



The KAT Times

Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre's Newsletter

Issue # 1
November 2004

Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT Centre) was first conceived after Jan Salter, the founder of KAT, went to visit 'Help in Suffering' (HIS) in Jaipur, India. Impressed with the way HIS had managed the difficult dog problem in Jaipur by implementing Animal Birth Control and Anti-rabies programmes, creating a rabies free dog friendly city, Jan came back to Nepal convinced that what had been achieved in Jaipur could also be done in Kathmandu. (Jaipur is approximately the same size as Kathmandu).



KAT Centre



KAT's Patron, Dr Charlotte Uhlenbroek, with Jumlee

Thousands of dogs are being poisoned in Kathmandu every year and if there is a proven, successful alternative, approved by the World Health Organisation - then it should be implemented. This will bring about '**HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF STREET DOGS FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT**'.

After a long string of fortunate chance meetings with like-minded people, including Dr Charlotte Uhlenbroek, Biologist and BBC TV presenter, Kathmandu's first Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme for dogs came into being, with an invited and eminent Nepali Board.

BEFORE THE OPENING DAY

In the days running up to KAT's Opening Day, our Patron, **Charlotte**, and her partner, Dan, were busy making a video film about the problems of the Kathmandu dog population. Charlotte had lived in Kathmandu as a child and knew the city well. The video explains clearly and professionally, the aims and objectives of KAT. (*This video can be bought from KAT centre.*)

In a pleasant area on the northern side of city, land was leased. Under the watchful eye of **Laxmi Sharma**, an active board member, 18 kennels, an operating theatre, office and such like were built. (Laxmi has had a lot of experience in construction of temporary buildings through TV and film-set contracts.)

All this activity led up to the **GRAND OPENING ON MAY 9th, 2004**, when a large crowd of well-wishers gathered at

Chapali Gaon, Budanilkantha, for the inauguration of the KAT Centre – operating Nepal's first Animal Birth Control programme for dogs.



Laxmi with Ani Choying and Mr Sthapit

The Mayor of Kathmandu, **Kasab Sthabpit**, officially opened the Centre and was to become an enthusiastic supporter of KAT. It was a beautiful day, and again thanks are due to Laxmi Sharma for organising such a colourful event. The ceremony went off in a relaxed and enjoyable mood with **Hari Bansya Achariya**, Chairman of KAT and well known comedian entertaining the crowd by his rendering of a dog squabble.

In turn, Charlotte gave her interpretation of a monkey. On a more serious note, we were graced by the splendid and poignant singing of Ani Choying Dolma.

The video was shown continuously throughout the afternoon and Mango, our mascot, mingled contentedly with the crowd. This canny little canine was seen watching himself on the video, with what appeared to be great interest. (You will read his story a little later.)

KAT extends grateful thanks to all the participants and those who came along to our opening event. A grand total of Rupees 76,100 (around £640) was raised from membership and from donations towards the Centre's future work.

We are also most grateful to our Volunteers, Stuty and Akrity, who worked so hard on that opening day, and to Nickolas for his help with the book-keeping after the event.

Our sincere thanks to you all!

TRAINERS FROM JAIPUR

Among the audience on the opening day was **Jack Reece** the vet from `Help in Suffering` (HIS). With Jack was his assistant, Mukesh. They had travelled over-land from Jaipur to be with us and to give the training needed to begin the ABC programme in Nepal.

Jack and Mukesh stayed in Kathmandu for two weeks to give our staff the benefit of their expertise. Despite a five-day `band` (transport and shop strike) during their stay, they walked to the centre every day, a considerable number of miles, especially in the mid-summer heat. Nothing stopped the training. Their mission was strong and very necessary for KAT's future success.

TYPICAL DOG CATCHING DAY FOR 'THE TARA TEAM'

The day starts early for the `The Tara Team`. At 5am they are on the road making their catch. Leaflets explaining our work are distributed at both catching and releasing times. When people have begun to understand our programme, local response has been welcoming. At first they show astonishment, but then often help us to catch the dogs and later greet them back on their return. (Initially there were a couple of incidents in Thamel, when our staff were actually attacked by irate members of the public who mistakenly thought the KAT team were municipality workers coming to poison the dogs. That misunderstanding was quickly cleared up and our vehicle is now met with big smiles.)

Some dogs are easy, and after a tempting biscuit they can be picked up with ease. Others are caught with the sack method, causing no harm to the dog but this needs careful teamwork. The animal is then carried to the waiting van. Roughly six or seven dogs are caught each alternate day.

On arrival at the centre, the dogs are placed in individual kennels and allowed to settle to alleviate stress. During this settling period they are checked for any sickness. If all is well, they are spayed the following day. Ears are notched and tattooed, and a coloured collar placed around the neck for easy identification later.

Each day after the operation they are individually assessed for healing and recovery. Each dog is vaccinated against rabies and treated for any other problems such as scabies, worm infestation, fleas and other parasites. Normally, if all is well, after four or five days the dog is released back into the area where it was found. This important information is carefully monitored on each dog's file. No dog goes back until it is considered fit to cope with street life. Normally, between 75 and 80 dogs go through the programme each month. The total inclusive cost of spaying a female is 1,000 rupees (about £8.40) At the time of going to print, 430 female dogs have been spayed.

MEET THE STAFF OF KAT



Manager, Khageshwar Sharma, was previously, for 5 years, manager of the Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter in Kalimpong, the sister organisation of `HIS` Jaipur.

Veterinarian, Dr Bhai Chand Jha, trained in Bangladesh, with further thorough training in side-flank spaying operations at Help in Suffering in Jaipur .

`The Tara Team` is the team of people that goes out in the community to catch the dogs and bring them along to the Centre for treatment. It was set up with funds donated to KAT by Ani Choeling (fondly known as the singing nun) on behalf of the Tara Project.

Dog Handler/Technician, Bharat Timsima, trained under Jack and Mukesh. Bharat came to us with no professional experience but through his quiet caring attitude towards the dogs in our care, he has gained respect and recognition for his work by all the staff and volunteers. He lives with his family in the Centre and is on duty 24 hours a day!

Our **Driver** and newest team member is **Bal Krishna**, who has proved to be a capable caring driver. He is quiet, efficient and a good handler of dogs.

Municipality dog catchers, Ramal and Rajendra, went through training. When catching dogs they show considerable skill and bravery, combined with compassion, under sometimes difficult circumstances.

So, now that you've met our staff, perhaps you'd like to know more about how they work...

INTO THE BREACH...

During almost all of August and much of September, when the `Tara Team` was in need of a driver, our intrepid volunteer, Linda Sherpa, who hails from Yorkshire, England, got up each morning before 5am to assist and drive. She says, she enjoyed it!

The Kathmandu Municipality have shown their strong support for our programme by donating 1 lakh rupees (£840 approx.) towards vaccines and medicines. They have also designated two staff members.

We are getting an increasing amount of calls to rescue dogs that have been involved in accidents or have been mistreated. We try to answer all these appeals. This is another aspect of our work that needs serious attention – there are so many it is very distressing.

OUR 'HOUSE DOGS'

Although KAT Centre is not a 'dog-shelter' at this stage, we have acquired a number of in-house dogs.

MANGO, was spotted in the appalling state by our founder, Jan. He was outside her home at the very time KAT was under construction. Today you can meet Mango at our Centre.

Mango before treatment



Mango as he is now



Yes, it is difficult to believe he is the same dog. Mango is now our mascot.

GRANNY

Having undergone her operation, Granny had been returned to the area where caught. Later she was spotted being chased by local dogs, far up the road between where she had been released and KAT Centre. She was clearly trying to get back to us. Again she was returned to her old haunt, but when dropped off she howled so loudly in protest that we decided we could not ignore this determined old lady. Granny, who is now fading, will see out her last days with us at the centre, lying in the sun.

SPIDER

This tiny ill-treated terrified skinny little thing could not be returned to the street in the condition she was in. So with us she will stay until perhaps some kind person will give her a home. Slowly her tail is starting to wag.



KAT and its Board Members would like to thank all those who have contributed to our success by providing membership, sponsorship and donation...

Sponsoring a kennel



The British School (Helen & Roger Palmer)

Mrs Raji Rana

Mrs Laxmi Sharma.

Ms Linda Sherpa

The Nepal Kennel Club (Mr Jay Singh, President)

Ms S Russell & Ms F Hitchens

Fire and Ice

Ellen Wiesenfeld

Rupy's International School

Calder Valley Support Group

Many thanks to:

Ani Choying who with 'The Tara Project' has sponsored salaries, vehicle running costs and maintenance for KAT's 'Tara Team' for this year.

Linda Sherpa for purchase of staff uniforms and work clothing.

Ang Diku Sherpa for an answering machine – so we are now able to respond to calls.

Kanak Mani Dixit for providing the printing of the brochure.

And to so many more, including Sapana, Nerina, Karnika and Shiksha who did a fantastic job on 'World Animal Day' energetically selling over 100 KAT t-shirts in Thamel.



Selling T-shirts on World Animal Day

We would also like to mention our thanks to 'Blue Moon, Cold Store, Lazimpat, for keeping KAT regularly supplied with dog meat at a reasonable rate.

MORE 'THANKS'

A big 'thank you' to the following UK companies who have donated their products.

Ritchey Taggs of Rippon kindly donated the tattooing machine with medical ink/ numbers and letters, which is so important for identifying and keeping accurate records of dogs passing through the programme.

The UK's **Bayer plc** donated a quantity of sutures, anti-biotics and flea-drops., and has also recently donated Tracer Animal coder implants, which we will use in special cases for tracking dogs.

Pfizer has been most helpful with the donation of 'Stronghold', a product that has the ability to kill both fleas and roundworm, and it treats sarcoptic mange too.

The Body Shop has made a very generous donation towards the running costs of KAT for this year.

Humane Society International US Please see details of their important donation on the following page.

We would like to give special thanks to the **Calder Valley KAT Funding Group** for its enthusiastic hard work, in conducting practical fundraising events. This has given us so much valuable support.

Also thanks **Dr Tanya Carter** of Haberfield Veterinary Hospital, Sydney, Australia. For collecting donations via Mandy Lamkin.

We gratefully welcome on board **Juliette Cunliffe**, who recently became our UK Co-ordinator, working for KAT on a voluntary basis. She is our contact in England and has already generated substantial support from dog-lovers in the UK, many of whom are involved with breeds from the Himlayan regions.

Her contact e-mail address is juliette@dogphotos.co.uk

Tel: (0) 1691 610903

Fax: (0) 1691 610906

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

We have only been running approx 5 months, yet already the welcoming response shown to us proves that Kathmandu citizens feel it is high time this kind of programme was started.

To achieve our objective of controlling the large dog population of Kathmandu in a sustainable humane way, our programme needs urgently to be extended to other parts of the city. The current cost of running KAT at its present level is 80,000 rupees (£670 approx.) per month. So a lot more work has to be done. Plus a lot more fund raising.

This is only the humble beginning ...

With your help and co-operation we will achieve our aim and make Kathmandu an animal friendly city - and the horrendous poisoning will be a thing of the past.



Jan Salter, KAT's Founder

'HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL US' HELPS WITH VEHICLE FUNDING

KAT has purchased this second-hand vehicle in partnership with the Humane Society International US, which has made a very generous donation towards it. Because there is a 100% customs tax on almost every item coming into Nepal, the cost of vehicles is extremely expensive.

The vehicle is used for catching and releasing dogs and is so very necessary for the work done by KAT, in its endeavour to control Kathmandu's street dog population.



**For further information, please contact us at:
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Tel: 4373169
Email: katcentre@wlink.com.np
Website: www.katcentre.org.np



BANK DETAILS IN NEPAL

Account Name: Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre
Bank Name: Nepal Investment Bank Ltd.
Bank Address: Durbar Marg, Kathmandu
Account No: 2110340
Swift Code: NIBLNPKT

IN UK

Account Name: Kathmandu Animal Trust
Bank Name: HSBC
Bank Address: 7 Commercial Street, Halifax, W Yorks., HX1 1HN, UK
Account No: 61705539
Sort Code: 40-23-05

***All those involved with Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre
wish to thank you for your valuable support,
all of which helps to bring a wag to the tails of the dogs that need our help so
much,
and a smile to the faces of the Nepali people.
Together, let us create a city...***

