



Monthly report Malawi, November 2017

Dagmar Mayer

Vaccination drive in Blantyre district

After a few weeks break due to rumors about blood suckers in the districts and related safety concerns the situation remained calm and the education and vaccination teams were able to continue their work in November and have been covering the last EPA (Lirangwe). The local people were very happy when the teams returned as they thought that their dogs would not be vaccinated this year! Over the last 4 weeks the two vaccination teams have vaccinated another 1920 dogs and they only have two more weeks to go until they have finished covering the entire Blantyre district for the third consecutive year!

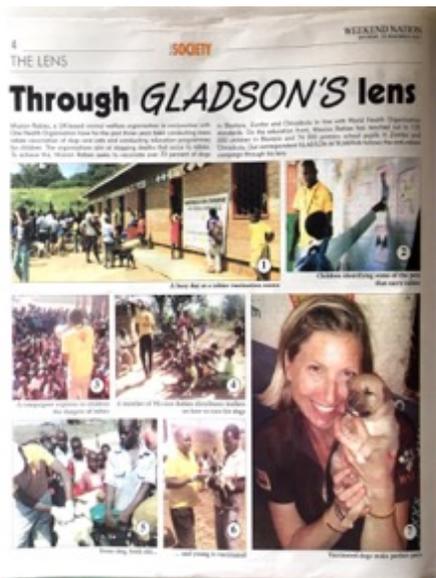
The raining season has started and the teams are all equipped with rain gear – in the correct color!!



Education/Sensitisation work

The amazing education team visited another 27 schools this month and reached more than 34,500 children and over 400 teachers with their potential lifesaving messages. The importance of our work was made clear again from hearing stories some children told our education officers. One girl was bitten by a stray dog and she told her mum what she has to do and another child came home to find that her mother has been bitten and made sure that she took all necessary action to prevent a possible rabies infection.

The head teacher of one of the private schools visited was so impressed by the work the education team is doing that he asked for more information and two weeks later two Malawian newspapers reported about Mission Rabies, with focus on the educations teams' work.



Newspaper coverage in the Nation and Nyasatimes



Our education posters one year later. Seen by our education team at Chilangoma Primary School

WVS/BSPCA

While working all over the district, making sure to cover every area and reaching every dog the Mission Rabies teams come across many sick and injured animals. Sadly, in most cases we can't do anything but if it's possible we are treating some cases in the clinic.

The past month John managed to find two of these cases in one week: Two female dogs with fractured legs and no chance of healing. In both cases the legs had to be amputated to make sure that the dogs don't have to suffer anymore. One of the dogs, Spider, gave birth to 6 puppies just three weeks previously and they had to come with her to the clinic. Spider was emaciated as she had to feed these puppies despite being in lots of pain and was not able to look for additional food. She recovered very well after her amputation, in fact within three hours after the surgery she already hopped around, wagging her tail! She was obviously very happy that this painful leg was gone...

After another two weeks of recovery at the clinic she was dropped off back at her owners' place. The BSPCA also donated food to make sure that Spider continues to put on weight and the puppies have also started to eat solid food during their stay at the clinic.

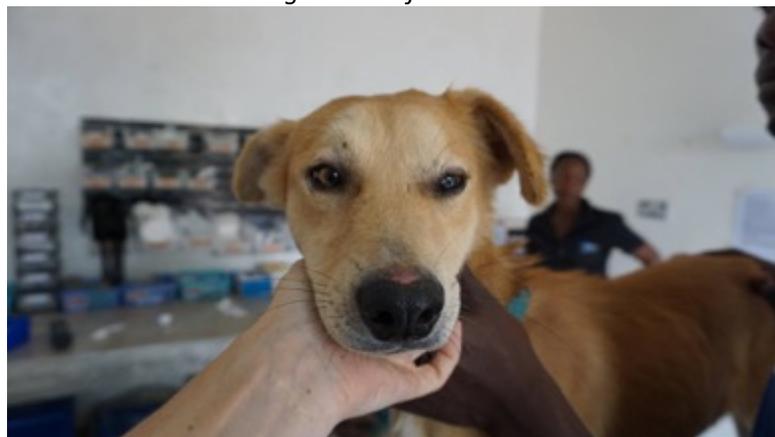


Apart from these broken legs I also had to treat two dogs with fractured pelvises after they were run over by cars. Thanks to the X-ray machine we can now diagnose the problem straight away and treat accordingly. In one case the femur head needed to be removed and hopefully the dog will be able to walk again without pain in a few weeks' time.

Another case I really enjoyed seeing improving was 'Tiger' who was brought in from one of the poor communities. He suffered from a TVT on his penis which also spread to his eyes and he was hardly able to see at all. After three weeks of treatment with Vincristine he has almost completely recovered and his owners are very grateful for our help.



Tiger at the first visit...



...and three weeks later



Last Monday I presented the work Mission Rabies has achieved over the last three years in Malawi at the annual conference of the Malawi Veterinary Association and everyone seemed to be very interested and impressed by our achievements so far and especially the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development (DAHLD) would very much like to see a further expansion of our work in the future.

It was a great platform as almost every registered veterinarian including the Director of the DAHLD and representatives of other animal welfare NGOs (LSPCA, the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and All Creatures) and students from the LUANAR university attended the meeting.

