



Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre

Updates— August 2009

Humane management of street dogs for community benefit.

Dear Supporters of the Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre,

We would like to inform you about some of KAT's achievements since it first started in May 2004 and some plans for future work. Under the motto, "Humane Management of Street dogs for Community Benefit", KAT's main work has been to reduce the number of street dogs within its working area.



KAT is proud that over the past five years, with your support, its small but effective Centre has sterilized and vaccinated 6190 dogs. All told, this translates to preventing the birth of an estimated 70,000 puppies. This past year, KAT sterilized (on average) 135 dogs each month. The effect that these sterilisations have had is very noticeable within the community. Kathmandu's street dogs are now markedly fewer in number and the ones that are still on the streets are much healthier. The people of Kathmandu no longer consider stray dogs the danger they once did. The Kathmandu Municipality, who used to routinely poison dogs to keep this menace in check, has now abandoned this abominable practice. Now that the dogs are visibly healthier and that the fear of rabies has diminished, the community perceptibly give much more care and attention to street dogs. Concerned citizens routinely petition KAT to examine and remove dogs suspected to be rabid and to deal with and remove dogs considered dangerous.

Over the past 5 years KAT's rescue and treatment service has responded to well over 2000 emergency calls to minister to injured, sick and deceased dogs.

Slowly, the perception of the population at large is changing. This is the outcome not only of observations



on the part of concerned citizens but also of KAT's outreach programme that targets school-children and other groups, showing that there are humane solutions to controlling

the populations of street dogs. KAT has also received very favourable media attention and this has gone a long way to informing the public about its work. (See, *K9-Friendly communities come to the rescue as dogs languish in the streets* Nepali Times #460, July 17-23, 2009, *Managing street dogs the humane way* Republica May 19, 2009)

KAT is presently working in conjunction with the Kathmandu Municipality, the Veterinarian Public Health Office and National Zoonosis for Food Health Research Centre (NZFHRC), an alliance team, which is currently carrying out a mass rabies vaccination programme. This team, which is supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA), is targeting the vaccination of an estimated 10,000 dogs within the city of Kathmandu by the end of this year.



**For further information, please contact us at:
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