

DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER

PERIOD

Monthly Report

129

34

TOTAL RESCUES

3

SPECIAL
SURGERIES

10 LFA TEST

645

CASES TREATED

7

ADOPTION

9

XRAY

CREDITS:

DR. MONIKA PRAJAPAT

RUDRA THAPA (PARAVET)

WANGEL TAMANG (PARAVET)

NAREN PRADHAN (PARAVET)

UMANG GURUNG (PARAVET)

SISIR RAI (PARAVET)

SAJAN RAI (PARAVET)

ANURAG CHETTRI (PARAVET)

GAURAV TAMANG (KENNEL KEEPER)

-PRITESH PRADHAN (RSO)

-DR. ANNAPRADHAN

OUR WEBSITE:

www.goodwillanimalshelter.in





Key Shelter Highlights

- **Long-Distance Rescues & Trust:** Rescues brought 60+ km for complex second-look surgeries, tumour removals, limb amputations.
- **Volunter Visit:** Honored to host mother of a foreign vet nurse volunteer, bringing global warmth, support, and encouragement to our shelter team.
- **Upsurge in CD Cases:** Managing a double-digit Canine Distemper surge across equal inpatient and outpatient presentations, while educating the community on differentiating CD from Rabies and driving core vaccines.
- **129 ABC Surgeries Milestone:** Achieving a landmark 129 Animal Birth Control sterilizations this month alongside an intense emergency and referral workload.
- **Rabies Investigation:** From parts of Darjeeling and Ring Vaccination in progress.

Impact and Performance Highlight



STERILISATION	DOG	CAT
SPAYING	70	21
CASTRATION	36	2



TOTAL ABC- 129



CLINICAL ACTIVITIES	DOG	CAT
CASE TREATED	569	76
RESCUE	30	4

ADOPTION	6	1
X-RAY	8	1
SPECIAL SURGERIES	3	
LFA TEST	9	1

SILENT KILLER IN THE HILLS: THE TRUTH ABOUT DISTEMPER AND RABIES



The surge in Canine Distemper (CD) cases this month revealed two critical realities at our shelter and clinic:

1. Equal Split Across Wards: Exactly 50% of cases were inpatients admitted to our shelter, while the other 50% came through our outpatient clinic (OPD). This proves CD is actively spreading across both street dogs and owned pets.
2. The Rabies Confusion: Almost every neurological distemper case was initially assumed by owners and animal caretakers to be Rabies. Twitching jaws, drooling, seizures, and sudden weakness look eerily similar to Rabies, causing community panic and misdiagnoses

Addressing Misconceptions in the Darjeeling Hills

The current surge of Canine Distemper (CD) across the Darjeeling region has triggered significant public concern. However, widespread confusion between terminal CD and Rabies highlights a critical gap in community health literacy.

While both viral diseases target the central nervous system in late stages, misidentifying Distemper as Rabies leads to misdirected public fear and delays vital intervention. Clarifying these differences through public education is essential for effective outbreak management and community protection



Why Public awareness is urgent?

1. Combating Panic & Misinformation:

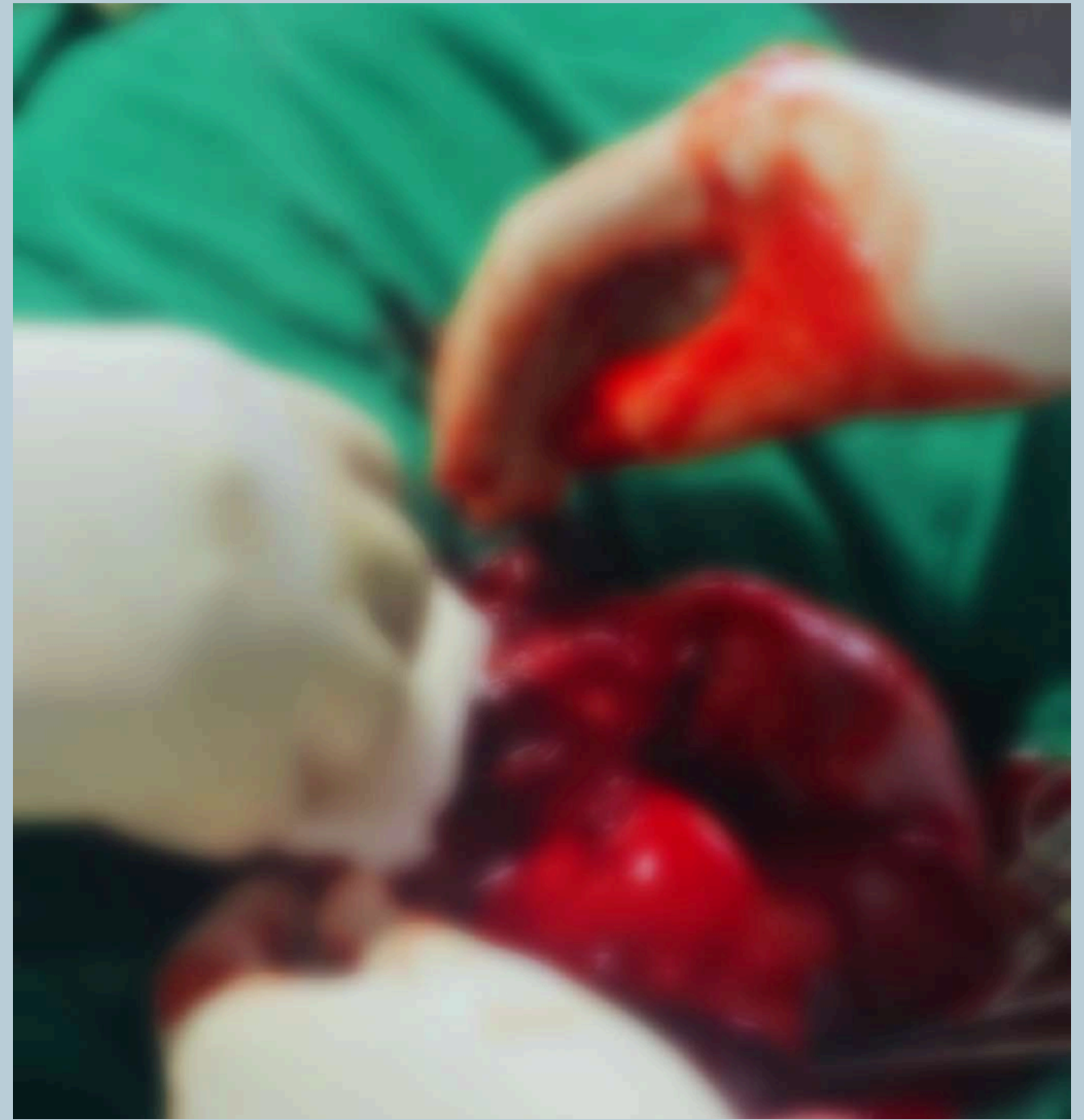
When community members see a street dog exhibiting seizures or drooling, fear of Rabies can spark widespread panic. Educating the public about Distemper reduces unnecessary alarm while ensuring animals receive appropriate care or humane management.

2. Closing the Vaccine Gap:

Many pet parents assume an annual Rabies shot protects their dog against all major illnesses. Highlighting the Distemper upsurge emphasizes the equal importance of core combination vaccines (DHPP/DHPPiL)



CLINICAL SUMMARY & EMERGENCY CASE LOG – JULY 2026 (DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER)



Emergency C-Section (Macerated Fetus):

- Presentation: Acute dystocia with foul-smelling vulvar discharge, severe systemic toxicity due to fetal death and intra-uterine decomposition.
- Intervention: Immediate emergency hysterotomy/ovariohysterectomy (OHE) was performed to extract the macerated fetus, thoroughly debride and flush the uterine cavity, and remove the septic source.
- Post-Op Management: Intensive fluid resuscitation, broad-spectrum intravenous antibiotic coverage, analgesia, and aggressive post-operative care to manage septic shock.

Epidemiological Investigation of a Suspected Rabid Canine and Ring Vaccination Control Measures

District: Darjeeling

Investigation officer: Biraj Chettri, IBCM officer.

Doctor on field: Dr. Anna Pradhan

Date of investigation: 28/7/26

Location: Peshok 12th mile, Darjeeling

Field Rabies Investigation & Ring Vaccination Response: Peshok (July 28, 2026)

- **Incident Trigger & Case History:** On July 28th, Darjeeling animal shelter team with IBCM officer, from Kalimpong shelter team responded to an urgent report from Peshok regarding a suspected rabid dog. According to local residents, approximately three weeks prior, an unfamiliar dog entered the community and inflicted a scratch wound near the subject dog's left eye. Following an initial asymptomatic period, the dog developed acute, progressive neurological and behavioural changes over the past week leading to five bite dog cases.





- **Clinical & Behavioral Signs:**

Aggressive Behavior: Unprovoked attacks on neighboring animals, resulting in confirmed bites to five (5) local dogs.

Hydrophobia & Altered Appetite: Exhibited classic signs of rabies, including severe hydrophobia (complete refusal of water) while attempting to consume solid foods (chicken liver).

- **Mortality & Investigation:**

The dog died early on the morning of July 28th. Given the high risk of viral shedding prior to death, our team conducted an immediate field investigation and carcass assessment to evaluate exposure parameters and mitigate the severe public safety threat.

LFA TEST: by Pritesh Pradhan (RABIES SURVEILLANCE OFFICER)

Rapid test conducted on 29th July, 2026 showed positive result.

- **Containment & Ring Vaccination Response:**

Focal Ring Vaccination: Implemented an immediate localized vaccination drive across the affected area in Peshok to establish an active immune barrier.

Quarantine & Targeted Coverage: Identified and vaccinated all accessible community and owned dogs in the immediate vicinity, with priority tracking and quarantine protocols advised for the five bitten dogs.

INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECTED RABID DOG. MINERAL SPRING , DARJEELING.

DISTRICT: DARJEELING
INVESTIGATION OFFICER: PRITESH PRADHAN ,RSO.
DOCTOR ON FIELD:DR. ANNA PRADHAN
DATE OF INVESTIGATION:10/7/26
LOCATION: MINERALSPRING, DARJEELING
BITE VICTIM: MRS. DURGA RAI(75 YEARS)



Purpose of Investigation:

This investigation was initiated following the report of a suspected rabid dog involved in a biting incident affecting more than two humans.

The objective was to verify the case and confirm rabies infection through diagnostic testing

CASE REPORT BY PRITESH PRADHAN- RSO(Rabies Surveillance Officer)

Case Reporting Details

On **6 July 2026**, DGAS received a report of a dog bite involving a 75-year-old woman from Mineral Spring, Lebong. As this was reportedly the second bite incident involving the same dog, the animal was rescued on **10 July 2026** and admitted to Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter (DGAS) for a **15-day rabies observation period**.

Field Investigation

Despite difficult terrain and landslides caused by heavy rainfall, the **DGAS team** reached the site and safely captured the dog. Simultaneously, interviews were conducted with the caretaker, bite victims, and local residents to establish the dog's behavioural history.

One previous bite victim was identified. Investigation suggested the bite was likely defensive, occurring on a poorly lit road where the victim may have unintentionally startled the dog. Another recent incident involved the dog jumping on a school teacher without causing any bite or scratch.



Conclusion:

The investigation and 15-day observation found no evidence of rabies or sustained aggressive behaviour. The available evidence indicates the incident was most likely situational and defensive rather than malicious. Continued public awareness and timely reporting of bite incidents remain essential for effective rabies surveillance and community safety.



ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL

DOUBLING IMPACT THROUGH TARGETED CAMPS ACROSS DARJEELING



Key Operational Highlights

- July Volume: 129 sterilizations.
- Key Outreach: 3 mega field camps hosted across Darjeeling
- Collaborators: VO Dr. Suedenla, MVU Dr. Sanghey & Rangbull SHG
 - Core Focus: Population control, rabies prevention & welfare

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust for their support in executing our Animal Birth Control (ABC) program. Your dedication plays a crucial role in managing the community dog population and ensuring healthier, safer lives for stray animals.

ABC CAMP- KURSEONG



- Record Camp Performance: Hosted the month's most successful Animal Birth Control (ABC) and sterilization camp, achieving **a total count of 25 spay and neuter procedures** in a single drive to help control the local street dog and cat population and promote community animal welfare.
- Collaboration with VO Kurseong: We extend our deepest gratitude to Veterinary Officer Dr. Suedenla Bhutia from the State Modern Veterinary Clinic, Kurseong.
- Key Support & Logistics: She played an instrumental role in organizing and executing this camp.

ABC CAMP-BIJANBARI



Joint ABC Drive with Mobile Veterinary Unit (MVU)

- Cross-Team Collaboration: Executed another highly successful joint spay/neuter drive, bringing together our Darjeeling shelter team and the Mobile Veterinary Unit (MVU) team.
- Leadership & Output: Led by Veterinary Doctor of Bijanbari, Darjeeling Dr. Sanghey, the collaborative effort resulted in 16 successful spaying and neutering surgeries across both dogs and cats.

ABC CAMP- RANGBULL

Community Partnership ABC Camp (Rangbull Self-Help Group)

- Grassroots Community Collaboration: Conducted a successful targeted Animal Birth Control (ABC) camp in Rangbull in direct partnership with a local Women's Self-Help Group (SHG).
- Community-Led Logistics: Rangbull SHG helped enormously with community outreach, identifying unsterilized street dogs, and helping mobilize residents to bring in local pets and community animals for surgery.



BEYOND THE SHELTER WORK: CELEBRATION'S,GROOMING AND VISIT'S

- **Darjeeling Animal Shelter: Strategic Review & Forward-Looking Goal Discussion (July 2026):** Following a high-volume month of emergency surgical interventions, grassroots outreach, and intensive epidemiological responses, our team convened for a comprehensive progress meeting to evaluate current operations and set strategic priorities for the months ahead.
- **Successful Adoptions:** Reached our monthly milestone with 7 rescue animals successfully placed into loving, permanent homes this month.
- **Dermatological Care & Medicated Bath:** Our shelter dog an important part of our shelter family has chronic condition-atopic dermatitis which tends to flare up on a seasonal like these ,therefore regular regime of bath ,medication is an important part of his regime. Conducted regular hygiene baths, coat care, and routine enrichment for shelter residents to promote overall skin health and welfare.



- **Volunteer Engagement:** We welcomed our international vet nurse Grace's mother at Darjeeling Animal Shelter , who visited the shelter while on a personal trip to the region. She toured our facilities, spent quality time interacting with the resident rescues, and observed our clinical and rehabilitation work. It was a heartening experience for our whole team to share our day-to-day operations with her, and she expressed immense joy and appreciation for the care and dedication provided to the shelter

