



## Monthly report Malawi, December 2018

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### Vaccination drive in Blantyre district

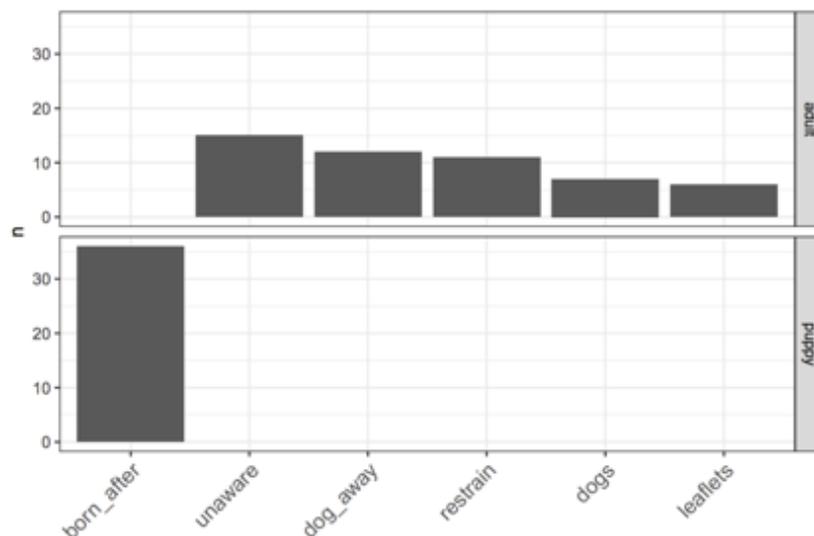
This year 14,607 dogs were vaccinated in Blantyre district.

In December four teams conducted post vaccination surveys over eight days, surveying 28 areas of the district. A proportional number of polygons was selected at random. Surveyors covered each of the polygons and visited every 4<sup>th</sup> house. Of the 511 households which completed the questionnaire, 302 homes owned dogs. A total of 918 dogs were assessed for vaccination.

The vaccination coverage of the adult dogs was 79%, for puppies the coverage was only 18%, which resulted in an overall coverage of 64%.

When removing the puppies, which were not born yet at the time of the rabies vaccination campaign from the data set, the percentage of vaccinated puppies was 69% and the overall vaccination coverage (adults and puppies) 78%!

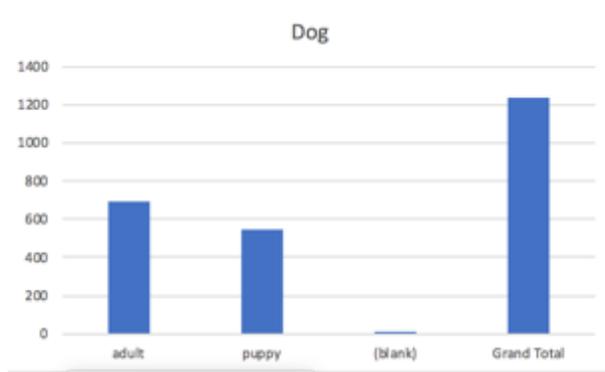
**Reasons for vaccination failure**



This shows the big impact of high birth rates on mass canine rabies campaigns for communities with no access to animal birth control surgeries for their dogs.

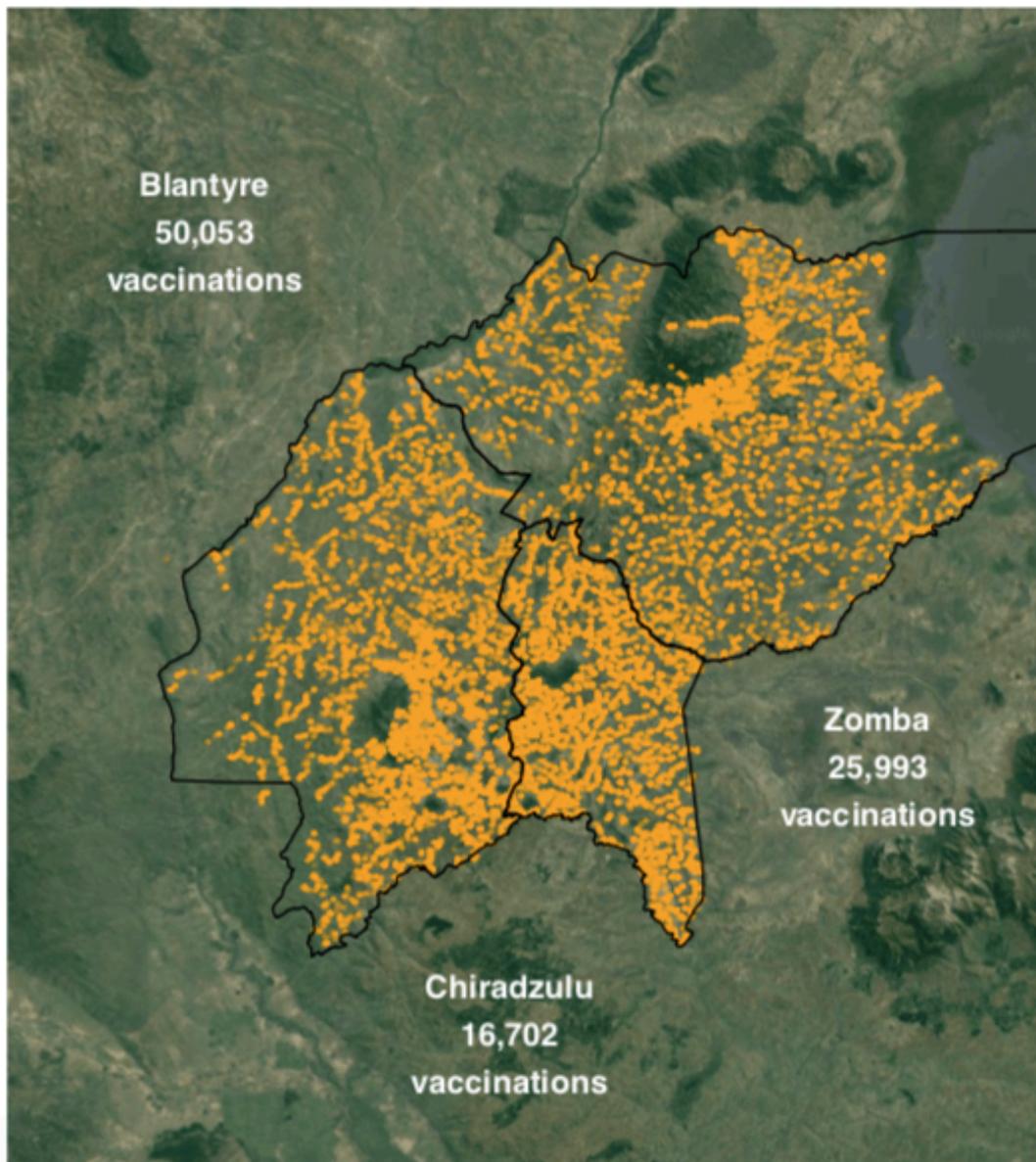
Taking into account the high mortality of puppies in their first 6 months though, it can be expected that a high percentage of the unvaccinated newborn puppies will not survive the first six months, which will increase the overall vaccination coverage and it will likely result in an overall coverage of at least 70%.

In total **92,748 dogs** were vaccinated in 2018 in the three southern districts of Malawi in which we have been working in. This includes 1,233 vaccinations given to dogs at the BSPCA, 44% of which were puppies or juvenile dogs, not yet born at the time of the city wide vaccination campaign during April/May.



*Dogs vaccinated at the BSPCA in 2018*

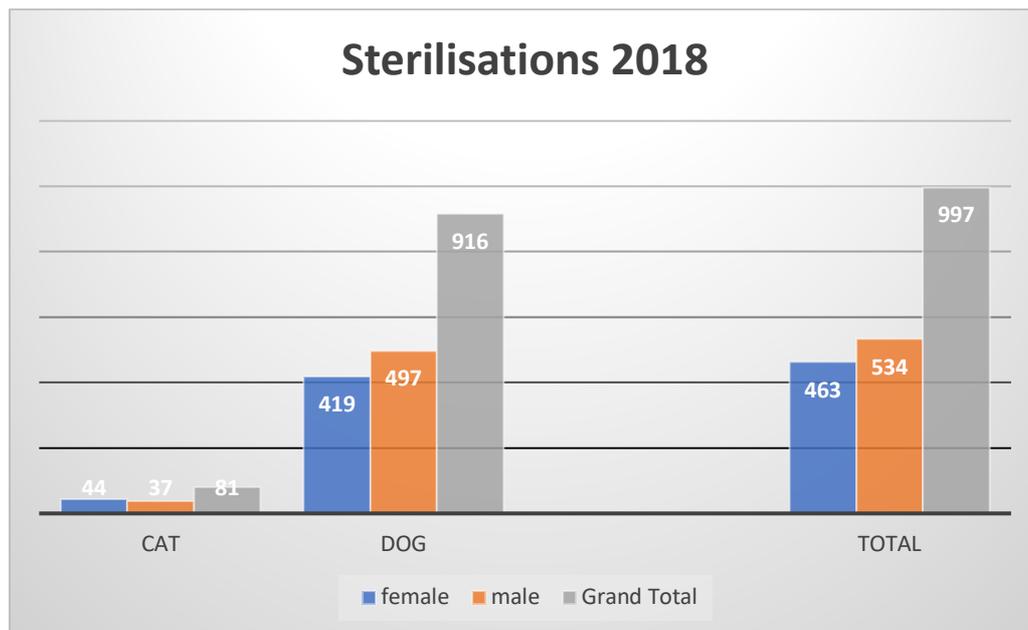
### Dogs vaccinated in Malawi in 2018



## WVS/BSPCA

2018 was a very successful year at the WVS clinic and thanks to 21 vet and vet nurse volunteers who came out to help for any time between ten days and three months we were able to sterilize almost 1,000 animals (81 cats and 916 dogs).

The BSPCA, Mission Rabies as well as the clinic are well known by now as the 'dog place' and people have started to trust to get help for their animals if they are in need of treatment. Dog owners from the poor communities in the vicinity of the BSPCA are walking to the clinic every day to either get free rabies vaccinations or to get their dogs sterilized or treated.



*Sterilisations by WVS teams at the BSPCA in 2018*

Additionally to the sterilisations, we amputated seven legs, six tails and removed six badly injured eyes in the past 12 months. We also excised dozens of tumors, sutured wounds, treated dogs after snake bites and poisonings and administered chemotherapy to more than 50 dogs with TVTs (transmissible venereal tumors).

Our volunteers came from the UK, USA, Australia, Iceland, Spain, New Zealand, Italy, Greece and Ireland and apart from working at the clinic they also ran outreach clinics in Zomba and at the lake, where no veterinary services are available for the poor communities.





*A few pics of some of the amazing volunteers who visited the BSPCA in 2018*

In 2019 we are planning to offer surgical training courses for students from the veterinary faculty of LUANAR (Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources) in Lilongwe. We are also planning to build an accommodation block on the property to be able to accommodate more volunteers and, depending on funding, to be able to offer training for vets and vet technicians from other African countries.