

In this weekly series, TOI honours the city's unsung heroes who are doing their bit away from the public glare

# Saving our STRAYS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Pune:** It's a charitable trust that caters to stray dogs and animals that require care and comfort. Neha Jangle and Tanya Kane began ResQ in 2007, and through their organisation make sure that stray animals are helped by providing field services and encouraging people to adopt them.

Led by a core team of 20 members, ResQ provides medical treatment and check-ups for stray dogs. They carry out these activities in coordination with in-house veterinary doctors. "We recently got two vets on board, till then it was just Tanya and me that treated the dogs and consulted with the vets," says Neha.

Since its launch two-and-a-half years ago, ResQ has been involved in the adoption of some 900 stray dogs and cats. The family that is doing the adopting is given a package detailing what to do and other

information related to the dog or cat. Those interested in adopting the strays rescued and treated by ResQ are interviewed by the trust's team at E-Square every Saturday and Sunday from 1 pm to 7 pm. The trust also keeps six cages be-

hind the multiplex for dogs and cats that need to rest.

"We struggle with funding as we now treat upto 200 cases a month. On our helpline we get anywhere from six to 10 calls per day and we have to stop at a certain number because of the limited resources we have," says Neha.

Currently, the trust is busy raising funds through a charity sale so that its activities can reach out to larger sections of society through awareness programmes. Well-wishers have donated items for the charity sale which was held at E-Square till Sunday. Awareness about stray animals is still very low, say Neha and Tanya. "People think these animals are a menace, but they need to understand why they grow



Tanya Kane (left) and Neha Jangle

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in numbers. The idea is to cover up the garbage bins and to look after the strays in the area so that their numbers don't grow," points out Neha.

The trust members visit housing societies and go from door to door to spread awareness about stray animals and what people can do to control the problem. Neutering the strays is a good way to stop them from increasing, they say. Neha gives the example of how her team helped neuter all the strays in Ashoknagar. "Also, zero feeding leads to the dogs becoming territorial and not allowing other dogs to enter their area. This is another way of controlling the problems caused by stray dogs," says Neha.

Children need to be sensitised the most about animals, says Neha. "That's why we want to reach out schools. We have even launched the 'Heads Up For Tales' initiative in some restaurants, wherein information on stray dogs is kept at each table and customers can choose to donate Rs 10 to ResQ through their bills," she adds.

*(ResQ can be contacted at [info@resqct.org](mailto:info@resqct.org))*

