

Activity report from Kalimpong Animal Shelter

Highlights

World Rabies Day 2023

World Rabies Day is observed every year on 28th September 2023 with the aim of raising awareness about rabies, its prevention, and elimination. The theme for this year was 'All for 1, One Health for All'.

The Kalimpong Animal Shelter in collaboration with the Animal Resources Department (ARD) observed World Rabies Day this year by raising awareness about the Anti-Rabies Vaccination and Animal Birth Control Programme. A village camp was set up for the community dogs at the BLDO Office, in Jhordhara, Kalimpong where the Kalimpong Animal Shelter team sterilised twenty-three dogs, both owned and community, and three cats, whereas the ARD Department vaccinated one hundred dogs against rabies.

The Shelter's ongoing Animal Birth Control is making a positive impact on the street, community, and owned pet animals. Every week, the ABC Programme is conducted in the Shelter, and owners are called based on appointment. This month, ninety-four dogs and twenty-five cats were sterilised.



Dr Deo assisted by Mr. Lil spaying a community dog at camp in the ARD Dept.



The KAS Vet, Dr. Deo, and the team along with the ARD Deputy Director- Dr. Deven attend World Rabies

A total of thirty-five rescues of dogs including puppies were conducted in September. Out of these, many were rescued for their ABC while others were puppies that needed a temporary shelter until adoption, and fewer old dogs were rescued for their treatment.



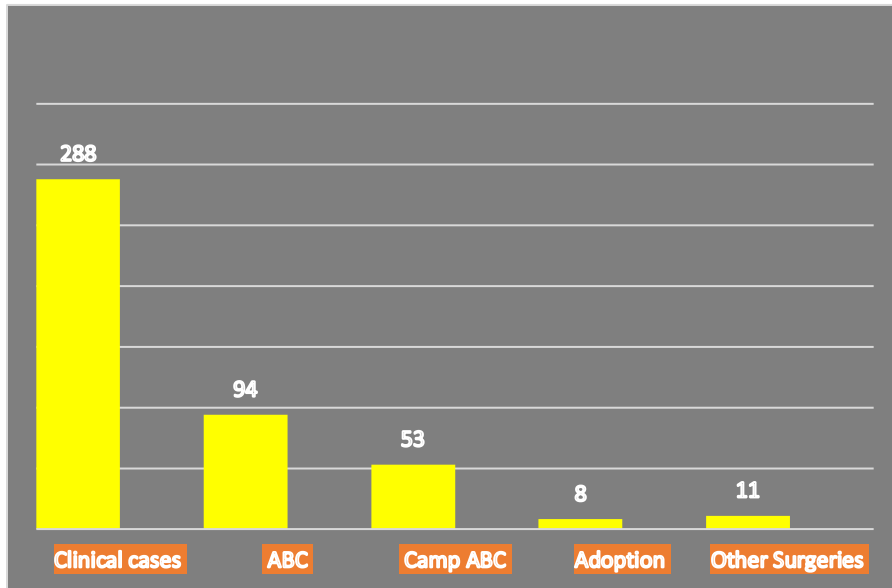
The Shelter Vet. Assistant, Lakpa takes rescued dogs to the Shelter

Finding a home for a local puppy is always difficult. Now with the trend of buying puppies, adoption from the Shelter is quite less. However, the KAS team was successful in providing loving homes to eight puppies this month. These puppies were adopted by responsible pet parents from Kalimpong.



Adopted

The histogram below shows the number of Clinical cases seen and ABCs performed in the month of September



Main Highlights from October

October seems to be a busy month as the team engages in providing relief to animals affected by the flood

Relief for animals in the wake of the Glacial Lake Outburst flood (GLOF) in Sikkim and Teesta



In Pic – A house at Rongpo that caved in and submerged in debris

Rescue operations by the Indian Army continue in Chungtang, one of the worst affected districts of Sikkim. Many were reported missing, while several bodies of civilians who were washed away were recovered. The disaster that occurred on October 4 wreaked havoc in Sikkim and parts of North Bengal- Teesta, Rangpo , etc. The death toll reached 90 in Sikkim. No casualties were reported in Teesta , but the GLOF ravaged property, leaving countless people homeless at Teesta, Kalimpong. Relief camps were set up for the victims and families that were evacuated from the flood-affected areas.



In the early hours of October 4, 2023, a Glacial Lake outburst (GLOF) over Lonak Lake in North Sikkim triggered flash floods in the Teesta River in Lachen Valley. The release of water from the Chungtang dam led to the river downstream in spate along the Teesta River basin, flooding towns, and villages. The Teesta River flows through Sikkim and West Bengal.



The devastating flood claimed several lives. Many families were displaced and road connectivity to different areas was cut off after bridges collapsed. The NH10 highway, which is the lifeline and only route for transportation to major cities remains partially closed due to damage caused by the flood.

The deluge caused a psychological impact not only on humans but also on animals. Since the disaster, the Goodwill team from Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS) as the first animal responders set out to help the vulnerable animals in distress caused by flash floods. The focal point of the Shelter team is to provide relief, medical assistance, food and emotional support, rehabilitation, and vaccination against rabies ensuring the safety of animals and the community in this critical hour, when these animals have little access to medical assistance.



A stranded sow and her piglet are fed by the Goodwill team at Teesta

The Shelter team witnessed the suffering of farmed pigs that were washed away from their sty and brought to the shore at Teesta, Kalimpong. The sow and her piglet that were displaced were starving for hours. The Shelter team was able to provide them food and relieve their pain by requesting locals to help them rehabilitate. Dogs with minor injuries were treated by the Shelter team on the spot, and both owned and community dogs were vaccinated against rabies in all the affected areas ensuring their safety along with the safety of the community.



The Goodwill team waiting for the raft to help them cross the river to reach the hamlets – Bangey and Najok

The team inspected dogs that were vulnerable, and those that suffered trauma in the aftermath of the flood. A lactating dog along with her puppies that were temporarily sheltered by a community feeder at Teesta were rescued and brought to the Shelter by the Goodwill team.



The team feed dogs at Teesta. Thank you Pedigree India for the food donation



A troubled and distressed dog in season was rescued by the team as well and brought to KAS where she will undergo sterilisation once she is at ease.

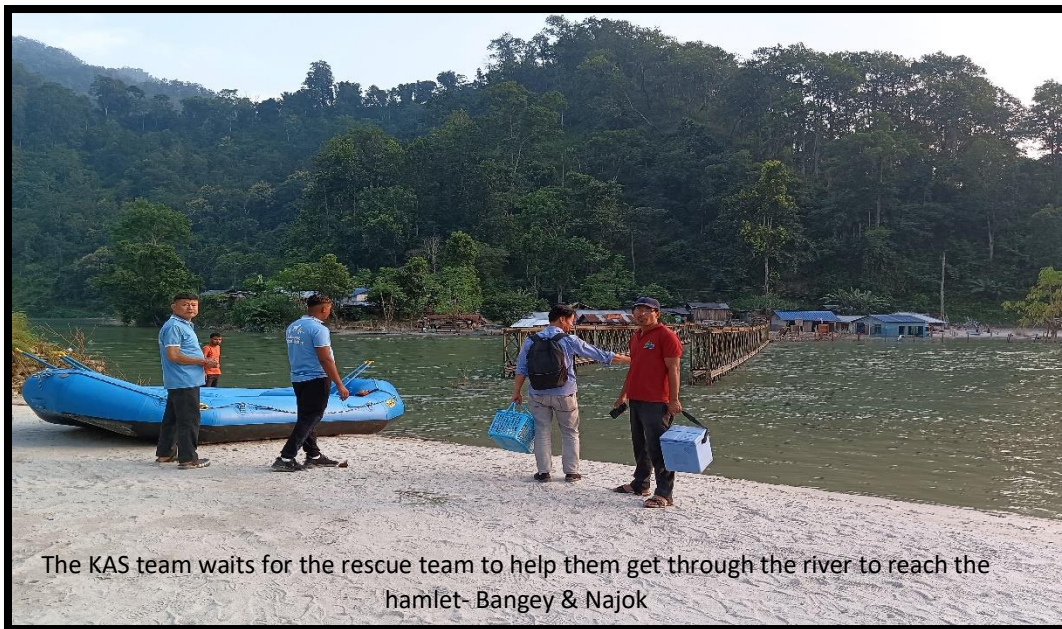


The team carries a rescued dog at at Teesta

The team covered Rongpo, Melli, Bhalukhop , Teesta , Bangey, and Najok so far to help animals and assess their needs. The team vaccinated over sixty-two dogs against rabies in all these flood-affected areas.

A few more areas will be covered soon, and follow-ups on animals will continue to ensure their safety and well-being. Additionally, the team is vigilant about diseases that these floods can bring on animals.

The team is committed to supporting and helping animals in these trying times despite the risk involved in visiting these affected areas.



The community at Rongpo was warned of going to the river bank due to the danger of an explosion of ammunition flowing in the Teesta basin of army personnel, who were swept away by the flood, a community member at Rongpo said. In a few other areas, road connectivity is cut off until restoration takes place. Thus, the routes are diverted, and travelling to hamlets such as Bangey and Najok in Kalimpong takes longer than ever. It took five hours for the Shelter team to reach there. Nevertheless, the pain and suffering of animals in this hour are the main concern of the Shelter team, and it is compassion in the face of adversity that unites the team in conducting an outreach programme like this to provide relief and medical assistance to these non-human animals.



A Pictorial view of help rendered to the community dogs in flood-affected areas



Dogs are vaccinated against rabies at Teesta Bridge



The team rescues a puppy





The KAS team carrying kibble for dogs at Bhalukhola



The settlement at Teesta was ravaged by flash floods



Owners' dogs come for vaccination at Rongpo



Vaccination certificate is handed out to an owner

Thank you

Help Animals India for supporting camps and disaster relief efforts of the Shelter team for animals affected in the Northern part of Bengal, India.

The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust for supporting the KAS Cattery starting October 2023

Sincere thanks to all donor Organisations- **Animaux Secours- France** , **One Voice- France**, **WFA Australia** , **Animal Protection Network - Sweden** for their unwavering support in helping the Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter save lives of the voiceless beings