

Community Dog Health Programme Kapan VDC



2013



Community
Dog Welfare
Kapan

HART
Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust



Community Dog Health Programme 2013

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Community Dog Health Programme Kapan 2013

Summary

The Community Dog Health Programme aims to improve dog health, control rabies, manage the dog population and promote a healthy safe environment for the community. The overall goal is to develop awareness and responsibility, on the part of both the community and local government, for the management and well-being of owned and community dogs throughout Kapan VDC.

The third phase of the programme took place in April 2013. Working with the local people in collaboration with Kapan VDC and the Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust (HART), the programme extended from Wards 6,7, 8 and 9 covered last year, to include Ward 2. An awareness campaign and household survey informed the community and gave people the opportunity to register their dogs for treatment. All community dogs were recorded and females identified for spaying.

The local people brought in 180 dogs for de-worming. The HART veterinary team carried out 47 operations in a field clinic in Payutar, Kapan 8. Post operation monitoring and medication was carried out by HART and Community Dog Welfare. This year local government took on responsibility for ant-rabies vaccination. 195 dogs were vaccinated by veterinary staff from the District Livestock Office with vaccine provided by Kapan VDC.

1. Introduction

Dogs play a significant role in the community. Whether as pets, companions, guards, community or stray dogs, they are here because of the human population. Dogs and people interact and depend upon each other, therefore it is meaningful that health programmes for dogs be carried out alongside those for people. We have a shared responsibility for the health and welfare of the dogs that live in our community. In this area many of the owned dogs have come from the street, and continue to be free-roaming in their adopted localities, along with the community/street dogs. Of the total dog population, more than 50% are free-roaming. Ownership is not always clear, but rather an ongoing process of strays becoming community and owned dogs.

Following last year's programme in Wards 6, 7, 8 and 9, the VDC requested that the programme be extended to Ward 2 this year, the plan being to progressively add wards each year in order to cover the whole of Kapan VDC. In collaboration with HART, the VDC and the District Livestock Office, and supported by HAT (UK), the third phase of the programme was held in April 2013, working with the local people to build awareness and demonstrate how dog welfare involves the whole community.

The programme included an awareness campaign, household survey, de-worming, sterilisation operations, post surgery monitoring and anti-rabies vaccination. At each venue, display boards with photos from the previous years' programmes were set up as a focus of interest for the community.

2. Goal of the Programme

The goal is to develop awareness and responsibility on the part of both the community and local government authorities, for the management and welfare of all dogs throughout Kapan VDC.

3. Aims

To improve dog health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a welfare issue, spaying prevents uterine/ovarian infections/cancer, prevents transfer of CTVT Regular de-worming promotes dog health
To manage the dog population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spaying is a humane way of managing the dog population, as opposed to the cruelty of poisoning Fewer unwanted litters
To control rabies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual vaccination protects people, dogs and livestock from contracting rabies
To promote a healthier, safer community environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having healthy well cared for animals benefits the whole community

4. Programme Location

The programme, based in Payutar, covered Wards 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Kapan VDC (**Figure 1**).

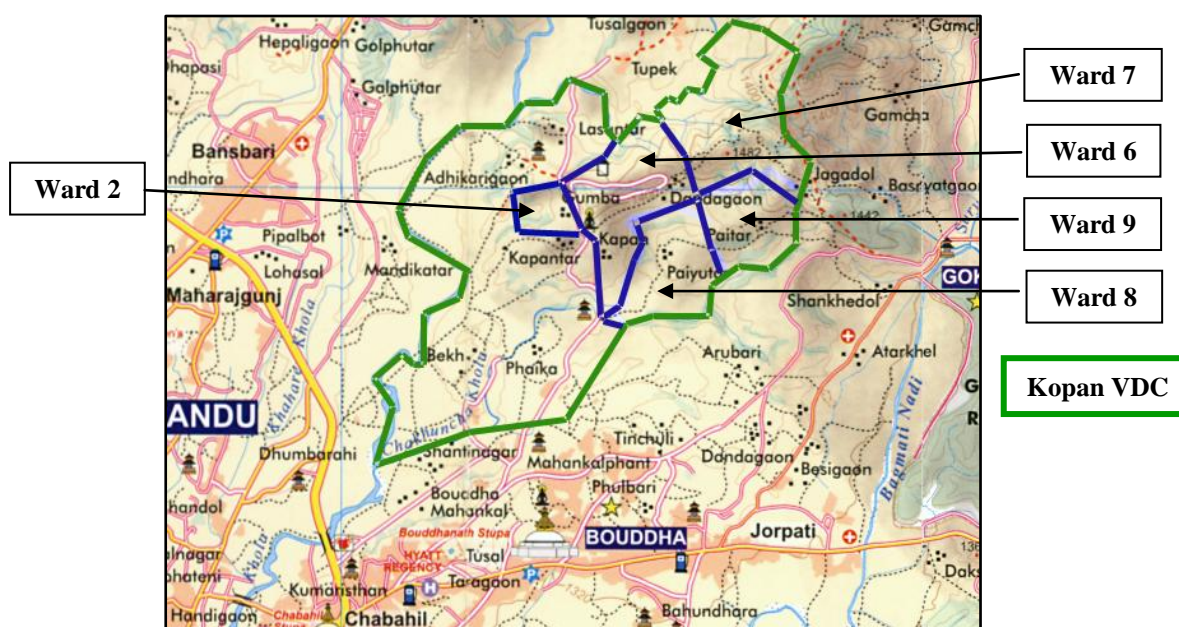


Figure 1: Programme Location

5. Activities

A programme plan was prepared as a guide to carrying out the activities (**Annex 1**).

5.1 Awareness Campaign

The programme proposal was presented to Kapan VDC. Meetings were held with VDC officials throughout the planning stage, to request permission to hold the programme and to enlist their support. Preliminary reconnaissance of the new Ward 2 established the boundaries. Key people were met at the monasteries to inform them about the programme and invite them to participate again. Information leaflets and posters were displayed at key locations in the programme area, including the VDC office, schools and tea shops (**Annex 2**). Banners were prepared to announce the programme (**Annex 2**). The VDC put out announcements on local radio and the Kapan website, and a radio interview was broadcast.

5.2 Household Survey

The purpose of the survey was to assess the total dog population and demand for de-worming, spaying and anti-rabies vaccination. The programme area was demarcated on a Google Earth base map (**Annex 3**). Each ward was subdivided into survey units based on settlement distribution.

The VDC arranged a team of 30 Class 9 student volunteers from the two government schools, Shree Yagyamati Secondary School in Payutar and Shree Gram Shichya Mandir High School in Kapan 6, to carry out a survey of the dog-owning households (Photos page 9).

During a briefing session at each school two days prior to the survey, the HART film, Hamro Ramro Sathi, was shown and the purpose of the programme explained. The Household Questionnaire (**Annex 4**) was discussed with the help of teachers and a VDC official.

The programme schedule (**Annex 2**) was distributed during the survey, and households requesting operations were subsequently phoned to arrange appointment times. Volunteers assisted with debriefing and compilation of the data.

The survey results are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Survey Results

Ward	Houses w dogs	Owned Dogs									Street Dogs		
		M	F	Total	Free roam	F Spayed	Treatment Requested				M	F	Total
							DW	Spay	Neuter	ARV			
2	28	24	17	41	11	4	24	11	3	25	4	4	8
6	36	23	15	38	11	5	32	9	10	33	1	3	4
7													
8	78	55	34	89	46	19	76	10	6	79	8	2	10
9	35	24	22	46	29	6	45	9	2	36	3		3
Totals	177	126	88	214	97	34	177	39	21	173	16	9	25

* "Free" refers to owned dogs that are free at any time. (All community/street dogs are free roaming)

DW: De-worming

ARV: Anti-rabies vaccination

5.3 Focus Group Discussions 6 – 10 April

Community members helped record each cluster of community dogs and identified females to be spayed. (Focus Group Discussion **Annex 5**).

Discussing the perceived problems and advantages of these dogs, it was found that in this semi-rural situation, community dogs are generally regarded positively. Many strays have been accepted into the community as community dogs and owned dogs.

5.4 De-worming 13 April

The de-worming component was carried out in two locations: Payutar, Kapan 8 (9 - 12 noon) and Baglamukhi Mandir, Kapan 2 (3 – 5 pm) (Photos page 9). Volunteers helped with setting up, dog handling and registration. The community dogs not brought in were de-wormed on the street.

A total of 180 dogs were de-wormed.

A charge of Rs 50 was made for all owned dogs. People were encouraged to continue regular de-worming and were informed that the medicine would be available in Payutar.

Table 2. De-worming

Gender	Payutar	Baglamukhi	Total
Male	83	14	97
Female	78	5	83
Total	161	19	180

5.5 Spaying 17 -19 April

The HART veterinary team conducted a three-day programme in Payutar. The operations took place in a field clinic comprising registration area, preparation tent, two surgery tents and post operation recovery tent, set up in a shaded field (Photos page 10).

Community dogs were brought in the evening before the operation to be held in the Community Dog Welfare shelter, while owned dogs were brought in at appointed times each day. Kopan and Ani Gompa brought in their owned dogs and also sponsored operations and treatment for community dogs in and around their compounds, monks bringing the dogs in and taking responsibility for after care.

All dogs were registered and went through a health check before surgery. Owners were required to sign an indemnity statement, and were given a certificate and instructions on after-care. Dogs were generally healthy and all were fit for operation. Two older street dogs in poor condition with mange were spayed and retained in the shelter for treatment and good nutrition. One of these may stay on under hospice care. This year there were no dogs with CTVT and none were pregnant. One owned dog that was spayed had a non TVT tumour, to be attended to later.

Forty-seven dogs were operated on, 39 females and 8 males (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Operations Performed

Gender	Owned	Street	Total
Male	7	1	8
Female	27	12	39
Total	34	13	47

After surgery, the dogs were supervised in the recovery tent by owners and volunteers then checked by HART staff before returning home. The 13 community/street dogs were held in the shelter for post-operation care.

5.6 Post-operation Monitoring & Treatment

Monitoring was carried out for three days by a HART veterinary technician and assistant, together with Community Dog Welfare (Photos page 11).

The 13 community dogs retained in the shelter recovered with no problems, except for one whose sutures opened four days after surgery. Six of the 34 dogs returned directly, including three males, required medical attention – anti inflammatory injections and topical treatment for redness and swelling. Antibiotic was given to one female who developed infection.

5.7 Anti-rabies Vaccination 27 April

Using vaccine supplied by the VDC, three staff members from the District Livestock Office vaccinated 195 dogs (**Table 4**). Vaccination took place in two locations, Payutar, Kapan 8 (9 -12 noon), and Baglamukhi Mandir, Kapan 2 (3 – 5 pm). Volunteers helped set up the two sites and register the dogs. All owners and caretakers of community dogs received record cards for vaccination and de-worming.

Table 4. Anti-rabies Vaccination

Gender	Payutar	Baglamukhi	Total
Male	84	27	111
Female	72	12	84
Total	156	39	195

5.8 Programme Results 2011, 2012, 2013

The following bar chart summarises the numbers of dogs de-wormed, neutered and vaccinated during the three phases of the programme to date (**Figure 2**).

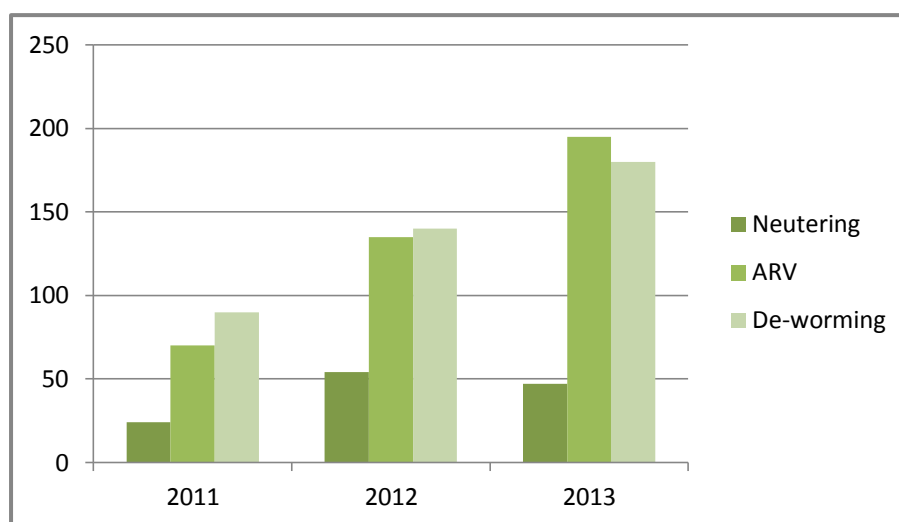


Figure 2. Dogs Treated Phases 1, 2 and 3

6. Analysis

6.1 How useful was the survey?

The VDC helped arrange volunteer students but it was unfortunate that Class 10 students were not available as expected. As there were no students from Ward 7, and given the sparse settlement and small number of dogs there, Ward 7 was not surveyed this year. Although the aim was to record all dogs in the programme area, data collection was incomplete. The survey played a role in awareness building and provided indicative numbers, but the results could not be used to calculate the percentages of dogs actually treated.

Another factor affecting the survey results, and contributing to the more reliable returns from Wards 8 and 9, was the level of community awareness. After two rounds of the programme, people in Wards 8 and 9 were already anticipating the programme, understood the purpose of the survey and provided clear responses to the questions.

Despite the limitations of the survey, the household interview did serve to build awareness as many non-interviewed households showed up with their dogs. And the interview gave people the opportunity to consider and decide whether they wanted their dogs treated. Some needed to consult with family members before giving their response.

In contrast to last year, when the number of requests for treatment during the survey was higher than the number of dogs that actually came in, this year more dogs came in for each part of the programme than were recorded during the survey, suggesting that there is increasing awareness in the community.

6.2 How successful was the programme?

The purpose of the community approach is to improve the health and well-being of *all* dogs in the community. Having separate days for de-worming, spaying and vaccination means all dogs have the opportunity to be de-wormed and vaccinated. And taking on the character of community social events, the treatment days encourage awareness and responsibility.

De-worming

The higher turnout for de-worming this year, and requests for de-worming throughout the year, suggest that there is increasing awareness on the part of the people regarding dog health. And now dogs that missed the de-worming day have been coming in for treatment, their owners having observed their condition and poor appetite.

Spaying

After the 2012 programme, 64% of the females had been spayed. Although it is not possible to calculate the percentage of females spayed this year, the total number of 102 spayed over the three phases is significant. People have commented positively on there being no puppies in the Payutar area this past year and the noticeable reduction in male fighting during the mating season (no local dogs required treatment for injuries and maggoty wounds resulting from fighting during the past two years). Talking with the people, and given their level of participation, it is evident that there is awareness of the benefits of having their dogs spayed.

Vaccination - Role of the VDC

The VDC followed through with their proposal to take over the anti-rabies vaccination by supplying vaccine and arranging DLSO veterinary staff to administer it. This is an encouraging step towards local government assuming responsibility for the control of rabies.

With ongoing commitment to annual programmes to ensure consistent repeat vaccination for as many dogs as possible, it is hoped that Kapan VDC will be protected and continue to be rabies free. As the first VDC in Nepal to take on this responsibility, Kapan could lead the way for other VDCs to protect communities - people, dogs and livestock - from the risk of rabies. With government policy allocating 15% of the budget to agriculture, *i.e.* including animals, theoretically there is funding available for this work.

A total of 195 dogs were vaccinated, 40% more than last year, despite the low turnout from Ward 2. The number of dogs from the previous four wards increased by 30% this year with many new dogs (*i.e.* newcomers and those not brought in last year) in addition to repeat vaccinations.

In 2012, the 74% coverage (135 vaccinated during the programme plus 63 privately vaccinated dogs) was on target in respect of the WHO recommendation of ***a 70% annual coverage of the dog population in each community to effectively control rabies***¹. Although the percentage cannot be accurately calculated for 2013, it would appear that given the high number of dogs vaccinated, including a high proportion of repeat vaccinations, a satisfactory coverage has been maintained.

6.3 Community Participation

As this was the third round of the programme, there was understanding of its purpose and what was involved. This was particularly so in Wards 8 and 9 where, in anticipation of the third programme, people were asking about treatment prior to the survey and awareness campaign.

¹ WHO Expert Consultation on Rabies, 5-8 October 2004, TRS 931 WHO Geneva 2005

The numbers treated were pleasing, but there are results that go beyond the numbers (**Box 1**), including the response of the local community and the continued participation of Kopan and Ani Gompas.

As the vaccine and veterinary staff were provided by the VDC, no charge was made. Depending on the household situation, nominal payment was requested for operations. There were more poorer households represented this year so for some the fee was waived, others paid Rs 500 or Rs 1,000 for operations and all paid Rs 50 for de-worming, the rationale being that by making their own decision and investing in treatment, people were exercising responsibility for their dogs. Many expected to pay and donations were made on the understanding that contributions go to helping the community dogs.

Box 1: Beyond the numbers

Indicators of improving awareness and responsibility

- Asking about treatment *before* the programme
- Catching and bringing community dogs for treatment
- Bringing dogs for de-worming *after* the programme
- Bringing dogs with health concerns
- Ongoing requests for spaying
- Ongoing de-worming
- Visiting the shelter dogs
- Adoption of rescue dogs within the community

6.4 Organisation

- As the programme area and number of dogs to be treated has grown, planning and coordination have become a large task. The survey was not carried out effectively this year, and having to consider the possibility of last moment re-scheduling and postponement, whether due to bandhs or uncertainty regarding the availability of staff or vaccine, caused considerable worry and frustration.
- As the programme area expands, it has become necessary to replicate the activities in multiple locations to facilitate community access. Despite the low turnout this year at Baglamukhi Mandir for de-worming and vaccination, a second location was justified given the spread of settlement and distances involved.
- Appointment slips for operation day and time were not issued this year, the times being arranged by phone. This proved less reliable as people failed to bring their dogs on time or did not show up until reminded by repeated phoning. So although two dogs were scheduled every half hour, the flow of dogs for surgery was sometimes erratic.
- The clinic site was ideal with shade from surrounding trees from late morning onwards. The use of barriers to control the movement of dogs and people worked very well. Clearly set up registration and waiting areas controlled people and dogs, and the surgery and recovery areas were effectively isolated. The clinic site was conveniently located close to the guest house and restaurant used by the HART Team.

6.5 Post surgery Monitoring

The number of dogs requiring post surgery treatment was lower than last year, partly due to the operations taking place a month earlier in cooler weather, but also due improved caring on the part of the people. During monitoring it was found that most dogs were being kept quietly inside the house and observed closely. Monitoring and maintaining contact with the people is considered to be essential in this community situation.

7. Recommendations

- If the programme is to continue in its present format, it is recommended that a local person be employed as a coordinator for the duration of the programme.
- Enlisting the help of key people and school students in each ward, with support from the VDC, to carry out the survey could be more efficient in terms of drawing on local knowledge

of the dogs and spreading information, and should be more complete. Distribution of information and return of forms could also be done by local people at ward level.

- Involvement of the local health authority and health workers would increase public awareness by linking health initiatives for people and dogs.
- As the programme area expands, the activities will have to be held in a number of locations.
- Compilation of a data base to include information on all dogs, their health and vaccination status and owner, or contact person in the case of community dogs.
- To encourage people to care for their dogs, including regular de-worming. In response to requests, de-wormer, tick/flea soap, powder and shampoo will continue to be made available to the community at cost.

8. Conclusions

- The HART team and Community Dog Welfare were satisfied with the implementation of the third phase of the programme. It is evident that a programme based on community participation is workable and effective in this semi-rural situation.
- The coverage for vaccination against rabies is in line with WHO recommendations. And with 102 females spayed, it is evident that people are aware of the benefits of having their dogs vaccinated and spayed.
- It is an achievement that the VDC followed through on their proposal to take over responsibility for the anti-rabies vaccination by supplying vaccine and staff. The VDC is to be commended for taking this initiative.
- Above all, the success of the programme depended on the enthusiastic response of the local people who participated by bringing in both owned and community dogs for treatment. It is evident that the programme has contributed to improving community awareness and responsibility for dog health.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful for HAT's support for the Kapan programmes, and have confidence in HART's professionalism, organisation, high standards of hygiene and management, and concern for welfare.

Thank you to Lomus Acharya and Binod Poudyal of Kapan VDC for their authorisation to hold the programme and for taking on the vaccination component, Kathmandu Veterinary Clinic for obtaining de-worming medicine and Balkrishna for assisting with de-worming. Thank you to the volunteer students and their teachers for carrying out the survey, to Rewat Timilsina and Chhamji Sherpa for registering dogs, to Lydia Costello for her help in debriefing and compiling the survey data and Linda Sherpa for her help and encouragement throughout. We are grateful to Lama Khetsun of Kopan Gompa and Shomphen Lama of Ani Gompa for arranging to bring dogs from their locations. And thank you to Shanker Budathoki for agreeing to the clinic being set up on his land.

Photographs



The Survey

As part of the awareness campaign, and to collect data on all dogs in the community, student volunteers carried out a household survey.



De-worming

180 dogs were de-wormed during the programme





Spaying
At the 3 day field clinic 47 dogs were operated on





Dogs returning home after the operation



Post-operation recovery
During the following week, veterinary staff monitored all the dogs in their homes. The community/street dogs were held in the shelter for monitoring.



Anti-rabies vaccination
The VDC provided vaccine and DLSD staff to administer it.
195 dogs were vaccinated



Annex 1: Programme Plan



Community
Dog Welfare
Kopan

DOG HEALTH PROGRAMME WARDS 2, 6, 7, 8 & 9 KAPAN

PREPARATION

Proposal Submitted to Kapan VDC

Awareness Campaign 1 April onwards

- Information leaflets to households
- Posters at key locations - VDC Office, school, shops

Household Dog Survey 6 April

- Household interviews by student volunteers
- Identification of dogs to be spayed & vaccinated
- Household dog count
- Programme schedule distributed to households

Focus Group Discussions 6 April onwards

- Total number of community dogs recorded
- Identification of dogs to be spayed

IMPLEMENTATION

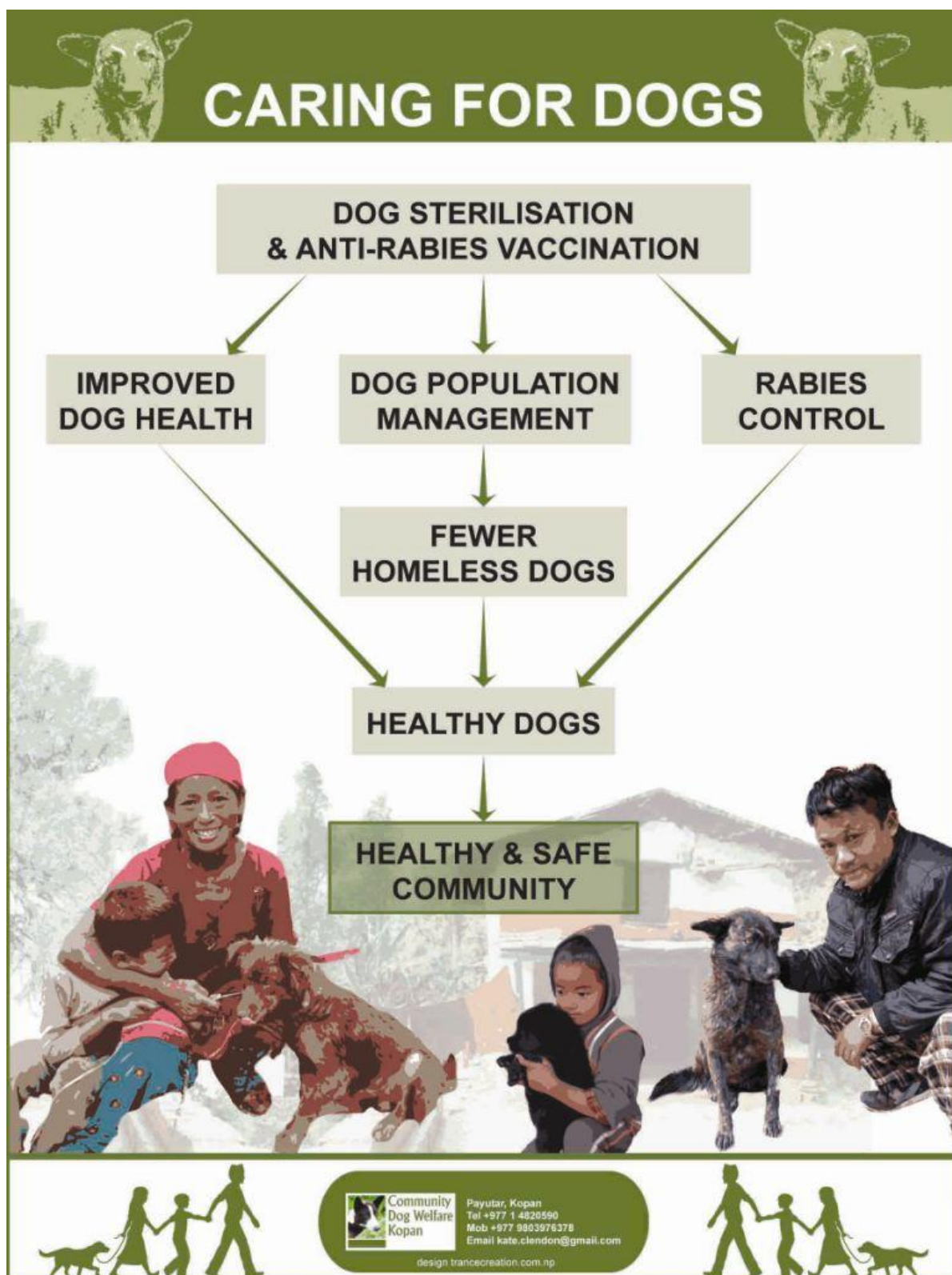
1. De-worming	13 April
2. Medical examination & spaying	17 - 19 April
3. Post-op monitoring and treatment	20 - 22 April
4. Anti-rabies vaccination	27 April

EVALUATION

A report will evaluate the effectiveness of the programme and make recommendations for the future.

- Community response
- Statistical information
- Lessons learned
- Recommendations

Annex 2: Information Posters and Leaflets



Annex 2: Information Posters and Leaflets



कुकुरको स्वस्थ कार्यक्रम पैयुंठार, कपन

जुकाको औषधि

के तपाईंको कुकुरलाई
जुकाको औषधि
खुवाउनु भएको छ ?

नियमित जुकाको औषधि
प्रयोग गरि कुकुरको
स्वास्थ्य सुधार गरौं ।

३१ चैत्र २०६९, शनिवार
13 April 2013
पैयुंठार : विहान ९:००-१२:०० बजेसम्म
जिविस कार्यालय नजिक : दिउँसो २:००-५:०० बजेसम्म

पोथी कुकुरको बन्ध्याकरण

के तपाईंको कुकुरलाई
स्थायी बन्ध्याकरण गर्नुभएको छ ?

आफ्नो ककरलाई स्वस्थ राख्न
र अनावश्यक छुउरा छुउरी
नजन्माउनको लागि
स्थायी बन्ध्याकरण गर्नुहोस् ।

४, ५, ६ बैशाख २०७०
17, 18, 19 April 2013
पैयुंठार, कपन, काठमाडौं

रेबिजको सुई

के तपाईंको कुकुरलाई
सुई लगाउनु भएको छ ?

तपाईं आफू,
आफ्नो परिवारका साथै
आफ्नो कुकुरलाई
जोगाउनुहोस् ।

१४ बैशाख २०७०, शनिवार
27 April 2013
पैयुंठार : विहान ९:००-१२:०० बजेसम्म
जिविस कार्यालय नजिक : दिउँसो २:००-५:०० बजेसम्म

Community Dog Welfare Kopan

Tel. : 4820590, 9803976378



Kapan VDC

DOG WELFARE PROGRAMME IN PAYUTAR KOPAN

DE-WORMING

Improve your dog's
health through
regular de-worming

Saturday 13 April
Payutar 9 am - 12 noon
Bangalamukhi Mandir
2 - 5 pm

SPAYING AND NEUTERING

Do you want
a healthy dog
and no more
unwanted puppies?

17 - 19 April
Payutar

ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION

To protect yourself
and your family,
vaccinate your dog
against rabies

Saturday 27 April
Payutar 9 am - 12 noon
Bangalamukhi Mandir
2 - 5 pm

Annex 3: Ward 2 Kapan VDC



Annex 3: Wards 6 and 7 Kapan VDC



Annex 3: Wards 8 and 9 Kapan VDC



Annex 4: Household Interview

1. HOUSE INFORMATION

Dog Owner		Tel	
House location		Ward	

2. DOG INFORMATION

Dog's Name	Type/Breed	Colour	M/F	Age
Does your dog(s) go free outside with other dogs at any time?				

3. YOUR DOG'S HEALTH

Spayed/Neutered	Anti-rabies Vac. (Date)	Other Vaccinations	De-worming (Date)

4. FEMALE DOGS

Has your dog had puppies?		Number of litters		Total number puppies	
Do you want your dog to have more puppies?					

5. PROGRAMME TREATMENT

Do you want your dog(s) to have de-worming medicine?	
Do you want to have your female dog(s) spayed?	
Do you want to have your male dog(s) neutered?	
Do you want to have your dog(s) vaccinated against rabies?	

Annex 5: Focus Group Discussion

Community Street Dogs Group Discussion

Location		Ward	
Contact person		Tel	

Identify the street dogs that live in your area

Name	M/F	Age	Colour	Comments

- **Why is it good to have these dogs?**

- **What are the problems?**

- **What happens to the puppies?**

Should these dogs be sterilised?		Vaccinated against rabies?	
Reasons		Reasons	