

SEPTEMBER 2024

WORKING FOR  
**Animals**



Kittens waiting for adoption at Kalimpong...

## DONATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We are thrilled to let you know we have green-lit a big cash injection to pay for urgently needed upgrades and repairs. Plus, it's been a fantastic few months for dogs and cats finding new, loving homes.

Thanks to all who have so far helped our campaign to raise \$25,000 for life-saving equipment and works in the shelters. There is also good news about the much-needed X-Ray machine at the Darjeeling shelter.

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**Right:** At first, we wondered how she ended up there, but soon we realized that this was her perfect spot to sit, relax, and watch people go by. Just another day in the life of a street dog in Kalimpong!



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SCAN THE  
QR CODE  
TO DONATE



# HOW YOUR DONATIONS HELP...

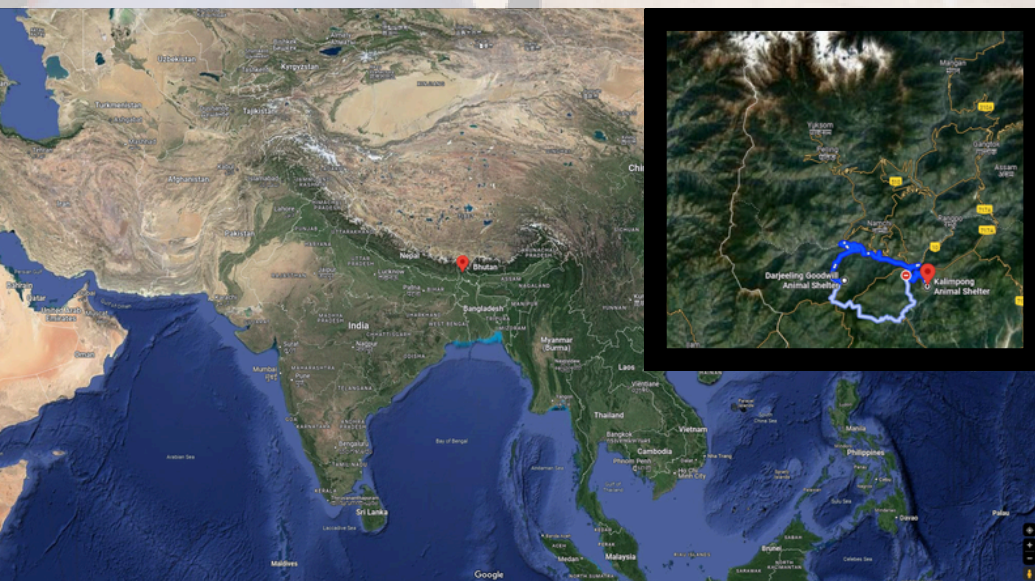
**All of the money we raise helps fund the rescue and treatment of animals at the shelters in Kalimpong and Darjeeling.**

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have authorised the transfer of funds for these crucial works:

- \$5,000 for urgent Land Fencing work at Kalimpong to secure the shelter.
- \$10,000 for works upgrading the Kalimpong Shelter Dog Shed and the ABC Kennels, plus the renovation of the clinic roof.
- \$20,000 to be divided equally between Kalimpong and Darjeeling shelters to support running expenses of the trap, vaccinate and release programs, veterinary clinics, surgical teams, ABC programs and emergency treatment and adoptions.

A huge thank you to WVS(Worldwide Veterinary Service) for agreeing to pay for the X-ray machine for the Darjeeling Shelter. This means we can focus fully on the lengthy wish list of equipment and upgrades needed at both shelters.

This includes the construction of a new puppy shed and renovating the volunteer house. The funds we raise will dramatically improve outcomes for the animals at the shelters and the amazing humans who love and care for them.



*The shelters are in the northeast of India, near the border with Nepal*

**Working for Animals**

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*Dr Mohit trains staff on how to administer drugs.*



*Dr Shivani sterilised 94 dogs in July as part of the Animal Birth Control programme.*



*Above: The Darjeeling Animal Shelter team.*



*This new mother suffered with dystocia and was in labour for 32 hours, in pain. Dr Mohit performed an emergency caesarean section, saving mum and one kitten. Another kitten tragically died. They made a full recovery and both have found the same loving new home. Great work!*



# DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER



*The DAS team treated 354 animals in July alone. The team set up a special area to treat dogs with viral diseases.*

*Top: Staff on deworming and puppy care patrol.*

*Left: A dog is vaccinated during an anti rabies drive conducted by shelter staff.*



*Left: Shelter staff held a sterilization camp for stray dogs. The initiative aims to sterilize approximately 100 stray dogs in the area.*

# KALIMPONG ANIMAL SHELTER

*The team is working tirelessly to treat a rising population of street dogs and puppies.*

*Top: A rescued kitten ready to find a new home.*

*Right: 33 dogs were sterilised during one camp, with 140 dogs vaccinated against rabies.*

*Bottom: Weathering the monsoon season, with heavy rains and humidity, has been challenging. A renovated clinic roof will greatly benefit our staff, who work rain, hail or shine.*



# ADOPTIONS



# THE END FOR LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS

**Four decades after Christine Townend thrust live sheep exports onto the front pages of Australia's newspapers the cruel trade is finally about to end.**

The Albanese Labor government promised to end the trade if they won election and have announced it will be phased out by 1 May, 2028. A transition fund of \$107million has been allocated to assist farmers to find new income streams.

Christine Townend, founder of Working for Animals and co-founder of Animals Australia, was famously thrown off the dock at an Adelaide Port during a protest against the practice in the 1980's.

"The sheep are crowded together and they sway with the ships' rocking. The shy feeders cannot reach the fodder and die during the voyage. The sheep are crowded together, stacked one on top of the other," Christine said.

Whilst animal rights campaigners have universally applauded the decision, citing the awful conditions sheep must endure on long ship voyages in extreme heat, farmers and supporters of the trade have criticised the move as 'out of touch' and based on ideology, not science.

"We feel betrayed. The Prime Minister is not listening to rural Australia, he is taking us for granted. He has got no concept of what he is doing to rural Australia. He is destroying industries and lives and livelihoods, with no real consequence or guilt of his own conscience," said Ben Sutherland, President of WA Livestock and Rural Transporters. The live sheep export trade operates exclusively out of Western Australia.

There is the possibility that if the government changes at the next election, due by mid next year, that the ban could be overturned. Coalition partner, and Nationals Leader, David Littleproud has been scathing of the ban and wants to call a Senate inquiry to examine all options.

"This is all about activists being able to run this Government. This is about them cutting a deal for preferences so that at the next election they can get re-elected. It's not about the livelihoods or about animal welfare," Mr Littleproud told a 'Keep the Sheep' rally in July. That group has 85,000 signatures on a petition calling for the ban to be overturned.

Support for the ban in WA is running about 70% in favour, according to the federal government, but the state Labor Government wants more support for affected farmers.

A public hearing in June heard that more than 2,000 sheep have died from heat stress since 2017. Even David Littleproud said he was "shocked and gutted" when shown footage of the appalling on-ship conditions when he was the agriculture minister in the previous LNP government.

The Australian Veterinary Association told the inquiry that while welfare conditions had improved, the health issues were still unacceptable.

Soon, no-one will have to accept them ever again.

# WHY DO THEY WAIT?

**It might seem obvious, but the reason dogs wait for us is more interesting than you might think.**

One study found that dogs do differentiate between humans and other dogs. Our familiar scents trigger a 'reward response' in canines that may drive their eagerness for our return.

It's generally agreed that dogs do not understand why we go away and that the longer we are absent, the more excited they get when we come back.

Boredom is different to anxiety and, if it is severe enough, can lead to destructive behaviours like chewing on things and non-stop barking. You should consult your vet to get your dog the right kind of training or treatment.

The most famous waiting dog was Hachiko, a Japanese Akita dog born in Odate, Japan, in 1923. After his owner died, Hachiko continued to come to the train station every day at the time his owner would return... for nine years. His ashes were buried with his owner.

Your dog waits for you because they love you and feel safe with you. By establishing a healthy routine they can learn to trust that you will return and you will both enjoy your much-needed snuggles.



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