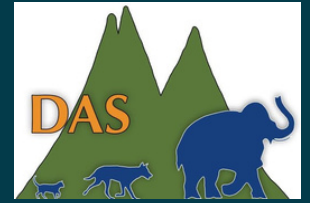


Darjeeling Animal Shelter



May 2025 @darjeelinganimalshelter 



ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL (ABC) CAMPS AND OUTREACH

In May, Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS) successfully conducted four Animal Birth Control camps covering three locations in Darjeeling—Rimbick, Goke, and Namring Tea Estate—and one in Maney Dara, Dowhill, Kurseong. These camps were led by Dr. Shivani, the vet-in-charge at DAS, assisted by a dedicated team of veterinary assistants

As ABC remains the primary focus of DAS, the team continues to work tirelessly both through in-house sterilisation and outreach camps, strengthening connections with local communities and raising awareness on the importance of sterilisation and humane animal care.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Animal Birth Control (ABC) Camps and Outreach
2. Dr. Ilona's visit to DAS
3. Rimbick camp-Pyometra cases
4. New Vet at DAS
5. Xray Report
6. Internship & Adoption

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL (ABC) CAMPS AND OUTREACH

This month, the DAS team extended their efforts to the neighbouring town of Kurseong, conducting an ABC programme for local dogs. Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter (DGAS) both sister concerns – Kalimpong Animal Shelter and Darjeeling Animal Shelter have long supported areas where such services are scarce, and this outreach was another step in that direction.



The DAS team along with the Organisers at Dowhill, Kurseong

From navigating long and winding roads to carrying out successful sterilisation procedures, the team's determination continues to shine through.



ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL (ABC) CAMPS AND OUTREACH

In total, the May camps resulted in the sterilisation of 131 dogs (100 females and 31 males) and 14 cats. Additionally, the In-House ABC Programme sterilised 32 dogs and 13 cats.

We extend our sincere thanks to WVS and Mission Rabies for their unwavering support, which continues to strengthen DAS's efforts in safeguarding the lives of animals who cannot speak for themselves.

ABC Camp Spotlight

Maney Dara Camp

The camp at Maney Dara, Dowhill, Kurseong, was conducted on the 7th of May following a request from a local community dog feeder. She runs a small eatery in the area and cares for numerous stray dogs by providing them with food regularly.



With her initiative and the support of local residents in catching the dogs, the DAS team was able to sterilise and vaccinate 12 dogs and 1 cat through the ABC and ARV procedures. Dr. Shivani shared that the cooperation from the community was instrumental in the smooth execution of the camp.



Namring Tea Estate (16th May 2025)

In response to complaints about an increasing number of aggressive street dogs, the DAS team held a camp at Old Primary School, Naya Dhura. A total of 19 dogs were sterilised. Additionally, the team's IBCM Officers and Rabies Education Officer conducted awareness sessions on rabies prevention and humane dog population control.

Community awareness on rabies prevention

VISIT BY WVS INDIA REPRESENTATIVES



L-R: Nigel, Dr. Ilona, Dr. Mihir & Dr. Shivani at DAS

From 20th to 22nd May, DAS had the honour of hosting the clinical Director of WVS - Dr. Ilona Otter, Mr. Nigel, and Dr. Mihir, Project Lead for Mission Rabies- North East India. Their visit began with a tour of the Shelter, followed by a discussion on current infrastructure, protocols, and prospects for further development.

On 21st May, the WVS representatives also visited the Namring camp site, where they witnessed first-hand the ABC efforts underway.



Horse stable visit



The visit concluded with a meeting with municipal heads and local stakeholders, and a visit to the stable at Chowrasta. On the final day, the team visited Kalimpong Animal Shelter, a sister concern, where they engaged in a meaningful conversation with the KAS team about shared goals in animal welfare.

NAMRING CAMP ATTENDED BY DR.ILONA FROM WVS

The DAS team conducted additional camps at Goke on the 18th of May and at Dummer Sing Dhura, Namring TE on the 21st of May.

The Namring camp was particularly significant, as it was attended by Dr. Ilona Otter, Clinical Director of WVS India, and Mr. Nigel, Chairman of WVS India. Their presence was encouraging for the team and reaffirmed the shared commitment toward improving animal welfare in the region.



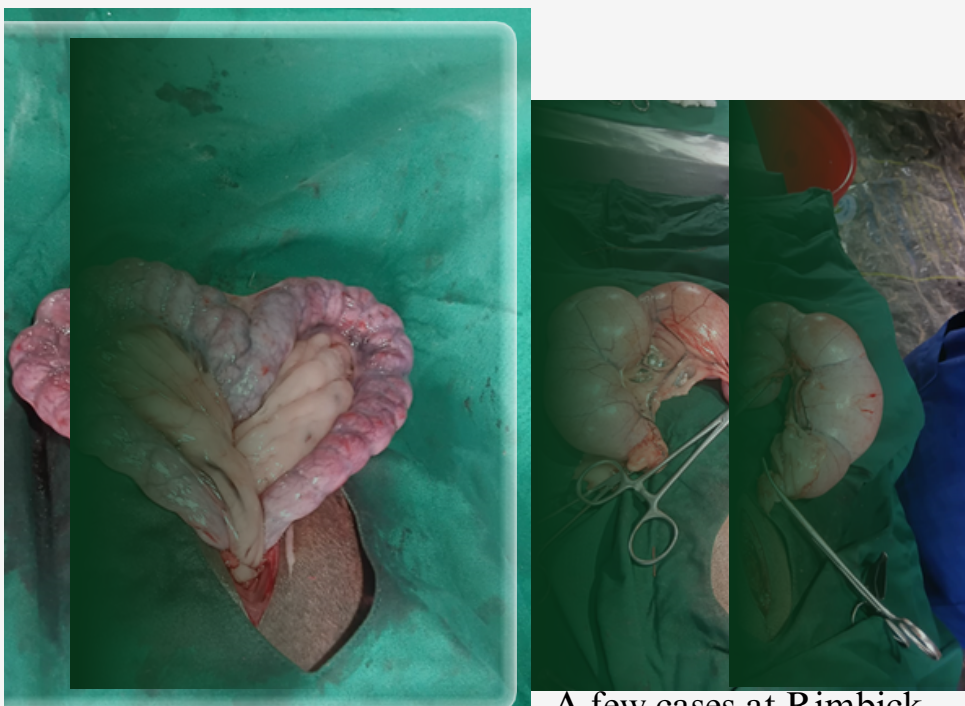
The DAS team along with Dr. Ilona and Nigel from WVS and the Organisers



RIMBICK CAMP – 28TH & 29TH MAY 2025

During the two-day camp held at Rimbick, Dr. Shivani encountered distressing cases with nearly 70% of the female dogs brought in were suffering from pyometra, a severe uterine infection. “It was shocking to see so many cases,” said Dr. Shivani. “The condition of these dogs was ghastly.” Upon speaking with the locals, the team learned that the animals had been injected with Human Contraceptive Injections (HCI) to prevent pregnancies. With no access to proper sterilisation services, dog owners felt compelled to opt for HCI, despite the steep cost of INR 1000 per shot.

The use of HCI in animals not only puts their health at risk but also raises concerns about unqualified individuals administering such treatments. This situation calls for wider access to humane and reliable ABC services, especially in rural and isolated areas, where safer options are often unavailable.



A few cases at Rimbick



NEW VETERINARIAN AT DAS: MEET DR. REGAL

Dr. Regal, from Gangtok, Sikkim, joined DAS as a Junior Veterinarian in April 2025. He holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from Assam Agricultural University (2023) and has over two years of clinical experience.

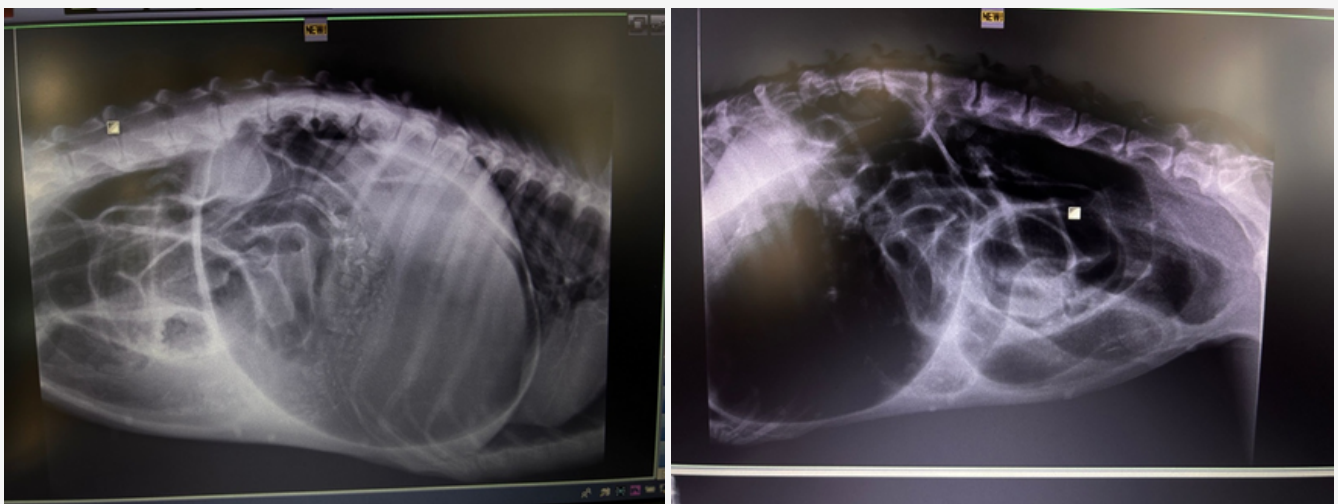
He volunteered at SARA, gaining expertise in small animal medicine and surgery, including participating in a high-altitude camp where he sterilized and vaccinated over 100 dogs. Since joining DAS, Dr. Regal has performed 48 spay/neuter surgeries, including emergency cases, and managed over 200 clinical cases ranging from vaccinations to complex conditions.



MEDICAL CASE REPORT: GDV DIAGNOSIS

A dog was recently brought to DAS with a three-week history of gastritis. Upon arrival, the dog was in critical condition, exhibiting a distended abdomen, hypovolemic shock, hypoxic, tachycardia, subnormal temperature and other concerning symptoms. An X-ray confirmed a diagnosis of Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus (GDV).

Despite the team's best efforts, the dog could not be saved. The availability of X-ray facilities has better equipped the team to manage similar cases in the future. Dr. Shivani adds, "Cases like these highlight the critical importance of having gaseous anaesthesia at the shelter. We hope to acquire this equipment soon to improve our ability to handle such emergencies effectively."



GDV case

DAS RESPONDS TO PYOMETRA CASE CAUSED BY CONTRACEPTIVE MISUSE

The team at DAS responded to another case involving the misuse of human contraceptive injections in a dog for birth control. This led to pyometra weighing 5.1 kg—an infection that could have been life-threatening if not surgically treated in time.



Dr. Regal, Jr. Vet at DAS conducting OHE and removing 5.1kg Pyometra mass, assisted by Mr. Naren

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Miss Sanvi Mal, a first-year student from Symbiosis College, Pune, completed a two-week internship at DAS from 19th to 30th May.

Under the guidance of Dr. Shivani, she learned about shelter operations, hygiene protocols, animal handling, and the commitment it takes to care for animals with compassion and diligence.



Ms.Sanvi along with Dr. Shivani & Dr.Regal



ADOPTION- BEFORE & AFTER

Back in April, Mr. Amit Biswakarma adopted a three-month-old pup from DAS, lovingly naming him Lucky. Since then, Lucky has grown into a healthy, joyful dog, deeply loved by his new family. Mr. Amit diligently keeps up with Lucky's vaccination and deworming schedule, showing remarkable commitment as an adopter. It's truly heartwarming to see both the pup and adopter happy and thriving together. DAS feels grateful to have been part of their journey.



SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO