



Monthly report Malawi, October 2018

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Vaccination drive in Blantyre and Chiradzulu districts

The teams in Chiradzulu have finished the vaccination drive and have vaccinated the dogs in this district for the third time! **16,702 dogs and 1,130 cats** received the vaccinations and I'm looking forward to seeing the results of the post vaccination survey which was finished today. Roughly 2,000 more dogs were vaccinated in this district compared to last year and it is looking very promising that we get good results from the survey!

The teams in Blantyre are still busy for another month and they have vaccinated 2,310 dogs in the remotest areas of the district over the past four weeks. It takes our staff often more than one hour to reach their daily working areas.



WVS/BSPCA

During October we saw great volunteers leaving and others arriving! Ellie, our favorite vet nurse, has left after helping 7 weeks at the BSPCA again and this time she took one of the shelter dogs with her. Savanna was brought to the clinic in May 2017 with a fractured leg, which had to be amputated. Since then she stayed at the shelter and Ellie has started the process of relocating her at the beginning of this year. Finally, everything was in order and both are now in the UK, Savanna might need her fleece-chitenje-jacket soon tho to keep warm!



Thanks to vet volunteers Greta, Sam and Nick we were also able to run an outreach clinic at the lake. This was the fourth time that WVS volunteers sterilized dogs in CapeMaclear and it seems that our outreach clinics there have a noticeable impact on the attitude of Malawians towards their dogs. People told me that they used to see children being very cruel to dogs, throwing stones and kicking them but this has improved a lot over the last few years! Most of the lodges are supporting the outreach clinics and accommodation and all meals were provided for.

The team has sterilized 67 animals, 8 of these were cats. Many dogs have already been vaccinated by Mission Rabies in April but we administered another 163 vaccinations against rabies to dogs, 67 of these were puppies under the age of 3 months.



The lessons which were given by the Mission Rabies education officers in March this year also seem to have left an impact as many children still remembered the 'Tithetse Chiwewe' song and we found the posters on the wall outside the head teacher's office!



One of the nurses from the Billy Riordon Clinic we have been very closely in touch since we started the vaccination and sterilisation clinics at the end of 2015, has been collecting dog bite data for us and it is amazing to see that the numbers of people in need for post exposure rabies vaccinations in CapeMaclear has reduced drastically. Most people were bitten by vaccinated dogs and only three people needed the full course of five injections as these were bitten by unknown dogs. The others were able to be identified as vaccinated dogs.



As the lake is a very popular tourist destination and the number of free roaming dogs is high this positive development has a direct impact on many levels. Sterilised dogs are less likely chasing each other along the beaches, fighting with each other and possibly also injuring people. Less puppies also means less aggressive females who are more likely to bite. People who have to receive post exposure vaccinations are always at risk of not receiving effective vaccinations as the power situation is very poor at the local hospital in Monkey Bay and there is a good chance that the vaccines are not kept at the appropriate temperature. The last case of a human rabies death in Capemaclar was a 16 year old boy in November 2015 who died after receiving the first two post exposure vaccinations.

As long as we keep getting the support for the local communities and our funds allow this, we are planning to continue these outreach clinics on a regular basis.