

# KALIMPONG ANIMALSHELTER

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AUGUST 2025

## IN MEMORY OF DR. CHRISTINE

With the passing of our founder, Dr. Christine Townend, DGAS experienced a profound moment of grief. Christine was a true pioneer for animals, a voice that inspired change and compassion. She founded Animal Liberation in Australia in 1976, co-founded Animals Australia in 1980, worked tirelessly for countless animal welfare causes.

Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter became Christine's second home, a place she loved dearly. The mark she left is everlasting; every wall carries her memories, and her presence is still felt in every corner of the Shelter.

Her first visit to India was as a volunteer at Help in Suffering, Jaipur, where she devoted many years of service alongside her husband, Jeremy, in the 1990s. In 1995, she founded Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter at a time when the animals of the Hills needed her most. Christine was a visionary and a torchbearer: she stopped the poisoning of dogs with strychnine in Kalimpong and Darjeeling and established shelters that continue to shine today as a testament to her legacy.



*The world lost a voice for animals, a visionary whose work speaks volumes*

### Christine's Literary Contributions:

1. A Voice for the Animals
2. In Defence of Living Beings
3. How Animal Liberation Grew
4. A Life for Animals,
5. Moti: An Indian Elephant
6. Animal Stories

*Her remarkable journey was also captured by author John Little in Christine's Ark, a book dedicated to her extraordinary life and work.*



CHRISTINE & JEREMY

PIC-FIORENZA



*Dr.Christine was not only an activist but also an artist and a gifted writer.*



DGAS TRUSTEES & STAFF WITH CHRISTINE & JEREMY AT CROOKETY HOUSE, KALIMPONG

Christine's dedication extended beyond animals, reaching out to humans in need with kindness and empathy. She became an inspiration to activists around the world, and all who had the privilege of working with her were touched by her gentle yet unwavering spirit. In recognition of her lifelong commitment, she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2019.

Christine will forever live in our hearts, and her selfless workwill continue to care for every distressed animal in need.

We are deeply grateful to Dr.Christine for giving us the opportunity to be part of DGAS and for her unwavering devotion to animals, both around the world and here in the Himalayan region, especially in Kalimpong and Darjeeling.

*Her deep compassion for animals found expression in her books, many of which were devoted to the lives of animals and the suffering they endure.*



*A Prayer for Dr.Christine*





# ACTIVITY REPORT

## ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAMME



The Shelter's ABC Programme is ongoing. Not only are community dogs caught and sterilised by our team, but owned pet dogs are also included.

Monthly follow-up meetings with the local Municipality regarding dog bites and dog-related issues have been held, which Kalimpong Animal Shelter has been addressing for years. In addition, the Shelter, in collaboration with the Kalimpong Municipality and the Animal Resources Department (ARD), will conduct weekly sterilisation programmes for community dogs across all 23 wards of Kalimpong.

The Kalimpong Animal Shelter team, starting on 28th August 2025, initiated this collaborative programme by catching dogs from Ward No. 1 and Ward No. 12. These dogs were brought to the Shelter, sterilised, and then released back to their original locations.



A follow-up meeting with the Kalimpong Municipality, the District Magistrate, the Health Officer, and the Deputy Director from ARD was conducted on 1st September 2025 to assess ongoing dog management efforts.



## RESCUE

This month, the team conducted an urgent rescue after finding a dog lying helpless for days with a severe maggot wound. He was immediately brought to the Shelter and given prompt treatment.

Later in the month, another dog with a similar maggot wound was rescued from Teesta, Kalimpong, following a distressed call about her condition. With no veterinary services available in the area, she had been suffering until a bystander reached out to the Shelter. That one call spared her life. On arrival, she received essential veterinary care, nursing, and round-the-clock attention.



Today, she is on the road to recovery. Her wound is healing well, and she is enjoying her wholesome meals, freely moving about the Shelter, and socialising with other dogs.



## ANIMAL CARE DAY



Our furry residents enjoyed a refreshing Monday filled with showers, gentle grooming sessions, soothing massages, and plenty of playtime and interaction. The dogs were delighted to have their much-needed wash, leaving them relaxed, cheerful, and wagging their tails in joy.



Even with busy schedules, rescue operations, and ABC camps, the staff make sure our resident animals are never left alone and are always well cared for. Currently, the shelter is home to over 63 dogs, with many more arriving as rescues or for neutering. Each furry friend receives proper food, attention, and treatment, ensuring they are happy, healthy, and loved.



## A SECOND CHANCE FOR OUR GROWN-UP FRIENDS

This month has been a fortunate one for some of the adult dogs that were surrendered to the Shelter due to unforeseen circumstances cited by their owners. These dogs had been under the care of KAS for more than a year, with little hope of being rehomed. The joy of finding a home is best understood by those who have been in need of one after being left out or confined.

After their surrender, it took these dogs many months to recover from losing the homes they once had and the absence of their familiar owners. Adjustment was a challenge, but with time and the support of the KAS team, they gradually settled in. They grew especially fond of Padam, who faithfully served them their meals and cared for their daily upkeep.



Their chances of getting rehomed were very slim, but sometimes luck strikes in unexpected ways. This month, a genuine dog lover came forward to welcome them into a new home where they could receive individual love, care, and attention. At DGAS, it is our policy to spay or neuter all dogs after six months before they are made ready for adoption, and these two were already prepared.

It was not only the dogs who were happy to find a family they could trust, but also the team who felt immense joy seeing them off to a loving home. Follow-ups are being carried out regularly, and we are glad to know that the dogs are doing well and are happy there.



## Supreme Court Order on Relocation of Street Dogs Sparks Nationwide Outrage

On 11th August 2025, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India directed that all community and free-roaming dogs in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) be rounded up and transferred to pounds by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi within eight weeks. The order further stated that the dogs were to be kept in lifelong confinement, with no release, and that a shelter capable of housing 5,000 dogs be established as the first phase to address public safety concerns.



Delhi has over 1 million dogs, making mass relocation impractical. Moreover, this order was contradictory to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules 2023, which prescribe sterilisation, vaccination, and release of street dogs rather than lifelong confinement. The Supreme Court passed the order in response to several reported dog bite cases in Delhi.

Under Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution, it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment and show compassion towards living creatures. Similarly, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 mandates protection of animals from unnecessary pain and suffering, while the Supreme Court's directive was contrary to these principles.



The order sparked widespread protests from animal rights groups, NGOs, including activist Smt. Maneka Gandhi, former Minister of Women and Child Development. The Kalimpong Animal Shelter team also staged a silent protest at Damber Chowk against the verdict. On 14th August, the order was reserved, but protests across the country continued, advocating for adherence to the ABC Rules 2023 and humane management of street dogs.



# Supreme Court Order on Relocation of Street Dogs Sparks Nationwide Outrage

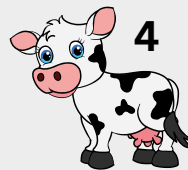
Key directives in the amended order include:



- Street dogs are to be released back to their original locations after sterilisation and vaccination.
- A holistic approach to dog management should be followed.
- Designated feeding areas should be established with signboards for feeding canines.
- Municipal Corporations must set up proper ABC centers.
- The order encourages the creation of a uniform national policy for dog management across India.
- All Municipal bodies must ensure compliance with the ABC Rules 2023, including picking up, sterilising, deworming, vaccinating, and releasing dogs back to their original areas.

We are grateful to the **Supreme Court of India** and the bench of judges for the revision of the order, and hope that it fosters peaceful coexistence between humans and animals.

## ANIMALS TREATED



## UPDATES

- Kalimpong Animal Shelter is assisting Siliguri Municipal Corporation with the Animal Birth Control Programme. A five-day camp has been organised by the Corporation in collaboration with KAS.
- There have been noticeable health improvements in cats this month.