

# WORKING FOR ANIMALS

HELPING ANIMALS IN INDIA



NOVEMBER 2015

## WORKING WITH THE ARMY DOGS

Situated above Kalimpong Animal Shelter is the army cantonment. In this huge area there are buildings, roads, shops and lots of trees. Free-roaming dogs who flee at the sight of humans live and breed in the grounds of this area.

I was in doubt that such shy, timid and cunning dogs could ever be caught, no matter how skilled our staff, who use a sack or net, which they throw over the unsuspecting dog, then bundling it into the shelter vehicle. I went out catching with Mahesh, Lil and Lapcha one early morning. As soon as the dogs saw the shelter vehicle they slipped away like shadows vanish in mist. After four hours, two more dogs were caught. Altogether over fifty dogs have been caught, spayed, vaccinated against rabies and then returned to the cantonment. It has

required an enormous effort, lots of fuel and lots of time. But by carrying out this ABC (animal birth control) programme, not only have the lives of the dogs been saved, but also the cantonment area is now free of the threat of rabies.

Thanks to you, our supporters, for all your help over the years which has meant that we have been able to achieve these breakthroughs. 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. Furthermore, because people no longer fear the dogs, they are less likely to throw stones at them, kick them or hit them with the sharp Nepalese knife called a kukuri.

Christine Townend,  
Founder & Trustee.

A cautious dog hides under an army vehicle



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

Darjeeling Animal Shelter and Kalimpong Animal Shelter are grateful for volunteer vets who work alongside our staff and vets. We prefer volunteers who can stay up to three months. There is good accommodation provided in private rooms with attached bathrooms, and three vegetarian meals per day also provided.

For further information about our work, please visit:

[www.workingforanimals.org.au](http://www.workingforanimals.org.au)

Thank you to French  
volunteer vets, Edith  
and Tanguy



A man brought 7 puppies to the shelter. He said their mother had been killed



Padam cared for them and gave them to a mother dog who had lost her own pups



Padam with two of the pups. We expect they will all find homes easily



## TWO ACTIVE SHELTERS



KAS has spayed 743 dogs, and 118 cats, vaccinated 2229 dogs against rabies and 435 against distemper and parvo. These figures do not include the countless number of village cattle, goats and chickens that have been treated.

The image below shows how the net can be used by skilled persons as a humane method of catching shy, wild dogs. After being caught in the net the dog is gently lifted into the rear of the shelter vehicle. Such catching requires considerable skill, because not only are the dogs wary of the shelter vehicle, but they may also bite out of fear.

Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter is a registered Indian Charitable Trust which incorporates two animal shelters in Darjeeling and Kalimpong. Municipalities in both these Himalayan towns were using strychnine to poison street dogs in an effort to prevent the spread of rabies. In 1998 (Kalimpong) and 2007 (Darjeeling) both these municipalities agreed to stop all poisoning of street dogs because DAS and KAS have demonstrated scientific trap-neuter-return programmes are more effective than killing. In the last year DAS has spayed 590 dogs, and 101 cats, vaccinated 1654 dogs and 240 cats against rabies and also, thanks to a donation from Animaux Secours (France) has been able to vaccinate 280 dogs against distemper and parvo.



The Darjeeling Animal Shelter is built on extremely sloping land. Behind the front office, operating theatre and accommodation block there are 24 kennels and two isolation kennels.



A large cattery has been donated by Animal Protection Network, Sweden. Cats can wander during the day but are enclosed at night due to their habit of killing neighbours' chickens!



# Why the rescue and treatment of animals is hard work

Christine Townend

EVERY DAY THE STAFF AT BOTH KALIMPONG AND DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTERS FACE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR WORK.

The roads are difficult to negotiate. After the monsoon, many holes and crumbling ridges in the roads mean that the tyres of vehicles become worn out much more rapidly than would be the case on a smooth, stone-free road. Furthermore, due to heavy rains, parts of the road have fallen away, resulting in narrow passages with huge gorges just below. Drivers have to be skilled to negotiate these difficulties, and it means that it takes much time to travel from one place to another.

Sometimes people find the road to the shelter so difficult to negotiate that they arrange for someone to carry their dog in a tea basket (see photo below) or, in the case of this particular goat, to be carried on a stretcher to the shelter.

Some villages lie at great distances from the shelter, in tea gardens and the only access is via steep, narrow, winding and dangerous roads.

Dr. Sameer Chhetri, vet at DAS, has summarised the many camps held at near and distant villages and tea gardens since September 2010. These amount to 74 camps, often conducted under difficult circumstances, but with much gratitude from the villagers whose dogs and cats are vaccinated, spayed or otherwise given veterinary treatment. The camps include such places as Mirik, Som Tea Estate, Riseehaat, Shanti Parvat, Takdah, Bijanbari, and Tukvar Tea Estate. For example, the most recent camp conducted in Kurseong on 3rd September this year, resulted in 28 dogs being vaccinated against rabies, and six being treated for various veterinary problems. This is a small number of animals but owners are deeply grateful.

A special thanks to major donors Animaux Secours (France), One Voice (France) and APN (Sweden) and to our many donors who have helped keep the two shelters running, thus saving the lives of many animals and greatly reducing their suffering.



Photo: Arpan Karthak



It costs INR 9000 approx. (\$A 193.00) to care for one dog for a year  
It costs INR 7000 approx. (\$A150.00) to prepare a wooden, sack-lined box and kennel for a dog for warmth in winter  
It costs INR 7000 approx.(\$A150.00) to rescue a wounded and suffering dog from a village

- **DONATION FORM**

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