

# Community Dog Welfare Kopan

## Dog Days 2012

Last year was a time of consolidating community participation and expanding the shelter capacity. The Community Dog Health Programme in April/May extended to cover four wards of Kopan VDC, and an increasing number of dogs came in for care following accidents and abandonment during the year. Towards the end of the year we had many visitors, including Australian university student volunteers and visitors from Kopan Gumpa.

Assisting dogs in the community has been on-going with requests for de-worming, treatment and spaying throughout the year. Local people are positive about the programmes, noting that dogs are healthier, there is less fighting amongst males and there are fewer litters of unwanted puppies. However, lone puppies from elsewhere have been abandoned in the Kopan area or dropped at the shelter.



Simba arrives in the rain

- **The shelter facilities**
- **Community Dog Health Programme**
- **Rescue and recovery**
- **Adoption**
- **Hospice care and sponsorship**

## The Shelter Facilities

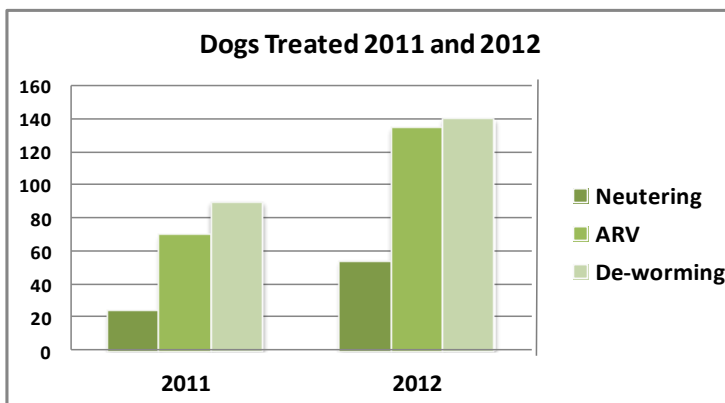


During January 2012 the shelter extension was completed on land next to the original area. We are grateful to Jay for leasing the land and to HAT UK for funding construction – a block and netting enclosure that provides a spacious area for the dogs to run free during the day and includes a second set of kennels and thatched shelter. Having the extension made it possible to take in 20 community dogs for post-op care during the dog health programme.

Our first task for 2013 is to carry out improvements to the original shelter. We are grateful to HAT UK for supporting this. Now under construction, there will be a small treatment room within the enclosure, extra kennel accommodation, improved kitchen and corrugated iron will replace the plastic roof over the kennels. A separate enclosure and kennel accommodation is being set up on the upper land area as an isolation unit.

## Community Dog Health Programme

The first programme was held in Wards 8 and 9 of Kopan VDC in 2011. In response to the request from Kopan VDC and the active participation of the local people, the programme expanded to include Wards 6 and 7 in 2012. During April - May the second programme took place, working with the local people to build awareness and demonstrate how dog welfare relates to the whole community. Many owned dogs are free-roaming along with the community dogs, and during the survey, it was found that of the “owned” dogs, many had actually come from the street and adopted families. De-worming, spaying and anti-rabies vaccination was provided for all dogs in the community. For a report on the 2012 Community Dog Health Programme, see our website [www.communitydogwelfarekopan.org](http://www.communitydogwelfarekopan.org). The chart below shows the numbers of dogs treated.



The programme was held in collaboration with Kopan VDC, Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust (HART), and Kathmandu Veterinary Clinic, supported by the Himalayan Animal Treatment Centre (HAT) UK. Student volunteers carried out a household survey to assess the dog population and demand for treatment. We are grateful to the Rabies Production Laboratory for supplying vaccine, and to everybody who volunteered their help during the programme. Above all, the success of the programme rests with the local people, including staff at the Police Training Post and monks and nuns at the monasteries who participated in the programme by bringing their own dogs and sponsoring dogs from around their compounds.



## Rescue and Recovery

The number of dogs in the shelter shows an upward trend from 11 in January to 21 at year end, an average of 16. Though concentrating on dogs in our working area of Kopan VDC, a number of dogs were brought in from elsewhere. And abandonment of both puppies and adult dogs from outside the area is on the rise. There were some remarkable recoveries, such as **Rikki** with malnutrition and tetanus, but also some sad departures.

### Rikki



During the monsoon, a number of accident cases were brought in, including three dogs with serious injuries that could not be saved. However **Bella** from Boudha, immobilised with a spinal injury, has recovered completely.

**Seti**, brought to the clinic by children from an orphanage, was disabled by injury to both forelegs in a motor cycle accident. A spirited and affectionate dog, she also has made a remarkable recovery, regaining full use of both legs, despite losing some bones from one foot.



As winter set in, three abandoned Tibetan Mastiffs turned up in the Paika area. **Dorje** was treated for mange and now lives near Ani Gompa where he is fed by the local people. **Tsimbi**, taken in by Lama Lundhup at Shyalpa Gompa, is recovering from malnutrition and mange. Another **Dorje** came into the shelter suffering from starvation, dehydration and a leg wound. He improves steadily.



A number of dogs with CTVT, some brought in from outside the Kopan area, have been treated successfully through chemotherapy followed by spaying.



Khairi has chemotherapy



Dorje



Jivan

An exceptional case of abuse was encountered mid-year near Tenzing Chowk. **Jivan** was brought to our attention, and named, by a young student who helped take him to the clinic where Drs Ghimire and Gautam did their best to save him. But after two weeks of intensive care, Jivan succumbed to deliberate acid burns over his shoulders and forelegs. With increasing awareness of animal welfare in the community, we hope that such atrocities will not occur in the future.

## Adoption

Recently three dogs have been adopted. Patch went to a family in Boudha, Tommy and Rikki to neighbouring families in Payutar. Two more are about to leave for new homes. Miriam met Trunte, abandoned on the road ----- Trunte will soon be on her way to Copenhagen.

Re-homing rescued dogs is one of our main challenges – we have several healthy dogs waiting for committed homes. Please let us know if you would like to adopt a dog.



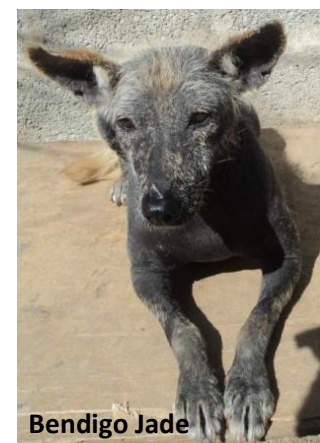
## Hospice Care and Sponsorship

Following her sponsorship of **Suri** last year, Bernie has taken on the sponsorship of more aged and abandoned dogs to receive care and treatment, to save them from struggling to survive, and from dying on the street. An old dog who came in during the health programme was found to be unfit for spaying. **Daisy** picked up and had several good months before succumbing to lymphoma late December.



**Krishna** responded well to chemotherapy for recurring tumours. Roaming free outside the shelter by day, he enjoys lying in the sun, patrolling the area and woofing at visitors. Krishna is biding his time. His appetite and spirit keep him going.

**Jade** is a gentle, sweet- natured dog who came from Kalimati, in poor condition and with severe mange. She has regained health but is an older dog and her coat is not likely to return completely, so she will not to go back on the street. When Julie visited from Australia, she fell in love with Jade and decided to sponsor her.





A highlight of the year was a visit from a group of Latrobe University students from Melbourne, two of whom volunteered to design and set up our website. A special thank you to Maddi and Skip, and to Isabel for making it possible through her Rotary volunteer programme. The website is now up and running at [www.communitydogwelfarekopan.org](http://www.communitydogwelfarekopan.org)

We appreciate the care and support provided by Dr Gautam and Dr Ghimire of the Kathmandu Veterinary Clinic, as well as the dedication of our staff.

We are very grateful to everybody who has supported Community Dog Welfare Kopan through their donations, dog sponsorship, time spent with the dogs, encouragement and goodwill.

*Developing community awareness and responsibility for dog welfare*

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