

# WORKING FOR ANIMALS



NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2012

## Annual Reports from Kalimpong and Darjeeling Animal Shelters: a successful year.

I'm really proud to bring you this report. Its amazing the amount of lives that two small shelters have been able to save, through sheer hard work and dedication. You will see from the graphs in this newsletter, that Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS) treated almost 3000 animals, and Darjeeling Animal Shelter about 1503. The figures don't tell the real story of dramatic dashes to outlying villages in pouring rain, of the sad necessity of euthanising badly injured dogs found lying in gutters and roads, and of the happy re-homing of many pups and healthy animals. Additionally, in combination the two shelters caught, spayed, vaccinated against rabies and identified with an ear notch, 1223 dogs, which were released back onto the street after a full recovery. This is no easy task in a town where narrow, winding lanes, landslides, political strife and drenching rain and cold cause innumerable problems (see graph page 3 for details).  
C. Townend,  
Founding trustee, DGAS Trust,  
President. Working for Animals Inc.

## Appointment of New Trustee

Dr. Julie Tolhurst, veterinary surgeon, has been appointed as a trustee of Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter Trust. She will be responsible for overseeing the running of the two shelters. Dr. Tolhurst has worked in a small animal veterinary clinic for the past fourteen years.



## Letter from Darjeeling

Just a short note to introduce myself. I am the new Trustee in charge of the Darjeeling Animal shelter and Kalimpong Animal shelter.

My first contact with DAS and KAS was in August 2010 when I volunteered as a vet for three months. During that time I witnessed the great work the two shelters were doing in educating the local people about the benefits of rabies vaccinations and animal birth control (ABC). As you know the shelters also provide a

service for the treatment of injured or sick animals. The veterinary teams take their services out into the field so it's not just the local populations of Darjeeling and Kalimpong that benefit, but those in a much wider area.

August 2010 was my first trip to India and it wasn't until I left Darjeeling that I truly appreciated the benefits of a not-for-profit animal shelter providing veterinary care, ABC and



PET OWNERS WITH THEIR ANIMALS WAITING FOR ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION AT NAINAKUMARI SCHOOL IN JULY 2011



AT THIS CAMP 26 DOGS AND THREE CATS WERE SPAYED, 145 DOGS, 4 CATS AND ONE HORSE WERE VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES



THERE ARE ALWAYS SO MANY ANIMALS IN NEED OF TREATMENT THAT IT IS A LONG DAY AND HARD WORK FOR THE VET AND STAFF OF KAS

# Dr Julie Tolhurst - new veterinary trustee



**continued**

rabies vaccinations. After leaving Darjeeling I spent four weeks doing some sight seeing in Sikkim and Rajasthan. As I travelled through various towns and cities, what became obvious was the greater number of pregnant female dogs or dogs with pups I saw compared with what I had seen in Darjeeling and Kalimpong. There were also animals that were lame, sick, with injuries and other wounds or just mal-nourished. While in Darjeeling and Kalimpong I did not see any dogs or cats in such poor condition wandering the streets. Distressingly, it was a common sight in other towns and cities of India and, as a vet, I felt helpless in not being able to do anything. It was then I truly appreciated the work being done at DAS and KAS. What Christine and Jeremy have achieved in establishing these shelters is amazing. Christine saw a need and had the determination to find a solution - not only to give animals a better life but to reduce the incidence of rabies in the human population.

When Christine asked me to take on the role as Trustee in charge of DAS and KAS I felt humbled but very honoured. As a veterinarian I

have seen how capable, dedicated and caring the staff at both shelters are. I have seen the appreciation from the locals for the service they have received when they have brought their animals to be treated, vaccinated or desexed. For many people the cost of transporting their pets to the shelter in Darjeeling or Kalimpong is prohibitive. Many villages in the Eastern Himalayan foothills are isolated and some still do not have jeepable roads connecting them to the outside world. By taking the shelter's veterinary services out into the villages those animals in more remote areas can have the same treatment as those in town. Education and vaccination against rabies is a major activity of both shelters. For proper cover, rabies vaccinations need to be done

I'll be visiting the shelters a couple of times every year, to ensure that the highest standards of veterinary care are maintained in the conscientious tradition already established.

*Julie Tolhurst*



Dr Deo Pandey, vet in charge, Kalimpong Animal Shelter



Arpan Karthak, has been manager of Kalimpong Animal Shelter for the past 10 years

## CAMPS IN TEA GARDENS

In the tea gardens which surround Darjeeling there are small hamlets where the workers live. Paid a very small salary, and far from medical facilities, DAS staff organise camps to provide treatment, and vaccination against rabies for the animals in these isolated areas.



**DARJEELING GOODWILL ANIMAL SHELTER Trust**

**Summarised Activity Reports of Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS) and Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS) for 2010-11**

**Clinical cases attended (presented at shelters, to mobile teams and at camps)**

Shelter	Dogs	Cats	Cattle	Goats	Pigs	Chickens	Horses	Birds	Rabbits	Total
DAS	955	37	89	136	145	141	0	0	0	1503
KAS	1874	50	297	461	204	84	0	1	6	2977
<b>Total</b>	<b>2829</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4480</b>

**Preventative Medicine and Surgical Activities**

Activity	DAS	KAS	Total
<b>ABC Operations -</b>			
Dog spays	551	491	1042
Dog castrations	113	68	181
Cat sterilizations	21	70	91
<b>Humane Operations for Villagers -</b>			
Goat castrations	55	39	94
Pig castrations	21	24	45
<b>Non-ABC Operations -</b>			
Dogs	0	23	23
Cats	0	6	6
<b>Rabies Vaccinations (ABC and other) -</b>			
Dogs	1090	2052	3142
Cats	32	98	130
Other	1	0	1
<b>DHPPi + Leptospirosis (7 in 1) Vaccinations - dogs</b>	149	123	272
<b>FMD Vaccinations - cattle/goats</b>	0	136	136
<b>Animals rescued</b>	84	138	222
<b>Animals re-homed</b>	27	71	98



Friendly, healthy, and rabies-free, the Darjeeling and Kalimpong street dogs share life with the inhabitants of the two towns. Once, before the commencement of the shelter ABC programmes, the municipality poisoned the dogs with strychnine. Now it is recognised that ABC is more effective in controlling the population.



Scuba was brought to the centre by a concerned member of the public. This man had found the little fellow who had been run over by a truck. Together the two vets, Julie and Sameer, applied soft dressings to his leg. He slept in a box in Julie's room. Now he has made a full recovery and has been re-homed with a new owner (pictured right).



# NEWS FROM THE SHELTERS



KAS VEHICLE

It's sad but true, the the vehicle which has rescued so many animals, has almost rusted away in the high rainfall area of the Eastern Himalayas. The Gypsy was purchased in 1999 and to buy a new vehicle would cost over five lakh rupees so the best that Kalimpong Shelter could afford was to have a make-over of this faithful old vehicle, much loved and carefully tended, and central to the work of the shelter. To make the Gypsy roadworthy it will cost about 82,000 Rupees (about \$A1,500). So many animal lives have been saved in this vehicle. So as you can see your donations go a long way and are much appreciated.

## CORE FUNDING - SISTER SOCIETIES

Over the years, Animaux Secours (Arthaz, France) has provided the funding for the day to day running of the Kalimpong Animal Shelter. One Voice (France) has provided the funding to build and run the Darjeeling Animal Shelter.

Photo (right) Bidya Tamang, replaced Catrina Vear as manager of DAS a year ago. Her skill and dedication has been an asset for the shelter.

Special thanks to Dr Mouna Beji who worked as a volunteer vet at Kalimpong and Darjeeling Animal Shelters for two months. Her help was especially appreciated because during this time the indispensable Dr. Deo Pandey was ill. We're happy to report that he has now made a full recovery.



Dr. Mouna Beji with Dr. Sameer Chhetri, vet in charge of DAS.

Mouna writes:

'We are having in Kalimpong a lot of work, many cases of gastro-intestinal problems, most of all Parvovirus infections, with long and daily repeated drips .....Leaving both shelters won't be easy for me. I dread the moment I will have to leave...Best wishes and thanks again for allowing me to help you'



Kindness Trust, established and run by Phil and Trixi Wollen, donated a new vehicle to DAS last year. The vehicle is used for all the shelter work, including rescue of animals, carrying vet, staff and equipment to outlying villages for vaccination and treatment camps, catching and releasing dogs for the ABC programme, and veterinary care for agricultural animals. Thank you Kindness Trust.

## IMPORTANT UPDATE ON IMMUNO-CONTRACEPTION

PROFESSOR JAY KIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR, THE SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION CENTRE, MONTANA, USA, HAS WRITTEN AN ARTICLE FOR US ON USE OF FERTILITY CONTROL. TO READ HIS BLOG, PLEASE VISIT [www.workingforanimals.org.au](http://www.workingforanimals.org.au) AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT VISIT THE SCC WEBSITE AT [sccpzp.org](http://sccpzp.org)

Over the past year 84 animals were rescued by Darjeeling Animal Shelter. Many had to be euthanased due to severe injuries but 27 found loving new owners. Some remain in the care of the shelters. No healthy animal is euthanased.

[www.workingforanimals.org.au](http://www.workingforanimals.org.au)



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