



International Animal Rescue

Dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of suffering animals

Registered Charity Number 1118277

Goa, India Volunteer Guide

Compiled by Matilda Sims

1 Introduction	2
1.1 International Animal Rescue (IAR) and IAR Indonesia	2
1.2 Objectives of International Animal Rescue	2
1.3 Volunteers	3
2 IAR India	3
2.1 History	3
2.2 IAR India's aim	3
2.3 The centre	3
2.4 Location	4
2.5 How to contact IAR India	4
3 Volunteer Programme at IAR India	5
3.1 IAR India requirements	5
3.2 Legal requirements	7
3.21 Visa	7
3.22 Recommended vaccinations	7
3.23 Insurance	7
3.3 Activities as a volunteer at IAR India	7
3.4 Travel recommendations	8
3.5 Language	8
3.6 Accommodation	8
3.7 Transport	9
3.8 Useful links and references	9
Appendix 1: Map of Goa	10
Appendix 2: Visa application	11
Appendix 3: Vocabulary	12

1. Introduction

1.1 International Animal Rescue (IAR)



IAR founder John Hicks

International Animal Rescue was founded in 1988 by John Hicks from Worthing, Sussex and first registered as a charity in the UK in 1989. IAR comes to the aid of wild and domestic animals with hands-on rescue and rehabilitation. Wherever possible we return rehabilitated animals to the wild but we also provide permanent sanctuary for those that can't fend for themselves. We have offices in the UK and the US and ongoing projects in India, Indonesia and Malta.

IAR works to educate the public in the compassionate and humane treatment of all animals. We use sound scientific evidence to inform our decisions and determine the course of our rescue operations. In all that we do we aim to find lasting solutions that benefit both animals and people.

In India International Animal Rescue's clinics in Goa and Tamil Nadu provide a comprehensive veterinary service for stray dogs and cats and also treat wildlife such as monkeys and reptiles, as well as sacred cows and other livestock. Our rescue centres also work to rehome the many unwanted dogs and puppies, cats and kittens in India, finding them homes locally or in rare cases overseas.

1.2 Objectives of International Animal Rescue

- To come to the aid of wild and domestic animals with hands-on rescue and rehabilitation.
- To return rescued animals to their natural habitat wherever possible, but also to provide sanctuary for animals that can no longer survive in the wild.
- To provide comprehensive sterilisation and vaccination programmes for stray dogs and cats, particularly in developing countries.
- To educate the public in the compassionate and humane treatment of all animals.
- To work with decision-makers and government departments to develop sound animal welfare laws and support law enforcement efforts by providing vital equipment and caring for confiscated animals.



Tanja and resident dogs

- To increase our capacity to help suffering animals by joining forces with other like-minded groups and individuals wherever possible.
- To use sound scientific evidence as the basis for our rescue and rehabilitation operations.

1.3 Volunteers

Through our volunteer programme we recruit valuable extra support at the centre and provide an opportunity for students and other individuals to gain experience in the care of animals. IAR also benefits from the knowledge and new ideas of volunteers from overseas. Any volunteers who have specialist skills, whether in the veterinary profession or in other fields, are always a great help to us.

2. IAR India

2.1 History

International Animal Rescue was first established in India in 1998 by John Hicks and his wife Jo. We have two veterinary clinics, one in Goa, known as 'Animal Tracks' and a second in Tamil Nadu.

2.2 International Animal Rescue in Goa



Rescued kitten and puppy

The aim of the project in Goa is to end the suffering of the stray dogs and cats. By the end of 2007 the Goa clinic had sterilised and treated more than 85,000 animals.

Sterilisations are carried out to reduce the dog and cat populations and to relieve the strain on females of continually having large litters to feed.

Vaccinations are carried out to prevent the spread of serious diseases such as rabies.

A vital ingredient for the successful rehabilitation of any animal is to provide it with lots of loving care and attention and our volunteers play a vital role in soothing animals that are frightened by unfamiliar faces and strange surroundings.

2.3 The centre

At the Goa centre there are 28 full-time staff from Goa and other parts of India. Under the guidance of our veterinary director Astrid Almeida, there are six fully qualified vets and three nurses.

Other staff include ten kennel staff, four office staff and three drivers. The veterinary clinic has a purpose-built kennel block housing 90 dogs and a purpose-built cattery for 50 cats.

At any one time the centre houses about 200 animals - as well as the cats and dogs we also provide shelter and rehabilitation for cattle, birds, livestock and wildlife. Since 2006 we have also started rescuing and caring for macaque monkeys that are used on the streets and beaches to entertain tourists or offered for sale as pets.

We are registered with the Government of India under their Animal Birth Control scheme (ABC.) This allows us to reclaim some of the costs of sterilising the dogs.

2.4 Location

Goa is situated on the west coast of India to the south of Mumbai (Bombay). The IAR centre is located in Bardez in North Goa near the town of Mapusa, the largest town in North Goa. In Mapusa there isn't a lot to do or see but it is good for errands and is small enough to get around on foot.

The centre is close to the Chapora River near the west coast where there are many lovely beaches that attract hordes of tourists – but beware of the dangerous strong currents of the Arabian Sea. In the surrounding area are the Pomburpa Springs, Chapora Fort, Shri. Shantadurga Temple and many more places of interest. The Konkan Railway runs from north to south down the east of Goa and the South Central railway runs across central Goa and to Vasco Da Gama.

Panjim (or Panaji) is the capital of Goa and is situated approximately 20km from Assagao. There are plenty of historic and cultural things to see in and around the city and it is a good place for shopping.

For a map of Goa see Appendix 1.

2.5 How to contact International Animal Rescue in Goa, India

International Animal Rescue
Animal Tracks
Madungo Vaddo
Assagao
Bardez
Goa

Telephone: +91 (0) 832 2268 328 / 272

Email: iargoa@satyam.net.in



The IAR Goa team.

3. Volunteer Programme at IAR India

3.1 IAR India requirements

To become a volunteer for IAR India, you must first send your curriculum vitae to the IAR UK head office at:

International Animal Rescue
Lime House
Regency Close
Uckfield
East Sussex TN22 1DS.



Vet Karmele befriends a beach puppy

You will then be invited to attend an interview with an appropriate member or members of IAR's team. Interviews can be arranged in IAR's main office in the UK or in the Dutch office. It may also be possible to interview candidates in Spain if required.

You will need:

- A love of animals
- A willingness to dedicate time, patience and care to the animals and to the tasks given to you
- To provide yourself with money for flights, accommodation and food etc. Lunch will be provided for volunteers on duty
- To enjoy working with other people as a member of a team
- A sense of humour!

Adjusting to the country

The residential population in Goa is 1.34 million. However, an average of 1.38 million tourists visit Goa every year. The largest town, with a population of 97,000 is Vasco da Gama, in central Goa. Goa is 105km long and 65km wide – you can drive from the north to the south in about two hours.

India is an undeveloped country and won't provide all the commodities and conveniences that you enjoy at home. If you have not travelled here before, on first arrival you may suffer something of a 'culture shock' and you will have to get used to several changes from your normal way of life:

• **Climate**

Mild and moderate. The weather is pleasant and sunny with no extremes of temperature, the average being between 25°C and 30°C. The monsoon season (June to September) is an exception as it becomes very humid, there is less sunshine (3-5 hours as opposed to the 9-10 hours during the summer) and lots of rain!

• **Social status**

Women in Goa have a much better position in society

than in other parts of India: here women are educated, they have property rights and are accepted in many professions such as the teaching and medical professions. However, men are still dominant in society.

- **Sacred cows**

The Hindu faith holds cows (and snakes) in high esteem and they worship these sacred animals. As a result, the consumption of beef is avoided in the Hindu faith.

- **Dress sense**

Most Goans are modest in the clothes they wear and it is important not to abuse their hospitality or offend their religious beliefs by wearing clothes which are inappropriately revealing / tight / short etc.



Cow at the IAR Goa centre

On the beaches, and everywhere else in Goa, nudism (including topless) is illegal and offensive to Goans. It is also appropriate to avoid revealing clothing in churches and temples and on social occasions.

Your shoes must be removed before entering a Hindu temple and it is also polite to do so at someone's house.

- **Behaviour at religious sites**

One must be respectful, particularly at religious services. Do not smoke or talk loudly and never touch a statue or carving of a God. Remember to dress respectfully and do not take photographs inside a temple.

- **Different work rhythm**

Here everything is done in a more relaxed fashion than in Europe. You may find this hard to adjust to at first. You will have to be very patient!

- Although we do not insist that you are vegetarian, we do expect you to refrain from eating any meat whilst on duty. All food served at the centre is vegetarian and consuming meat at our premises is a major offence.

Arrival / Departure

Goa has only one airport situated in Dabolim near the city of Vasco. Taxis are readily on hand to take you to and from your accommodation. IAR also has contact with local drivers and can arrange for one to pick you up when you arrive and take you to your accommodation. This may be slightly more expensive than hiring an airport taxi but can be a little added comfort when you first arrive. The centre is approximately a 1–1.5 hour drive from the airport depending on the time of day.

3.2 Legal requirements

3.2.1 Visa

For information regarding visas please see Appendix 2.

3.2.2 Recommended vaccinations

The World Health Organisation recommends these vaccinations for people travelling to India (also you should be up to date with measles, mumps and rubella):

- Adult diphtheria and tetanus
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Polio
- Typhoid
- Varicella
- Japanese B Encephalitis
- Meningitis
- Rabies – this is a requirement when working at the centre. It is very costly in Europe and we can help arrange it locally at a fraction of the cost. It is a course of three injections and although the full course must be completed volunteers may commence duty after receiving the first injection.
- Tuberculosis (TB)

NB: If only travelling to Goa, some of these vaccinations may not be relevant or necessary so as an additional precaution please check with a medical professional first.

3.2.3 Insurance

You will need relevant travel and health insurance (including a return flight home in case of an emergency.)

3.3 Activities as a volunteer for IAR India



Volunteer with puppies

It is advised that you allow yourself time to adjust to the way of living and working in India upon arrival here. As long as you are prepared for a different way of life, you will be able to make the most of this wonderful opportunity.

Activities at the centre can be subject to change for a number of reasons: for example, unpredictable weather, poor transport or a variety of other unforeseen circumstances. For this reason it is difficult to draw up a timetable. However, below are some of the main activities you will be involved in:

- Providing enrichment for the cats and dogs
- Feeding the animals
- Helping the vets in the clinic

- Collecting animals that are wounded, suffering or in need of sterilisation off the streets
- Releasing animals once they have been treated and rehabilitated
- Cleaning the enclosures
- Publicity, advertising and fundraising
- Dog walking
- Assisting with adoption programme

Animal care

Once they have been treated and are fully recovered, the majority of dogs and cats we take in will either be returned to their territory or rehomed. A small number remain as residents at the centre. Volunteers should be aware however that sometimes, if an animal is not going to recover, we have to take the difficult decision to put it to sleep. This is always a sad situation for everyone but we make sure it is carried out with the utmost care and without causing the animal any pain or distress.

3.4 Travel recommendations

We recommend that you take with you:

- Comfortable clothes (in Goa there are three main religions: Hinduism (65%), Roman Catholic (30%) and Islam (5%) – in some of these religions women are not expected to wear some types of clothes; it is best not to wear short tops, skirts and shorts, tight or revealing clothing etc.)
- Raincoat (in monsoon season only)
- Sheet or travelling blanket (sleeping bag will be too hot!)
- Torch (a head torch is a good idea as it leaves your hands free)
- Mosquito repellent
- Towels

Don't worry if you forget something. Most things can be purchased locally and at cheaper rates than in Europe.

You may feel that you need to purchase various medicines at home to bring with you such as Paracetamol, Immodium and other emergency products. This is not necessary as all the basic remedies you could possibly need are available at local pharmacies at a fraction of the cost.

NB: There are many ATM cash points in Goa where most major credit cards will be accepted.

3.5 Language

While it is not compulsory to learn the Indian language to be a volunteer with IAR in India, it may be useful to learn a few basics. The official languages in India are Hindi and Konkani. You could buy a basic phrasebook and/or look at the vocabulary list provided in Appendix 3.

3.6 Accommodation

Accommodation ranges from very basic (guest house, approximately RS 300/- per night, may not have hot water but usually have good toilet facilities) to very comfortable (hotels / apartments, RS 1000/- per night upwards.) Staff at the IAR centre can help you arrange your initial accommodation if you let them know what kind of place you are looking for.

3.7 Transport

Most visitors in Goa get around by hiring a scooter. Although this may be the most convenient mode of transport it is by no means the safest. Before hiring a scooter please make a note of the following:

- It is recommended that you always wear a helmet.
- Remember very few traffic rules are followed by other drivers, so go slow and always expect the unexpected.
- Always carry your licence as police often stop foreigners with the view of making some money by dishing out expensive fines. Your licence should be accompanied by an International Driving Permit. This must be issued in the UK and you can apply at RAC and AA websites and at selected post offices. The cost is around £7.
- When hiring a scooter make sure you are given the following documentation: valid emission certificate, insurance papers, RTO book. You should also make sure that your scooter has black licence plates as it is illegal to hire out scooters on white plates in Goa. IAR can assist you with hiring a scooter at a favourable rate from a reliable source so check with the centre before going elsewhere.

Local buses run frequently and to most places and are reasonably safe albeit not very comfortable. It is a cheap way to get around and can be a fun experience too.

Taxis, rickshaws and motorbike taxis are always available but these can end up being an expensive mode of transport in the long run. If you are travelling further afield for the day however this may be the most sensible and comfortable way of travelling.

3.8 Useful links and references



Olive, one of our resident dogs

- 'Lonely Planet Goa' – Book, ISBN 9781740599764
- IAR Goa webpage:
www.iar.org.uk/india/goa.shtml
- IAR webpage on our dogs:
www.iar.org.uk/india/resident-dogs

Appendix 1

Map of Goa



Above map from: www.portcities.org.uk -
http://www.portcities.org.uk/london/upload/img_400/goaMap_final_400.gif



Above map from: <http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://www.indiaatitsbest.com/images/maps-of-goa/goa-tourist->

Appendix 2

Volunteer visa application

1. Apply online (follow the link for VFS Global on www.hcilondon.net) then either make an appointment online to visit the centre in London with a copy of your application signed, and hand in your application form, Passport and **£89.04** in cash or postal orders (no cheques and no credit cards although they hope to have credit card payments online soon). If you do this we recommend you use Special delivery £7.40 and ask for Special delivery back to you £7.40.

2. You will then have to return after 3 days to pick up your visa. The applications and passports are delivered to India House each morning and visas are issued as before.

3. The alternative is to apply online and then send in your passport and application form, photos and payment in postal orders. Postal applications can take 2 weeks but they would prefer all of the applications to be done this way.

4. When you apply online select **1 year entry visa** one year under the choice for visa type and enclose the letter from me at the same time and these will be checked at India House and 1 year visas will be issued.

5. Use the following details for your **Indian references**:

1. John Hicks

Animal Tracks, Murdungo Vaddo, Assagao, Mapusa , Bardez , 403 507

Tel : 0091 832 2268328

(you will need to put in the post code and the city / town as Mapusa otherwise it will not work).

2. Astrid Almeida

IAR, Murdungo Vaddo, Assagao, Mapusa, Bardez, 403 507

Tel : 0091 832 2268328

6. Volunteers who travel to India on a one year multiple entry X visa **must ensure they register themselves with the Foreigners Registration Office (FRO) in Panaji within 14 days of arriving in India**. The visa will have a stamp stating "Registration required within 14 days of arrival in India". This is a legal requirement and if not complied with the person could be denied exit from India and be liable for prosecution and / or heavy fines. The FRO is situated at the police head quarters and upon registering volunteers must bring a colour photocopy of their passport and visa, 3 passport photos, proof of residency from landlords and a letter from IAR Goa. After one week a residence permit is issued which must be collected from the FRO. Before leaving Goa the FRO must be notified at least one week prior to departure. Staff at IAR will assist with any queries regarding the registration but it is the responsibility of the volunteers to ensure that the registration is completed. For tourist visas and visas valid for less than 180 days this procedure does not apply.

Appendix 3

Vocabulary

Key words

English

Hello
Goodbye
Excuse me
Please
Yes
No
Thank you
Big
small
Today
Day
Night
Week
Month
Year
Medicine

Konkani

Paypadta
Mioshay
Upkar korchi
Upkar kor
Oi
Naah
Dev borem korum
Hodlo
Dhakto
Aaj
Dees
Racho
Athovda
Mohino
Voros
Vokot

Useful phrases

English

How are you?
Very well, thank you.
What's your name?
Do you speak English?
I don't understand
Where is a hotel?
How far is...?
How do I get to...?
How much?
This is expensive?
What is the time?

Konkani

(kosso/kos-hem) assa? (M/F)
Bhore jaung
Tuje naav kide?
To English hulonk jhana?
Mhaka kay samzona
Hotel khoy aasa?
Anig kitya phoode...?
Maka kasha...meltole?
Kitke poishe laqthele?
Chod marog
Vurra kitki jali?

Numbers

English Konkani

One Ek
Two Don
Three
Four Char

Tin

English Konkani

Five	Panch	
Six	Sou	
Seven		Saat
Eight		Aat
Nine	Nov	
Ten	Dha	
Eleven		Ikra
Twelve		Bara
Thirteen		Tera
Fourteen		Chouda
Thirteen		Pondra
Fifteen		Sollah
Sixteen	Sotra	
Seventeen		Ootra
Eighteen		Ekonis
Nineteen		Vis
Twenty-one		Ekvis
Twenty-two		Bavis
Twenty-three		Tevis
Twenty-four		Chouvis
Twenty-five		Ponchis
Twenty-six		Sovis
Twenty-seven		Satavis
Twenty-eight		Attavis
Twenty-nine		Ekontis
Thirty		Tis
Thirty-five		Posstis
Fourty		Chalis
Fourty-five		Ponchechalis
Fifty		Ponnas
Fifty-five		Ponchavan
Sixty	Saatt	
Sixty-five		Pansatt
Seventy		Sottor
Seventy-five		Ponchator
Eighty		Oichim
Eighty-five		Ponchalsh
Ninety		Novodh
Ninety-five		Ponchanov
One hundred		Chembor
Two hundred		Donshe
One thousand		Ek hazaar
Two thousand		Don hazaar
100,000	Lakh	