

# dogs & more

India's premium pet mag

Inside  
Pawsome  
Poster #27  
Fox Terrier



**Dog Lover**

Kunwar Amarjeet Singh

**Breed Profile**

Fox Terrier

**Valuable Info**

Alternative Medicine  
Summer Tips

**Wildlife Trails**

Keoladeo National Park

**Jimmy Mistry**

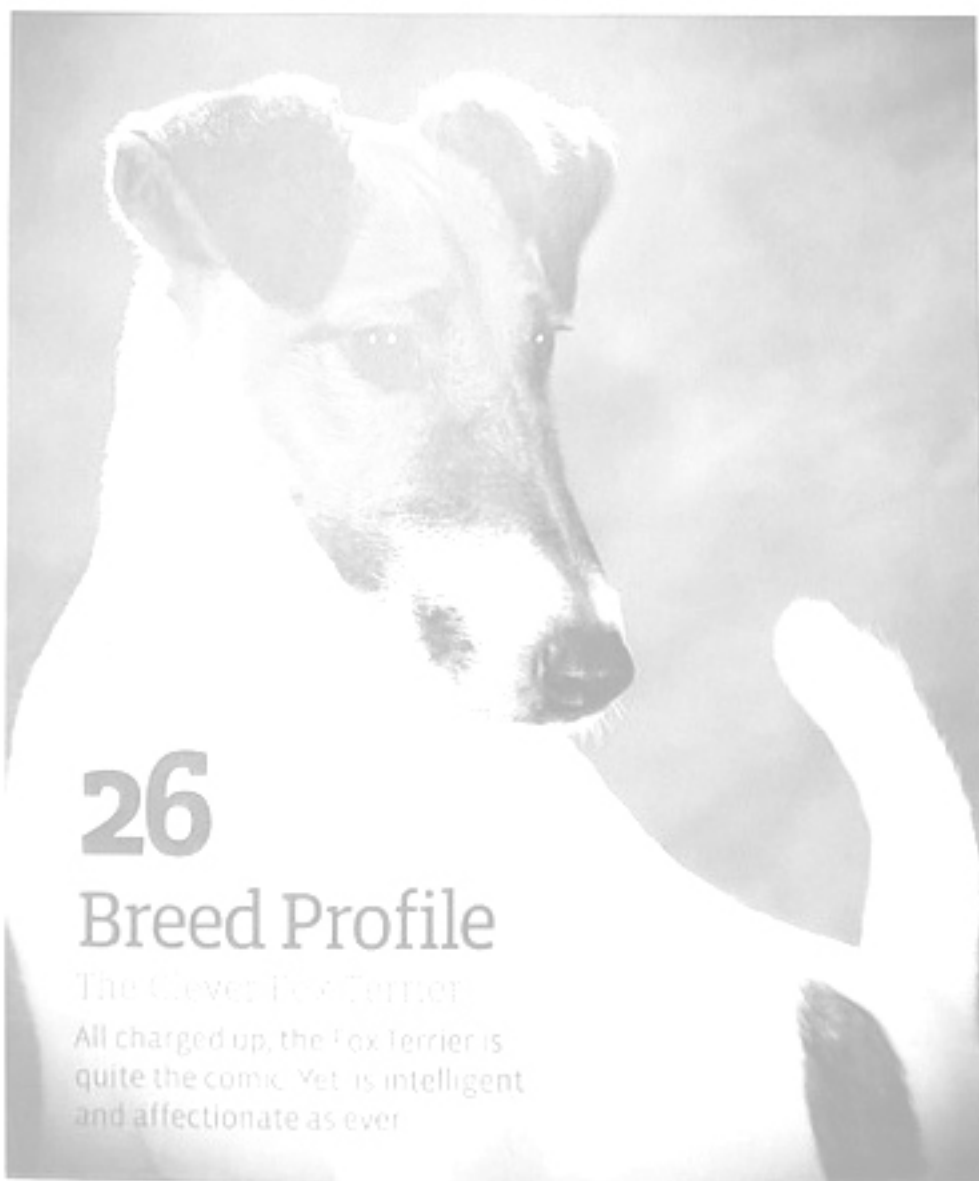
With his flaming jet-'Setter' Joy

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**1 Sangeeta Vengsarkar Shah**

A highly experienced vet for 27 years, Sangeeta is committed to the cause of animals, being the first canine cardiologist of India.

**2 Anurupa Katyal**

The MVSc graduate in dermatology, bird and wildlife medicine from Australia is today an IVAPM (International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management) Board of Director and continues to run her clinic and grooming parlour in Chembur.

**3 Ruchi Pradhan Datta**

A journalist with a multitude of leading publications over the past 23 years and a teacher and soft skills trainer for the past 16, yet Ruchi identifies herself as an animal lover and rights activist who is doing her bit wherever she has lived

across India.

**4 Kunwar Amarjeet Singh**

He is a contemporary dancer and a popular face on TV, seen in shows like *Dil Dostii Dance*, *Dare 2 Dance* and *Dance India Dance*. But quality time is best spent with his three adorable furry ones – Troy, Choti and Zoe.

**5 Ruchi Sekhsaria**

A recent explorer of wildlife tourism, she loves her pets, food, books and travel. Ruchi's professional portfolio currently includes hospitality consultant for real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield in Bombay.

**6 Behram Contractor**

He wrote until he passed away on April 9, 2001, under the pseudonym of Busybee for four decades in four newspapers, creating fictitious characters like The Wife, Friend On The 21st Floor, Darryl & Derek and Bolshoi The Boxer, his talking dog. Such an imagination! Behram Contractor Forever.



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## The Animal World Out There

You can never do enough in the world of animals. Those wonderful beings who bring so much joy in our lives. I thank my stars that as a child, I was a part of the animal world (which goes beyond my brother who was such a monkey!), and therefore developed a strong bond for all kinds of creatures, right from squirrels and turtles, hamsters and rabbits, to even white mice.

And those that we could not touch and feel, we would go to the zoo to look at and admire from afar. How far those days seem and so different from what kids like to do, these days.

At the *Byculla Zoo*, where we would be taken frequently, we would even go for elephant and camel rides. We would climb up steps to peer down into a well full of crocodiles and the only section we would not go to, was where the snakes were kept, encased in glass. It was not just fear but also what we thought was a weird smell around there.

I remember all this in the context of Jimmy Mistry and his Della Resorts in Lonavala, where I spent a happy day recently. He says he wanted very much to create a snake park, on the lines of what they do in Thailand and Singapore; wrap pythons, etc, around your neck have your picture shot, (or perhaps these days a selfie would do), but then for certain reason his extreme idea got shot down.

However, he does have other assorted animals on his property, a humble zoo of sorts, so that modern kids, deprived of animal contact can at least get some sort of opportunity to interact with them. Mighty oaks grow from tiny acorns, so who knows, some day Jimmy's little zoo may grow bigger.

Well, dear reader hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoy putting it together for you.

I think I could turn and  
live with animals, they are so  
placid and self-contained,  
I stand and look at them  
long and long  
Walt Whitman

Sasizana Poluram Contractor  
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Jimmy, his wife Della and his furry one. Joy couldn't be happier than when in Della.

# Jimmy Mistry

## Master of All he Surveys

It takes an animal and a nature lover, a creative and a business mind to fashion a resort which has it all. Meet Jimmy Mistry, whose mind never sleeps, even when he does! **Farzana Contractor** takes a walk with him around Della Resorts his dream project



**I**t's a bit difficult to slot Jimmy Mistry. It's less about who he is and more about – just what is he! If I have to describe him, I would say he is a combination of a maverick, entrepreneur, designer, wonderfully well self-taught architect, who has creativity flowing in his blood. He is so totally consumed about designing that ideas seem to flow out of his mind every nano second. In short, Jimmy Mistry is an intense, passionate and a driven human being.

And he is an animal lover.

Which is why I landed up at Della Resorts at Lonavala. I had heard that right in the middle of this adventure resort there was an area reserved especially for horses and dogs and cows. Just so that guests at the resort and day visitors at the adventure track would get an opportunity to interact with these animals, whether it was to take the dogs for a walk, ride the horses or milk the cows. The idea in itself is brilliant and when you consider that people actually pay to indulge in these services, you understand the business acumen and marketing ability that Jimmy Mistry possesses.

"I love animals, always have," says Jimmy, especially dogs. "Even as a child

I had dogs, so I know how great the feeling is to have your own pet. And I also understand what city children are missing. Which is why I introduced the idea of having animals at Della Resorts." That's right, Della is just the place for pet parents to bring their pooches along, spend as many days as you want in the luxury of whichever room you choose, avail of the bedding and dining options, and walking as well, at an additional cost, dine in the outdoor seating areas at any of the restaurants and just kick back with your furry one here.

Jimmy at the moment has two dogs, his personal pets. Joy, the Irish Setter travels with him up and down from his home

in Bombay to Lonavala where Jimmy spends his weekends; and Zoe, the St. Bernard, who stays put at Della Resorts. His daughter, Pearl, after who the night club at the resort is named – P18, when she turned that old – is another dog lover in the family, though wife Delna is not so enthused by the canine species. "I am scared of them," she says, adding despondently, "I don't know why..."

But never mind that, her husband more than makes up for it by virtue of the fact that he has created an infrastructure for animal lovers and potential pet owners.

Like Jimmy says, it is not just a disconnect with animals that city



Right in the middle of the resort is an area specially reserved for horses and other animals

A dog walk or a run is absolute bliss here at Della



The little ones sure enjoy play time with Zoe, the gentle one

slickers have, but also unfortunately the disconnect extends to nature, too. "Which is another reason I planned and executed this project. A relationship with trees and plants and flowers and walking and breathing clean air is so vital to good living, says the man who practices yoga and believes in every religion and many Gods. It is a certain kind of spirituality which has made Jimmy take all of the above into consideration and create the little haven of delight, his Xanadu.

At Della, there is something for everyone. I don't know how this guy has managed to do it, but he has. I

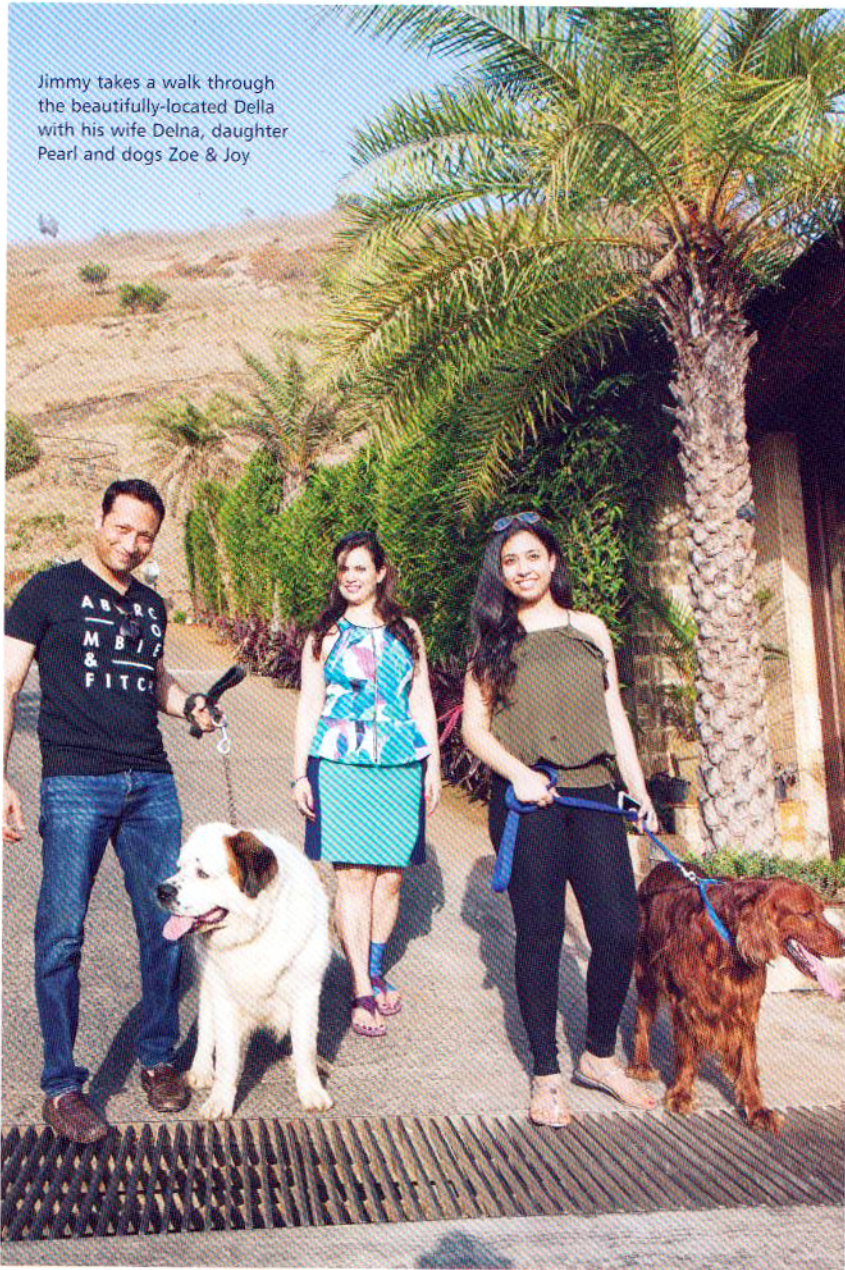


“

At Della, there is something for everyone. I don't know how Jimmy Mistry has managed to do it, but he has. I guess it is his yearning to create.



Jimmy takes a walk through the beautifully-located Della with his wife Delna, daughter Pearl and dogs Zoe & Joy



Jimmy is a very happy man, especially with Joy and Zoe to complete the picture



guess it's his yearning to create, and the fact that he is extremely well-travelled and has the ability to pick up an idea, modify it to appeal to the Indian sensibility, make it practical and transform the idea into reality.

I spent a day there and figured it out for myself. Della Resorts did not happen overnight. Here is a labour of love. Time-consuming growth. It started with a few rooms where guests could come and relax in the serene atmosphere at the foothills of Kunegoan right there in Lonavala, yet appearing to be some far off place. Then more rooms were added, restaurants at the resort, with excellent food (I ate super Chinese) and polite service, grew from one, to two, to three and now four. Jimmy went on adding interesting concepts which led to the adventure park, private villas which you could buy, to tented rooms perched on the hillside. Over the past seven years, the number of luxury rooms now total 125.

And Jimmy is all set to open another five suites any time now. I checked out the *Versace Suite*, plush, ostentatious.

But the adventure park is where all the action is. I was here on a Saturday and the place was full. Happy, shrieking kids, enthusiastic moms trying to keep up with them, while the dads went teeing off at the Golf Course. For the youth, this place has to be the ultimate in fun activities. The adrenaline just does not stop. You can go zorbing – on land or water, buggy or ATV rides, go rope-walking, rappelling or rock climbing.

There is also the *Swoop Swing*, as well as *Flying Fox*, India's longest and at a height of 1250 ft. There's archery, gaming rooms with dozens of games to choose from, there's even a tattoo room, if such things are your fancy. There's mountain biking, bumper boats, bungee trampoline, even kayaking! All in all, pretty exhausting!

What was more my cuppa tea, was *Camp Della*. It's beautiful. "My dream project," says Jimmy enthusiastically, as we walked around the slopes, checking out the luxury tented rooms, which overlook the entire complex, giving a picturesque bird's eye view of Jimmy's creation, all 45 acres of it. 