

KALIMPONG ANIMAL SHELTER MONTHLY REPORT



October at Kalimpong Animal Shelter carried a gentle festive air. Amidst the rhythm of daily animal care, the Shelter team observed one of the most meaningful festivals in the Nepali calendar, Kukur Tihar, the day when dogs are honoured for their devotion and companionship.



KUKUR TIHAR

Kukur Tihar is always a special time, as our furry friends are reminded that they are not mere animals but treasured beings. The festival, which means the day of the dog, goes back to ancient Nepali traditions where dogs are worshipped and revered with marigold garlands, tika, a red mark on their foreheads, and plenty of treats.

Celebrated each year during Diwali, the festival of lights, the Hindu Nepali calendar marks particular days for crows, dogs, and cows, reminding us that animals too are sentient beings with their own beauty and grace.

According to tradition, Kukur Tihar is dedicated to dogs, the messengers of Yama, the god of death, who are believed to guard the gates of the afterlife. On this day, people honour dogs for their loyalty, protection, and the deep bond they share with humans. The festival holds a special place in every Nepali heart that celebrates Diwali, symbolising love, respect, and gratitude for animals



Ricky, a furry resident at Kalimpong Animal Shelter and a sponsored dog, sits happily and relaxed after the celebration.

KALIMPONG ANIMAL SHELTER

At Kalimpong Animal Shelter, the team gathered to garland the dogs with marigold flowers, mark their foreheads with tika, and offer them their favourite food as a gesture of love. Even the cats joined in the cheerful spirit, basking in the warmth and calm of the day. The celebration was a beautiful reminder of the trust and friendship animals bring into human lives, a bond that remains pure and timeless.



OPD/CLINIC CASES

This month, several goats were brought to the Shelter for treatment. Dr. Pandey shared that many were suffering from a viral disease, and most responded well to medication. They are now improving, eating properly, and regaining strength. Another goat with urinary obstruction required surgical intervention, which was successfully performed.



**TOTAL
OPD CASES-333**

Many geriatric dogs were also examined during the month, with several cases of osteoarthritis and hip dysplasia, particularly among pedigree breeds.

There was a noticeable increase in haemoprotozoan infections, making it a challenging period for dogs. In addition to these, routine cases of cats and dogs were attended to, with most presenting symptoms such as inappetence and anorexia.



Thank you to our donors for making a difference
in the lives of our animals

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL (ABC) PROGRAMME

**Total NO.
OF ABC-80**



The Shelter team carried out routine sterilisation of both owned and community dogs. The staff worked with their usual dedication to ensure that every animal received gentle handling, proper care, and post-operative care. After recovery, the community dogs were released back to their familiar locations, while the owned dogs returned home healthy and safe.



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HEAVY OCTOBER RAINFALL



This month, the weather was quite severe, with heavy rains and a noticeable drop in temperature early in October due to the cyclonic effects of Montha. All our resident animals, cats and dogs, were well cared for and provided with warm bedding and their regular meals.

The disaster caused widespread disruption across several parts of North Bengal, leading to landslides, damaged roads, and tragic loss of lives and homes, especially in the Mirik subdivision and nearby areas. The Teesta River was heavily flooded once again, much like the flash floods of 4 October 2023. Coincidentally, this year's flooding occurred on the same date but with lesser impact in Kalimpong. However, Mirik suffered extensive damage as torrential rains triggered landslides in Dudhia, claiming many lives.

Our sister concern, Darjeeling Animal Shelter, reached out to help animals in distress and provide relief where it was most needed, carrying forward the same spirit of compassion that unites us all.



RESCUE AND ADOPTION

This month, most of the rescues involved young puppies. The team received several calls about litters found in different areas of Kalimpong and promptly responded to bring them safely to the Shelter.

Among them, two puppies were fortunate to find loving homes. One was adopted by a kind family from Sikkim, and the other found a home right here in Kalimpong. Both are now doing well and settling beautifully in their new homes.



NIRMAL JI'S VISIT TO DGAS

This month, our Director, Nirmal Ji, visited DGAS to review ongoing work and projects, and shared valuable feedback with the team.



Nirmal Ji, along with Arpan and DB, making inspection rounds at Kalimpong Animal Shelter

RABIES AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The education and awareness programme, conducted in collaboration with Mission Rabies, is in full swing. On 17 October, the Rabies Education Officer, Flavian, and Integrated Bite Case Management Officer (IBCM)- Biraj, from Kalimpong jointly conducted a session at a primary school under the Kalimpong Gram Panchayat, educating students and teachers about the rabies virus, its prevention, and the importance of post-bite vaccination.

The IBCM Officer gave a presentation, covering the importance of vaccination, immediate wound care, prompt medical attention, and collaboration between the community, schools, and health departments in achieving the goal of a rabies-free society.

This was followed by an interactive session, during which students actively participated by asking questions and sharing their observations. Educational leaflets and hotline cards were handed out to enhance understanding and the dissemination of key messages on rabies prevention within the community.

Reaching out to rural areas like these plays a key part in spreading awareness and helping communities stay informed and safe.

