Our story

Peepal Farm is a stray animal rescue, and an awareness organization, working to help animals heal and be heard.

Instead of living just because we are born, we wanted to live deliberately - in accordance with our philosophy of life. We had started doing good because of our philosophy; then we learnt it feels great too :)

Located in Village Dhanotu (District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, India) it started out as our home that we built with space for injured stray animals, for people who want to help, and for us to be able to grow our own food.

On December 9, 2014 we started construction. Instead of putting in a swimming pool, we built a cow shed. Instead of an entertainment room, we made a clinic. Instead of having master bedrooms, we made rooms for those who want to come here and experience a simple, and purposeful life. By April 2015, we were operational.

In 2016, we started a women-powered small scale social enterprise as an effort to spread the word about our work.

In 2018, we started leveraging social media for our awarness work, which till that time had been limited to nudging people who were passing through.

By 2021, our rescue work had outgrown our small clinic, and we started building a separate, larger facility for it close to our farm.

In 2022, we started a sanctuary for permanently disabled equines.

On September 1, 2023 our new animal hospital was operational. Peepal Farm now serves as our home office, and foster space for dogs who are looking for homes. It is also home to nearly 40 resident animals.

Founders' Philosophy

Live to do maximum good; live while causing minimum harm.

It's our understanding that involuntary physical suffering is an absolute bad across all species; so reducing suffering, and nurturing changes that reduce suffering is absolutely good.

Why Peepal Farm?

Running on the animal welfare treadmill for some time we had two realizations.

- The only way to bring lasting change is to change how people think. Just the way a Peepal tree sprouts on an old building un-invited and it's roots form these cracks making space for new growth, we wanted to challenge the statu quo making room for fresh thought.
- To scale the work at which it needs to done, we need to share it. So, we have to involve others, and inspire them to do what we are doing. A Peepal tree - as big as it would get - will only cover a finite area, but its fruits can be carried by birds and other critters to other places, and sprout more trees...covering more area, and spreading more seeds.

Vision

A world where animal suffering is on the decline.

Mission

To help animals heal, and be heard.

About Peepal Farm

Why the name "Peepal Farm"?

The Peepal Tree sprouts in the most unfertile climates, including in the sides of buildings. If left there, it will eventually grow so large it will break down the structure it rests on until it reaches the ground. Like the Peepal tree, we are breaking down the societal structures which cause the oppression and suffering of beings.

Why, when, and how did Peepal Farm start?

Our mission is to alleviate and prevent the suffering of as many beings as possible.

In December 2014 we began by building a place where people who wanted to share our mission could have the space and resources to do good work, and where we could involve and inspire others. We expanded to build our [stray animal rescue](), [farm](), [product line](), and [media team]()!

How did you build the mud houses?

We did lots of research on the topic and had help from the architect Sonu Abhi. For natural heating and cooling we researched solar passive construction and made sure that all of our rooms had proper airflow.

How do I start something like Peepal Farm?

Peepal Farm is a large project, involving many people, over several years! The best place to start is where we did - volunteering at other animal rescues, government clinics, or private practices to learn important skills, and rescuing one or two animals to start.

Once you have more experience and can see what is involved, you can [grow from there]()!

Who are the founders of Peepal Farm?

- [Robin]()
- [Jo]()
- [Shivani]()

Why do you not help humans?

We do help humans! We provide fair employment to 20 people from our village.

We choose to help animals directly because of the extreme cruelty we witness towards them. It is not possible for us to help all beings in the world, so we work to inspire others to reduce the suffering that they see; whether it effects animals or humans.

Where are you located?

Village VPO Dhanotu, Tehsil Shahpur District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh 176208

INDIA Read about our policies on [sterilization](#) and [euthanasia.](#)

More [about us.](#)
If you have any further questions please [contact us.](#)

[BACK TO MAIN FAQ Peepal](#)

Farm Farmstay FAQ

Is it at the farm?

It's the adjoining property.

How is the cellphone signal?

The nearest cell phone tower is still pretty far, so the signal can be spotty. Airtel works best.

What should I carry?

Toiletries, toilet paper, towel, a flash light, battery pack, mosquito net, a sleeping sack and a good book as there's not much to do after work. We provide blankets, but if you are not used to cold winters, bring a sleeping bag.

Do you have western toilets?

Yes

How will I do laundry?

You can do your laundry by hand (soap not provided) in bucket, or use one of the laundry services in the village.

Do you have internet?

We do not provide internet. Please bring your own 4G data stick if you would like to have Wifi. Airtel works best here, Jio is next.

Are we allowed to cook our own food in the kitchen?

Yes. We do provide an electric induction stove.

Is there power backup?

No.

What we do every day

Stray Animal Rescue & Recovery

Leading by example is one of the best ways to cultivate compassion. Even though our rescue and recovery center has a short sighted goal, its impact reaches far beyond the recipient animals.

Awareness

We use storytelling to make people - who believe they are good - aware of the gap between their values, and their actions. Not to make people do what *we* want, but to nudge them in doing what *they* value.

Community

Animal welfare community in India is very fragmented. Without a community, people can feel very isolated. Our Facebook and WhatsApp groups help people connect with other animal lovers, online and locally.

Social Enterprise: Peepal Farm Products

Started out as an awareness effort, Peepal Farm Products has become a project that empowers local women through employment. All the profits (after taxes) are donated to our

clinic.

Additional undertakings

- 2021 [Spiti Valley Dog Feeding Program](#)
- 2022 [Spiti Valley Dog Sterilisation Program](#)
- 2023 [Vegan Friendly](#)

How to get here

Bus

From Dharamsala Bus Stand (the one in Dharamsala, not McLeodGanj) ask for a bus towards Chari (pronounced chuh-ree). Then tell the conductor you are going to [Dhanotu](#) (duh-no-too). If you see the Home Guard place on your right, you have gone too far! You can exit the bus there and walk back a few minutes to Dhanotu bus stop next to the *sheetla mata* temple.

When you get off the bus, take the first road to the left (away from the big cliff overlooking the river). Follow the road and look for a gate with Hanuman Ji painted on it. That is us! If you have any problems you can [contact us](#) or just ask anyone for the "animal place".

Car or Taxi

From Dharamsala Bus Stand (the one in Dharamsala, not McLeodGanj) take the road downhill towards Gharoh. Keep driving downhill (past Gharoh and Chari) to the [Dhanotu](#) bus stop.

When you get off the bus, take the first road to the left (away from the big cliff overlooking the river). Follow the road and look for a gate with Hanuman Ji painted on it. That is us! If you have any problems you can [contact us](#) or just ask anyone for the "animal place".

Plane

From Gaggal airport take a bus or taxi towards Chambi Pul. At the intersection in Chambi, turn right (do not cross the bridge). If you are taking the bus, get down at Chambi and take a bus uphill towards Chari.

Continue uphill past the Home Guard center. When you see the Dhanotu bus stop on the left (next to the *sheetla mata* temple) turn right. Follow the road and look for a gate with Hanuman Ji painted on it. That is us! If you have any problems you can contact us or just ask anyone for the "animal place".

Train

From the train station in Pathankot, take a taxi towards Dharamsala. You will pass Shahpur and then Rait, then after you cross the next bridge (at Chambi) take the immediate left to go uphill.

Continue uphill past the Home Guard center. When you see the Dhanotu bus stop on the left

(next to the *sheetla mata* temple) turn right. Follow the road and look for a gate with Hanuman Ji painted on it. That is us! If you have any problems you can contact us or just ask anyone for the "animal farm".

Join On-site

- Visit - We are open for visits, every day other than Sunday from 9:15am to 12:30pm.

- Volunteering - 4 hours a day; 6 days a week. You'll get a chance to help, observe and learn. You will be responsible for arranging your own accomodation, and meals.

- Jobs - Join us for a full-time position and get paid for doing good work.

- Get involved - Fill out this Join Form to tell us more about yourself and your interests. This will help us understand how you can best contribute to our mission.

Connect Remotely

- [Join our community](#)

Community

- [Humans Helping Animals WhatsApp group](#): Connect with other animal lovers in your area, and help make that community bigger, and bring it closer.

- [Stay tuned to help](#): Join our Telegram group, as that's where we post updates on cases, what we need help with, and awareness messages that you can help spread!

- [Join like minded people](#): Stay connected with us and others who also care on our Facebook group! We ask you to share your stories of helping others over there.

- [Peepal Farm Community Hangout](#): A Telegram space for all of us Humans
  Helping Animals to connect and share.

I want to start something like Peepal Farm, where do I begin?

Peepal Farm is a large project, involving many people, over several years! The best place to start is where we did - volunteering at other animal rescues, government clinics, or private practices to learn important skills and how the organization operates.

It is best if you visit or volunteer at multiple organizations so that you will be exposed to more techniques and idea. From there you can apply what you have learned to start rescuing one or two animals. Now that you have volunteered you should have good resources if you need any help.

Watch [this video](#) where Robin discusses the basics.

What about [funding?](#)

[BACK TO MAIN FAQ](#)

Contact

We are in Village Dhanotu, near Dharamsala, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

We only do rescues within an 8km radius covering Gaggal, Ladwara, Rajol, Chambi, Rait, Shahpur, Chari, Garoh.

Also, we don't rescue down cows, healthy puppies, and aggressive dogs, as we don't have the facility to deal with them.

If you need help with an injured animal in our area, you can [call us](#).

- General questions about animals, and related issues? Post in [Friends Of Peepal Farm - Facebook Group](#)
- Need help with a rescue in your area?

  - Lookup a [Humans Helping Animals](#) group in your area.
  - Ask for help on [Indian Animal Forum](#)
- Donations

  See [all donation options](#).
- Product orders products@peepalfarm.org
- Media/Collaboration/Suggestions

  namaste@peepalfarm.org

- **Office Number**

For general questions, call or [WhatsApp](#)

+91 9999 429144

(Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

- **OPD Clinic**

OPD clinic timings at [Peepal Farm](#),

(all weekdays, 9:15 am - 12:30 pm and 2:15 pm - 5:30 pm)

- **Rescues**

For rescues within 8km of [Peepal Farm](#), call:

+91 9999 429144

(9:00 am - 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

- **Adoptions**

To adopt an animal from us, call or [WhatsApp](#):

+91 9999 429144

(Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and 2:00pm - 6:00pm, except Sundays)

- **Products line**

For products-related questions, call or [WhatsApp](#):

+91 9805 668368

(Monday through Saturday, 9:15 am - 12:30 pm and 2:15 pm - 5:00 pm)

- **Numbers for outgoing calls**

+91 99994 29144

+91 78077 62910

+91 62304 21441

+91 98821 61677

Please note that these are the only numbers from which you might receive a call from us. If you receive a call from a number not listed here, it may not be associated with our organization.

- Planning to visit, sending supplies, or mailing us a check?

[Peepal Farm](#)

Village VPO Dhanotu, Tehsil Shahpur

District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh 176208

INDIA

How to Help Peepal Farm

How do I donate?

To donate, visit our [DONATE](#) page.

How do I join your work?

Visit our [JOIN PAGE](#) for details.

How else can I help?

- You can [share our videos](#) with your friends!
- You can [buy our products](#)! (100% of the profits fund our animal rescue).
- You can [help animals at home](#)!

If you have any further questions please [contact us.](#)