

Camp Report March 2016



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Camps at Reybong and Yangmakum Villages, Nimbong Gram Panchayat 29-30 March 2016

Dr. Deo Pandey, KAS vet, was contacted by the Government Mobile Veterinary Clinic and requested to accompany the two government vets to two villages...



Yangmakum and Reyong, both only about 45 kilometres distance from the shelter, but a three hour drive, along pot-holed, winding and dangerous roads. The Government mobile Veterinary Clinic team

were not equipped with vaccines to protect against rabies or any of the other diseases which animals may suffer, and there had been reported cases of rabies outbreaks in these remote villages.

For KAS, this was the second, annual camp to Yangmakum and Reyong (the government vets conduct 20 camps per month). Some can be as distant as 100 km., taking a day to reach. When the government mobile team goes to villages, wherever there is requirement for sterilisation of dogs, together with vaccination against rabies

(ABC) they inform KAS and request their assistance. Government vets do not have the capacity to operate on animals, having neither the experience nor the expensive surgical instruments required.

The KAS team agreed to attend the camps in support of the Government Mobile Veterinary Clinic, and left Kalimpong at 7am with a supply of necessary vaccines, sterile surgical equipment, and drugs. Other equipment such as a sterile operating table and a pressure cooker to sterilise instruments were supplied by the village inhabitants.



At Yangmakum on the first day 20 'owner dogs' were spayed and vaccinated against rabies. It was hard work for the KAS team. They were too exhausted to face the long, rough

journey home at dark, so one of the government vets provided hospitality to the team – a meal and beds for the night.

The next day the KAS team, together with the government vets, travelled to Reyong. This remote village does not even have mobile connectivity – so no phones or computers can function. Here the KAS team vaccinated mainly dogs, and farm animals such as cows (Foot and Mouth), goats (PPR – a viral disease) and checked hen health, some hens requiring de-



worming. This was an agricultural village; one boy was asking for sponsorship to attend college as no-one in the village could help with financial support. The farmers in the village grew mostly chilis, cardamon and ginger, and earned very small amounts for the sale of their crops.

The KAS team returned to Kalimpong late that evening after dark. These two camps

were no exception. For example Dr. Deo Pandey was asked to go to Reyon, another remote village, because a goat was bitten by a couple of dogs which may have been rabid. KAS was contacted by the local police who asked Dr. Pandey to vaccinate the village animals. This village is now visited once a year by KAS.



The Government vets do their best, given their meagre resources. For example, a Technology Week, organised by the Darjeeling Krishi Vigyan Kendra (an NGO) and the Regional research station Hill zone, UBKV Kalimpong is held every year. Stalls are provided and the local villagers gifted with cattle, pigs and goats by the government. The accompanying images show the February 2015 camp, for which KAS was presented with a plaque due to the veterinary help provided.

Christine Townend,
Settlor Trustee
DGAS