

DECEMBER 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



KALTU



HIGHLIGHTS

- ABC surgeries: **129 nos.**
- Clinical Cases: **521 nos.**
- ARV: **1541 nos.**
- Phone calls answered: **59 nos.**
- Community awareness: **685 nos.**
- Rabid animal encountered: **none**
- Animal carcasses tested for rabies: **8 nos.**
- Rabies positive results: **none**

POPULATION MANAGEMENT



Dr. Monika and Nareen
at Badamtam ABC-ARV Camp

ABC SURGERIES

Sl.no.		Dog	Cat	Total
1.	Total ABC	116	13	129
2.	Spay	75	9	84
3.	Castration	41	4	45
4.	Cryptochid	1	0	1
5.	Death	1	0	1
6.	PM	0	0	0

Badamtam TE ABC-ARV Camp

We successfully conducted an additional ABC-ARV Camp in Badamtam, made possible largely through the efforts of our paravet, Sisir Rai, who hails from the same locality. His consistent engagement with the community and gentle encouragement of pet owners to opt for neutering has resulted in nearly 99% of dogs in his area now being sterilized, with only a few remaining owner-owned dogs whose guardians are currently unwilling. Sisir Rai's dedication reflects how deeply our paravets understand and believe in the mission we serve, and we are truly grateful for his commitment and ownership of the programme.



Prepping for ABC surgery



Post-Op Recovery

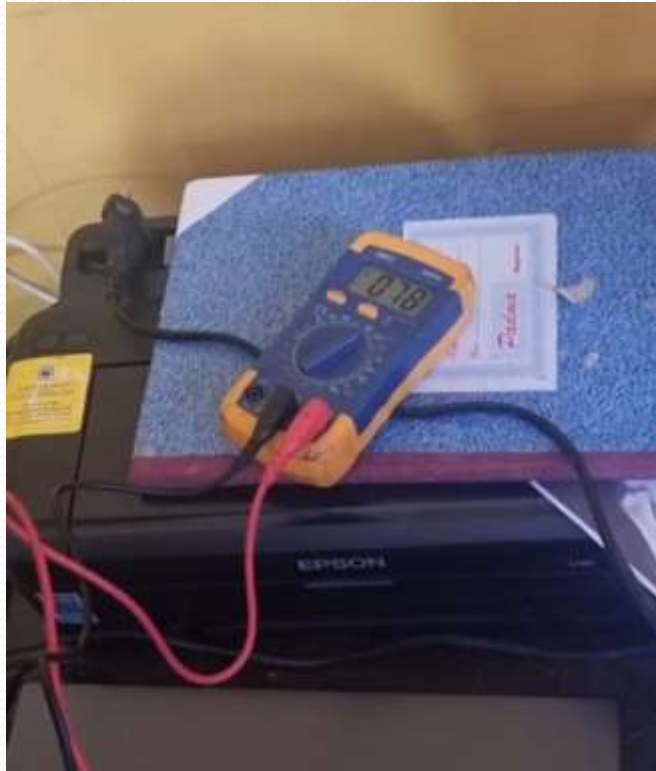
Singla TE ABC-ARV Camp

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Diwas Darjee, an independent paravet, for his outstanding support in Singla TE, where he has facilitated and assisted in the successful conduct of 12 outreach ABC-ARV camps this year. His proactive involvement, coordination at the community level, and commitment to animal welfare have played a significant role in expanding the reach of our program. Such dedicated support from independent paravets greatly strengthens our field operations, and we deeply appreciate his contribution.



Left: Dewas Darjee registering public dogs for ABC Surgery
Right: Dr. Monika & Nareen during surgery

X-RAY AT DAS



X-ray diagnostics could not be conducted during the reporting period due to recurrent technical failures of the X-ray machine. A recent detailed inspection identified that the earthing voltage at the facility was 75–78 volts, whereas a stable earthing voltage of 3–5 volts is required for proper and sustained functioning of the equipment. This electrical issue was the cause of the repeated system crashes.

WVS HOPE ITC TRAINING PROGRAMME- TRAINER EXPERIENCE



I am grateful to WVS HOPE ITC Aurangabad for inviting me to join the training programme as a volunteer trainer following an urgent requirement for veterinary support. Being involved as a trainer at the ITC training centre was an immensely rewarding and enriching experience.



Morning scenes at the prepping area



Fig: The trainers and trainees, December 2025 batch, WVS HOPE ITC

Participating as a trainer in the ITC WVS HOPE program was highly beneficial, especially as Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS) is in the process of developing its own structured training program. The experience provided valuable insights into effective training design, supervision, workflow, and resource requirements.

Key learnings included:

- Understanding WVS's two-week structured training model, integrating theory with hands-on practicals, with a balanced surgical load of approximately seven female and seven male surgeries.
- Gaining insight into the complete trainee workflow, from clinical examination and dog selection to preparation, protocol-based medication, ear notching, OT transfer, and surgical scrubbing.
- Learning how to effectively guide trainees through each stage while maintaining supervision, accountability, and adherence to animal welfare and aseptic protocols.
- Recognizing that teaching multiple techniques (flank approach, midline approach, and castration) within a single two-week program is not practical or humane, emphasizing the need for focused, staged training.
- Identifying the requirement of three paravets per training batch (one for preparation support and two for safe dog movement) to ensure smooth workflow and welfare standards.

An Unforgettable First-Day Emergency at the ITC



Dr. Shivani & Dr. Kumud during surgery on the langur

On my first day as a volunteer trainer at the WVS ITC Training Centre, an emergency case involving a langur attacked by dogs was brought in with a critical neck injury. I, along with Dr. Kumud, managed the case, while Dr. Sumith supervised the trainees, allowing us to focus on the emergency.

The injury was ultimately diagnosed as a hyoid bone fracture, rather than a tracheal tear, which significantly altered the treatment approach due to the high risk of subcutaneous emphysema. As the hyoid bone could not be sutured, surgical management focused on supporting the surrounding musculature and conservative complication management.

After successful stabilization and recovery from anaesthesia, the langur was handed over to the Forest Department for further care and release. The case highlighted the importance of thorough examination, accurate diagnosis, and adaptive decision-making in emergency surgical situations.



Fig: Multiple lacerated bite wound on the neck, fore limbs and lips of the langur



Fig: After surgical repair

A COMPLEX EQUINE CASE

The horse presented with a chronic wound reportedly caused by a tin injury that had been inadequately treated, progressing from proud flesh to a tumour, which was ulcerated, infested with maggots, and highly hypervascularized, and weighed approximately 3.2kgs, bleeding easily on contact. X-rays were conducted, which suggested that the underlying bone was not affected, allowing us to proceed with surgical excision of the mass. The horse was sedated using a xylazine–ketamine combination, and the mass was excised following consultation with Dr. Shashi. Post-excision management included application of a pressure bandage and close monitoring, with planned periodic surgical removal of excessive granulation tissue until complete epithelialisation was achieved.



Fig: Tumor on the dorsal aspect of left hind limb just above the fetlock joint



Fig: The tumor weighed 3.2kgs



Fig: wound examination and treatment the following day

CLINIC



Para-vet Umang providing skilled, compassionate care and treatment to a rescue patient who they've lovingly named "Gajni"

MONTHLY DAS ACTIVITIES

		CANINE	FELINE	OTHERS	TOTAL
Clinical Cases		449	65	5(pigs) 1(goat) 1(cow)	521
Other than ABC surgery		3	0	0	3
Vaccinations	Tri-cat	0	1	0	1
	Megavac-7	17	0	0	17
Rescue		21	3	0	24
Return After Treatment		5	0	0	5
Adoptions		11	0	0	11
Deaths		9	2	0	11
PTS		0	0	0	0

ADOPTIONS



GTA ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION



Dr. Devendra Pradhan (DD ARDD), Smt. Kuhuk Bhusan (IAS DM) and Shri Kamal Subba (GTA AH Savashad) at GTA Rabies Elimination Press Meet

ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION

Sl.no.		Quantity
1.	Clinic	86
2.	ABC-ARV Camps	53
3.	Adoption Camp	27
4.	RRT-ARV	1375
Total		1541

GTA Rabies Elimination Press Meet: Launch of the 2025–2026 District-Wide Vaccination Programme



A press meet was held on **1 December 2025** at **Prani Sampad Bhawan, Kalimpong**, to present the **December 2025–2026 project proposal** for the entire **GTA region**. The team announced the launch of a **mass anti-rabies vaccination programme** across all three blocks of **Kalimpong District** from **2 December**, and formally introduced the **Rabies Response Team (RRT)** to enhance surveillance and rapid field response.

The programme's background, including **DGAS's collaboration with the WVS–Mission Rabies**, was also highlighted. The meet was attended by senior district officials, GTA representatives, ARD officers, municipal and public health officials, and field veterinarians. It concluded on a positive note, with active discussions, valuable field insights, and **strong support from all stakeholders** for the initiative.

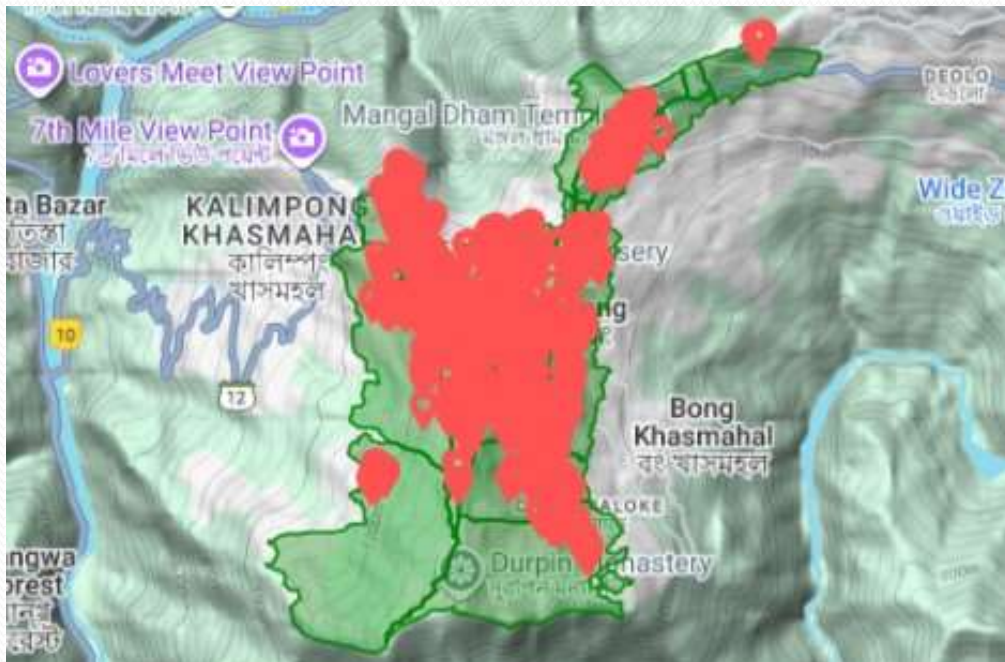


Dr. Shivani Pradhan delivering the GTA DGAS-MR Project Plan for '25 Dec- '26 Dec

Attendees:

- Shri Kamal Subba GTA executive Savashad of Animal husbandry
- Dr. Sangay Zimba Public Health Officer of Kalimpong Municipality
- Smt. Kuhuk Bhusan, IAS District Magistrate of Kalimpong District
- Dr. Devendra Pradhan Deputy Director ARD Kalimpong
- Dr. Deepak Sharma Assistant Director Kalimpong
- Dr. Pema Chodden BLDO Kalimpong I
- Dr. Anurodh Chettri BLDO Gorubathan
- Dr. Brihat Chettri A.D. PMC Kalimpong
- Dr. Kesang Bomzon VO BAHC Kalimpong I
- Dr. Kriti Gurung VO ABAVC Kalimpong I
- Dr. Anima Rana VO MVC Kalimpong I
- Dr. Imtiaz Hasan VO BAHC Kalimpong II
- Dr. Rajat Bagdas VO MVC Kalimpong II
- Dr. M. Habib VO BAHC Gorubathan
- Dr. Aakash Timung VO MVC Gorubathan
- Dr. Deo P. Pandey, Vet-In-Charge, KAS
- Mr. Ashwin Thapa, MR Project Manager, DAS
- Mr. Biraj Chettri, Kalimpong IBCMO, DAS

Vaccination Success — Complete Door-to-Door Coverage of Kalimpong Municipality



One of the most significant achievements of December 2025 was the **successful completion of door-to-door mass anti-rabies vaccination across all municipal wards of Kalimpong**. Building on a September pilot that vaccinated 363 dogs, the December phase vaccinated an additional **948 dogs**, bringing the **total municipal coverage to 1,311 dogs**. Despite harsh winter conditions, difficult mountainous terrain, staff illness, and emergency redeployments for dog rescue, the Rabies Response Team (RRT), under close coordination of the **IBCM Officer**, ensured continuity through ward-wise planning, repeated household visits, and flexible scheduling. High-density wards such as **Ward 18 and Ward 23** achieved complete coverage through sustained door-to-door efforts.

This campaign demonstrated that **systematic planning, strong inter-departmental coordination, and community-level engagement** can overcome logistical and environmental challenges, resulting in near-complete vaccination coverage and strengthened public trust in rabies control initiatives.



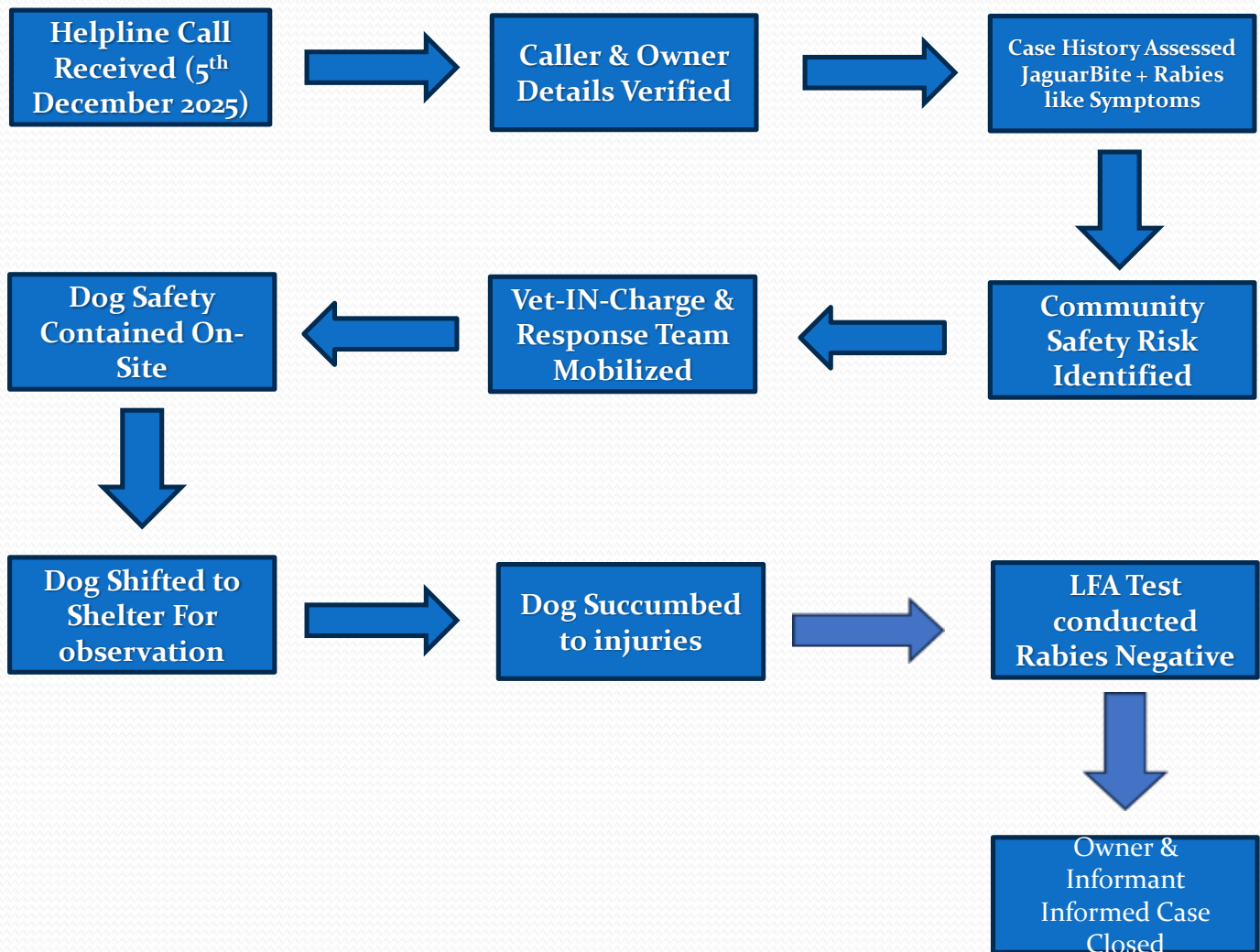
RRT vaccinating and applying identification mark on the vaccinated dogs



IBCM in Action — Rabies-Suspected Dog Case Managed Safely



EVENT FLOW CHART





A notable IBCM intervention occurred on **5 December 2025** following a rabies helpline call from **Sonada**, reporting a dog with rabies-like symptoms after a **jaguar bite**. The dog exhibited continuous salivation and abnormal vocalisation, raising serious community safety concerns.

The **IBCM Officer conducted immediate telephonic assessment**, coordinated with the Rabies Project Manager and Vet-in-Charge, and mobilised the response team. The dog was safely contained on-site and shifted to the shelter without risk to the public. Although the animal later succumbed to its injuries, **LFA testing confirmed a rabies-negative result**.

The case was professionally closed with transparent communication to the owner and informants, reinforcing public confidence in the IBCM system. This incident highlighted the effectiveness of **rapid response, risk containment, diagnostic testing, and clear community communication** in preventing panic and unnecessary exposure

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Adopt, Learn & Care-Adoption Camp

The Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO), Sadar, Darjeeling took the initiative to organize a community event, 'Adopt, Learn & Care', in collaboration with the DSPCA Animal Resources Development Department, Darjeeling Animal Shelter, and Darjeeling Municipality. The event, held on 7th December 2025 at Capital Hall, Darjeeling from 10 AM to 1 PM, focused on cat and dog adoption along with free health check-ups, veterinary consultation, and anti-rabies vaccination. During the camp, a total of 27 dogs received anti-rabies vaccination, 2 kittens and 1 puppy were adopted. The event aimed to promote animal welfare, education, and compassion in the community.





MELO FEST 2025



During **Melo Fest 2025 in Darjeeling**, a community rabies awareness initiative was conducted under **DGAS**, in collaboration with **Ms. Prativa Bomzan, DGAS Advisor**, and led by **Mr Prajit, IBCM Officer** with support from shelter staff. The stall served as an effective public outreach platform where **students from multiple schools and community members** were sensitised on rabies prevention, dog bite management, and the importance of timely medical care. **Rabies hotline cards and informational pamphlets** were widely distributed, and interactive discussions helped address local concerns and myths surrounding rabies. The participation of **ARD doctors** further strengthened institutional engagement, making the event a meaningful example of multi-stakeholder collaboration for rabies control and public health awareness in the region.



Creating rabies awareness in community and students during Melo Fest 2025



DAS remains committed to actively engaging in similar **community programmes, public events, and local festivities** in the future, as these platforms allow us to reach a **wider and more diverse audience**. By participating in such gatherings, we aim to strengthen **rabies awareness, prevention education, and responsible community behaviour**, ensuring that accurate information reaches people in an accessible and meaningful way, ultimately contributing to improved public health and rabies control across the region.