

Healing touch for animal hospital — after 100 years!

The heritage structure at Parel had not undergone any major renovation since it was built in 1888

PH: ALPITA MASURKAR



Renovation in progress at the cattleshed of the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals at Parel

ALPITA MASURKAR

The Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals at Parel is undergoing a major facelift, one that's worth Rs 36 lakh. And why not! The hospital, a heritage structure, has hardly undergone any renovation ever since it was constructed way back in 1888.

Now, with help from donors, the hospital run by the Bombay Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is revamping its premises to suit the need of the animals. A new aviary and cattleshed have been designed, and the Animal Birth Control Ward, too, has been given a new look.

THE CATTLESHEDED

With a capacity of over 50 animals, the cattleshed is one of the major projects undertaken, at an estimated cost of Rs 18 lakh.

The decision to renovate it was taken after a visit by the Bombay Gau-rakshak Trust to the hospital last year. "We approached the Trust as it was not easy to raise the entire amount for repairs. They saw the shed and sanctioned it," said Lt Colonel (Retd) JC Khanna, secretary of BSPCA.

The shed houses cattle brought in for treatment. Constructed over a century ago, it was in bad shape with its wood eaten by white ants and plaster peeling. "The cows used to lick the loose plaster, which is unhealthy. Now work is on in full swing, with pest control work already done," said Khanna.

The new ward will have a roof with transparent tiles to allow sunlight, and a storage room for food. The cattle will be kept in a tail-to-tail arrangement, to prevent infection that can spread if their heads are in close proximity.

THE AVIARY

The aviary has been redone at a cost of Rs 12 lakh. The new aviary has separate cages for birds, and some more cages for monkeys and rabbits. "The cages have been designed keeping in mind the characteristic behaviour of these animals and birds while they

are undergoing treatment," said Dr Yuvraj Kaginkar, hospital manager of BSPCA.

At present, the different bird cages house some injured black kites, barn owls, koyals, pigeons and parrots.

THE ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL WARD

The Animal Birth Control Ward is one of the most important for the city, as it is here that stray dogs are brought in for sterilisation by the BMC. The ward has been redone at a cost of Rs 6 lakh. The number of kennels for the dogs have been increased and a separate area has also been provided to treat cats. The operation theatre has also been upgraded.



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