

WORKING FOR ANIMALS

HELPING ANIMALS IN INDIA



JANUARY 2014

A HAPPY ENDING

Every day, people bring their animals to the Darjeeling and Kalimpong animal shelters, desperate for veterinary help.

Among the many cases, one in particular stands out. A small brown dog, named Bhuti, was brought to the shelter by two Buddhist monks from Pedong, a journey of at least a couple of hours. 'We accidentally ran over this dog', they said, 'Do anything, but please save her life'.

Dr. Deo Pandey, and volunteer vet from Sweden, Dr. Christoffer Westin, examined the dog. I could see one back leg had been completely smashed, the bone of her hip protruding from raw, exposed flesh. It seemed that, not only had her back

leg been damaged, but that she was paralysed. 'There's no use amputating a back leg if she can't use the other one', Dr. Pandey said. However this was no ordinary dog. As if understanding the conversation, and despite all her pain, Bhuti looked up and, wagging her tail, moved her remaining back leg.

Christoffer and Deo together carried out the long and difficult operation. A follow-up operation of a skin graft was needed. After a month, the monks came to collect Bhuti. She was completely recovered, and was managing well on one back leg. There are no other animal shelters for hundreds of kilometres (except DAS). If it hadn't been for KAS, Bhuti would have died a slow and painful death, and she is just one of many such stories.



INTRODUCTION OF E-NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends & Supporters,

We have recently sent out an e-newsletter to many of our supporters who said they would be happy to receive it. However, the general consensus is that supporters prefer to receive a printed copy of the WFA newsletter, so here it is.

For further information about our work, please visit:

www.workingforanimals.org.au



Bhuti's fate is discussed



It seemed as though the hind legs were paralysed



After the operation Bhuti learnt to walk again



One of the owners collected Bhuti, overjoyed to see she had recovered so well.

Letter from India



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for all your help over the years. Because of you we have been able to save the lives of thousands of animals in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas, in the towns of Kalimpong and Darjeeling, and in the District's remote villages, tea gardens, and hamlets.

I am writing this newsletter from Kalimpong Animal Shelter where I have been staying for the past month. I am so proud to see the way this shelter has grown. Checking the summaries of reports, I see that

since its inception in 1998 the shelter has spayed about 7000 dogs, vaccinated 25,000 animals against rabies and given over 61,000 treatments, mostly to dogs and cats, but also to goats, pigs, rabbits, cattle, horses, hens and even monkeys and donkeys. In the past year, the Darjeeling Shelter has carried out a total of 687 dog spays and 129 animal rescues, most of these being dogs or cats injured on the roads, abandoned, or attacked with stones or knives. In total KAS (a bigger shelter) gave 8054 treatments in the last year, and DAS treated 4813 animals: all this despite numerous political strikes and closures, long distances to travel to distant villages, and the rising cost of fuel and medical supplies needed to conduct the camps.

At KAS, there are nearly two acres of gardens in which the kennels, dog-runs, operating theatre, office, dispensary, vet's house, manager's house, and kitchen are located, as separate buildings. There is enough room for dogs to be free during the day, although ABC (animal birth control) dogs are kept kennelled before and after the key-hole flank spay. When recovered, they are returned to the community in the place they were caught.

Christine Townend, Trustee.



The twenty four ABC kennels at Darjeeling Animal Shelter. A new cattery is being built. There are also two isolation kennels.



At KAS, there are three blocks of kennels and a cattery. The kennel blocks have runs attached.

Why it's getting harder and harder to catch dogs for spay, vaccinate and release

The staff and vets at KAS and DAS work closely together and often hold joint meetings to co-ordinate their strategies. How best to catch the remaining unspayed, unvaccinated semi-wild dogs in Darjeeling and Kalimpong is a shared problem.

Due to the numbers of dogs which have passed through the ABC (Animal Birth Control) programme those remaining are semi-wild and hard to catch. Frightened, they are apt to bite staff, no matter how gently they are handled. In both Darjeeling and Kalimpong, the municipalities are co-operative and supportive of the shelters' work. Mrs. Ganga Gurung, Vice-Chairman of Kalimpong Municipality has visited the shelter on several occasions. Above the shelter, where a large number of semi-wild dogs live, in the army's spacious grounds feeding on the waste food, much help is being extended by the army personnel, in particular feeding dogs until they become friendly enough to catch.

In Darjeeling, Dr. Sameer Chhetri and staff, do not have an easy task either. Below Dr. Chhetri describes the problem of just one area:

Chandmari area is in the heart of the town, just below the bus stand. It is densely crowded and you will find numerous dilapidated buildings and small bushy areas where garbage is carelessly dumped by the local people, giving rise to breeding pockets for the street dogs. Its hard to catch these wild dogs for the spay-vaccinate programme as they easily disappear in the narrow lanes of the buildings and houses. We were aware of the fact that one dog had just given birth to a litter in one of the old and partly wrecked houses. We are now visiting this place on a regular basis so we can catch this unspayed bitch and also many of the intact male dogs. In this area we vaccinated 30 dogs and 1 cat against rabies, brought to us by their owners. We were also able to catch a few of the dogs from this area for ABC.

Despite the difficulties, in the past year about 700 dogs have passed through the DAS ABC programme, and in total since it was founded in 2008, 3358 dogs have passed through the programme; meaning thousands of puppies and dogs were saved from poisoning, and lead more secure lives. KAS, whose ABC programme started in 1999, has in total spayed, vaccinated against rabies, and released, either to owners or back onto the street, 6319 dogs. Last year, despite the difficulties of distance and shy dogs, KAS spayed (between April 2012 and March 2013), 576 dogs.

A local camp is conducted at Chandmari

Thanks to:

*Animaux Secours (France) for funding a new operating theatre, so badly needed, as the old one is falling to pieces, and is too small for the large amount of operations carried out at the shelter, and for major funding of KAS.

* One Voice (France) for major funding of DAS.

* Due to the donation of a generous supporter, the life of the KAS vehicle was extended for two years. However, the (now) fifteen year old Gypsy needs replacement and Kindness Trust (Melbourne) has provided funds for a new vehicle.

*Alain DuPont, builder, who came to work as a volunteer, helping in the design and construction of the new Operating Theatre

*Christoffer Westin, Swedish vet, who worked at KAS and DAS for two months as a volunteer

*Animal Protection Network, Sweden, who fund a cat ABC and the spay-vaccination camps held by both shelters in remote villages.

*Animal Welfare Board of India for funding the KAS and DAS ABC programmes.



Garbage is thrown into the bushes and creates a breeding ground for ownerless dogs.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

RICHARD AND BRENDA GLASGOW WORKED AS SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF WFA FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS. CHRISTINE AND JEREMY TOWNEND HAVE NOW TAKEN OVER THESE ROLES SO PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS FOR WFA HAS CHANGED. RICHARD AND BRENDA REMAIN ON THE COMMITTEE. JEANNETTE LLOYD JONES HAS BECOME PRESIDENT.

- DONATION FORM

WORKING FOR ANIMALS INC (ABN 13 919 391 377)

I wish to support Working for Animals Inc by donating the sum of:

..... (please specify amount and currency).

Your name: Title:

Address:

Code: Country:

Telephone:

Email:

BY CHEQUE -

Please make cheques payable to Working for Animals Inc

BY CARD -

Please debit my Visa, MasterCard, with:

A single donation for the above amount; or

A monthly/quarterly/half yearly donation of A\$25 A\$50 A\$100 or

..... (please specify other amount) continuing until such time as I terminate this authority by notice to you in writing.

Name on Card:

Card Number:

Expiry date: /

Signature:

Date: / /
dd mm yyyy

Please post completed form and cheque, if applicable, to:

Working for Animals Inc
PO Box 7144
Leura, NSW, 2780
AUSTRALIA

To donate online or by direct deposit visit our website -

www.workingforanimals.org.au