



Monthly report Malawi, February 2019

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Mission Rabies

Most of the Mission Rabies work at the moment is focused on planning the vaccinations campaigns starting in June, like trying to source maps we need for the logistics and getting equipment. The IBCM officers have extended their rabies surveillance work to a new neighboring district (Thyolo), following up on dog bite cases and collecting data from the hospital. Three more positive rabies cases were diagnosed in Blantyre City; none of these dogs were vaccinated. The MR education officers were busy with visits of education and Traditional Authority officials, collecting contact information which will help later on, when we will advertise the upcoming vaccination campaigns.

WVS/BSPCA

We had great help at the clinic with WVS vets Steph and Edurne and two LUANAR students in their final year, who completed their month-long clinical placement at the WVS clinic. The students came across many interesting cases and had no problems writing their reports. We ran the first sterilization campaign in Monkey Bay at the beginning of the month. This was the first time we performed surgeries at that location and a local lodge sponsored accommodation and food for the team!

Two weeks ago we followed up on a report by a member of the public who saw puppies tied up on their legs on a property. Two BSPCA staff members went with two police officers and confiscated eight dogs. The owner admitted that he buys (or possibly steals) dogs and that he is then selling them next to the road. Road side pet sales (and buying these animals) is illegal in Malawi but the law doesn't get enforced sufficiently.

Sadly, one of these puppies had a bad tail injury after an unprofessionally performed docking procedure and died a day later. Another severely dehydrated puppy died within the first 48 hours, even with supportive treatment at the clinic. A third dog arrived with a large wound on its leg which had to be sutured. This one is doing well now, as are the other remaining five dogs.



Four of the eight confiscated dogs on the day of their arrival at the clinic...



...and the six survivors two weeks later

It was a great pleasure to have Simon Thomas, an orthopaedic specialist from Gatehouse Veterinary Group in Yorkshire, with us for two weeks this month. Simon comes to visit a few times every year as his daughter lives in Blantyre with her husband and two children. And every time he comes to Malawi he brings donations and spends some time at the clinic. I have started to 'collect' cases for Simon and this time he performed the first ever orthopaedic surgery at the clinic: A TTA (Tibial Tuberosity Advancement) on a Boxer with a torn cruciate ligament! It was also very interesting for Muona to watch the surgery and Simon explained every step of the procedure.





This dog was brought from the district of Chiradzulu by a Malawian family. He suffered from burn wounds all along his back, very likely caused by someone pouring boiling water over him. Even tho he was in a lot of pain he was very friendly and after cleaning the wounds he was sent home and is recovering well!



On World Spay Day we sterilized dogs from local communities