

**DHARMA DONKEY SANCTUARY** 

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

**185** Donkey Served through Camps

**81** Animals Treated at Clinic

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### Preface

In rural regions, donkeys are indispensable players in transporting agricultural goods, acting as lifelines for occupations like pottery, laundry services, and cargo handling. Despite their integral role, these hardworking equines often remain overlooked, facing a glaring disparity in care. Sensitised to this unjust scenario, we took early action to address the predicament of these underprivileged animals in the Nanded District.

The inception of the Dharma Donkey Sanctuary in 2000 under the auspices of Smt. Maneka Gandhi, the then Cabinet Minister, and Ratilal Shah, an avid animal advocate from the USA. Collaborative synergy with entities such as Brooke Hospital for Animals, Blue Cross of Hyderabad, Sanskriti Samvardhan Mandal Sagroli, and numerous other animal enthusiasts reinforced our cause. With an unwavering commitment to fostering "Healthy Working Equines," our vision is to rectify disparities and ensure these indispensable creatures' well-being.

### **Governing Body**

Sr. No.	Name of Member	Designation/ Role	Email ID
1	Pramod Keshavrao Deshmukh	Chairperson	pramod@ssmandal.net
2	Atindra Bindumadhav Katti	Trustee	
3	Sanjeev Shyamrao Sagrolikar	Trustee	sansagrolikar@gmail.com
4	Abhijeet Ananadidas Mahajan	Trustee	abhijeet@ssmandal.net
5	Hoshang Bilimoria	Trustee	hbilimoria@gmail.com
6	Padmakar Shankarrao Deshpande	Trustee	cfo@ssmandal.net
7	Dr Sameer Chandrakant Bilolikar	Trustee	drsamirch@gmail.com
8	Dr Vijay Vasantrao Lad	Trustee	
9	Rohit Pramodrao Deshmukh	Trustee	rohit@ssmandal.net



### Aims & Objectives

Recognising the parallel significance of Animal Care alongside childcare, our initiative introduced the pioneering Animal Care program. Our mission is to extend complimentary healthcare services to a diverse array of animals, including donkeys, dogs, and various other species. Beyond healthcare, these programs are designed to cultivate a profound affection for animals, especially among children and the community.

Our core objectives encompass an array of vital actions. We are committed to offering sanctuary and medical attention to aged, injured, pregnant, and ailing donkeys. Our efforts extend to organising vaccination and deworming camps for donkeys, bolstering the capacity of Local Health Providers, bridging the divide between governmental veterinary clinics and local communities through multi-level advocacy, and orchestrating comprehensive dog sterilisation camps. Through these initiatives, we endeavour to foster a harmonious coexistence between humans and animals while addressing critical animal welfare needs.

### What We Do

Our comprehensive initiatives coalesce with a singular vision: to elevate the status of donkeys by adhering to the cardinal Five Freedoms of Equine welfare. These Freedoms epitomise our commitment, guiding every facet of our work to ensure the holistic well-being of every donkey entrusted to us.

- Ensure freedom from hunger and thirst.
- Provide freedom from discomfort.
- Guarantee freedom from pain, injuries, and diseases.
- Enable freedom to express natural behaviour.
- Uphold freedom from fear and distress.





### **Operational Scope**

- Comprehensive Medical Support DDS is a crucial resource, extending critical medical aid to equines within the equine family during accidents, convalescence from skin ailments, wound recuperation, sterilisation, tetanus, and digestive distress. Our accomplished Veterinary and Livestock officers spearhead these interventions.
- Empowerment Through Education We undertake an active role in imparting equine owners with invaluable insights into welfare best practices, nurturing a culture of informed and conscientious care.
- Enhancing Provider Proficiency Through meticulous strategies, we fortify the proficiency of local service providers, including Livestock Health Practitioners, government veterinary officers, Ashwamitra personnel, and equine attendants.
- Holistic Veterinary Care Our mission's cornerstone entails delivering immediate emergency and routine, exceptional-quality veterinary interventions to working equines, ensuring their optimal health and well-being.
- **Policy Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement** DDS diligently forges robust relationships with policy influencers, effectively advocating for equine welfare and galvanising support at the policymaker level.



### Impact of DDS

- Donkey and animal owners derive valuable insights from consultations with veterinary officers and accomplished experts.
- Animal caregivers elevate their cognisance of the intricacies linked to donkey and other animal care, cultivating the expertise to foster their overall welfare.
- DDS emerges as an instrumental platform characterised by its steadfast dedication to furnishing comprehensive veterinary care and an unwavering commitment to championing the welfare of animals.



# Medical Camps

In the past year, our organisation conducted four camps in the villages of Sagroli, Hingani, Kasrali, and Loha, addressing the needs of 185 donkeys and supporting 57 donkey owners in the Nanded district and its vicinity. The focus of our efforts was on general health check-ups, deworming, and vaccinations. Additionally, we attended to cases of wounded donkeys, as well as those subjected to abuse and inhumane treatment. Alongside providing necessary treatment, we conducted educational sessions to raise awareness among donkey owners about common diseases, prevention strategies, and overall care practices.

Camp	Date	Donkey's served	Owner's served
Hingani	06 September 2022	46	10
Kasrali	11 September 2022	58	8
Sagroli	18 September 2022	41	11
Loha	1 January 2023	40	28



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## **Clinical Service**

In addition to organizing medical camps specifically for donkeys, our organization operates a veterinary care center where we provide comprehensive animal care services. Typically, we address the requirements of local residents and their domesticated animals. Our services primarily focus on essential veterinary procedures such as deworming and vaccinations. Additionally, we handle cases related to various diseases and wounds, offering medical attention and treatment to ensure the well-being of the animals under our care.



Donkey

Sanctuary

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# **Tackling LSD**

#### LSD = Lumpy Skin Disease

a contagious viral infection affecting cattle, characterized by fever, nodules on the skin, and general discomfort, often leading to reduced milk production and economic losses in the livestock industry.

In our annual initiatives, Dharma Donkey Sanctuary partnered with SSM's Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sagroli, to launch a targeted Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) Awareness Campaign, prompted by LSD detection in certain Maharashtra regions, including our operational areas. This comprehensive campaign educated farmers in key villages of Biloli Taluka and Deglaur Taluka, such as Sagroli, Daulatapur, Dongaon, Bamni, and Adampur. Through structured sessions, farmers gained vital insights into LSD transmission, symptoms, preventive measures, and immediate first aid protocols. We stressed the urgency of reporting any lumpy-like symptoms to nearby veterinary clinics promptly. Thanks to these efforts and active farmer involvement, the campaign successfully halted the spread of LSD in the region. This accomplishment not only protected our community's animals but also highlighted the significance of collaborative endeavors in enhancing animal health and welfare, reinforcing our commitment to the well-being of the animals we serve.



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#### **DHARMA DONKEY SANCTUARY**

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