



# Mission Rabies Monthly Report

## North East Project

### August 2024

#### August 2024 Highlights

- Number of calls answered: 16
- Number of people provided with first aid and assistance: 11
- No of school children provided with rabies awareness: 1575
- No. of ARV given: 17
- No rabid dogs encountered: 1
- No of dead dogs tested : 12

## Education

The month of August 2024 was marked multiple awareness Programmes in schools, A total of 7 schools were reached till the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month reaching 1575 children.

On 13th August 2024, IBCM's conducted a rabies awareness program. The event took place at Nepali Girls High School in four sessions. Morning sessions targeted students from 1st to 6th standard effectively. Comical visual slides were used to teach children about dog behaviour. Children learned to distinguish between "Happy Dog" and "Angry Dog." Guidelines on self-protection during dog bites were also provided. A noteworthy incident, a girl named Suprina Balmiki shared her minor dog encounter experience. Teachers informed parents, and all students noted down a helpline number.



*Seminar being Conducted to Primary division students at Nepali Girls High School*



*IBCM officer Prajit shares a light moment with the students of Lower Murmah School Mirik*

## Community Engagement



*IBCM officer Ashwin poses for the camera after in-person consultation with the bite victims near the Monastery*

In August 11, people were provided with in-person consultations, for post-exposure vaccinations and care

On 11th August 2024, IBCM of Kurseong, along with Dr. Mihir Mazagaonkar, hosted a meeting with Kurseong animal lovers to introduce the "Rabies Free Pahad" project. The meeting covered key aspects such as community building, rabies education, and vaccination strategies. Attendees shared their expectations and the support they hoped to receive. The meeting was well-received, with



attendees expressing gratitude and optimism for the project's success.

# हिमालय दर्पण

## खरसाङ शहरलाई रेबिज मुक्त बनाउन सभा



खरसाङ, १३ अगस्त (मोहन प्रसाद): खरसाङ शहरलाई रेबिज मुक्त बनाउन साथै पशु कल्याणको निम्ति खरसाङमा पशु प्रेमीहरूको एउटा सभा सम्पन्न भयो। उक्त पशु प्रेमीहरूको सभामा खरसाङ वरिपरिका विभिन्न पशु प्रेमीहरू विशेष कुकुर प्रेमीहरूको वा कुकुरलाई विभिन्न पक्षबाट सहयोग गर्ने एनजीओ वा व्यक्तिहरूको उपस्थिति थियो। त्यति मात्र होइन, खरसाङ शहर स्थित ३३ ड्रिम्स क्याफेमा आयोजन भएको उक्त सभामा दार्जीलिङबाट डाक्टर मीहिर मजागांवकर, गैरसरकारी संस्था दार्जीलिङ एनिमल्स शेल्टरका प्रतिनिधि प्रितेश प्रधान, तेन्जिङ छोपेल, मोबाइल भेटनेरी डिपार्टमेन्ट क्लिनिक खरसाङका डाक्टर अंकुर शर्मा, खरसाङमा कुकुर कल्याणको निम्ति कार्य गर्ने एउटा

समूह के-९ का प्रमुख निशान्त थापा अनि तिनका सहयोगी दिव्य प्रधान साथै अन्य सम्बन्धित व्यक्तित्वहरू निशाद लामा अनि संगीता सिंहको पनि उक्त सभामा उपस्थिति थियो। यस अवधि सभामा वक्ताहरूले जनाए अनुसार, दार्जीलिङ पहाडको विभिन्न ठाँउ झैं खरसाङ शहरलाई पनि रेबिज मुक्त बनाउनु हेतु साथै पशु कल्याणको निम्ति खरसाङ वरिपरिका सबै पशु प्रेमीहरू आफ्नो स्वेच्छाले अघि आएको हुनुपर्छ। खरसाङ शहरमा वा खरसाङ नगरपालिका अन्तर्गत रहेको २० वटै वार्डहरूमा पशु कल्याण वा कुकुर कल्याणको निम्ति संयुक्त रूपमा पशु प्रेमीहरूले कार्य गर्न पर्छ। शहरमा रहेको प्रत्येक कुकुर बिरालोलाई एन्टी रेबिजको खोप लगाएर सम्पूर्ण खरसाङ शहरलाई नै रेबिज मुक्त बनाउने

जमर्को कसिएको छ। वक्ताहरूले थप जनाए अनुसार, दार्जीलिङमा भेटनेरी डाक्टर मीहिर मजागांवकर साथै कतिपय पशु प्रेमी एनजीओहरूको सहयोगमा अनि भेटनेरी विभागको सहयोगमा दार्जीलिङ शहरमा रहेका कुकुरहरूलाई एन्टी रेबिजको खोप लगाएर शहरलाई रेबिज मुक्त बनाउने कार्य अगावै भईसकेको छ भने अब खरसाङ, मिरिक साथै पहाडको अन्य स्थानहरूमा पनि उक्त अभियान चलाउने छ। केवल रेबिज मुक्त मात्र होइन तर शहरमा जताभवी घुमिँहँडने कुकुरहरूलाई विभिन्न पक्षबाट व्यवस्थित गर्न उद्देश्यले बन्ध्याकरणमाथि जोर दिँदै बिरामी आवश्यकमा रहेका यी पशु-प्राणीहरूलाई कुन प्रकारले आफ्नो गाँउ-घर समाजमा सहयोग भन्ने विषयमा चर्चा गरियो।

Clipboard of Local Newspaper highlighting the jest of the meeting

Coverage in Local news

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/GhgvA9CSCBTXk3SW/?mibextid=qi2Omg>

On 25th August 2024, IBCM of Darjeeling held a meeting with animal lovers to thank them for their support in keeping Darjeeling rabies-free and controlling the dog population. The meeting aimed to recruit volunteers for the upcoming Vaccination Drive and discuss ways they could contribute to animal birth control efforts at the community level.



*Picture of meet and greet with animal lovers of Darjeeling*

## Visit to Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh



*Dr Basar, Rabies Nodal officer*

The visit to Itanagar was quite successful. The Department of Animal Husbandry will be organising an all-stakeholder meeting for the districts of Papum Pare and East Kameng following which a formal project is to be designed

Dr Basar, The rabies Nodal office for Arunachal Pradesh has expressed concerns about the existing surveillance strategy in Arunachal Pradesh and has requested MR support.



## Mission Rabies Team at APCRI Bhubaneswar

The APCRICON 2024 was organised at Bhubaneswar between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of August and MR India team had a superb participation. Our research paper, **“One Health Approach for Rabies Free Mirik”** was accepted for oral presentation at APCRICON 2024 through which we showed that **Zero by 2030 is possible in collaboration with the government, animal and human NGOs, self-help groups, media and community participation.**





*Dr Poddar is, a renowned critical care and Anti Rabies Consultant.*

*APCRI gave us the chance to talk to Dr Sumit Poddar, a well-known Anti Rabies Consultant, He Appreciated the efforts and the changes brought in by rabies project in Darjeeling. Dr Sumit Poddar was su*





*The MR India Team*







Visit to JBF( Just BE Friendly) Guwahati Assam



## Schrödinger's Rabies case?

On 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2023, during the regular ABC dog catching , a kind lady asked the team to get the dogs that stays near her house spayed. On careful examination it was found the dog also had a TVT(Transmissible Veneral Tumor) it was decided to bring her back to the shelter for chemotherapy and ABC.

The TVT was quite small and post the first dose of vincristine, it was decided dog was operate the dog on the 31<sup>st</sup> ,After the surgery the dog recovered fine but a day later had a massive bout of diarrhoea and vomiting. It was thought this could be possibly be stress induced or chemothrepy induced nausea. And treatments were started for enteritis. There was no major recovery even though the diarrhea stopped, the health of the dog was on a constant decline. The dog deied on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August.

A regular post-mortem was performed, and while the Post Mortem did not show any major findings, the LFA surprisingly came out to be positive, the LFA was tried again to rule out a faulty test, but that came out positive too.

A brain sample was extracted and is currently being transported to the new Rabies Testing facility in Guwahati supported by MR. The testing will finally tell us if this was really a rabid dog or if it was a faulty LFA. Till then, for the DS team, this remains a Schrödinger's Rabies case

The course of the patient:

1.	Date in	23.07.2024
2.	1 <sup>st</sup> dose of chemo	25.07.2024
3.	ABC done	31.07.2024
4.	Treatment started for enteritis	01.08.2024
5.	Died on	07.08.2024
6.	LFA performed on	08.08.2024



Rabies-positive LFA test

This case has raised many points DGAS needs to consider

1. It pushed the vets to check the protocol and re check of all the points were followed
2. The DTW sponsored quarantine area ensures decreased interaction between animals, but maybe it is a need to consider a longer down time after a suspected rabies case(?) no suspected rabid dog was in the kennel for atleast 3 weeks earlier)
3. Should the DGAS TVT protocol include anti- nausea ( if the diarrhoea and vomiting was caused due to nausea)
4. Through the treatment for enteritis, the staff was regularly handling the dog. Fortunately all our staff now follow a strict protocol and get their yealry shots in the month of May. But this was a good reminder **Rabies can catch you anywhere and cosntant vigilance is necessary**

5. This incident also reiterates the need to continue active Rabies surveillance in Darjeeling.