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**“Happy dogs, happy people
Healthy dogs, healthy people”**

An Effective and Humane Method of Animal Birth Control
and Godawari & Badikhel VDC, Lalitpur, Nepal

animalNEPAL.org

HART[®]
Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust

Project in brief

NAME OF THE PROJECT:	CATCH NEUTER VACCINATE RELEASE & MONITOR (CNVR-M) PROGRAMME
PROJECT AREA:	GODAWARI & BADIKHEL VDC LALITPUR, NEPAL
DURATION OF THE CNVR:	17-23 November, 2012 (5 days)
NO. OF DOG SPAYED:	118 (FEMALE: 94 & MALE: 24)
OBJECTIVE OF PROGRAMME:	TO CONTROL STRAY DOGS POPULATION AND ERADICATE RABIES
NO. OF ORGANIZATIONS:	ANIMAL NEPAL & HART
NO. OF VET DOCTOR:	6 (AN=3, HART: 3)
NO. OF VET ASSISTANT:	6 (AN=2, HART:4)
NO OF DOG CATCHER AND HANDLERS:	3 (AN=2, HART:1)
CARE TAKERS	2
VOLUNTEER	6 (VET STUDENTS)
TOTAL BUDGET	NRs. 1,360,30.24





Summary

118 dogs 'fixed'; 5 sick dogs rescued; many more treated: hundreds of pet owners and community members educated. Those were among the outcomes of a Catch Neuter Vaccinate Release and Monitor (CNVR-M) camp organised by Animal Nepal, in cooperation of Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust (HART), in Badikhel and Godavari.

Badikhel and Godavari, like most other settlements in Nepal, suffer from an overpopulation of dogs. Local canines tend to suffer from skin problems and traffic injuries, while people often have a fear of rabies.

The staff of the two organisations worked very hard to improve the conditions of both dogs and people in the villages. The team was supported by UK veterinarians Dr Russell Lyon and Frances Coles and a number of Nepalese volunteer paravets and vet students.

Animal Nepal and HART sterilized and vaccinated 94 females and neutered 24 males.

The surgery was conducted in four tents which were put up in the compound of Animal Nepal's Donkey Sanctuary. Animal Nepal would like to thank its donors Brigitte Bardot Foundation, Mayhew International and Humane Society International as well as the HART team, the volunteers and everyone else who contributed to the success of the camp.





Background

Godavari and Badikhel are located at 12-14 km south of Patan, in Lalitpur district. The community shares a concern for stray dogs, and Animal Nepal receives regular phone calls from the area to request help for sick, injured and/or aggressive dogs. Apart from an overwhelming presence of dogs with skin problems and parasite infections, the local dogs tend to suffer from accidents due to the presence of a busy road leading to the villages. Fear of rabies has also bred short-term, misinformed responses. All these factors and more have fed a complex serious stray dog problem, which is more than ready for a humane and long-term solution.

The area is part of Animal Nepal's working area and the location of its Donkey Sanctuary. The organization felt that Godavari and Badhikhel have ideal conditions for a large scale CNVR camp, in which female dogs are spayed and vaccinated, and released the next day. Due to religious beliefs most locals consider it sinful to hurt dogs and beneficial to feed and treat them. The area has various schools, active business entrepreneurs, and youth and women's groups, who can be mobilized for financial support and volunteering.

Animal Nepal teamed up with HART to conduct a large scale CNVR and treatment camp in the period 17-23 November 2012.

Objective

- The objective of CNVR-M cum rabies vaccination programmes is to reduce the stray dog population and to control rabies with community involvement and support

Benefits of CNVR-M

The benefits of CNVR-M are cost effectiveness, close collaboration with communities, visibility, and reduced stress for the dogs. A new group wanting to start ABC does not need to have initial capital to build shelters and hospitals that have high maintenance cost whether in use or not. Instead, the funds can be used more efficiently in good quality equipment (instruments, autoclave, and truck for dog transport), materials, and medicine and in having the team sufficiently trained to be able to perform well. Everything that is needed for the operation can be transported by a pick-up and a temporary field surgery unit can be established in the community.

Ideally local government bodies or organisations provide any old building, shelter, tent, etc with electricity and access to water. Transporting dogs becomes much easier when they are operated in the same neighborhood and the community becomes involved in the work as they see it. A larger number of dogs can be operated per day depending the number and experience of the vets in a team.

Steps in CNVR-M

- Public Relations and Social Mobilisation
- General Survey & Information Camp
- School Visit Programme
- Preparation of camp area
- Animal Nepal & HART Nepal discussion meeting
- Catching
- Transportation
- Tranquilization & General Anesthesia
- Procedure-
- Post-operative care
- Release
- Monitoring

Public Relations and Community Mobilisation

It is very important component to establish and develop good relationships with local stakeholders and local community. We visited to the Badikhel and Namuma VDC and meet the VDC secretary to arrange a meeting with local stakeholders. The VDCs organised a get together

with political party representatives, village leaders and social workers. They appreciate our works and welcome us to organise the camp. We received the authority from both VDCs, clubs and local people.

General Survey & Information Camp

Due to the dog population dynamics it is essential that minimum 70% of the dogs in a particular geographic area are spayed to reduce the population. For establishing the required number, a dog survey is essential. Together with community members we prepare a rough map of the area and select one Ward within the VDC (there are nine Wards). During the survey we count 30 dogs (19 male dogs and 11 female) in Namuna Godawari VDC) and 26 dogs (16 male and 10 female) in Badikhel VDC. If calculated roughly, the total number of dogs in Numuna Godawari VDC is 270 whereas Badikhel VDC has 234 dogs.

Next we conducted an information camp in which we provide leaflets and banners and give information about the camp, venue and date.

School Visit Programme

Schools are an important entry point where we can distribute programme details and promote volunteer support. Most students have a good relationship with dogs and they take care of their animals. We selected three schools for orientation classes: Kitney High School, St. Xaviers School and Crescent Academy. The students enjoy the programme and express a desire to join as a volunteer.

Preparation of Camp area

The venue, the compound of the Donkey Sanctuary, was very rough, so we did some leveling and disinfected the whole compound. We fit the tents and prepare a night shelter.



Animal Nepal & HART Nepal discussion meeting

During a joint preparation meeting we decide that the veterinary (AN & HART) team focus on medicine, surgical equipment other surgical works and the joint management team will focus on dog catching, feeding, release, post-operative care and public relations.

Catching & Transporting

94 female dogs and 24 male dogs are caught from a previously identified area by using nets or trap cages and community helps. We learn how to catch the dogs by follow up “learning by doing” catch and transport the dogs. The sex, color and approximate weight and age are noted down as well as the area of catching. Dogs are taken to preparation room. We hire the small types of vehicle because animal Nepal has no proper ambulance and HART Nepal has their own vehicle for transportation or rescue animals.

Tranquilization & General Anesthesia-

After the catching the dogs we keep in shade and then prepare for the operation and trained people doing tranquilized with *Atropine sulphate* & after 10 minutes they are given general anesthesia with the combination of *Xylazine & Ketamine*.

Procedure

Ovarohysterectomy - Right flank of the female animal is prepared for surgery after shaving and antiseptic scrubbing. After completion of spaying the suture line is dressed and dogs are housed inside the donkey sanctuary for monitoring during the night.

Release & Post-operative care

Dogs are examined for any post-operative complication and receive rabies vaccination. They are released from the area where they were picked up.

Monitoring

During ongoing monitoring for 3 days we find that most wounds have healed. However, a few wounds have opened up, which are treated by Animal Nepal vets. It was found that many of the dogs seemed very happy and were found frolicking in nearby fields and open spaces.

Challenges

- Hygiene inside CNVR-M compound
- Cold temperatures at night

- Sleeping arrangements for team members
- Dissemination of pet education information to pet owners (due to lack of time)
- Media exposure

Conclusion

The joint venture programme was very successful and the two teams worked hard to spay and neuter 118 dogs within 7 days. We would like to thank the HART Nepal, the Animal Nepal team members, volunteers, local clubs and community members.

Acknowledgements

1. HART team with Jim Pearson and Barbara Webb
2. Donkey Sanctuary (Animal Nepal)
3. Village Development Committee Godawari & Badikhel
4. Dr. Russel Lyon (UK)
5. Dr. Frances Cole (UK)
6. Tulsi Pandey (HICAST Internee)
7. Vijay Adhikari (HICAST Internee)
8. Sagar Dai (Driver)