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Nightingales to the ResQ

Two young ladies have provided succour and support to over 5,000 street dogs in the last three years

Rahul Chandawarkar

When a stray dog, they were trying to save, passed away in their arms three years ago, little did Neha Panchamiya Jangle and Tanya Kane know that this incident would trigger off a passion to serve street dogs in the city.

A few days after the dog passed away, Neha convinced her father Hemant Panchamiya, owner of E Square multiplex to give her a small corner in the multiplex compound to set up a rescue kennel and the two young ladies got down to work.

They shared their phone numbers with leading veterinarians in the city and soon began receiving calls from people reporting street dogs in distress. Tanya's experience of having worked with a veterinarian came in handy, as the duo zoomed in dogs in distress and started administering first aid. Neha, too took a short course in first aid, canine nutrition

HEARTS OF GOLD

and kennelling, converting the twosome

from enthusiastic dog lovers to competent saviours.

No task was beyond the two young women. Whether a dog was paralysed, had a bad skin infection or an injured foot, all dogs were looked after. The two invested in a small van, which has become their ambulance. Two young men Balu and Utkarsh joined them as helpers and the service was up and running.

Neha says, "The emphasis is to provide first aid and treatment to the injured dogs at site. In cases where the injuries are serious, we bring them to the kennel." The kennel has subsequently grown in size and can house seven dogs.

A visit to the ResQ kennel revealed that the street dogs in distress were being looked after with utmost kindness and affection.

Electra, a female dog, so named after her head and face was badly burnt in an electrical short circuit was being nursed back to health slowly and steadily. Likewise, Doolittle, a male



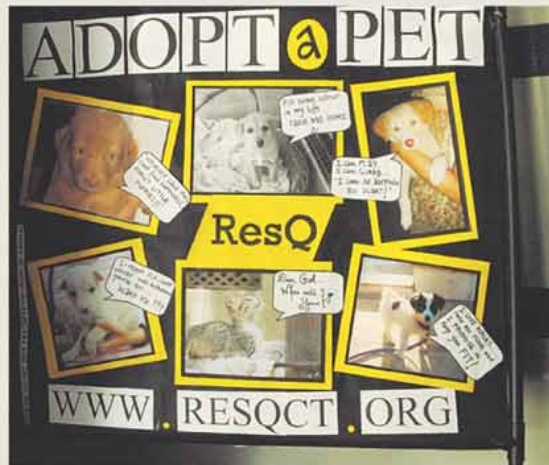
Neha (centre) nurses Electra, a stray dog that was burnt on the face and head, at the ResQ Kennel. She is watched by Tanya Kane (left) and kennel attendant Balu — RAHUL CHANDAWARKAR.DNA

Adopt a stray dog from ResQ

If you walk into the E Square multiplex on a weekend, you cannot miss a ResQ volunteer sitting with a puppy on the ground floor lobby. If you are interested in adopting a stray dog, the volunteer could give you the relevant forms.

Neha says, "It is difficult to get a stray dog from us than buying a pedigree from a pet shop. We interview, select and even get an undertaking signed from people who want to adopt the dogs."

Around 1,000 stray pups and dogs have been given away in adoption by ResQ in the last three years.



Some of ResQ's acts

Rani found with both her hind legs broken after being run over by a tanker. Three surgeries were performed to save her right hind leg.

Rambo, a victim of a hit-and-run accident, required weeks of nursing.

Angel was found with a severely mangled paw that required extensive reconstruction.

Lara was semi paralysed and had cerebral palsy. She is being administered homeopathic treatment

ResQ's operations grew manifold in the second year. From providing re- products at very friendly rates and also gives us funds for our work,"

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