

## Monthly Report from Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS) : February-March 2024 Overview

The monthly report covering February and March outlines significant challenges encountered by both shelters due to a haemoprotozoa disease outbreak affecting cats and dogs, alongside suspected Parvo cases in dogs. Despite these adversities, the veterinary team demonstrated unwavering vigilance, implementing comprehensive treatment plans to curtail the spread of the disease and facilitating the swift recovery of these afflicted animals.

### Regular Activities

The shelter has been bustling with regular activities, operating at full capacity. The Animal Birth Control Programme, saw a substantial increase in March compared to February. The team successfully conducted over 66 sterilizations, a testament to their dedication and efficiency in controlling the animal population and promoting responsible pet ownership.

### Introducing our new Veterinarian



*Dr Shivani performs spaying on a cat with assistance from Mr. Naren at the Village camp in Darjeeling*

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Shivani Pradhan as the new Veterinarian at Darjeeling Animal Shelter. Dr. Pradhan brings a wealth of experience, having previously worked with DAS, making her return a moment of joy for us. Her passion for animals mirrors that of our existing vets at Kalimpong and Darjeeling Animal Shelter, making her a valuable addition to our team.

### General Information Update:

- Mrs. Furmit, the DAS Manager, was on maternity leave throughout February and has now resumed her duties.
- Mission Rabies continues to support the DAS Rabies Project, with Dr. Mihir leading the initiative.
- Dr. Mohit oversees clinical treatments, emergencies, etc., while the newly appointed Dr. Shivani is responsible for managing the Animal Birth Control Programme, supported by Dogs Trust Worldwide.

### Animal Rescues



Darjeeling Animal Shelter remains steadfast in its mission to rescue animals in need, offering invaluable relief to distressed creatures. In February, the team successfully rescued 16 dogs, followed by an additional 18 in March. Whether in the heart of the town or across various wards in Darjeeling, our dedicated team is always prepared to embark on rescue operations, extending a helping hand to animals in desperate situations.

### Adoption challenges

The viral disease outbreak has led to a decline in adoption numbers at the shelter. However, we have implemented strict monitoring and quarantine measures for sick litters, ensuring their well-being and preventing further spread of the disease.



Despite these challenges, we are delighted to report that four healthy puppies found loving homes with caring families in February. These adoptions have been successful, with the animals thriving and bringing happiness to their new households.

*The table below shows the figures for the months of February and March*

Month	ABC	Rescue	Adoption
February	25	16	4
March	66	18	NIL

## Responding to Emergencies

In a swift response to an emergency, our team sprang into action when a 7-year-old Canine Indie spayed female dog was involved in a Road Traffic Incident (RTA) near Ghoom Railway Station. Thanks to the timely alert from our community feeder Raju Daju, a former DAS employee, our rescue team quickly reached the spot and safely retrieved the injured dog.



Following a thorough physical and clinical examination, it was discovered that the dog had sustained multiple irreparable fractures in her Right Front Limb . Our dedicated team of veterinarians, led by Dr. Mohit, had to perform an amputation as that was the only viable option for the dog's well-being. The surgery was a success, and the dog underwent a period of rehabilitation at our shelter until she could comfortably walk on three legs.



After a full recovery, the dog was joyfully released back to her new home near her familiar territory.

## Extending Help to an Injured Dog

A dog from the Army Cantonment area was brought to DAS for necessary veterinary aid. The dog arrived with severe wounds on its hind leg, indicating a distressing ordeal, likely an attack. The distressing cries of the dog on the roadside caught the attention of Army personnel, prompting an immediate call to action from the DAS team.



Our dedicated team swiftly stabilized the injured dog and assessed the extent of its injuries. The examination revealed a large superficial wound and a smaller yet deep wound near the pelvis region.

Under the skilled hands of Dr. Mohit and the team, the dog underwent necessary surgeries to address its injuries. In addition to treating the wounds, a neuter surgery was performed, ensuring the dog's long-term health and well-being.



The Army personnel visit DAS to check on the dog

Following surgery, the dog embarked on a path of recovery at the shelter, receiving attentive care and rehabilitation until it regained its strength. The successful outcome was met with gratitude from the Lebong Army staff, expressing appreciation for our shelter's noble cause and tireless efforts in offering help to those in need.

***Special thanks to Dr . Mohit***

### **Generous Donations**



Animal lovers generously donated sets of blankets to DAS, showcasing their compassion and support for the sheltered animals. There are many kind-hearted individuals along with many others like them, who visit the shelter, bringing essential items needed for the well-being of our dogs. Their thoughtful contributions always make a significant difference in providing comfort and care to the animals under our care.

In conclusion, despite challenges such as the viral disease outbreak, the shelters continued their essential activities in rescue, treatment, and sterilisation programme, all thanks to the unwavering dedication of the team.