

WORKING FOR ANIMALS

RAISING FUNDS FOR TRUSTED INDIAN ANIMAL SHELTERS



SEPTEMBER 2013

IMPORTANT NOTICE

INTRODUCTION OF E-NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends & Supporters,

The committee of Working for Animals Inc. has decided that it is important for us to switch to an e-newsletter, on the grounds that this will not only reduce the damage to the environment, but also save costs.

So that you can continue to receive this newsletter, could you please send an email to:

info@workingforanimals.org.au

including your first and last name, so that we can add you to the recipient list.

If you don't have an email address, please let us know by writing to:

The Secretary,
Working for Animals Inc,
PO Box 210,
Nana Glen NSW 2450.

We will then endeavour to send you a simple black and white update every few months.

Once again, we thank you for your support, in helping us to continue to help the animals of India

Christine Townend,
President, on behalf of WFA



TRIBUTE TO DR JOHN HOLT

Dr. John Holt, pictured here with his wife Mary, advisory veterinarian and long-time supporter of DAS, KAS and HIS, died in July 2013. We were honoured to know such a modest, talented and gentle person. The British Small Animal Association has written: 'the global veterinary

community has lost an inspiring figure with the death of John Holt, founder of the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association. He had received many awards and honours during his life dedicated to helping animals.'



Beau now living at DAS



GURIYA THE DALMATIAN WAS BROUGHT IN WITH HALF HER LEG MISSING. THANKS TO A SUCCESSFUL AMPUTATION BY DR PANDEY SHE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO HER OWNERS AND IS DOING WELL.



THE DISTEMPER VACCINATION CAMPAIGN FUNDED BY ANIMAUX SECOURS WILL PREVENT THE DEATH OF PUPS LIKE THIS ONE



READERS MIGHT REMEMBER THE PHOTO OF BEAU IN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER, FOUND STARVING WITH RICKETS. HE'S NOW FULLY RECOVERED AND LIVING AT THE SHELTER

Dog Attack in Darjeeling?



**Street dogs,
Darjeeling**

...
IN MARCH THIS YEAR IN DARJEELING A MAN WAS FOUND DEAD ONE MORNING, HIS BODY MAULED AND BLEEDING. IT WAS ASSUMED HE HAD BEEN KILLED BY STREET DOGS, AS A SECOND MAN WAS ATTACKED BY DOGS IN THE SAME PLACE A FEW DAYS LATER.

There were calls for all the street dogs in Darjeeling to be poisoned with strychnine. In Darjeeling over three thousand dogs have been spayed and vaccinated since the DAS ABC programme started in November 2010. These vaccinated, healthy and friendly dogs, prevent entry of non-vaccinated dogs by guarding their own territorial niche.

Dr Deo Pandey, vet at Kalimpong Animal Shelter, rushed to Darjeeling to assist Dr. Sameer Chhetri, DAS vet, and Bidya Tamang, DAS manager. In urgent meetings with the municipality's medical officer, Dr. Naushad Siddique, and the Municipality Chairman, Mr. Amar Singh Rai, it was agreed that the street dogs should not be killed, because this would undermine the ABC programme., Unvaccinated dogs would soon move in to fill the empty biological niche, thus spreading rabies, and raising new pups in the town streets. Needless to say, strychnine poisoning results in a cruel and prolonged death for the dog.

In return for the municipality's agreement not to poison all the street dogs, Dr Pandey, Mrs. Tamang and Dr. Chhetri agreed that some old and aggressive male dogs would be put to sleep humanely at the shelter. These dogs were disturbing residents in the town centre by fighting at night and by acting aggressively towards pedestrians. They were arthritic, and probably in pain. Altogether 25 old and aggressive dogs were euthanised. Additional camps were held to vaccinate and spay street dogs.

Thanks to the quick action of DAS and KAS, and the co-operation of the Municipality, the lives of thousands of vaccinated, spayed street dogs were saved.

It has never been established whether the man whose mutilated body was found, had indeed killed by dogs. It is equally likely that this man could have been killed by a leopard, coming in from the jungle at night, having discovered an easy food-source in the town dogs.



Naran and Wangal carry a frightened street dog to the Darjeeling shelter ambulance. Safe from injury in a sack, the dog will be spayed and vaccinated, and, after a full recovery, released back onto the street in the place she was caught.



At the Darjeeling shelter, some loving affection from Naren and Rudra causes the dog to calm down, and to investigate her new (and temporary) environment.



A few photos by Arpan Karthak give a glimpse of how the regular Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) camps function. Local volunteers distribute leaflets or put up posters informing villagers of the date the camp will be held. Staff leave early in the morning, often having to walk along paths through fields, carrying equipment which is sterilised in pressure cookers at local houses. These photos come from a typical camp, held at Lower Bidyang, Dalapchand Busty, Kalimpong, on 10/05/2013. 46 Dogs and 4 cats were vaccinated against Rabies, 4 Dogs and 3 Cats were spayed/ neutered.

Altogether from April to July 2013, fourteen camps were conducted, 594 dogs and 25 cats vaccinated, and 36 key-hole flank spays carried out by Kalimpong Animal Shelter. This does not include regular treatments at the shelter, nor rescues. Darjeeling Animal Shelter achieved similar results. The recent political strikes, called by Gorkha leaders in a demand for a separate State for Darjeeling District, have recently made it difficult for shelter staff to work. The strike has now been called off until October 20th, when the situation will be re-assessed. The Gorkha leaders want a State, separate from West Bengal, called Gorkhaland, and are demanding that the Central Government should grant this request, as some other Districts in India have already been granted separate Statehood.

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