

The monthly report from Kalimpong Animal Shelter

The Animal Shelter clinic is now flooded with such cases of Parvovirus and the cases recorded in the month of May have escalated to 666.

But the good news is that the recovery rate has been equally great for these dogs.

Our team has had a small Q&A with the owners this time regarding their dogs' upkeep and vaccinations. Out of 15 cases seen every day, there have been 10 dogs vaccinated against viral diseases in which they receive the 7-in-one shot followed by boosters.

But surprisingly, the vaccinated dogs still carried the virus. The Shelter Vet Dr Deo has been studying such cases and has found out 'most of these dogs are vaccinated but not dewormed. Their basic health update isn't taken into account. He adds, worn infestations cause such complications in these dogs which later could turn out worse. Deworming is one of the first and foremost steps to keeping a dog healthy but many owners fail to follow this step for their dogs.



Besides such cases, there has been an outbreak of LSD (Lumpy Skin disease) in cattle. Many cattle from the Bong Busty village have been afflicted with the same whereas a few have already succumbed to it.

Lumpy Skin Disease is a viral disease in cattle. It is noted that the first outbreak of LSD happened in Africa more than two decades ago. Since then the disease has spread to other countries, mainly the Middle East and Asian countries.

Symptoms of LSD include - fever, nasal discharge, hypersalivation, and eruptions (painful nodules) on the skin. LSD is one of the welfare issues now in India.

This disease is transmitted by blood-sucking insects, flies, ticks etc



Cows suffer a great deal from the painful nodules across their body and rising temperature. One of our work teammates and a witness to this incident- Mr. Lakpa testifies - I was deeply saddened to see my cousin in panic when his cow suddenly collapsed due to LSD, the cow could not eat and was emaciated, had nodules all over her body and soaring temperature. I immediately went to her rescue and requested Dr Pandey for preventive/prophylactic medication for the cow. I began the treatment the very first day itself and continued the course for a few days but sadly, the cow succumbed to LSD . By that time, the disease had spread to other cattle in the village and the KAS team had to gear up to help these cattle from dying. Having lost one cattle was a big loss to this gentleman, who works on daily wages and is a farmer by profession

There were frantic phone calls from owners as fear loomed through after the first incident of LSD in the village .

Some of these owners even approached the Shelter for immediate help when they saw symptoms of LSD. For these helpless owners in this Bong village , KAS has been the nearest center for help. And our well-experienced KAS team without further ado went to these households to treat the suffering cattle and did routine checkup and treatment every day until the course period.



Mr Lakpa from KAS extends help to a cow suffering from LSD

Cows were seen in a painful state, they had become lame. The KAS teammates worked day and night in saving such lives. Twenty-two such cattle have recovered from LSD and numerous others are on the road to recovery as the KAS team is following updates.



In Pic – Mr Lil from KAS treats a cow with LSD

Initially, several cases of LSD have been reported in a few states – Punjab, and Rajasthan in India where the cattle population is high. These states have been the worst hit.

The locals mainly the cattle owners have been coming up with a lot of hearsays, such as the disease spreading through the transportation of cattle, and fodder given to cattle. However, the KAS team of Vet and Paravet is raising awareness and helping people understand the root cause of the disease in layman's terms.

Despite all such surges in cases, the KAS team has managed to conduct Animal Birth Control camps in distant places of Kalimpong with the support of Help Animals India. The KAS team has even travelled far off to Gairibas , Gorubathan Bloc for the ABC camp. It was an arduous journey travelling for more than six hours back and forth. The camp was still a huge success with the sterilisation of 20 dogs out of which 4 were males.



Bidhyang , Teesta , Lava, and Deolo camps were a huge success as well. The ABC camp at Lava was very crucial as there are many dogs living close to the forest and always in danger of getting into conflicts with other animals. Lava is a small place away from the hustle and bustle of the main Kalimpong town. Usually, the place remains cold and attracts a lot of tourists due to Buddhist monasteries, pine trees, and forest cover. But Lava is far from receiving veterinary services always and many community dogs live there. A few of the dogs even have TVT (transmissible venereal tumour). Having coordinated with the club Lava Jankalyan Samaj members, the KAS team organised a camp on the 23rd where **eleven** community dogs were spayed along with **one** feline friend.



One of the concerned citizens, Tshering, and the team from the Lava Jankalyan club have expressed their thanks to the KAS team for the ABC camp. They feel Lava needs more of such camps every year to keep the dogs and community safe.

Other highlights

Rescue of a maggot-infested dog - The dog is admitted to KAS where he's undergoing treatment. He got a big patch of wound around his right ear. The team has been debriding his wound as suggested by the Vet. It wound will take a little time to heal.



Rescue of a dog with burns on his head and neck – He is now admitted to the KAS kennel where he is receiving treatment for the same. He sustained such an injury after somebody threw hot boiling water on him. Such cases are less common these days unlike before but yet it happens in some parts of the town and villages. This poor boy is somehow doing fine with treatment at KAS, eating well and smiling when everybody passes by him. He knows when to wear a smile even though he knows deep down how painful his life has been.



Rescue of a puppy with mange - The rescue team has helped a young puppy from the Army cantonment area. The pup had lost almost all fur when she first was admitted. With treatment, her skin coat is getting better.



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Adoption - two adorable puppies have found their forever home whereas the other two siblings are still waiting for a home. The puppies were surrendered to KAS along with their mother. Once they weaned, they were put up for adoption.

Needless to say, the newborns were given adequate care and supplies while at KAS. Hoping the other two will find their home soon enough.



Catching dogs every Monday for their Sterilisation - Mr Lakpa and Roshan set out early every Monday to catch street dogs for their Sterilisation. Numerous dogs from the Army camp have been caught, sterilised, and released to their territory.



A deer comes for treatment at KAS

The forest personnel brought a deer to KAS that had sustained an injury. She had a few bite marks around her hind leg after being attacked by dogs. The forest team while patrolling found her and brought her for immediate treatment at KAS. The Shelter Vet and Paravet Lil treated her injury and handed her over to the forest personnel. The forest team will release her into the wild once she heals completely.



Thank you for your support