

The monthly report from **Darjeeling Animal Shelter**

Darjeeling Animal Shelter has been conducting its life-saving programmes diligently. From attending rescue calls to carrying out operations that take time and effort, the team has always left no stone unturned in achieving its target.

The Dogs Trust Worldwide's (DTW) support for the Animal Birth Control Programme of Darjeeling Animal Shelter is another milestone added to the DAS chronicles. When the Vet and team are ready with their scrub and head caps, we are assured the ABC team is prepared for the day to sterilise the furry ones.

Starting from the Prep room to the OT and monitoring the dog's heartbeat every second, is the day-to-day schedule of the team where minute details are taken into account when sterilisation is performed.

This month fifty-five dogs have undergone sterilisation at DAS with the support of DTW. All dogs have been released after proper post-care.



Coming to rescues, there has been a total of fourth two rescues including puppies, kittens and adult dogs.



These adorable furry beings that came as rescues were given time to adjust in the Shelter's vicinity. Every time any puppy comes to the Shelter, he or she becomes used to being out in the open sitting around cats. It's rare to see cats and dogs getting along but at DAS one would see a young kitten embracing a puppy. That's the best part about visiting DAS.

The team always follows a schedule of deworming and vaccinations for all the young puppies that come to the Shelter. Once these pups are healthy, they are put up for adoption. These new rescues that came in the month of May were in their weaning stage. They were kept on a nutritious diet along with their deworming and vaccination routine in check.

All eight rescue puppies including kittens have found genuine and loving parents. A brief interview was conducted by the DAS team before adoption and the new parents too were asked to spend time with the animal they were bonding with and adopting. It's an icebreaking session with the animal, which Dr Mihir thinks is very important.

Rescue of adult dogs



Clinical Cases - A total of 224 clinical cases were attended in the month of May . These outpatients were diagnosed with viral infections. The dogs were kept on IV fluid and owners were advised to follow the treatment plan of five to seven days.

The IBCM Officer of DAS , Ms Pratibha has been conducting awareness generation sessions amongst the children. This month, she has had a session not only with kids but with their parents as well. The session was conducted in Congress Primary School at JorBungalow, Darjeeling. Such sessions are very enlightening and as children are our future , they should know about ‘ do’s and don’t’s , dog bite issues etc’ .





In Pic - Ms. Pratibha conducts a session with the children and their parents on Dog bite management

Alongside, she has been conducting humane education classes where children learn about kindness and compassion.

Lastly, Dr Mihir along with Ms Pratibha visited the Bijanbari Block to meet the Block Development Livestock officer for the ABC and ARV project of DAS .

Following this, they visited Mirik to meet the Municipality chairman for conducting the Anti-rabies vaccination camp in different wards in Mirik . Mirik is a small town in the Darjeeling district which is famous for its lake. It attracts tourists every season. Many horses have been stationed there as well for horse riding around the lake. For the Darjeeling Shelter team to reach Mirik means travelling for two hours and in the past, the team has managed to rescue a few ailing dogs and help horses that were sick. Many times, the team left early morning to treat the horses whenever they fell ill.

Although the govt veterinary clinic is accessible to owners and their animals for treatment or any other emergency its services are still limited mainly for small animals such as dogs and their vaccination and sterilisation.

So Dr Mihir is willing to embark on a mission to help street dogs from Mirik this time by vaccinating them against rabies.

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