

WORKING FOR ANIMALS

HELPING ANIMALS IN INDIA



DECEMBER 2014

IS IT WRONG TO BE SO PROUD?

In 1993 when Jeremy and I saw dogs dying of strychnine poisoning in the streets of Darjeeling, we were horrified. I well remember one dog who crawled along the gutter for ten minutes, unable to control her movements, frothing at the mouth, covered in mud and sludge. It was clear that an ABC (Animal Birth Control) programme was urgently needed in Darjeeling District. At a small cafe over dinner we met a nurse who told us how she had been feeding the dogs at the monastery, and how one of them was frothing at the mouth. She had opened the dog's mouth and put a hand down his throat to see if a bone was stuck there. We told her that this dog could be rabid, and, being a nurse she understood the dangers. Fortunately she was able to organise post-bite vaccination for herself and lived on to tell the tale. But these two incidents were enough to persuade our landlord, Dr. G.S. Yonzon, that an animal shelter was needed in Darjeeling. He called a

meeting of some of the most important people in town, and it was resolved that Jeremy and I should start a shelter. It seemed impossible at the time, but Dr. Yonzon helped us to find land in the nearby hill station of Kalimpong. We were helped to establish the registered Indian Charitable Trust by Mr. G.K. Tiwari, a Jaipur lawyer. In those early days there was no road to the shelter. The staff had to carry or lead the dogs through paddy fields and village gardens. The Government provided us with land at the veterinary clinic where we built an enclosed area to hold the dogs while carrying out the ABC programme. The municipality agreed to stop all poison-ing, and the programme was underway.

To date over 7594 dogs and cats have passed through the KAS ABC since its inception in 1998 and since DAS started its programme in 2008, 3558 dogs have been sterilised and vaccinated against rabies, meaning that dogs in both Kalimpong and Darjeeling are safe and friendly.

Christine Townend,
Secretary, WFA.



THANKS FROM THE INDIAN ARMY

The photo above shows KAS vet, Dr. Deo Pandey, being thanked by Lt. Col. Subhendu Mitra. Above Kalimpong Animal Shelter is a large area of land belonging to the Indian Army. In this area were many wild dogs, breeding rapidly and causing a nuisance to the army. However, rather than killing the dogs, the army supported an ABC programme in the cantonment. Altogether over 200 dogs were sterilised, vaccinated and identified with earmark.

Below: Camps are often planned by a request from people living in remote areas. Last week Mr. Prakash Kumai from Singi village approached Dr. Pandey to plan a camp. The villagers themselves then advertise and plan the camp. At the camps dogs are spayed, vaccinated against rabies and treated for ailments.



A typical camp held at Dalapchand 29 dogs and one cat were spayed and vaccinated.



With instruments sterilised in a pressure cooker Lil and Dr. Deo operate using the small incision of keyhole flank spay



Here dogs are regaining consciousness and will be taken home under the care and supervision of their owners

Help from MLA Mr. T. K. Dewan



There are many dogs living on the Chow Rasta in the centre of Darjeeling. Mr. T. K. Dewan, West Bengal MLA for Darjeeling District was concerned by the numbers of dogs, even though the dogs are healthy and friendly. He approached Mrs. Bidya Tamang, manager of Darjeeling Animal Shelter and asked her how the population of dogs could be controlled. Should they be removed? Bidya explained the purpose of an ABC (Animal Birth Control) programme based on WHO Guidelines. Street dogs are a vector of rabies. However, removing dogs from a locality does not solve the problem, because new dogs quickly breed or migrate to fill the empty

biological niche. Therefore the only efficacious and humane method is to catch, sterilise, ear-mark, vaccinate against rabies, and, after a full recovery, return the dogs

to the street. Bidya explained that through this programme, over 3558 dogs have now been spayed and vaccinated in Darjeeling. Mr. Dewan said that he understood the science behind the programme and that he would assist by ensuring that rubbish, a food source for the dogs, would be controlled. We thank him for his help and support.



HUMANE ELEPHANT TRAINING

In India there is an almost insoluble problem as the elephant homelands are encroached and destroyed, resulting in elephants raiding crops and killing approximately 200 people per year. In return humans kill about 200 wild elephants. Those in captivity may be tortured and beaten when being trained. Wildlife Trust of India, together with the Australian organisation Human Elephant Learning Programme is teaching mahouts how to train an elephant without fear or pain. The method involves the pressure of a stick, which is withdrawn when the elephant obeys a voice command. At the same time the elephant is rewarded. This method has been developed by Animal Behaviourist

Below: A male elephant of 5 years enjoys a cuddle with his mother, thus illustrating how much suffering is caused when a herd is fragmented and animals separated, particularly when they are taken into captivity most often in hot and hostile environments.



Dr. Andrew McLean. It is amazing to see how quickly a difficult young elephant becomes keen to learn. WFA has contributed towards the costs of the training camps in Kerala and Assam held this October. It is our hope that the old and cruel methods will be replaced by humane and compassionate training and handling. To see how elephants are trained traditionally, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbJ4fMbrByc>

Darjeeling District Difficulties

There are so many difficulties which KAS and DAS face in their daily work. The roads are narrow and rough, with many pot-holes. Often the ambulance has to stop to allow another vehicle through. The deep holes in the roads cause wear and tear on the vehicle and the long distances between villages and tea gardens means exhausting conditions for staff and high fuel costs. Water is also a problem. However, both Kalimpong and Darjeeling Animal Shelters have water sources, in the case of KAS, water is piped from a spring .8km distance. In the case of DAS, the land is swampy due to a spring on the mountainside and water is piped from this spring into tanks at the top of the steeply sloping land. One third of the water is returned to a nearby creek. The land was chosen for this reason because water is so scarce in Darjeeling, but the great slope of the land makes it difficult for the staff.



An Important new Indian Federation

The FIAPPO (Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations) was formed in 2008. It is an active collective of animal protection groups, and held a conference in Jaipur in October this year. WFA committee members Ace

Bourke, Christine Townend, Jeremy Townend and Jeannette Lloyd Jones attended. Ace gave a address which caused the media to mob him afterwards (see photo below). Townend's novel, *Moti An Indian Elephant*, published by Prakrit Bharti Academy,



Jaipur, was launched by Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Minister for Women & Child Development, and Mr. D. R. Mehta.

Ace Bourke will speak at the international *Minding Animals* Conference in Delhi in January,

and Townend's abstract on political strategies for the animal rights movement has been accepted for presentation.

OPPOSITE:

'*Moti, An Indian Elephant*', can be ordered from Help in Suffering at a cost of \$US20 which includes postage and handling. All proceeds from sale of the book go to HIS. After depositing the payment (see below) please inform Mr. Nirmal Jain at nirmal@his-india.in that you have transferred money for an order:

Account Name: Help in Suffering

Account Number: 20085900605

Bank: Bank of Maharashtra

Bank Address: Park Street, MI Road, Jaipur. 302001

Swift Number: MAHBINBBJPR

Thanks to:

*Animaux Secours (France) for major funding of KAS including a new operating theatre, so badly needed, as the old one is falling to pieces, and is too small for the large amount of operations carried out at the shelter.

* One Voice (France) for major funding of DAS.

*Alain DuPont, builder, who is working as a volunteer, helping in the design and construction of the new Operating Theatre

*Animal Protection Network, Sweden, who fund a cat ABC and the spay-vaccination camps held by both shelters in remote villages.

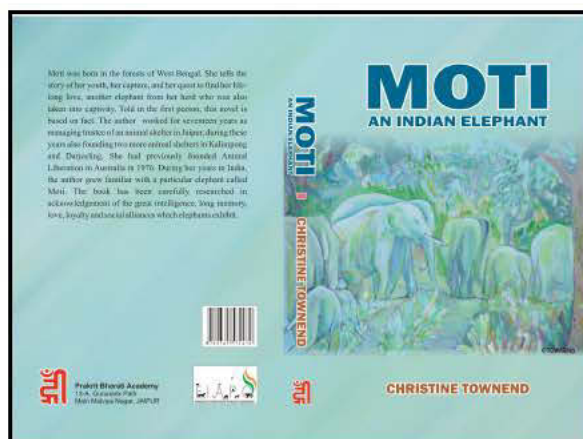
* The many volunteer vets and vet nurses who have willingly and freely given their time to helping out at KAS and DAS, including Romy, Kim, Grace and Sandrine, Beatrix and Paula, Christoffer, the local volunteers and Dr. Julie Tolhurst, a voluntary veterinary advisor to Working For Animals. Julie visits KAS and DAS regularly to give support and guidance to the staff and vets.



Dr. Sameer Chhetri (DAS) examines a goat with help from senior staff member Naren



Volunteer vets, Beatriz Belda and Paula Valiente, examine a pup brought for treatment at DAS.



PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF ADDRESS

RICHARD AND BRENDA GLASGOW WORKED AS SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF WFA FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS. CHRISTINE AND JEREMY TOWNEND HAVE NOW TAKEN OVER THESE ROLES SO PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS FOR WFA HAS CHANGED. RICHARD AND BRENDA REMAIN ON THE COMMITTEE. JEANNETTE LLOYD JONES HAS BECOME PRESIDENT AND WE WELCOME ANTHONY BOURKE AS A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

- DONATION FORM

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