sourav Aich
- Sri Abu Babaji Trust
- Subhashini
- Suresh Kumar, Velacherry
- Suresh Kumar, Pachal Post
- S. Ramesh, IIM, Bangalore
- T. Padma
- The White Light Group

Of course, our gratitude goes out to the big donors of 2013-14, many of whom are also annual donors.

- Animal People Inc
- Aspick Engineering P Ltd
- De Penning and De Penning
- Dr. Mrs. Seetha Mouli
- Elite Health Care
- Ganadipathy Tulsi's Jain Engineering College, Vellore
- Gita Srikanth
- JLT Jain Sangh Dubai
- Julian & Bettina Ludowici
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- Pattabiraman R.
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- The Madras Seva Sadan, Chetpet, Chennai
- V.R. Durgamba Charitable Trust
- Vier Pforten International

We would also like to extend special thanks to:

Sheela Narayanan, from Porur, who contributes Rs. 50 thousand every year in memory of Smt. Sankarambal. Mt. Sankarambal sheik maniam porur, chennai, have contributed two ton a/c for operation theatre and 5 wall mounting fans for the quarantine section.

Mrs. Sangeetha from Mylapore, sister of one of our formerly regular donors Miss. Hemalatha (now living in Pune and contributing to and volunteering with the Blue Cross of Pune) who donates Rs. 10,000 every month.

Special thanks to Mrs. Seetha Mouly for being our most ardent supporter and best contributor.

## **RICE DONORS**

- Mrs. Sriram from Ekaduthangal, Chennai
- Mr. Asokan from Adambakkam, Chennai
- Mr. C.R. Anand and Mrs. Sujatha Anand from Kandanchavadi, Chennai
- Mrs. Bharathy from Annanagar, Chennai
- Mr. Vidyakar from Udavum Karangal

- Mrs. Sujatha Sriram from Valasaravakkam, Chennai
- Sri RKM Sharadha Vidyalaya, T.Nagar, Chennai
- Chennai Food Bank, T. Nagar, Chennai

### **Animal People, USA**

We are most grateful to Animal People ([www.animalpeoplenews.org](http://www.animalpeoplenews.org)) for their continued help in passing on contributions from the USA from donors who wish to have their contributions spent on India-specific projects. They have sent 100% of the donors' contributions even absorbing the bank and postage charges.

### **Rukmini Devi Arundale Trust**

With the passing away of La Sri La Swami Nachiappa Swamigal, Mathadipathi of the Koviloor Mutt, the animal welfare movement has lost a great supporter.

We are delighted and honoured that the present pontiff, Swami Maiyappan, has promised to continue the support of the RDAT and the Mutt and the new Chairperson of the RDAT, Mrs. Gowri Ramnarayanan, is continuing to help the activities of the Blue Cross.

The members of Sree Ganesh Mandal of Kasi Chetty Lane, Sowcarpet, feed all the animals every Sunday morning.

### **CP Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation**

Since 1987, the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation has been generously housing our Registered Office at their premises. Their staff members have been of immense help in our programmes and regular activities. Our thanks to the CPRAF, especially its staff members, Mrs. Kala, Mr. Manikandan, Mrs. Shantha, Mr. Selvapandian, Mr. Santhamurthy and Mr. Shanmugam.

### **Tamilnadu Government Grant**

The annual grant from the Government of Tamilnadu is greatly appreciated as is the sales tax exemption given to us in all purchases of medicines and hospital supplies. The ambulances of the Blue Cross have also been allowed a special 75% rebate on road tax.



## Conclusion

The work of the Blue Cross has increased tremendously in the last few years. Thousands of animals injured in rail or road accidents or young puppies and kittens separated from their mothers are rescued by us each year. Thousands of ABC/AR operations on dogs and several hundred on cats are carried out. Hundreds of injured and sick animals are in our shelters at any time. All our services with the exception of requesting the cost of vaccines from pets with guardians are totally free of charge. In spite of so much of our work being done by volunteers, the running of so massive an operation needs a lot of money. It is, therefore, with many thanks that we acknowledge the generous help of our supporters without whose help the above work would not have been possible