



KALIMPONG ANIMAL SHELTER

INTRODUCTION



This month was marked by an intensive and meaningful series of Sterilisation/Animal Birth Control (ABC) camps, highlighting the team's continued dedication to both animal welfare and public health. Over four days in Siliguri, including a collaborative effort with Nirbaak Aryanak Welfare and the Siliguri Municipal Corporation, the team worked tirelessly to address the ever-increasing dog population through sustained sterilisation efforts.

Building on this momentum, camps were conducted across the Kalimpong district, particularly in Blocks I and III, where the focus was on reaching remote communities and supporting those unable to bring dogs to the shelter.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

SPECIES	CASES TREATED
DOGS	423
CATS	58
GOATS	68
PIGS	7
COWS	10

Total cases - 566

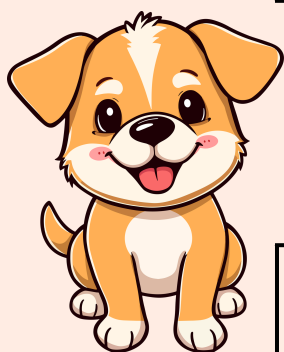
STERILISATION/ABC

TOTAL DOG ABC ABC	91
CAT ABC	19
CAT ABC IN SILIGURI	11

RESCUE	19
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ADOPTION

PUPPIES	4
KITTENS	1



STERILISATION/ABC CAMPS



Building on this momentum, camps were conducted across the Kalimpong district, particularly in Blocks I and III, where the focus was on reaching remote communities and supporting those unable to bring dogs to the shelter.

These visits not only enabled wider coverage of sterilisation efforts but also helped foster greater understanding among local residents about its importance in maintaining healthier, safer communities.

In collaboration with the Animal Resources Development Dept., a one-day camp was held in Kumani, a tea garden village near the Jaldhaka River, followed by another in Bagrakote.



STERILISATION/ABC CAMPS

An additional camp in Poysher Busty was also carried out successfully. Collectively, these initiatives reached 69 canine beneficiaries, contributing not only to population control through sterilisation but also to the broader goal of safeguarding both animal and public health. Across these geographically dispersed locations, the Kalimpong Animal Shelter continues to play a vital role in advancing animal welfare through sustained sterilisation and vaccination programmes.



STRENGTHENING RABIES RESPONSE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION

An increase in the local dog population has been accompanied by a rise in reported dog bite incidents, many of which are being brought directly to the team's attention. In response, timely and coordinated action, undertaken in collaboration with Mission Rabies, has enabled effective follow-up of cases, including rabies testing and strengthened vaccination coverage in affected areas, alongside the provision of both pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis.

STRENGTHENING RABIES RESPONSE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION

During the month, two dogs were identified as suspected rabies cases; subsequent testing confirmed infection. The team responded promptly and responsibly, engaging with the community, carrying out targeted vaccination drives for dogs in the surrounding areas, and safely rescuing animals showing symptoms. Key members, including Biraj, the Integrated Bite Case Management Officer (IBCM) from Mission Rabies, Dr Deo, Roshan, and the Kalimpong Animal Shelter team, were at the forefront of managing the situation with care and urgency. The team continues to remain alert and committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of both people and animals, working consistently towards a healthier and safer shared environment.

CASE REPORT BY BIRAJ- THE IBCM (INTEGRATED BITE CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICER), MISSION RABIES

INVESTIGATION OF A SUSPECTED RABID DOG SUNG DUNG, PUDUNG KHASMAHAL, KALIMPONG KALIMPONG DISTRICT

District: Kalimpong

Investigating Officer: Biraj Chettri, IBCM Officer

Supervising Officer: Dr. D.P Pandey

Date of Investigation: 31/03/2026 Case Reference: KP/RS/01/04/26

Location: Sungdung, Maney Dara Zero, Pudung Khasmahal, Kalimpong

Purpose of Investigation

This investigation was initiated following the report of a suspected rabid dog involved in a biting incident affecting a human and domestic animals.

The objective was to verify the case, contain the risk, and confirm rabies infection through diagnostic testing.

CASE REPORT BY BIRAJ- THE IBCM (INTEGRATED BITE CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICER)

INVESTIGATION OF A SUSPECTED RABID DOG SUNG DUNG, PUDUNG KHASMAHAL, KALIMPONG KALIMPONG DISTRICT

Case Reporting Details

On the early morning of 31st March 2026, Dr. Pandey, Chief Veterinary Officer -in -charge of Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS), reported a suspected rabies case to Biraj Chettri, serving as the IBCM Officer in Kalimpong.

The report indicated that an aggressive stray dog had bitten a man and his pet dog within a residential premises. The contact details of the reporting individual, the concerned Prani Mitra (ARD) of the area, were also shared for immediate follow-up. The case was promptly communicated to the Project Manager. Based on the situation, Dr. Pandey advised that the IBCM Officer coordinate with the Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS) field staff, Mr. Lil Thapa and Mr. Roshan Chettri, who were already deployed on animal catching and rescue duty, to respond to the incident site and carry out necessary investigation and action.



Pic: Bite wound of Mr Harka Bahadur Basnet, and his pet dog.

INVESTIGATION OF A SUSPECTED RABID DOG SUNG DUNG, PUDUNG KHASMAHAL, KALIMPONG KALIMPONG DISTRICT

Field Investigation and Findings

Upon reaching the site, it was confirmed that the dog had bitten Mr. Harka Bahadur Basnet (49 years old) and one of his pet dogs. At the time of arrival, Mr. Basnet had already left for the hospital to seek medical attention.

Interaction with family members revealed that the dog appeared to be a healthy stray and had entered the premises, resting on the veranda. Initially, the family members were observing the dog due to its healthy appearance. However, the situation escalated when the stray dog encountered other dogs and suddenly became aggressive.

In an attempt to stop a potential dog fight, Mr. Basnet used a stick, which triggered the dog to charge aggressively towards him. The dog attacked, biting the stick and subsequently biting Mr. Basnet on his leg and foot. Despite the situation, Mr. Basnet managed to confine the dog inside a room. He immediately washed the wound with soap and water and proceeded to the hospital for treatment.

Animal Handling and Observation

At the site, the dog was found confined inside a room and exhibited extreme aggression. With the expertise of KAS staff, the dog was safely captured and transported to the Kalimpong Animal Shelter for observation. During the observation period, it was reported by Mr. Padam, the kennel staff at KAS, that the dog displayed continued aggressive behavior and attempted to bite during feeding. The dog also showed clinical signs such as refusal to eat or drink.

Pic: Victim's vaccination report



Pic: The Kalimpong Animal Shelter team taking the dog into custody

INVESTIGATION OF A SUSPECTED RABID DOG SUNGUNG, PUDUNG KHASMAHAL, KALIMPONG KALIMPONG DISTRICT

Interdepartmental Coordination

The concerned Prani Mitra was unavailable at the site; however, Dr. Pema, BLDO Kalimpong (ARD), established contact with the IBCM Officer to gather details of the case and location. Immediate action was taken, and ARD staff were deployed to initiate vaccination activities in the affected area.

Continuous updates were maintained with Dr. Pandey and the Project Manager throughout the process.

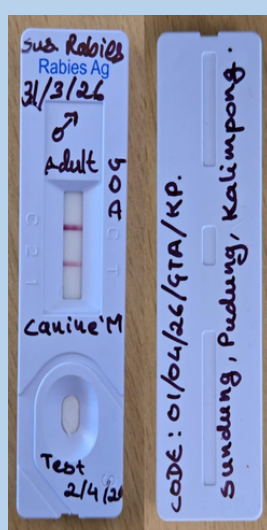
Outcome and Laboratory Testing (LFA Result)

On 2nd April 2026, during routine observation, Dr. Pandey examined the dog. Shortly after, at approximately 10:30 AM, it was reported by the kennel staff that the dog had died.

Following the death, brain samples were collected, and a Lateral Flow Assay (LFA) test was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Pandey.

Result: POSITIVE

The test confirmed that the dog was infected with the rabies virus.



Pic: LFA Test result showing POSITIVE



Pic: Suspected rabid dog in custody, being taken to KAS for observation

INVESTIGATION OF A SUSPECTED RABID DOG SUNGDUNG, PUDUNG KHASMAHAL, KALIMPONG KALIMPONG DISTRICT

Public Health Response

Following confirmation of the positive case:

The case was immediately reported to Dr. Shivani Pradhan and the Project Manager from Mission Rabies.

The victim's family was informed and advised to ensure that all exposed individuals undergo Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

The exposed pet dog was brought under observation and necessary measures were advised. Vaccination efforts were intensified in the affected locality.

Dr. Pema, BLDO (ARD), recommended re-mass vaccination in the region and assured deployment of ARD staff. Coordination with KAS (Kalimpong Animal Shelter) was also proposed to form multiple teams to cover the area efficiently and at the earliest.

Conclusion

This investigation confirmed a positive rabies case originating from an aggressive stray dog involved in a residential biting incident. Prompt reporting, rapid response, and strong interdepartmental coordination played a crucial role in controlling the situation and minimizing further risk.

The case highlights the importance of vigilance, timely intervention, and continued mass vaccination efforts in preventing rabies transmission.

Submitted by: Biraj Chettri

ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION DRIVE

As part of ongoing rabies prevention efforts, and in response to dog-related complaints, mass Anti-Rabies vaccination drives were carried out in Kagey and the neighbouring areas.



COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL CARE AND OUTREACH SERVICES

The day-to-day operations of the shelter, encompassing both clinical care and rescue services, continued to run smoothly and efficiently throughout the month. The clinic remained consistently active, attending to a range of cases, with a significant number involving Canine Parvovirus and Canine Distemper.

Beyond canine and feline patients, the shelter also extended its services to other animals in need, including livestock such as cows, pigs, and goats. Many of these cases were addressed through home visits, providing timely relief to concerned owners and their sick animals, particularly in areas where access to veterinary facilities remains limited.



These images above capture the commitment of a young pet owner who took full responsibility for his furry companion's recovery, bringing his dog to the clinic every day for five consecutive days until the treatment course was completed.

In a setting where there are, unfortunately, still instances of animals being neglected or left without care during illness, such commitment stands out as deeply encouraging. Each day, this young owner, along with his friend, patiently waited for over an hour while their dog received fluids and essential treatment, remaining consistent and attentive to ensure their pet's recovery. This is what responsible pet ownership looks like, where empathy, patience, and commitment come together to support a beloved companion.

FROM 2 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS: RICKY, RAISED WITH CARE

Ricky, one of the shelter's members, has been part of the family since he was rescued at just two months old, already struggling with deformities caused by rickets. At the Kalimpong Animal Shelter, he found not only safety but also a chance at recovery. With consistent care, proper nutrition, and essential supplements at Kalimpong Animal Shelter, Ricky gradually regained strength and was eventually able to stand firmly on his toes.

Since then, Ricky has grown into a gentle, affectionate five-year-old, lovingly supported through sponsorship by Annie from Ireland. Known for his warm and friendly nature, he is often the first to welcome visitors, his presence instantly bringing comfort and ease. In recent times, he has developed a fondness for short walks just outside the shelter premises, curiously exploring the world beyond the only home he has ever known.

Recently, the team observed him persistently scratching his ear, and upon examination, he was diagnosed with a hematoma. Prompt treatment was administered, and with close monitoring and care, his condition is steadily improving. Throughout this period, Ricky has remained calm and trusting, leaning into the care that has always surrounded him.



RICKY: A SHELTER RESIDENT

Rescued from the streets at a very young age, Ricky's early days were marked by uncertainty and vulnerability. Since then, the shelter has been the place where he found comfort, care, and a true sense of belonging. The way he greets familiar faces, follows the team during his walks, and settles peacefully after treatment reflects a deep bond built over years of compassion. He is more than just a shelter dog. Truly, Ricky remains the apple of everyone's eye, his gentle spirit continuing to bring warmth to all who know him.



A 2-Month-Old Ricky at the Shelter



Young Ricky after recovering from rickets



Ricky Today- a 5 year-old boy.