



Covid -19 Pandemic & Our Brave Covid Warriors

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Animal Care Manager

Who in the world could predict that a deadly virus like Covid -19 was soon going to overshadow us all? Alas, it was a bolt from the blue!

With the arrival of a new year, there was an excitement in the air, the team was brimming with new ideas and to assess the Animal Shelter Projects and initiate them for the welfare of animals. The New Year had infused that spirit and passion to carry out Programmes for the animals. Some of the major Programmes the Animal Shelter focuses on are – Animal Birth Control Programme, Village Camps, Clinical Treatment, and Anti-rabies Vaccination camp, Rescue Project, Adoption Programme, and Humane Education etc. The start of the year was very exciting and all the Animal Shelter activities were running smoothly until the Covid pandemic struck the whole world.

The first phase of the pandemic startled the local townships with the news of the virus taking the lives of people. Kalimpong and Darjeeling followed by the immediate lockdown to contain the virus and went into her slumber thereafter. Everything came to a standstill with Government bans on free movement of people, conveyance, services etc.

But there were relaxations on essential services and the Animal Shelter being a health facility center for the animals was exempted from the ban. During these trying times, the Animal Shelter Covid Warriors braced themselves to continue their service for the animals and ensure all the sheltered animals both in Kalimpong and Darjeeling Animal Shelter were fed regularly and not left to starve. Due to fear looming over, there were less animal treatments though at the Shelter in the first half of the lockdown, so the team members were requested by owners to provide home visits. For this, the Vet and team travelled via the Animal Shelter ambulance and made an effort to reach out to the sick animals.



Animal Clinic in Covid times

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Kalimpong and Darjeeling Animal Shelter



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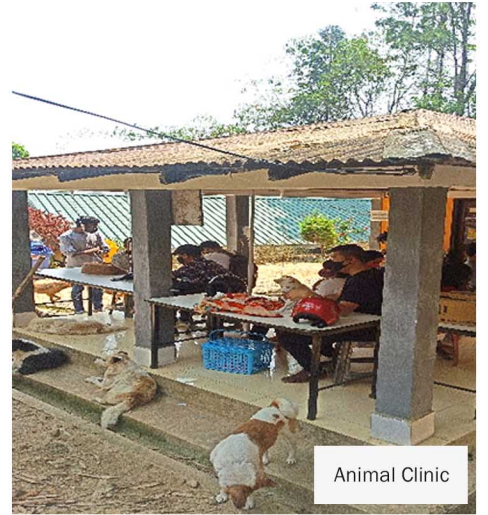
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Mr. Lil vaccinating a community dog against rabies at Village camp.



Animal Clinic

In the peak Covid month, when the first Covid case was detected in town, the Kalimpong Animal Shelter team as requested even carried out a rescue operation on a dog from a Covid affected family. The dog was given shelter and proper care at the Animal Shelter for many weeks until his family recovered. Besides, a few stray dogs were rescued for spaying and treatment against skin infection, wounds, etc.

On one occasion, the Animal Shelter had to close down partially to comply with stringent measures to contain Covid-19. But even in the midst of it all, the animals never suffered nor were left starving as the working team performed their duty on rotational shifts. The team also provided comfort to animals seeking emergency treatment at the Animal Shelter. During this time, the working team spirit remained strong as always even though some of them caught the virus and recovered.

The team never failed to serve the animals daily and wholeheartedly.

As the pandemic continued, the local township had no other alternative but to embrace Covid-19 as part of life and proceed further as did the world.

Gradually, the township with partial relaxations welcomed more human activities and businesses resumed. And the work of KAS went in full swing soon after, with numerous Village Spay and Neuter Camps to cover in far-flung places, which had to be postponed earlier due to the peak Covid lockdown.

This way, they covered multiple hamlets with numerous cats and dogs spaying and neutering.

The working and fighting spirit of our 'Bravado unstoppable heroes' for the animals still lives on.



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Some of the animals treated by the Animal Shelter team during the Covid pandemic.



Dr. Deo Pandey & Dr. Mihir performing the Animal Birth Control Programme at Kalimpong & Darjeeling Animal Shelter.



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO



- Animaux Secours for funding Kalimpong Animal Shelter.
- One Voice, France for funding sister.org., Darjeeling Animal Shelter.
- Animal Protection Network, Sweden for Village camps and Cat's ABC Project.
- Dogs Trust Worldwide for funding the ABC Project of Darjeeling Animal Shelter from this year.
- Dr. Mihir Mazagaonkar for administering the Darjeeling ABC program.
- And thanks to all our supporters.

NEW AMBULANCE FOR DAS

For several months we have needed a new vehicle for the animal shelter in Darjeeling (DAS).

We are very grateful for the special donations from Maria Evans and Irene Callahan, and we have also utilised funds preciously donated by our supporters.

This ambulance will be invaluable and reliable – collecting and rescuing injured and sick animals, collecting dogs for the ABC program, and for visits to remote areas for village camps.



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Message from Founder Christine Townend

I would like to thank Yogita Chettri for writing about the animal shelters in the time of Covid for this newsletter, and her excellent regular reports (on the website) and wonderful photographs.

She began as a volunteer for the Kalimpong Animal Shelter and then because of her abilities was asked to work for KAS and is now the Animal Care Manager. I would like to thank all the staff for their dedicated work and care for animals, and of course our donors and supporters.



All the people in this photograph have been very important to me and our work with animals. From left to right: Nirmal Jain who patiently deals with the time consuming Foreign Regulations Act and is a trustee; Janine Vogler who with husband Martin (far right) are friends who got me involved in KAS and DAS and promised that Animaux Secours would send funding to support the shelters (and thanks to Maxine Gasconnet President of Animaux Secours who has ensured funding); Dr. Deo who treats all the animals in need and carries out the ABC Programme for KAS; and trustee Yamima Lepcha du Pont who is taking over the running of KAS.



THEY RELY ON US

Please donate if you can. Donations can be made directly on our website using Paypal.

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