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MESSAGE FROM THE *Chairperson*

It all started when I saw a dog dying of strychnine poisoning in Darjeeling. He was obviously in agony, as he crawled along the gutter, and I vowed then and there to start an Animal Shelter in Darjeeling and Kalimpong. We had come from Jaipur, where I was Managing Trustee of Help in Suffering Animal Shelter, and we had been conducting an ABC (Animal Birth Control) Programme, together with Dr. Jack Reece - vet. Maneka Gandhi had launched the ABC, coming all the way from Delhi to do so.

We were staying at Dr. Yonzone's house in Darjeeling, and he called a meeting of people because I had told him, how I met a girl who was staying at a Buddhist Monastery, and she had talked about a dog salivating at the mouth, and wondering if he had a bone stuck in his mouth. I went to the monastery in Sonada and looked at the dog, which had rabies and would have died in great pain and suffering, and put down the dog, to save it from further suffering, and from infecting other dogs, I warned the woman that she should get vaccinated against rabies.

Muriel Arnal of One Voice, based in France, wrote to me to ask if there was a shelter in Rishikesh and I replied that one was very much needed in Darjeeling. She promised to buy the land and fund the building of the shelter, and, in the meantime, we went to see the Municipal Chairman of Darjeeling, and explained to him that if the dogs were sterilized and vaccinated against rabies, they would guard their place, and drive out intruders. He agreed to stop poisoning the dogs with strychnine and I promised to start two shelters - one in Darjeeling and one in Kalimpong, where I had spoken to the Chair of the Municipality. Fortunately, Mr. Karthak agreed



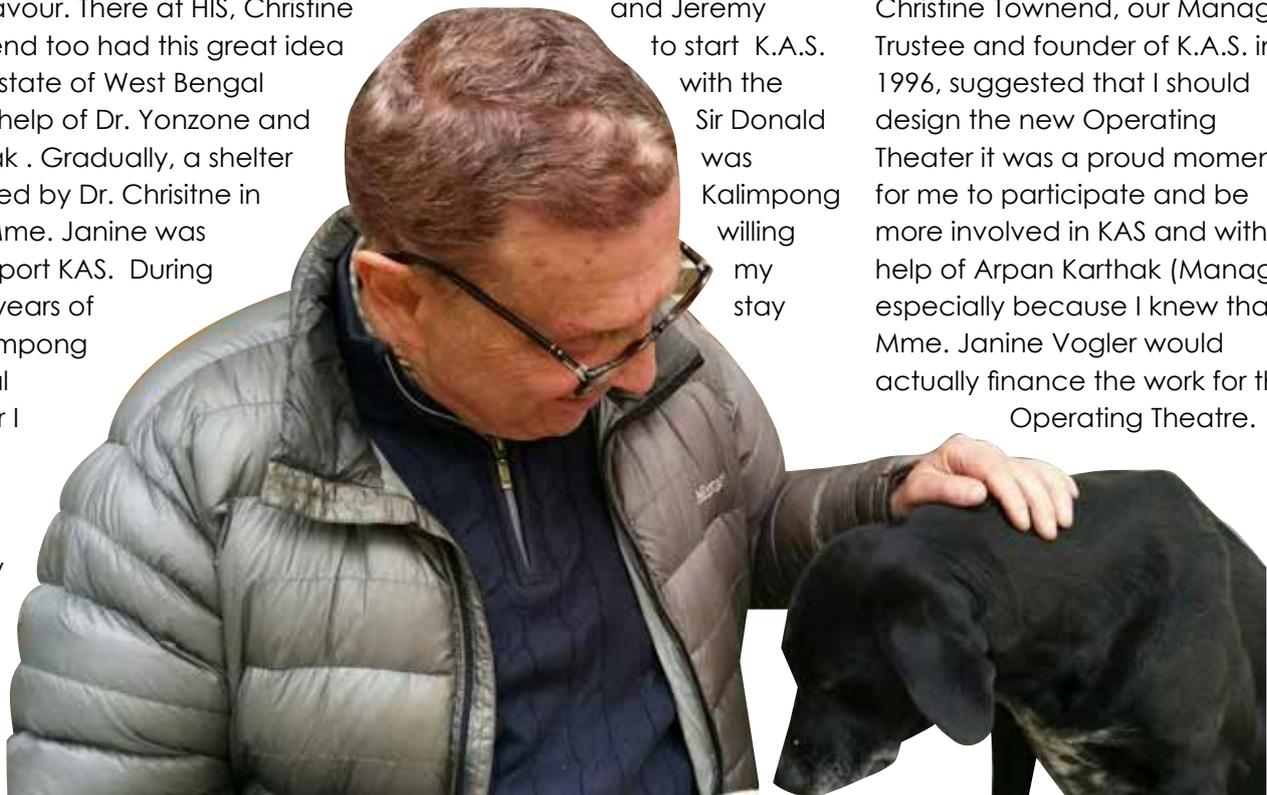
to sell us his land, and we invested a lot of our own money in building of the shelter.

Later, we were able to buy two additional plots of land, helped by Laura Louie and Harry Bohm, not to mention a wondrous French builder called Alain Dupont who designed not only the cattery, but an Operating Theatre. I feel I was guided with every step of the way, as there were too many coincidences in the lead-up to the shelters being built. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to Mme. Janine from Animaux Secours, France for the core funding for KAS (Kalimpong Animal Shelter), and One Voice for supporting Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter, a branch of KAS. Likewise, I am grateful to Animal Protection Network, Sweden for Cats' ABC and Village camps and Working for Animals, Australia for their generous support.

**Dr Christine Townend
Founder & Chairperson**

Message FROM FRANCE

Greetings ! From Arthaz France to the Indian Animal Associations - in Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Jaipur which is always teemed with people from diverse walks of life. It gives me immense pleasure to pen down a few words here about the Franco-Indian alliance created years ago mainly to work in solidarity for the love and passion for animals. It was our honorable President, Mme. Janine Vogler from Animaux Secours who initiated the cause to help animals in Help in Suffering, Jaipur almost 40 years ago. With her strong determination and love for the animals she was successful in her endeavour. There at HIS, Christine Townsend too had this great idea in the state of West Bengal with the great help of Dr. Yonzone and Karthak . Gradually, a shelter founded by Dr. Christine and Mme. Janine was to support KAS. During eight years of in Kalimpong Animal Shelter I have been very happy to see all the



young and vibrant team members working relentlessly every day helping animals at KAS. The KAS team is well-organised and led by the vet, Dr Deo Pandey, to treat the sick animals by giving them all the basic veterinary aid. Our new President "Maxime Gaconnet" of Animaux-Secours is committed to maintaining the Indian Animal Rescue alliance with HIS Jaipur and Kalimpong Animal Shelter and it's excellent news for our near future. The whole Kalimpong Animal Shelter team is grateful to Animaux Secours for their precious help. However we are aware that we need to get more donations in the future to help animals especially, through our website and public relations nicely taken care of by Yogita Chettri so far. Dr. Deo Pandey, my brother, is renowned for the excellence of his work in Kalimpong district and I am sure by his side, the activities of KAS will continue to thrive in the near future. I remember 3 years ago when our special guests: Dr Deo Pandey and Nirmal Jain(our excellent Finance Director at H.I.S Jaipur and K.A.S for more than 30 years), visited Animaux Secours along with Mrs. Yamima Dupont (Trustee of KAS) for the big

French Animal Shelter Convention close to Geneva in France organised by Animaux-Secours. All the Congress members were impressed with the daily work of KAS carried out with full compassion for animals by Kalimpong Animal Shelter and Help in Suffering ,Jaipur. When Christine Townsend, our Managing Trustee and founder of K.A.S. in 1996, suggested that I should design the new Operating Theater it was a proud moment for me to participate and be more involved in KAS and with the help of Arpan Karthak (Manager) especially because I knew that Mme. Janine Vogler would actually finance the work for the Operating Theatre.

Throughout all these experiences, India taught me so much more and surprisingly, I met my dear wife, Mrs. Yamima Dupont , a beautiful gift in my life. Yamima Lepcha Dupont is an Indian Trustee now of Darjeeling and Kalimpong Animal Shelter. With all this, I feel lucky and happy to be more and fully involved in K.A.S.

Alain Dupont
Trustee,
Animaux Secours, France

Cattery

at KAS designed by Mr Dupont



The KAS team thanks Mr. Alain for all his love and support

We have been honoured to have Mr. Alain Dupont as part of Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS) family. Mr. Dupont is an architect from France who visited India 8 years ago to volunteer at Kalimpong Animal Shelter and help the needy animals. He is very humane and animal friendly and kind all the more. He has helped Kalimpong Animal Shelter with designing the Cattery for the sick and surrendered cats and also the Operating Theatre for running the spay and neuter Programme at KAS, which was very much needed back then. Now with the OT set-up, it has become much easier for the Kas team

to carry out the programme smoothly. Mr. Dupont has also helped bridge the gap between KAS and Animaux Secours, (the main donor for KAS) thus, by strengthening the bond between the two, solely for the love of animals. Further KAS conferred on him the title 'Honorary Advisor' for all his valuable insights.

We are ever grateful to him for his immense support and always happy to have his presence at KAS.

Thanking Mme. Janine from Animaux Secours for all her support and love fro KAS. And wishing the newly elected President, Maxime Gacconnet at Animaux Secours the very best of luck for all the future projects. We are grateful to you for your invaluable support for the animals.



Mme. Janine



Mr. Maxime Gacconnet



Mme. Janine with Mrs Yamima our DGAS Trustee



Mme. Janine with DGAS Team



DARJEELING GOODWILL ANIMAL SHELETER

Manager's REPORT

KAS has been very firm on its projects i.e., ABC and ARV ever since. From the time, Kas commenced its major projects in the year 1998 for the street animals there has been such a positive outcome where the street dogs have largely benefitted. Before KAS started, Kalimpong town was unaware of the legal and humane approach to be taken for the street dogs. It was no surprise due to that there was rampant killing and poisoning of street dogs by the Municipality. But all this stopped after Mme. Christine initiated the ABC an ARV projects in Kalimpong and later in Darjeeling with the help of Mme. Janine.



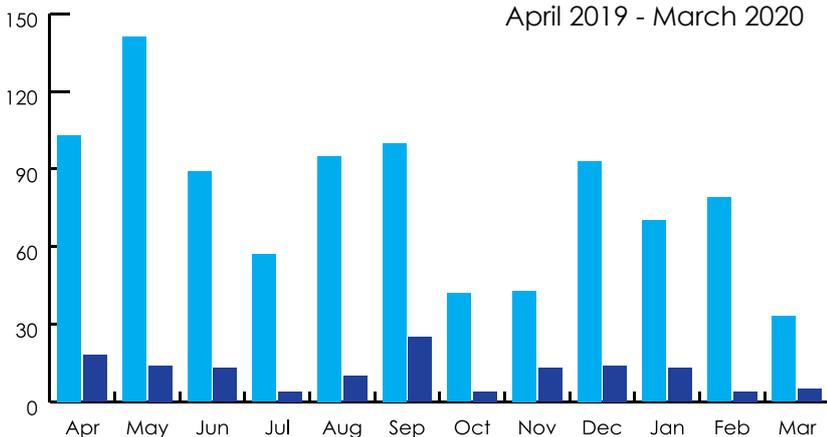
Because of the Animal Shelter, people gradually became more aware on rabies and spay and neuter programmes and most importantly ,people learnt to love animals and be compassionate towards them. They too then had a place where they could take their sick animals for their veterinary aid.

Today, with the relentless effort of our team members we are able to devote our time and expand our work where we from to time are also able to extend our help to the animals from the neighbouring towns through spay and neuter programme.

From its very inception, Our Village camp has been crucial in helping both animals and the community through mass sensitization on the importance of spay and neuter prg. The year 2019-2020 went quick but it was an amazing year with the same usual projects and activities where the team as always enjoyed working and helping animals.

Arpan Karthak
Manager
Kalimpong Animal Shelter

Animal Birth Control (ABC) Report
 April 2019 - March 2020



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Field REPORT

Animal Birth Control Camps

One of the foremost programmes of Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS) is spay and neuter programme or in other word , Animal Birth Control Programme for carrying out sterilization on street and community dogs. The team catches female dogs (bitches) from the street and sterilizes them. They catch dogs with the help of a catching net and bring them to KAS , where they further admit these dogs for their spaying. Having spayed, the dogs are given their post-care and then are released within a few days to their original place.



KAS and DAS team at Animal Birth Control camp in Kurseong



Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter team conducting ABC at a village camp in Darjeeling



Spaying a dog at the Monastery Camp

Village Camps

The team travels to far-flung areas of Kalimpong and conducts Sterilization camps on community cats and dogs there. While the ABC is carried out on these dogs their vaccination against rabies is also taken care of by the team. The village camp is a makeshift camp where local village coordinator helps in organizing the venue and setting up the essential equipments such as tables, tent, etc for conducting camps.



Kas Vet, Dr. Deo being assisted by Paravet Lil at Village camp



Owners lining up for spaying their pet dogs at Village Camp



Pravets Lakpa and Naren preparing a dog before her spay at Village camp

Anti-rabies Vaccination Camps

The team vaccinates street and community dogs from town and different wards in Kalimpong and Darjeeling, and does the yearly follow-up. When a street dog is vaccinated they tie collars on them.



Rescue Operations

The team carries out rescue operations on injured street and community dogs whenever there is a phone call from any bystander or animal lover, if they have seen injured dogs.



Adoption

Every year, both KAS/DAS receive numerous abandoned puppies found on the streets which are in need of food and foster care. Such puppies are then further accepted by Kalimpong and Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter which provide food, accommodation and care whilst living in the Animal shelter. As the puppies are fully weaned and healthy, they are placed for adoptions. Online updates for adoption of these puppies are also sent out to social network pages so that they find their forever home. New adopters / owners who wish to adopt these puppies are properly informed at the time of adoption about their timely health checkups from their timely deworming to vaccinations and spaying.



Village SPAY AND NEUTER CAMPS

In the year 2019-20 numerous activities were undertaken by both KAS (Kalimpong Animal Shelter) and DAS (Darjeeling Animal Shelter) including rescue, village spay and neuter camps and Anti-rabies camps, which are also the major projects of our Animal Shelter. Such camps are held in far-flung areas that usually take longer to travel to reach the venue. But it is thrilling and worthy of travelling to these camps where one's eyes can capture the intrinsic rural life and one's way of sustaining with the local resources available there. It adds to a beautiful experience and gives that joy and satisfaction for serving and investing that time and moment not only to help the community dogs, but also the owners who are usually engaged in their agricultural activities for their livelihood.

Often, these camps are run by the Animal Shelter in conjunction with the Govt. Veterinary Dept. or at times via, local co-ordinator who further makes arrangements to set up the make-shift camp for spaying dogs.

Not only this, both KAS & DAS at their full capability have been able to lend a hand to all the



needy animals, be it in any neighbouring town, and further provide medical care, treatment and help with carrying out rescues at the time of emergency, and also in curbing the dog population through its spay and neuter programme. For instance, Kalimpong & Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter have also been offering help to the neighbouring towns, Kurseong and Siliguri for carrying out Sterilisation camps there via local Ngos. At such camps, they sterilise more than forty dogs in two days. As these towns lack such facilities for spaying dogs, it becomes essential for the sister shelters to run a spay and neuter programme in order to curb the increasing number of street dogs in and around.

Meet the Team

KALIMPONG ANIMAL SHELTER



Arpan Karthak
Manager



Dr. Deo Prakesh Pandey
Vet-In-Charge



Yogita Chettri
Animal Care Manager



Sanjeev Rai
Vet. Assistant



Mahesh Chettri
Vehicle-In-Charge/Vet Assistant



Lil Thapa
Vet. Assistant



Lakpa Lama
Vet. Assistant



Ajay Pradhan
Night watchman



D. B. Khawas
Gardener



Kalpana Thapa
General Staff



Padam B. Sarki
Part Time Staff

Testimonials

A victim of boiling water

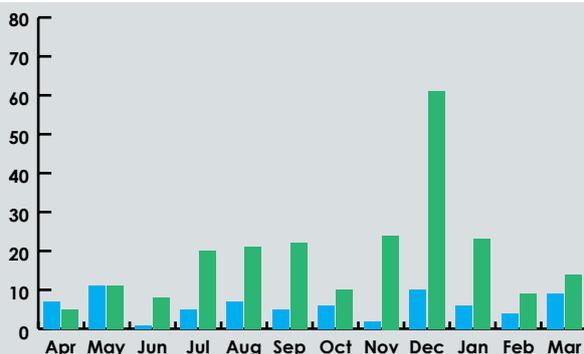
Dogs often have to face such cruelty when they are either street or community dogs in India. Life of every street dog is very poignant. Compared to them, community dogs are a little favoured in this case, but that too not always. Because everybody may not like dogs of Indie breeds and may not be kind to them.

This is a case of such a dog with burns after somebody poured boiling water on him that scalded his skin. Sad, we couldn't trace the culprit but the least we could do, was get the dog treated on time. He was brought to Kalimpong Animal Shelter for treatment by a local caretaker who enjoyed feeding him from time to time as the dog would nest up near his place. The dog was taken in at KAS and admitted soon after



he was brought. His wound needed to be dressed every day, and the Animal Care team followed up regularly on him. After a few weeks of dressing the wound and antibiotic course, his wound healed though his skin coat took longer to grow.

When he recovered, his caretaker returned to see him and he wanted to take him back but only after he signed the bond with KAS so as to ensure that he fully takes care of the dog, and not let him become a victim of such a case again. The team then handed over the dog to him. Sometimes, we see him around while following up with the yearly vaccination of dogs in his area. And when he sees us now he comes wagging his tail and shrieks in excitement.



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Rescue

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Adoption

Fire breaks out at the cow shed calling for immediate medical help

Last year, Kalimpong Animal Shelter team was informed of an emergency case of cows with severe burns at 12th Mile, Kalimpong. These cows were owned by the Shivalaya, a Hindu Temple. Two of the cows living in the shed there were severely burnt after catching fire from the nearby fire place which was set up there, and used for cooking cow's feed. On hearing this, without further ado, the KAS team left immediately to provide the necessary veterinary aid to these cows and repeatedly followed up the case until they recovered from those burns.

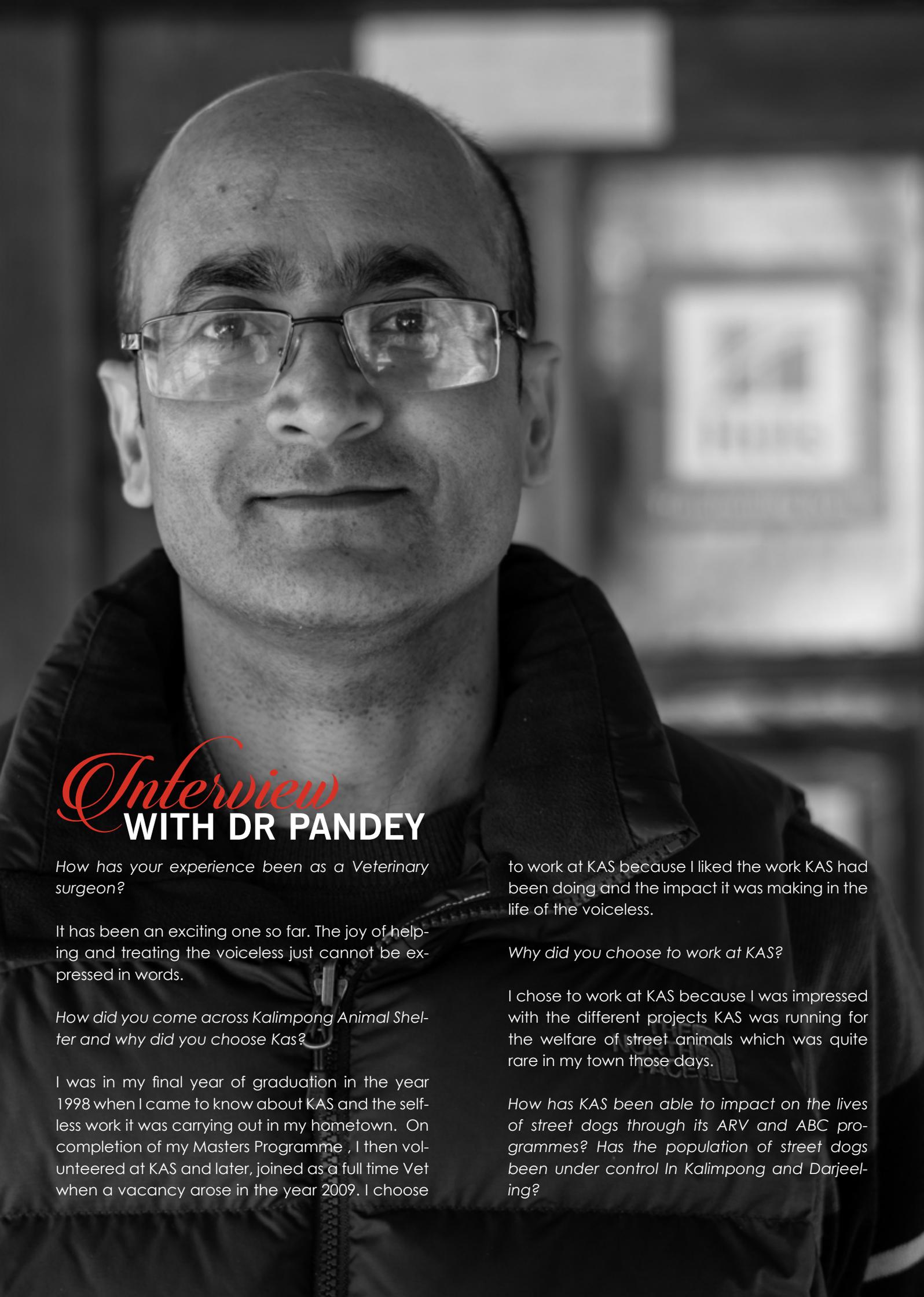


Who left the dog out ?

Dog tied up to the wall column of Kalimpong Animal Shelter early in the morning by an unknown person who couldn't be traced at all. Year after year, we see many owners surrender their dogs to the animal shelter because they simply fail as a responsible pet owner. Numerous cases of owners abandoning their dogs are reported to us. Based on our observation owners either abandon their dogs for a new pedigree dog or when their dogs fall sick. Sometimes, these abandoned dogs find their way to KAS or owners rampantly leave them at KAS. Instead of owing to their treatment and helping them recover, some of the owners blatantly leave their dogs to fend for themselves and as always, the last resort for these dogs is KAS.

This case is of such a dog abandoned at KAS and left tied up to the wall column. On making a search about the person who abandoned the dog it was to no avail, we couldn't procure any details. For a few more days, the team waited thinking the dog could have gone missing and the owner would come back to take the dog. To help the dog unite with his owner, the KAS team posted online on social media handles. But days went by there was no claim from the owner. It was then no surprise the dog was abandoned forever because of his TVT (Transmissible Venereal tumour) and for which his treatment against the same was taken care of by the KAS team. When the dog adjusted himself with the surroundings at KAS he began to enjoy himself, and that gave a chance for the KAS team to groom him well and introduce him to the dog pack at the Shelter. He also was neutered at KAS. But we felt the dog would be happy and thankful if he found a loving home, so we placed him for adoption. It took almost a month for him to get adopted as getting a senior dog adopted is difficult. However in a month, this dog was fortunate enough to get adopted. We checked to see on him from time to time and know how he was doing post-adoption, and it was such a joy to know he was very content there and well taken care of by his new parent.





Interview WITH DR PANDEY

How has your experience been as a Veterinary surgeon?

It has been an exciting one so far. The joy of helping and treating the voiceless just cannot be expressed in words.

How did you come across Kalimpong Animal Shelter and why did you choose Kas?

I was in my final year of graduation in the year 1998 when I came to know about KAS and the selfless work it was carrying out in my hometown. On completion of my Masters Programme, I then volunteered at KAS and later, joined as a full time Vet when a vacancy arose in the year 2009. I choose

to work at KAS because I liked the work KAS had been doing and the impact it was making in the life of the voiceless.

Why did you choose to work at KAS?

I chose to work at KAS because I was impressed with the different projects KAS was running for the welfare of street animals which was quite rare in my town those days.

How has KAS been able to impact on the lives of street dogs through its ARV and ABC programmes? Has the population of street dogs been under control in Kalimpong and Darjeeling?

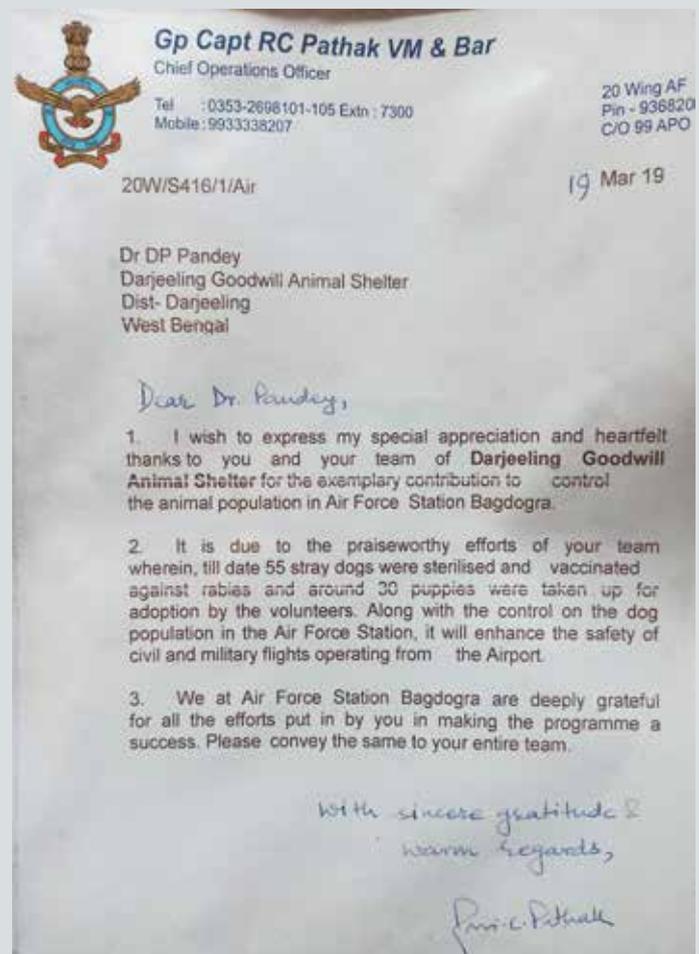
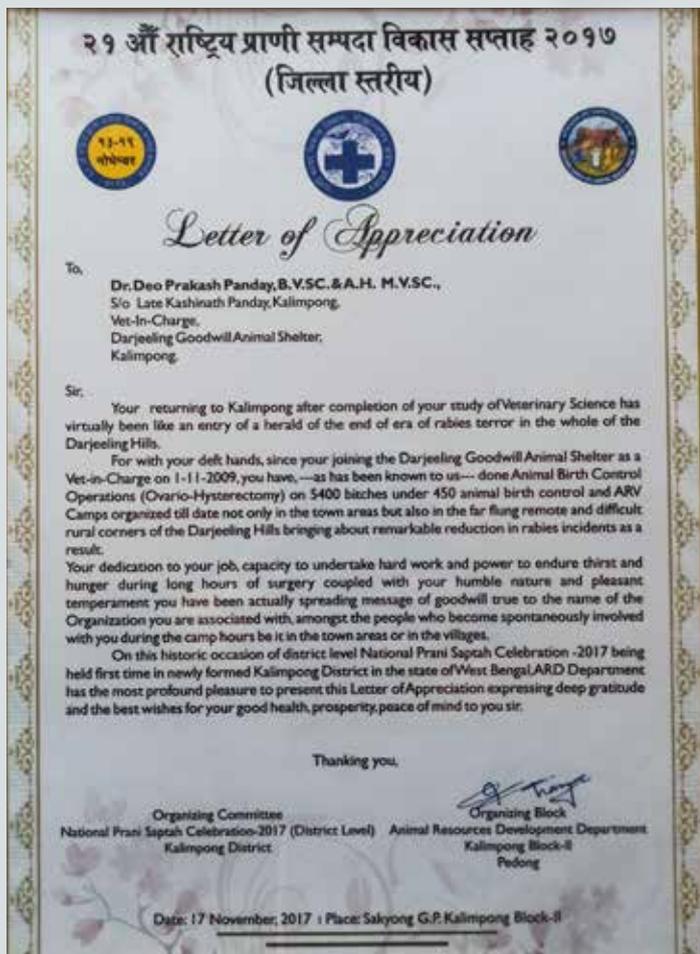
ABC and ARV has not only impacted the lives of street dogs, but has also impacted the lives of humans. Many human and animal lives were lost due to Rabies before KAS came into existence. We have not heard of any such incident since many years now. Street Dogs are more friendly nowadays because of the program and there are lesser incidents of dog bites. Dogs are no more poisoned and hardly, do we find much homeless puppies on the street. These changes have happened because the population of street dogs has been controlled in both Kalimpong and Darjeeling towns.

What are the cases you mostly handle? Do you

and your team also help with the treatment of large animals?

We mostly handle small animal cases at the Animal Shelter. But as outside treatment, we treat large animals on owners request by making home visits where we sometimes have to handle complex cases in cows which can require surgery as well. Another service we focus on is Preventive medicine - Where we the team from KAS distribute free medicine and vitamin supplements to the locals from the community who own large animals, and explain to them the need of those supplements.

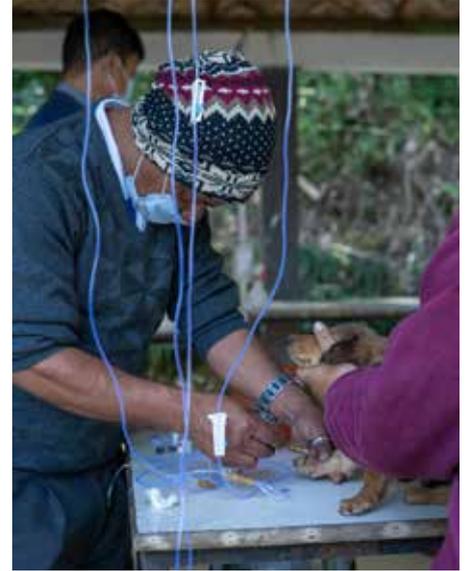
Citations



In 2017, the KAS Vet, Dr. Deo Prakash Pandey was honoured with a citation from the Animal Resources Department for his dedication towards the Village spay and neuter programme run by Kalimpong Animal Shelter for the welfare of street and community dogs including cats for the past many years. He was acknowledged for his efforts in running the Animal Birth Control Programme successfully.

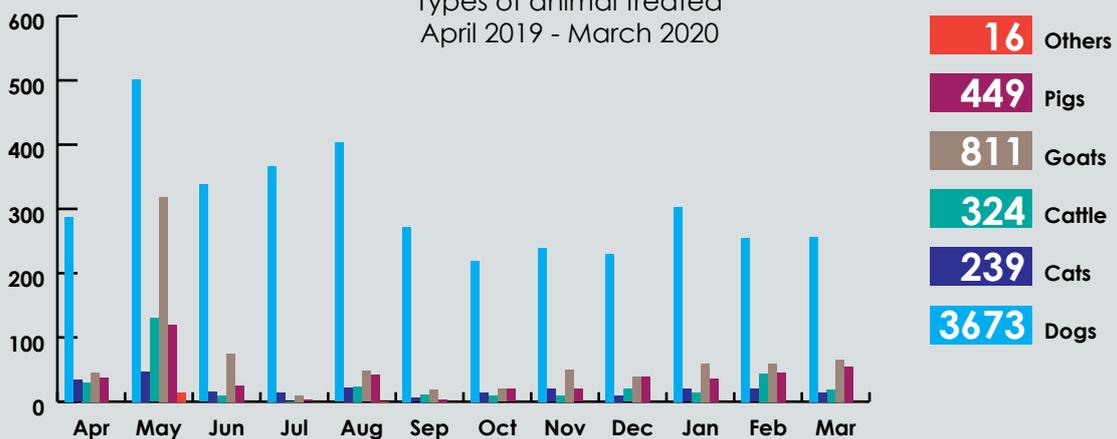
Letter of appreciation to Dr Pandey from Group Captain RC Pathak, Indian Air Force.

Pictorial Guide KALIMPONG ANIMAL SHELTER





Types of animal treated
April 2019 - March 2020



When KAS was built, it was built with the vision to help all the needy street and community animals whether big or small. Since the very start, focusing on the welfare of every animal, KAS has gone the extra mile to helping the sick ones in the community. The KAS Vet, Dr. Deo and team are just a phone call away for emergency cases that need immediate veterinary treatment.

As larger group in far flung areas and hamlets in Kalimpong raise domestic farmed animals sometimes, when such animals fall sick the KAS team is requested to check upon and treat the animal. So in such a case, the KAS team makes a home visit and treats the animal.



Animaux SECOURS

Dr. Deo performing blood tests in the Lab at Kalimpong Animal Shelter. We thank Animaux Secours for funding the Operating Theatre and diagnostic equipments.



Meet the Team

DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER



Furmit Lepcha
Manager



Dr. Mihir Mazagonkar
Vet-In-Charge



Wangyel Tamang
Vehicle-In-Charge / Vet Assistant



Nitesh Rai
General Staff



Naren Pradhan
Vet. Assistant



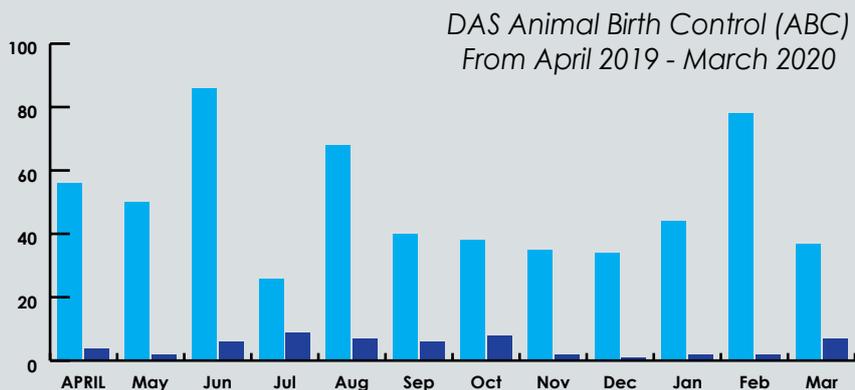
Raju Rai
General Staff



Rebecca Thapa
Kitchen In-charge



Rudra Thapa
Vehicle-In-Charge / Vet Assistant



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Darjeeling Animal Shelter

Every year, Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS) team like KAS travels far and wide to follow up with the yearly anti-rabies vaccination on street and community dogs. Often DAS is engaged with rescuing sick and injured dogs from Darjeeling and around and at times, Kurseong. They get around two to three rescue phone calls every day which at times becomes unmanageable when the Animal Shelter kennels are full. But while making such rounds on vaccinating dogs against rabies in far-flung areas there are owners who approach the

because Village camps take place on scheduled dates followed by other chronological events of DAS sometimes, it takes longer for owners to wait patiently for camps due to fear of their dogs getting on heat especially, those who have brought in new dogs that need immediate spaying so as to avoid the menace. Therefore, in such a case, the DAS team helps those owners from remote places by picking their dogs for spaying at DAS itself. The dog is fully taken care of and given post-operative care while sheltered at DAS. And at the time of releasing



Hamlets farther away from Rock Garden to where the dogs belong.

team and seek help in picking their dogs for spaying and releasing them back to their own locality. Although owners are supposed to bring their owned pet animals by themselves for spaying at the Animal Shelter yet there is an exception for those who belong to remote places and cannot travel. Also



Paravets and Rudra are trying to contact the owner to inform about her dogs coming home

these owned pet dogs, their owners are informed about their Homecoming. The rescue and release team then travels all the way to reunite the dogs with their owners. This reunion is greatly cherished by the owners and with a smile, they thank the DAS team for their sheer act of kindness.



Those two dogs lived little below from those huts.

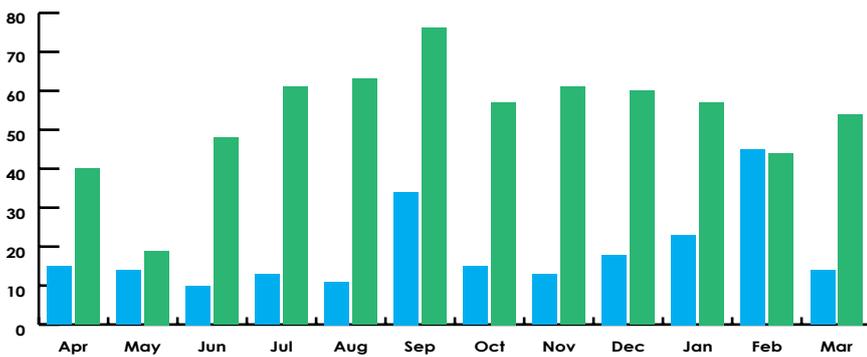


Both owner and the dog enjoying their re-union



Two of her dogs after spaying

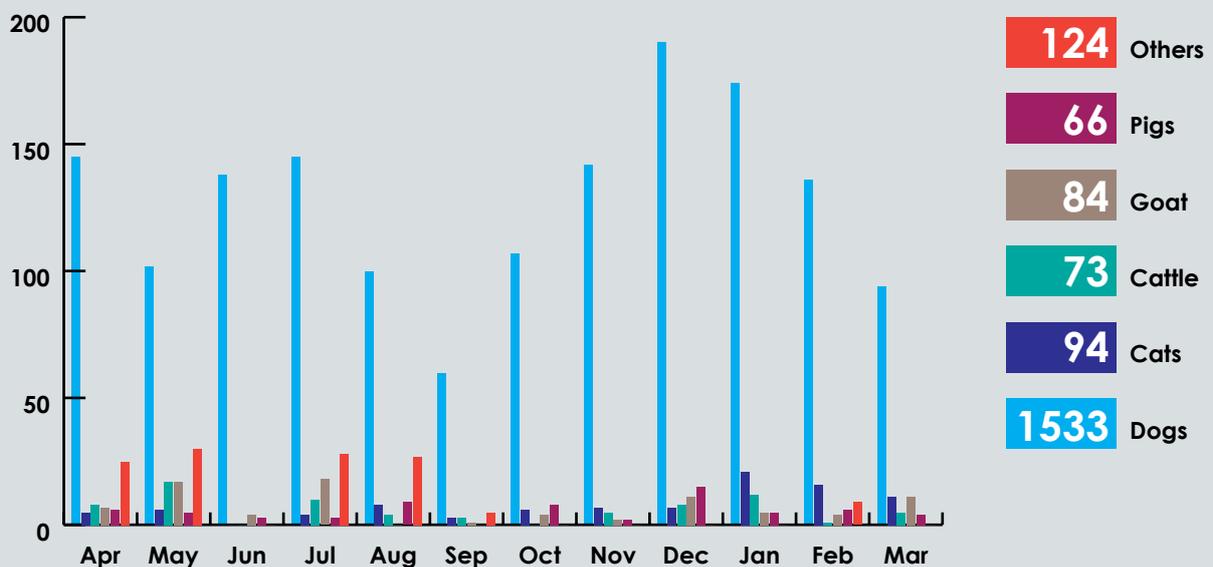
The pictures are of such an owner from a very far-off place farther away from Rock Garden whose two dogs were spayed by DAS team for free of cost. The owner was happy to be re-united with her dogs after a few days of their spaying. She was extremely pleased and grateful to receive such help from Darjeeling Animal Shelter team.



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Rescue

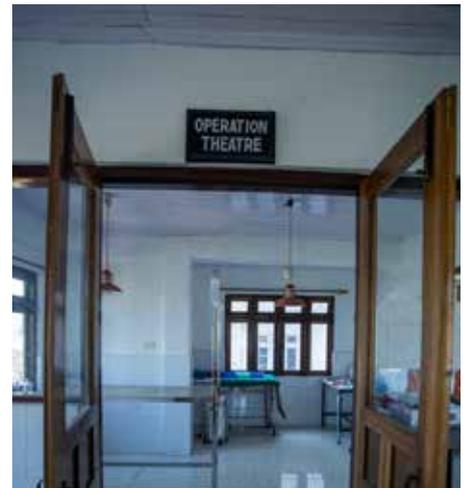
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Adoption

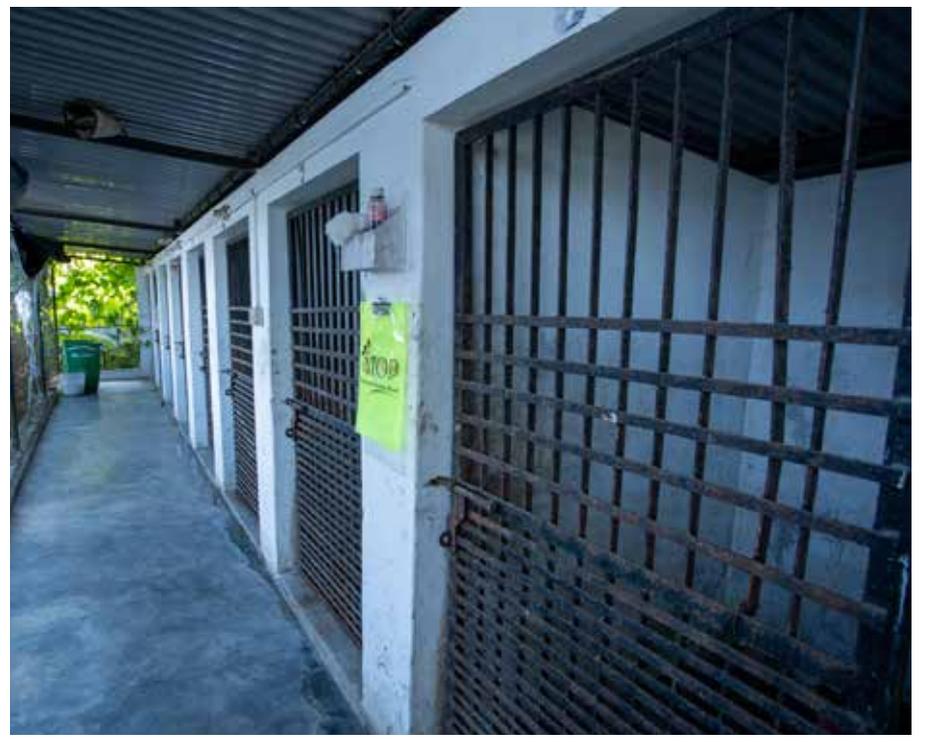
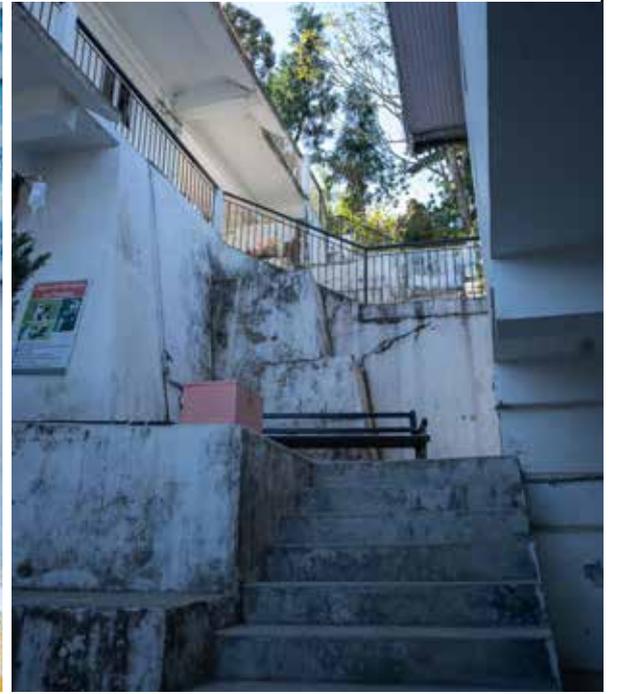
DAS Animal Rescue & Adoption April 2019 – March 2020



DAS Types of Animals Treated April 2019 – March 2020

Pictorial Guide DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER





Serving Mankind

HUMAN RESCUE PROJECT OF DGAS

I saw a young girl living above a sewage drain in Kalimpong, and I felt really sorry that she had to endure these living conditions - nowhere to go and nowhere to keep warm. She was part of a Bangladeshi family. I arranged a Human Rescue Project as part of DGAS (the trust has five projects - the animal shelter in Kalimpong and Darjeeling, the Crookety Museum, the Goodwill Reading Room, and the Human Rescue Project) We were given \$A1000 from Peter Singer's sister, and \$A10,000 from Mick and Sue Rodwell - sister and brother-in-law of Jeremy) for that specific purpose. Arpan helped us find land, and a building was constructed with three separate accommodation sections, and an outside toilet and shower block.

At that time there had been some landslips and through Arpan we came to know there were

some Christian families who, as a result, were also in need of accommodation. It was originally intended that three families, including that of the girl should move into the accommodation until they were able to get back on their feet. The Bishwan family, who had owned the land, were pleased to know of its intended use, but were not so happy when it ended up being occupied, by one family for several years.

As it turned out the girl's family and one of the other families didn't stay long and the one remaining family took over the whole building and stayed there for several years. As a consequence, the children were able to complete their education and they all then moved on. The boy got a job at a hospital. Arpan put so much work into finding this land and establishing this project.



Higle

MISSION

HIGLE's mission is to foster culture and universal ethics, such as the principles of goodwill, right relations and cooperation. This is realised through activities (classes, workshops and laboratories for children and adults) in the fields of education, health and art as well as by means of the preservation of the legacy of Helena and Nicholas Roerich at the Crookety House museum and Helena Roerich's Stupa at Durpin Dara.



DGC Art Class visit to Animal Shelter in Darjeeling, Lebong on 12th May 2019

53 participants, composed by art class students and their parents, the art class teacher and the Coordinator of the Darjeeling Goodwill Center visited the Animal Shelter of DAS in Lebong.

The vet, Dr. Mihir Mazagan- kar guided the visitors through the shelter explaining the importance of the right awareness towards animals for the lives of people. The children learnt about the behaviours of animals, especially of dogs and cats and how to handle them in the right way.



Embroidering and handicraft workshop 18-19th and 27th Sept. 2019 Venue: Crookety House, laboratory

Workshop with the French artist Anne Gailhbaud, attended by 10 local village women. New embroidering and stitching techniques were taught further to how to recycle "Tetra Pak" packages into money purses.





Children's Day on 18th November 2019
Venue: Crookety House garden

35 children of the Sunday class, 2 dance teachers and 3 focalisers celebrated Children's Day playing games, singing, dancing and enjoying an open air picnic.

New Year Cultural programme
1st Jan. 2020, 11 am to 2.30 pm
Venue: Crookety House, Pavillion

No. of the Participants: 35 children of the village and more than 100 guests
 Beneficiaries

1. This is the end of the year final show for the children, who are preparing it for more than 3 months!
2. Parents and villagers – enjoying as every year to watch the progress of the children in Art, Dances, Singing, Recitation and various other talents



Description of the event:

- Annual Cultural Programme organized by the Sunday Class Children for entertaining their parents and village people
- Children from 6 to 18 performed various Nepali, Hindi and Western dances, songs and poem taught by Kalimpong dance teachers and senior girls of the group.
- After the programme Refreshments and lunch was provided to all the participants, parents, special guests and village people
- Gifts distributed to all 35 children



Picnic with the Sunday class children
7th February 2020
Venue: Relli on a picnic place

16 children of the Sunday class together with their focaliser went to the riverside for playing games, enjoying the contact with the water and having free time in a different place.

Helena Roerich Memorial Day
12th February 2020

Celebration of Helena Roerich's anniversary at her Stupa, Durpin Dara. Ceremony with a Russian Agni Yoga follower, at the Stupa, decorated with flowers and candles.



Crookety House at Kalimpong

Trustee

**DARJEELING GOODWILL
ANIMAL SHELTER**



Dr. Christine Townend



Dr. Mehta



Mrs. Timmie Kumar



Nirmal Kr. Jain



Dr. Ringee Eden Wangdi



Mr. Donald Karthak



Yamima Lepcha Dupont