

WORKING FOR ANIMALS

HELPING ANIMALS IN INDIA



DECEMBER 2017

VILLAGERS IN NEED OF HELP

Situated many hours' distant from any veterinary help, some villagers called Dr. Deo Pandey and asked if Darjeeling Animal Shelter could help them. There was a rabid dog in the area, they said, and they wanted their cattle and dogs vaccinated against rabies.

I accompanied Wongal and Naren on the journey, which was very slow, winding round twisting, narrow roads, with the Eastern Himalayas towering in the distance. Finally after a couple of hours, the bitumen road came to a halt, and it was necessary to drive the vehicle over a mud road, no more than a track through the cardamon and ginger fields. On one side the road fell away sharply, as we were on a mountain slope. Finally we arrived at the compound where two houses stood, one of which was a simple kitchen and one for the family to live in. The houses were made out of wood, with corrugated iron roofs, and they were surrounded by pots of chrysanthamums in bloom. There was a plastic tank which collected water

from a nearby spring. Naren and Wongal vaccinated the peoples' cows and dogs. They charged 100 rupees (\$2) for each vaccination. I felt I wanted to pay myself, but I understood that charges needed to be made so that people did not falsely call the shelter. Despite this, I felt like interfering and asking Naren not to take any money for the anti-rabies vaccination. The people rummaged in their purses, and finally with money from various members of the family, held out the notes for Wongal to collect. He handed a vaccination card and made note of the animals vaccinated, the village name and family name. The family offered us tea.

We then walked down winding dirt paths to the next family, also living among the trees and cardamon. In all, twenty cows were vaccinated and eight dogs. At least the animals we had vaccinated would be safe from jungle animals and stray dogs which might carry rabies.

I was impressed that the staff at DAS made such efforts to reach people in need, regardless of the dangers.

Christine Townend,
Founder & Trustee.



DO YOU KNOW A VET WHO WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

Darjeeling Animal Shelter and Kalimpong Animal Shelter are grateful for volunteer vets who work alongside our staff and vets. We prefer volunteers who can stay up to three months. There is good accommodation provided in private rooms with attached bathrooms, and three vegetarian meals per day also provided.

For further information about our work, please visit:

www.workingforanimals.org.au

Street dogs lie contentedly in Darjeeling. Passers by know that they are safe and friendly.



Naren vaccinates a calf in a distant village with only a dirt road to connect it to the outside world



The houses are separated by paths which connect them to other dwellings



Naren and Wongal were sweating profusely from the hard climb between houses but seemed not to notice as it was all in a days' work

DR. DEO PANDEY RECEIVES A CITATION FROM GOVERNMENT VETS



A new operating theatre with diagnostic equipment has been donated to KAS by Animaux Secours. This means that many diseases which otherwise would have remained undetected in animals can now be diagnosed.

Dr. Deo Pandey, the vet in charge of Kalimpong Animal Shelter received the citation below:

To : Dr. Deo Prakash Pandey, B.V.S.C. & A.H., M.V.Sc.,
Sir,

Your returning to Kalimpong after completion of your study of Veterinary Science has virtually been like an entry of a herald of the end of era of rabies terror in the whole of the Darjeeling Hills.

For with your deft hands, since your joining the Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter as a Vet-in-Charge on 1-11-2009, you have, as has been known to us - done Animal Birth Control Operations (Ovario-Hysterectomy) on 5400

bitches under 450 animal birth control and ARV Camps organized till date not only in the town areas but also in the far flung remote and difficult rural corners of the Darjeeling Hills bringing about remarkable reduction in rabies incidents as a result.

Your dedication to your job, capacity to undertake hard work and power to endure thirst and hunger during long hours of surgery coupled with your humble nature and pleasant temperament you have been actually spreading message of goodwill true to the name of the Organisation you are associated with, amongst the people who become spontaneously involved with you during the camp hours be it in the town areas or in the villages.

On this historic occasion of district level National Prani Saptah Celebration - 2017 being held first time in newly formed Kalimpong District in the state of West Bengal ARD Department has the most profound pleasure to present this Letter of Appreciation expressing deep gratitude and the best wishes for your good health, prosperity, peace of mind to you sir.

Letter signed by:

Organising Committee, National Prani Saptah Celebration-2017 (District level)
Kalimpong District.
Organising Block, Animal Resources.

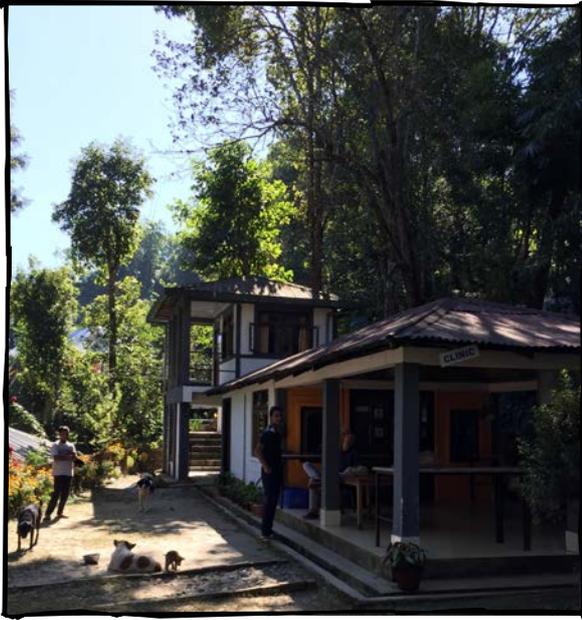


Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter is a registered Indian Charitable Trust which incorporates two animal shelters in Darjeeling and Kalimpong Municipalities. Both these Himalayan towns were using strychnine to poison street dogs in an effort to prevent the spread of rabies. In 1998 (Kalimpong) and 2007 (Darjeeling) both these municipalities agreed to stop all poisoning of street dogs because DAS and KAS were able to explain that scientific trap-neuter-return programmes are more effective than killing.



The Government vets at Pedong have offered Kalimpong Animal Shelter a room (free of charge) in which KAS can keep a fridge with anti-rabies and other vaccines, an operating table, light, sink for washing, sterilising kit and surgical instruments. Alain Dupont, French volunteer at KAS will help design the room as he was a builder in his previous life. He now spends most of his time at KAS, and has helped design and build the new Operating Theatre (pictured opposite).

NEWS FROM THE SHELTERS



The photo on the left shows the dispensary at KAS where people bring their animals every day for treatment. These animals are much loved, and thanks to Dr. Pandey, they receive the treatment they need. Sometimes animals are held at the shelter for weeks while they recover. I grew very fond of a little dog which I called ASH due to her colouring and I thought that the previous owners would not return to collect her. It eventuated that they were monks from a nearby monastery and had left Ash for a long time because they thought she would grow more healthy at the shelter. She had been spayed and vaccinated by Dr. Pandey and the monks promised that she would not be tied up. Reluctantly I had to say goodbye to her, but I knew she would go to a good home and that I could check on her any time.

There are many dogs at the shelter which are loving, friendly and intelligent. They have the run of the shelter, (as you can see from the photo on the left) and they sleep outside Alain Dupont's door in the evening. He has a small house in the shelter where he lives, keeping an eye on the animals.

The photo on the right shows Yogita Chettri, who worked at KAS for many months as a volunteer, attending camps, carrying out and ensuring animals received vaccinations against rabies. In the photo she is holding 'Ash'. Despite the fact that there was a 'bandh' (strike) in Kaimpong and Darjeeling for over three months, the shelters managed to obtain enough food for the animals. A special thanks goes to 'Animals & Us', in Sikkim (which was not affected by the bandh), who helped with medical supplies and food.



DESPITE THE BANDH of over 3 months, Kalimpong Animal Shelter has carried out over 45 camps in the past year (April 2016 to March 2017).

These camps are held in remote villages, often difficult to reach by vehicle due to the bumpy, muddy roads. Dr. Pandey operates the whole day, taking only a short break to eat lunch. The instruments are sterilised by pressure cooker, in the home of people who help arrange the camp and give prior notice to its occurrence.

Last year at the 45 veterinary camps, in difficult-to-access villages and in these camps 6165 animals were presented for diagnosis and veterinary treatment. 932 dogs were spayed and vaccinated and 96 dogs were castrated and vaccinated. During the course of the ABC programme a total of 932 dogs were spayed and 96 castrated, and 144 cats were neutered. 502 other operations were performed (such as broken legs, cuts and abrasions). Amongst the animals treated were dogs, cats, cattle, goats, pigs, chickens, donkeys and one bird. There were also over 10 rescues and surrenders per week (the pup below being one of them).



A special thanks to major donors Animaux Secours (France), One Voice (France) Gawler Books, SA, and APN (Sweden) and to our many donors who have helped keep the two shelters running, thus saving the lives of many animals, greatly reducing their suffering.



It costs INR 9000 approx. (\$A 193.00) to care for one dog for a year
 It costs INR 7000 approx. (\$A150.00) to prepare a wooden, sack-lined box and kennel for a dog for warmth in winter
 It costs INR 7000 approx.(\$A150.00) to rescue a wounded and suffering dog from a village

- DONATION FORM

WORKING FOR ANIMALS INC (ABN 13 919 391 377)

I wish to support Working for Animals Inc by donating the sum of:

..... (please specify amount and currency).

Your name: Title:

Address:

Code: Country:

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BY CHEQUE -

Please make cheques payable to Working for Animals Inc

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Please debit my Visa, MasterCard, with:

A single donation for the above amount; or

A monthly/quarterly/half yearly donation of A\$25 A\$50 A\$100 or

..... (please specify other amount) continuing until such time as I terminate this authority by notice to you in writing.

Name on Card:

Card Number:

Expiry date: /

Signature:

Date: / /
 dd mm yyyy

Please post completed form and cheque, if applicable, to:

Working for Animals Inc
 PO Box 7144
 Leura, NSW, 2780
 AUSTRALIA

To donate online or by direct deposit visit our website –

www.workingforanimals.org.au



Goldie was surrendered to KAS due to skin disease. She was also very thin, but over the months she recovered and soon found a new home after she was spayed and vaccinated. If it wasn't for KAS, she would have wandered the streets, lost, confused and starving..

