



## **Monthly report Malawi, February 2018**

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### **Mission Rabies**

Because of the 'blood sucker' scare at the end of last year we weren't able to finish the education program in Chiradzulu and Blantyre districts. That's why the teams started to go out again from mid January to visit the remaining schools as well as conduct post vaccination surveys across both districts. As it is the rainy season at the moment this has proven to be quite challenging in some areas, several vehicles got stuck, bridges were washed away, roads turned into rivers. But this didn't stop the education and survey teams from continuing their work, sometimes they walked for 30 minutes to reach schools which haven't been visited before.



*Alinafe and Lauren on their way to visit a school in rural Chiradzulu after their vehicle wasn't able to reach it due to a bridge which was washed away*



## WVS/BSPCA

For the first 10 days we had a team of WVS volunteers visiting the BSPCA. Two vets, Eleanor from the UK and Erica from the US and Ellie, a veterinary nurse from the UK came to Malawi to help at the clinic. Ellie volunteered for WVS on several projects over the past years and this is the third trip for her to Blantyre. This time she will stay for four months and having her in charge of the day to day running of the clinic is making a huge difference, especially because she enjoys her job so much! The team of volunteers was kept very busy at the clinic from their first day!

They removed a palm nut from the small intestine of a dog, amputated the leg of a puppy who suffered from an open fracture for several weeks, removed the necrotic tail of a cat and treated, vaccinated and sterilised dozens of other patients.



*Puppy Eliot' was brought to us very depressed, with a long standing open and infected fracture. After the surgery he bounced straight back and was behaving like a happy puppy again*

We also treated 'Zebra' at the clinic, whose leg and tail suffered terrible injuries caused by a Machete, when he defended his owner's property from intruders. After the attack he ran away but came back a day later, in severe pain as most of his front right paw and tail was hacked off. The owners brought 'Zebra' to us and after a few days of stabilizing him we performed the amputations of the front leg as well as the tail.

Within a week he recovered well and his owner was very happy to have this loyal companion back at his home.



*'Zebra' on the day we admitted him and a day after the amputations with Ellie who gave him lots of TLC during his stay at the clinic*



*'Jimmy' came to us from one of the poorest areas from Blantyre. He is very old and suffers from severe mange. But he also has got an owner who really cares for him and just wants this dog to feel better again. We are keeping him until the condition improves and bring him back as soon as possible*

We also dealt with another wildlife case at the clinic after a member of the public rescued a very young vervet monkey which was about to be sold next to the road. We took the lovely animal in at the clinic and organised transport to the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre. After six weeks in quarantine he will be added to a larger group of vervets and will then go back to the wild within the next 12 months.



*The monkey at our clinic and after arrival at the Wildlife Centre, obviously exhausted*