

DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER – Updates to December 2021.

April 2021 – Report of Furmit Lepcha, Shelter Manager.

The rabies and birth control programme (dogs and Cats) continues.

Rabies outbreak in some tea estates, shelter team visited the spot & did post bite ARV program. Dr Mihir did the rapid test on the spot from the brain of dog that was suspected to be rabid. The test was found positive.

A small pup was rescued due to injury suffered during a dog fight. Her eye had popped out. Dr Mihir had to remove the damaged eyeball. The pup is now under treatment.

Shelter has a new staff member, Mr. Robert from Kalimpong. He joined on 1st April, 21 and he is under vet supervision regarding various shelter work.

As usual shelter is treating sick animals visiting the shelter and also rescuing sick dogs or cats from the streets.

May 2021 – Report of Furmit Lepcha, Shelter Manager.

It is very sad that 8-10 Covid cases has been found recently in Lebong around the shelter area as such we have lowered the treatment of clinical cases attending the shelter and not doing any ABC for next 3-4 days.

Rescue operation, however is going on in times of need.



Rudra & Robert vaccinating the stray dogs

June 2021 – Report of Furmit Lepcha, Shelter Manager.

- 1) The second wave of Covid-19 has been disastrous in India and Darjeeling too.
- 2) The Government of West Bengal has extended the lockdown till 15th June, 2021 with certain restrictions on shop/market timings.
- 3) In the month of May, due to the lockdown, we couldn't perform ABC's.
- 4) The Shelter team has tirelessly been working through the lockdown, providing emergency services for the strays of Darjeeling.
- 5) Through the lockdown period the shelter was always kept open for emergencies following all COVID protocols and the shelter team treated over 400 animals.
- 6) Rescue and adoption are also being done but we only went to the nearest places to rescue the dogs/cats.
- 7) The Shelter team rescued four kittens from a garbage dump in Rajbari Darjeeling, and three of those got loving homes within a week. The team urges the new pet parents to bring their adopted pets to the shelter for regular check-ups and vaccinations. One poor fellow is still at the shelter, we lovingly call him Nemo.

NEMO SCRATCHING Dr.MIHIR'S POCKET



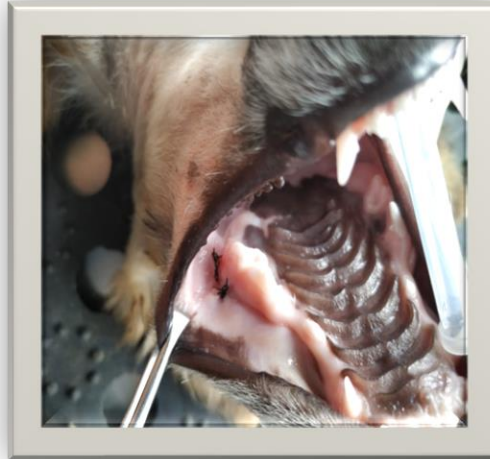
- 8) At this time we allowed pet owners to enter the gate only one by one for the treatments.
- 9) Due to lockdown, general medicines supplies were delayed from Siliguri and we were forced to buy them from local drug stores at retail rather than wholesale prices.
- 10) On 7th May, we received distressed calls from Bacchabari, Badamtam Tea Estate of an aggressive dog. The Shelter team rushed to the spot, unfortunately the dog had died till then. A brain sample was taken which tested positive for Rabies following which blanket vaccination was started for dogs in the area. Around 30 dogs are currently being given post exposure vaccine.

11) An owner from Kurseong brought his pet dog (Tuffy) to the shelter. Tuffy had been badly injured from an attack by a feral cat, his right eye protruded abnormally from the upper buccal cavity through an open wound. Dr Mihir and shelter team cleaned all his wounds and stitched them. Now he is in good condition, Tuffy's owner brings him to the shelter once a week for his checkup, he is much better now.

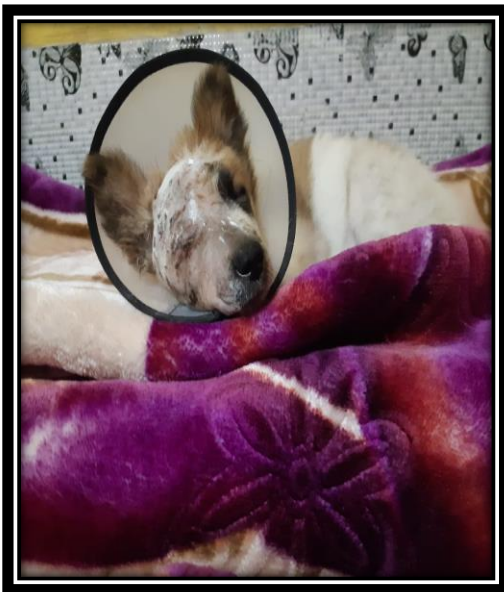
1st PICTURE WHEN (TUFFY COMES TO SHELTER



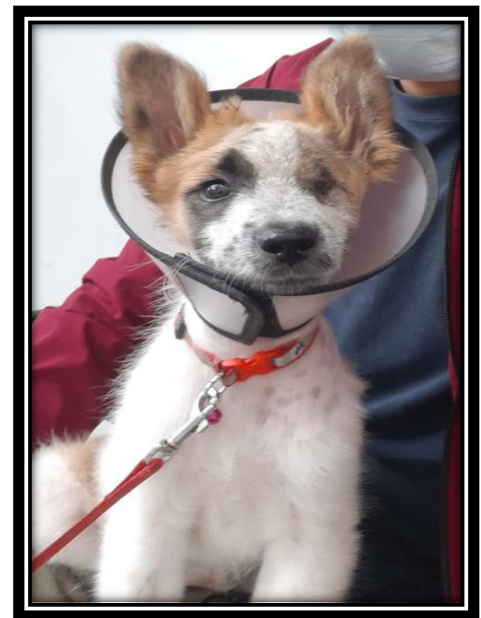
STITCHES IN MOUTH



PICTURE TAKEN DURING THE TIME OF RECOVERY



(TUFFY)



August 2021 – Report of Furmit Lepcha, Shelter Manager.

All is fine here in shelter and doing our duties continuously. The surgery on dogs/cats is going as well. Rescues and adoption are also happening.

From 1st June to 1st August,21 we had completed ABC in three Municipality wards (Ward Nos.32, 31 & 29) and post survey is also successfully completed in those wards.

The fabrication works of new DAS ambulance is almost done and Arpan, Dr Mihir and myself decided to bring the vehicle by Saturday.

Last week Dr Mihir went to Kalimpong Animals Shelter for Dog's Oral Health Workshop.

Dr Malhar Joshi (Joshi's VET Clinic) friend of Dr Mihir had gifted Electro cautery kit for DAS which was second hand so we repaired the kit of costing Rs.1600/- and now is on use at the shelter.

November 2021 – Report of Veterinary-Surgeon Dr Mihir Mazagaonkar

This month a collaborative project, WVS-DAS is being conducted at the shelter. WVS (Worldwide Veterinary Services) is a UK based charity, founded by Dr Luke Gamble which has been working in India at 2 locations, Goa and Ooty, headed by Dr Ilona Otter.

The project has 2 aspects.

1. The training of local Vets and assistants in basic ABC surgery and related procedures.
2. Vaccination of stray dogs of Darjeeling town.

For this WVS would send a team of two vets....and DAS would provide board and lodging, operating theatre, etc.

At the time of this report we are into week 2 of the training programme.

Currently 4 vets are being trained for ABC surgeries.

One from Bombay (she will continue volunteering for us post the training during the vaccination drive.)

Three from Nepal, one working for Animal Nepal. The other two are pursuing their Post Graduate qualification.

The training started last Monday. Till today we have performed 40 surgeries.

On 8th we will start work on the vaccination drive where we plan to vaccinate most strays of Darjeeling Town.

Also as a result of the project four DAS staff will receive further vet assistant training and certification, a mobile phone app to assist in the shelter's ABC programme, some rapid rabies test kits and an introduction to a lab in Bangalore which will enable us to send to the lab brain samples of suspected rabid animals for confirmation of rabies at no cost other than logistics.

I would like to mention that our ability to collaborate in this project is largely due to the funding of our ABC programme by Dogs Trust Worldwide.

Other – See also DAS information in KAS reports.

END.