



MONTHLY REPORT -



DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER



ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION CAMP

HIGHLIGHTS

- RABIES DAY OBSERVANCE
- ABC CAMPS
- RESCUE
- RTA CASE
- RABIES WARRIORS DAY

RABIES DAY OBSERVANCE

Rabies Day was celebrated in advance with enthusiasm and extensive community outreach by the Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS) in collaboration with Mission Rabies, the Darjeeling Municipality, and the Animal Resources Development Department as part of the "Rabies Free Pahad" (Rabies Free Hills) initiative. This year, Rabies Day, observed annually on September 28th, had the theme "Breaking Rabies Boundaries."

Rabies is a fatal disease that claims a life every nine minutes; however, it is 100% vaccine-preventable. DAS is committed to vaccinating dogs against rabies to ensure the safety of both humans and animals. The yearly Anti-Rabies Vaccination Camp commenced on September 17th and ran until September 27th in Darjeeling, conducted by DAS with participation from teams of Mission Rabies and Kalimpong Animal Shelter. From September 17th to 19th, static vaccination points were established for pet owners to bring their dogs and cats for vaccination. Starting September 20th, a mass vaccination program was launched across all 32 wards. Local volunteers also participated in this initiative.

➤➤➤ ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION CAMP

The Darjeeling Municipality sponsored 2,100 doses of the rabies vaccine. The dedicated teams from DAS and Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS) worked tirelessly for seven days and vaccinated a total of 2,425 dogs, making this vaccination programme a resounding success.



IN PIC - THE KAS & DAS TEAM

➤➤➤ RABIES DAY AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT CHOWRASTA

Following the vaccination efforts, DAS conducted a Rabies Awareness Prg. in collaboration with the Darjeeling Municipality and the Animal Resources Development Department at Chowrasta, Darjeeling, to mark the observance of Rabies Day.



VACCINATING A DOG ON RABIES DAY AT CHOWRASTA



REGULAR SHELTER ACTIVITIES >>>

The shelter continued its regular activities, including OPD cases, rescues, and adoptions. Dr. Mohit monitored OPD cases, diagnosing many patients with tick fever and viral infections. With the arrival of colder weather in Darjeeling, an increase in viral infections, Parvovirus, and Canine Distemper cases is anticipated. In September, the OPD cases totaled 436.



➤➤➤ ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL CAMP

Two Animal Birth Control (ABC) camps were held in Jalapahar Cantonment on September 5th and 6th, and in Limboo Busty, Tukvar, on September 7th and 8th. At the request of the current ADM commandant in Jalapahar, the ABC camp led to the sterilization of 8 dogs and 1 female cat, along with 13 rabies vaccinations. The sterilized dogs received post-operative care from the Jalapahar Cantonment team before being released the following day.



THE DAS TEAM AT JALAPAHAR CANTONMENT



➤➤➤ TUKVAR CAMP

In Tukvar, the camp saw strong community participation, with members assisting in catching free-roaming dogs. Initiated by Mr. Regan Dewan and supported by the local club Uday Kiran Samaj, the camp was conducted by the DAS team, led by Dr. Shivani and assisted by vet assistants. A total of 40 ABC surgeries and 56 rabies vaccinations were performed over the two days, marking the first instance of consecutive ABC camps being held. The DAS team's ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of the community and its dogs continue.

In addition to the camps, 21 dogs and 13 cats underwent ABC surgery at the shelter facility, along with 28 vaccinations.



TUKVAR CAMP



>>> ADOPTION

Several animals found loving homes this month, including four puppies and one kitten, all of whom were adopted by caring families.



➤➤➤ RESCUE OPERATIONS

Despite heavy rains, rescue operations remained active. A total of 19 dogs were rescued, with 7 others being released after treatment.

One of such rescues is of a dog with Road Traffic Incident

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CASE

During the tourist season in Darjeeling, numerous cases, particularly Road Traffic Accidents (RTA), often go unreported. The bustling town becomes lively, and dogs are reduced to mere background figures, either squeezed in the crowd or approaching people for a pack of biscuits. Unfortunately, RTAs are common during this time. However, in this instance, a case was reported to us in time. The dog, from Sidharthagram, Singmari in Darjeeling, had been hit by a vehicle, leaving her hind limb and pelvis with severe injuries. She had lost a significant amount of blood. Despite our busy schedule of ongoing treatments and vaccinations, our team rushed to the scene to rescue her. She was brought to the Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS), where she received pain relief and care.



>>> RTA CASE

After stabilising her condition, an analysis revealed an irreparable fracture, and it was determined that amputation was the only viable option. The surgery, performed successfully by our vet Dr. Mohit, assisted by vet assistants, was followed by continuous fluid therapy and supplements to aid her recovery. Gradually, She showed remarkable improvement and gradually adapted to walking on three legs.

After her full recovery, our primary concern was finding her a loving home in a low-traffic area, where she could live peacefully. During her 20-day stay at the shelter, the DAS team actively searched for the right home. Ultimately, we succeeded in rehoming her to a safe and caring environment. Upon her adoption, we committed to fully sponsoring her care and treatment for the rest of her life. This outcome was a win-win for both the dog and all of us.



ADOPTED BY A LOVING FAMILY

>>> SURRENDERED DOG FINDS A HOME

A friendly dog was surrendered to the shelter this month. To prevent her abandonment in the forest, the DAS family welcomed her. She got so lucky that one of the staff from DAS itself was willing to adopt her for a lifetime.



>>> RABIES WARRIORS DAY

On September 10, 2024, an awareness program focusing on the One Health approach was conducted by Dr. Shivani in collaboration with Mission Rabies, Humane Society International, and Zero Waste Himalaya for students of the Rotary Interact Club. The event took place at Camilia School, where students were enlightened on rabies prevention, waste disposal management, dog behavior, WHO PEP guidelines, and the importance of ABC in controlling dog populations how One Health Approach can help attain "Zero by 2023".



We remain grateful to our donors and supporters for helping us make a significant difference in the lives of animals.