Darjeeling Animal Shelter

Sterilisations | Rescues| Out Patient Treatment|

Monthly Report-October,2026



Home to 18 permanent residents, Shelter for 194 rescue animals, and the Trust of over 3225 sick pets and devoted pet parents across Darjeeling in just the last six months—Darjeeling Animal Shelter continues to stand as a beacon of hope in the hills.



As the region's only dedicated animal shelter and diagnostic facility equipped with specialized digital radiography, we are the first call and final hope for distressed dogs, cats, and even wildlife emergencies involving monkeys and snakes. Situated across challenging mountain terrain, our doors remain open to people traveling from every corner of the district—a testament to a foundation built on years of selfless hard work.





Even during peak festive seasons like Dashain, when rescue logistics are at their most complex, our dedicated team never slows down. Driven by a staff whose greatest joy is being the reason a rescue dog thrives, the shelter moves forward with unbroken momentum and tireless effort.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

STERILISATION TOTAL-102	DOG	CAT
SPAYING	71	10
NEUTERING	19	2

CLINICAL ACTIVITIES	DOG	CAT
CASES	387	67
RESCUES	37	1
SPECIAL SURGERY	2	0
ADOPTION	9	0





A Year of Surgical Precision: Managing a High-Risk Mass Resection in a Severely Obese Dog





When we encounter a growing tumor, the instinct is often to operate immediately. However, complex surgical cases frequently demand meticulous, long-term preparation behind the scenes. This particular patient required careful evaluation by four different surgeons over the span of an entire year before safely reaching the operating table.

The primary hurdle was severe obesity. At an initial weight of 60 kg, administering general anesthesia posed a grave risk of respiratory and cardiovascular compromise. Recognizing these dangers, the clinical team made the critical decision to defer surgery until the patient was stabilized through weight management. Over twelve months and four separate consultations, the dedicated owner worked closely with us, achieving a crucial 10 kg weight reduction.



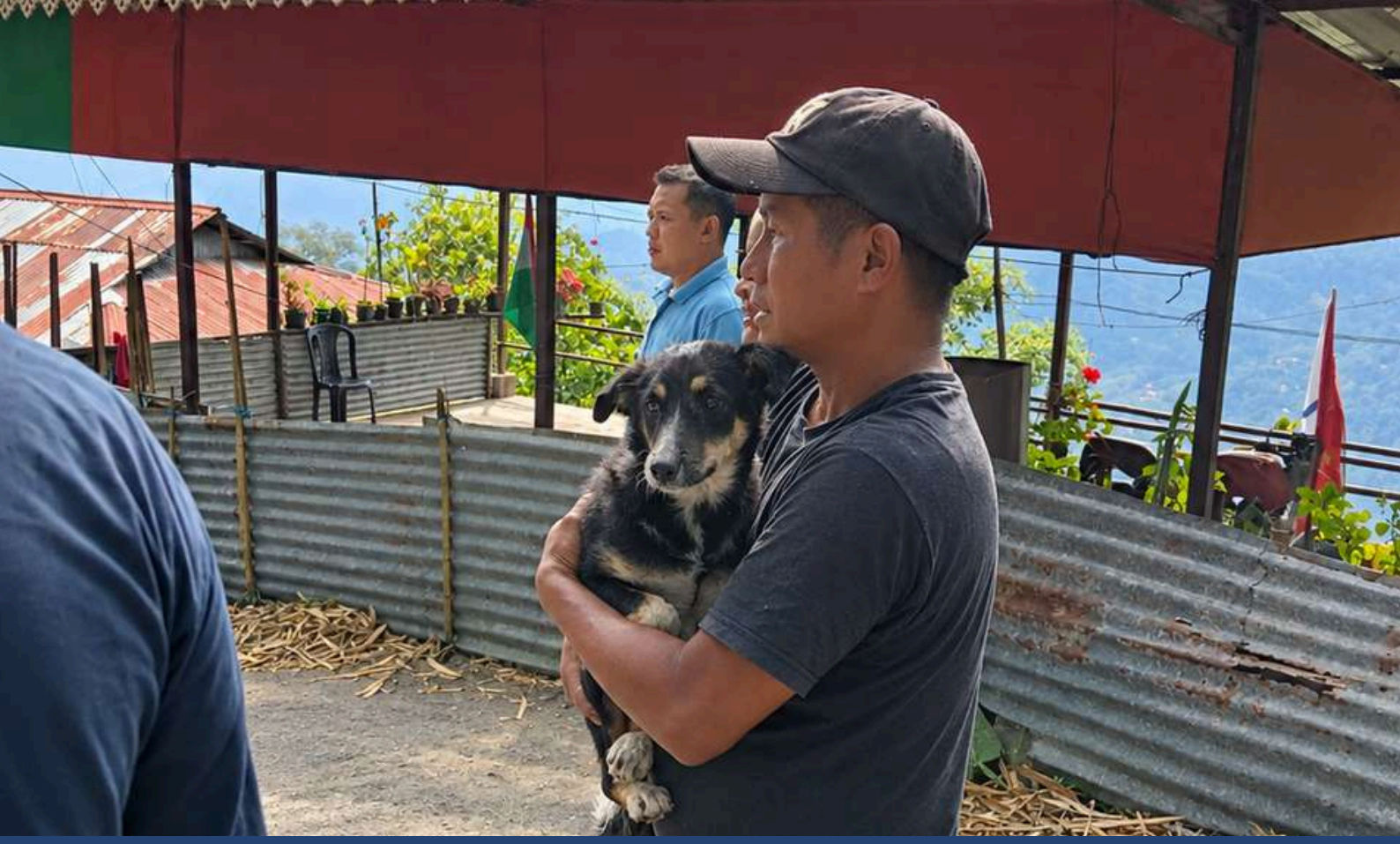


October marked the end of this year-long planning. As the mass continued to grow, surgery could no longer be delayed, but the patience and discipline of the past year paid off. Despite residual anesthetic risks, our team designed a tailored monitoring protocol to navigate the procedure safely. A pre-operative diagnostic X-ray proved vital—confirming that the tumor had not invaded underlying skeletal or soft-tissue structures, which paved the way for a swift, clean, and uncomplicated surgical resection.

Spaying and Neutering Has Become More Than Just a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) Intiative.

For years, Animal Birth Control programs in the hills have often been viewed as a standard operational routine—a cycle of trap, neuter, release, and numbers on a tally sheet. But this October, something fundamentally shifted.





October in Darjeeling is traditionally dominated by the grand celebrations of Dashain—our biggest festival—coupled with a peak tourist surge as visitors flood the region for a view of the Kanchenjunga range. Facing extended holidays, heavy traffic, and festive disruptions, our realistic expectation was to record the lowest sterilization numbers of the entire year.

What unfolded instead defied every assumption.







Sterilisation in our community is no longer just a shelter-driven directive; it has transformed into a shared community priority. Rather than stepping back during the holidays, local residents actively stepped forward—bringing community dogs directly to our clinic and taking the lead to organize local sterilization drives themselves.







Beyond Numbers: The Lamahatta Community Initiative

Reaching 100 sterilizations during the height of Dashain is more than just a statistical achievement for our team—it is proof of a lasting mindset change.

A powerful example of this shift took place in Lamahatta, a well-known tourist destination. Even amidst the peak holiday bustle, the locals came together to organize a dedicated ABC camp. For them, this wasn't about routine population control; it was about compassionate care—ensuring their local community dogs can live healthier, happier lives, free from the exhaustion, health risks, and stress of continuous seasonal pregnancies and weaning.

Inspiring the Next Generation: St Joseph's College Zoology Department Visit & Rabies Awareness



Our impactful year-round performance and relentless field operations have not gone unnoticed. From complex surgical interventions to round-the-clock emergency triage, the constant sight of our Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS) rescue vehicle tirelessly making its rounds past local educational hubs has inspired many in our academic community.

Recognizing our visible dedication on the streets of Darjeeling, a passionate group of female students from the Department of Zoology, North Point College/ St Joseph's College reached out to us for a guided tour of our shelter facilities.





Impressed by the scale and standard of our daily operations, the students requested Darjeeling Animal Shelter to host their department's inaugural programme. Beyond a standard tour, these young scholars expressed a strong desire to actively contribute to public health and animal welfare by immersing themselves in Rabies Awareness Initiatives—a core campaign hosted by DAS in collaboration with Mission Rabies.

SHELTER ACTIVITIES

Abandonment & Adoption Tides

October marked the peak of abandoned puppies in our town, bringing a demanding wave of rescues and adoptions simultaneously. While we love being a part of these adoption journeys, our hearts ache every time we bring in the tiniest pups, abandoned and detached from their weaning mothers.
Against the odds, our shelter successfully weaned six puppies from just 10 days old. We have walked a long journey with them all the way to their adoptions.





ECHOES OF KINDNESS

Every little grain of rice, every rucksack, and every small shift towards an animal-loving mindset contributes immensely to our shelter. A single phone call saying, "The dog is injured," matters just as much to us as a donated sack of rice.

We are incredibly grateful to every small contributor in this society, where the voice for the voiceless is already at its lowest decibel

