

Zoo Outreach Organization assists with COVID19 fight

As on 20th April, over 2.4 million COVID19 infections have been recorded worldwide from a strain of virus referred to as 'Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome CoronaVirus 2' or 'SARS-CoV-2' causing more than 165,069 deaths. In India, the numbers are not as high as in some other countries due to the lockdown, but the disease is still on the spread.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested all NGOs to join hands with the government to deliver services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, transgender persons, and other vulnerable groups; to create awareness about prevention, social distancing, isolation, and combating stigma; to provide shelter to the homeless, daily wage workers, and urban poor families.

While the Zoo Outreach Organization office remains closed for a month now and we are all working from home, we have been contributing to the cause in various ways. Here

is a small note to highlight one action that has been led earnestly by Latha Ravikumar who is doing a tremendous job along with her family members from her home. With her connections in the government hospital, she met with the local staff (the dean, the medical superintendent, the regional medical officer) to identify areas where ZOO can help.

It was understood that doctors, paramedics, and the frontline staff serving in government hospitals, during the COVID outbreak, do not have ready access to protective gear, which puts their own lives at risk. Due to the delays due to bureaucracy, it is likely that many health workers' own health will be compromised. So, to overcome the





delays and provide urgent help, ZOO is providing the simple nose/mouth masks, n95 mask, personal protective equipment, and sanitizer.

Latha and her family members are sourcing raw materials, and along with ZOO's office mom, Sarojamma, have been putting together the supplies for the COVID kit for ESI Hospital. Two batches of sanitizers, masks and PPEs have already been dispatched.

Every contribution, however big or small, is immensely valuable in this current situation. Every individual in their individual capacity can

contribute and can make a big difference. While the disease continues, the pandemic is infected by a range of untruths. As WHO says we are fighting not just a pandemic, but also an 'infodemic'. Fake news spreads faster and more easily than a virus, and is just as dangerous. Please help stop the spread of fake news, and help in any realistic way to combat the disease. Stay safe. Stay positive, and help others to stay positive!

If you wish to help Latha and the ZOO team in this cause please donate by visiting the link <https://zooreach.org/donation/india/>