

2009

ANNUAL REPORT



“2009 was the year in which we managed to make a visible difference in the overwhelming suffering of animals of Nepal. In 2009, for many animals our work meant the difference between a life of constant suffering and a humane life; for quite a few our invention meant life instead of death.”

“Making the difference”

Contents

2	Introduction
4	2009 in words and pictures
21	Animal Team Team 2009
23	Working equines health status before and after intervention
24	Financial overview 2009
26	Contact and donor details

Introduction

2009 – Making the difference

2009 will be remembered by us as the year in which we really got going. Among the most visible successes of 2009 are:

1. Establishment of a Donkey Outreach programme, serving some 500 working equines in brick kilns in Kathmandu Valley
2. Establishment of an Animal Birth Control/Anti Rabies programme for stray dogs in the southern part of Kathmandu Valley
3. Establishment of the Godavari Donkey Sanctuary
4. Establishment of the Chobar Animal Sanctuary

By launching two integrated outreach programmes and building two rehabilitation/retirement centers for equines and companion animals 2009 became the year in which we managed to make a visible difference in the overwhelming suffering of the suffering animals of Nepal. In this year, for many animals our work meant the difference between a life of constant suffering and a humane life; for quite a few our intervention meant life instead of death.

Take Naina. This blind donkey was found wandering the busy streets of Kalanki, a commercial area in the north-east of Kathmandu. For years she slaved for her owner, hauling bricks in a Kathmandu brick kiln. Due to the highly polluted environment of the kiln she developed infections in both eyes. Left untreated, Naina slowly turned blind. When her owner left for his hometown in June, he simply abandoned Naina in the city.

With the support of volunteers Allison Marston and Emily Kate, Naina arrived at our sanctuary on August 16. When she was checked by Dr Sudeep and Surendra, Naina was found to be suffering from hoof problems, saddle wounds, malnourishment, and stomach problems due to a presence of plastics.

Naina now is one of the 15 happy residents of our donkey sanctuary. She has become big and healthy, and loves being brushed. She is always the first to greet visitors by sniffing and touching them. Without our intervention Naina would have certainly died a slow and painful death on the streets of Kathmandu.

2009 was also the year of historical elections. The elections consolidated peace and the former Maoist guerrillas led Nepal's first ultra-left government. Sadly, 2009 saw the nascent republic plunge into chaos with the political parties squandering opportunities of stability.

2009 among animal rights campaigners will always be remembered as 'Gadimai Year'. The festival, which is organized every five years, saw the brutal slaughter of some 200,000 animals. Animal Nepal was in the forefront of the campaign and managed to mobilize the international community and media. Despite three months of hard work we were unable to stop the carnage.

We were there at the blood bath and will never be able to forget the eyes of the 20,000 buffaloes kept to be publicly beheaded by drunk 'devotees'. We never experienced a greater sense of helplessness, and never felt more disappointed by mankind. It took time to heal this pain, and to create a basis for a 5-year long Stop Animal Sacrifice campaign. We have vowed to stop the Gadimai killings in 2014 and will leave no stone unturned to achieve this goal.

None of the achievements were possible without our staff. We want to thank programme manager Krishna Singh and vets Sudeep Koirala and Surendra Basyal. We also thank caretakers Mohan, Narayan, Nanimaya and Thulo Kanchha.

We owe countless local sponsors who provided us with money for our Emergency Treatment Fund or small grants for the construction of the two sanctuaries. We thank our partner organizations in the Animal Welfare Network Nepal for creating a joint task force to fight animal abuse in Nepal.

Last but not least we want to thank our loyal international donors, Animal Aid Abroad (Australia), Brigitte Bardot Foundation (France), Donkey Sanctuary (India), Humane Society International (USA, Australia), Mayhew Animal Home (UK), Serve & Share (Holland) and 30 Million d'Amis (France). Without your help we would not have come this far!

Pramada Shah – Vice President, Volunteer Director
Lucia de Vries – Volunteer Director

2009 in words and images

January

Animal Nepal organizes regular donkey clinics



The conditions of hundreds of working donkeys in brick kilns in Kathmandu Valley is pathetic. Away from the public eye donkeys are made to carry bricks until they (literally) drop dead. They are underfed, overloaded, and until recently virtually all of them suffered from infections, open sores, malnutrition

and dehydration. A significant number of donkeys can't work because they are blind or lame or have given birth. Still, the donkey owners even force these donkeys to work.

Animal Nepal introduced donkey clinics in December 2008 with the help of volunteer (student) vets from the Himalayan College of Agricultural Science and Technology HICAST. Volunteers build rapport with the kiln managers and donkey owners and started treating the sick and injured donkeys. They also provided preventive health care, including tetanus injections, deworming and mineral/vitamin supplements. The clinics were conducted with the help of local donations.

Different members of the Animal Welfare Network Nepal, when hearing about the terrible abuse taking place in brick kilns, came to the rescue. SPCAN's Malika Nepal handed over

medicines worth NRs 20,000 to Animal Nepal's vet, Dr Sudip Koirala. KAT offered two training positions for equine vets at the Donkey Sanctuary in Ahmadabad, India. Vets Sudip and Surendra will travel there in September.

Animal Nepal wants to thank everyone who made the donkey clinics a success!

February

February 6 – Dr Jane Goodall leaves audience spellbound

The Animal Welfare Network Nepal today facilitated a public talk by Dr Jane

Goodall at

the Patan Museum at a public talk. Goodall is a most inspiring speaker. Each time she visits Nepal Dr Goodall manages to activate countless people (young and old) to become involved in conservation and animal welfare.

During the talk Dr Goodall handed over the Youth Leadership Award 2008 to Manoj Gautam, Roots and Shoots Nepal country representative and founder member of AWNN. The programme also saw the launch of the documentary 'Brick and Donkeys - Foundation of Abuse' produced by Animal Nepal (watch it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C22Mg-TFMf4>).



During the talk programme AWNN chair and Animal Nepal vice President Pramada Shah launched an Emergency Animal Treatment Fund. Nabil Bank's CEO Mr Anil Shah handed over a cheque of NRs 25,000 as a contribution.

March

Dog rescues go up



AN in the past month rescued a larger number of injured or sick stray dogs than usual. Sadly five of them had to be

put to sleep, including a rabid dog. Skin problems are on the increase due to the hot weather and water shortage. Raki was welcomed at the SPCAN shelter where he receives intensive care. Sadly Raki died a few days later.

'Brick kids' receive t-shirts

Animal Nepal has allocated a brick kiln in Bungamati as a model kiln where it will establish a daycare centre for children below 5, and admit children aged 5-12 at a local school. If the project is successful it will be replicated in all the ten brick kilns where we work.

When a group of Dutch friends heard about this initiative they quickly organised a donation drive. Within a week they raised no less than 830 euro! They also collected almost 50 (second hand) t-shirts for the brick kids.

Coordinator Judith de Vries personally handed over the money and t-shirts at the Bungamati

Brick Kiln. The parents expressed their appreciation. 'We really want our children to go to school.

Once the daycare centre starts we will send will release our kids from work,' they said.



April

Blind donkey finds loving home

Lucia, a blind donkey, until recently all day stood motionless in the hot sun, waiting for her owner to return. She had gotten blind a year ago, due to malnutrition and untreated eye infections. Since then she was unable to carry bricks and was left to fend for herself.

Today she lives a 5-star retired life, featuring a large meadow, a comfortable stable, nutritious food, daily brushing, and lots of favourite snacks: carrots.

Lucia was adopted by hotel manager Kit Spencer and his wife Maura. They provide her with lots of TLC, to which the donkey reacts very well.



Lucia is one of the countless working donkeys that became handicapped due to negligence and overwork. Some go blind or break a limb, others develop tetanus, colic, pneumonia, or simply die from exhaustion.

We congratulate the Summit Trekking with its new addition and hope many trekking companies will follow the company's example

May

May 2, 2009 – Animal Nepal Moves Ahead in ABC/AR Project

Today we started a 3 day CAT (Community Animal Treatment) and signed a lease agreement for a piece of land. The CAT training and construction of dog treatment centre are important steps in our ABC/AR project.



Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies (ABC/AR) are at the heart of our approach to reduce the suffering of stray dogs in Lalitpur

District. Our

vision is to build a community preventive health care network. CAT volunteers are trained and guided to be out main contact in the communities. The CAT training drew 15 participants from all walks of life. Volunteer director Pramada Shah gave an introduction after which trainers Krishna and Sudeep took over. Two rescued dogs, Benji and Beta, volunteered as guinea pigs and were abundantly bandaged...

Our ABC/AR center will be build in Chobar, a beautiful historical village just across the Bagmati river from Patan. Here we signed an lease agreement for a plot of land for 15 years with the Adinath Forest Committee. Due to AN's registration problems and the forest committee's legal problems with a local

abandoned cement factory the process took over three months.

May 19 - Over 1000 Signatures for Nepalese Donkeys

Animal Nepal together with Animal Welfare Network Nepal (AWNN) today handed over a petition signed by over one thousand people from all over the world to stop donkey abuse to the Joint Secretary at the Ministry for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Dr Hari Dahal.

The petition titled 'Stop donkey misery in Nepal' was signed by 1036 people from countries like Nepal, India, US, UK, Italy, Australia, France, Germany, Norway, Mexico, Canada, South Africa, Netherlands, Belgium and others. The purpose of the signature campaign is to raise awareness to stop cruelty on working animals like donkeys. The petition demands concerned authorities and donkey owners to introduce a care system for these animals that suffer from malnutrition, open sores, lacerations, and general neglect.

Members of An and AWNN also urged the Joint Secretary to implement the Animal Transportation Act and wished to participate in drafting of the Animal Welfare Act. Mr Dahal was positive about these concerns and expressed commitment to take initiative on monitoring the execution of the Animal Transportation Act or the Pasu Dhuwani Mapdanda 2064.



Animal Nepal Director Pramada Shah, after handing over the petition hoped that the ministry would cooperate in raising animal welfare issues and that the Animal Welfare Act would soon be finalised and send to the Parliament.

May 23 - Prayer to Mother Earth

Animal Nepal today conducted a boomi puja to prepare for the construction of our ABC centre and rehabilitation centre. The centre will address the problems of stray dogs in Lalitpur district and Kirtipur municipality.



A Hindu priest led the boomi puja, a ritual that is common in Asia to prepare land for construction. The puja acts to overcome obstacles and is a prayer to Mother Earth to protect all living beings during the construction. Vegetarian offerings such as flowers and fruits were offered in the presence of board members Manoj Gautam, Pramada Shah and staff members Krishna Singh and Sudip Koirala.

The center will rehabilitate sick and injured stray dogs, and spay and vaccinate female dogs. The project is supported by Brigitte Bardot Foundation, Humane Society International and Mayhew Animal Home. A number of individual sponsors fund a kennel in the name of their loves one.

June

June 6 - Design for Donkey Sanctuary Completed

This week the design for the Donkey Sanctuary has been completed. The Sanctuary is designed to house 25 sick or injured donkeys. Animal Nepal has leased 6 ropani of land in Janawarasi VDC, close to 7 Godavari brick kilns. The land has no road access as yet, but will be connected next year.



A
rehabilitati
on center
for

working donkeys is essential for Animal Nepal's work among 400-500 horses and donkeys in Lalitpur brick kilns. A relatively high number of horses and donkeys suffer from injuries or extreme exhaustion, and need special care.

The Sanctuary will be completed in August. The construction will be supported by Brigitte Bardot Foundation. In order to support the running costs, Animal Nepal together with Animal Aid Abroad, offers an Adopt a Donkey programme for individuals and groups.

June 8 - Animal Nepal Conducts Survey of Equines in Nepalgunj

Members of Animal Nepal are leaving for Nepalgunj tomorrow to carry out a research into the conditions of working donkeys in Banke District. The team comprises of Dr Sudeep Koirala, veterinarian and Krishna Singh, Programme Manager.



During their week-long visit Koirala and Singh will prepare a survey of working donkeys. The Nepal government till now has not carried out a census on working animals. The team will also find out how farmers use donkeys as an economic resource. The team will research the dependency of owners on donkeys for their livelihood and if they are engaged in some other activities too. The team will assess will how donkeys are managed and if animal welfare standards are being met.

"Once we have some data on the donkey population from Nepalgunj, we will collect secondary data from the regions where the

donkeys are sold,” says Dr Koirala. The team plans to present the final data to the Government.

Animal Nepal with the support of Animal Welfare Network Nepal has been supporting working donkeys in brick kilns since December 2008. Working horses, mules and donkeys mostly come from India, which is why border towns like Nepalgunj house numerous equines. From here the working equines are marketed to other parts of the country. All donkeys working in brick kilns in Kathmandu District are transported from Western Nepal to Kathmandu during the brick season (December - May).

June 18 - Animal Nepal Shocked by Equine Misery in Western Nepal

Animal Nepal staff Dr Sudeep Koirala and Krishna Singh returned safely from Western Nepal, where they were shocked by the critical

conditions of horses, donkeys and mules.

“Horses, donkeys and mules are used as income generating objects by

migrants who live close to the Indian border. No one seems to care for these animals, and have no knowledge whatsoever about equine disease and zoonotic diseases”, says Dr Koirala.

AN staff counted a total of 636 mules and donkeys. According to Programme Manager Krishna Singh horses, mules and donkeys in this part of Nepal are treated as stray animals and the problems they face include lack of shelter, (preventive) health care, nutritious food, as well as the absence of registration by the authorities.



Koirala and Singh met with district and municipality authorities and vets. They held classes for donkey owners and conducted surveys among community members on the management of equines. The full report will soon be published on our website.

AN together with the Animal Welfare Network Nepal in May handed over more than 1000 signatures to the Ministry of Agriculture, pleading for better conditions for working animals, specially equines. The Ministry has started broadcasting messages on humane and professional transport of working animals.

June 15 - CAT Volunteers Start their Work

After completing the 2,5 day Community Animal Treatment (CAT) Volunteer training, 7 out of 12 participants took the exam and received a certificate and medical kit.

AN organised the training to create a community based preventive healthcare system for stray dogs. CAT volunteers will be supported to prepare a survey of dogs in their neighbourhood, provide first aid, organise vaccination camps and educate dog owners and community members.

AN developed a CAT Manual, which has been translated into Nepali. Read the English version on this website.

The volunteers will be supervised by our staff and will be invited for follow up meetings. We wish them every bit of good luck!

June 23 - Animal Nepal Rescues Injured Stray Cow

Yesterday CAT volunteers Reshma and Anil called AN for help for a cow



that was hit by a truck. After being injured the cow was left to die, and apparently had not moved (nor eaten!) since three days.

When our staff reached the location they found that the cow's backbone has been damaged and its hind legs were paralysed. They the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Nepal (SPCAN), who manage a cow shelter, who promised they would make space the next day. AN staff found a grass cutter to provide fresh grass and requested local people to manage a temporary shelter.

Next day, our staff managed with the help of the local community managed to load the cow into a rented van, after which it was taken to the SPCAN shelter. The cow has been named Gauri.

July

July 6 - Scavenger Donkey Rescued with Foal



Today AN rescued donkey Maneka with her baby Sanu from Bhaktapur. After the brick season finished in May, Maneka was left behind by a heartless owner. By

this time she was lame AND pregnant. Maneka most probably gave birth to Sanu on a busy intersection in the heart of Bhaktapur.

Maneka is one of the discarded donkeys that wander the streets of Bhaktapur, Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts. They were brought from Nepalgunj in Western Nepal to work in brick kilns in the capital but abandoned when they were considered useless. They are forced to live

as scavengers and rummage through garbage for food. They are considered a nuisance as they create problems for traffic. Many abandoned donkeys are in fact pregnant females, and are forced to give birth on the street - without nutritious food, medical care or shelter.

Our staff Drs Sudeep and Surendra, together with Krishna Singh, acquired official permission from the police to take the donkeys to our temporary donkey shelter in Chobar. Local youth objected against the move, but AN managed to convince them by explaining that the donkeys won't be able to survive on the busy streets of Bhaktapur much longer.

Maneka and her foal Sanu are now provided with much TLC, fluids, food and shelter at our temporary sanctuary. After many weeks of neglect and extreme stress, they can finally relax and recover their energy.

July 10 - Princess adopts rescued donkey

Months after the brick donkeys left for Western Nepal we continue to find abandoned equines living the life of scavengers.

On July 10, CAT volunteer Reshma Khaet informed us about a malnourished white donkey lost in Kalanki area.



Vets Sudeep and Surendra together with Krishna located the donkey, and after a quick medical screening realised it quickly needed to be removed from the street. Although the donkey was not injured, it was extremely weak, with dehydration and malnourishment. While searching for a suitable place, Princess Ketaki

Chester, a long standing animal lover, offered to adopt the donkey. The Chester family has a suitable compound, with shelter facilities and lots of grass.

Animal Nepal thanks the patient driver of the lorry that transported the lorry, Reshma and the new adoptive parents.

July 15 - Seti rescued from Koteswor



Seti, a white severely malnourished donkey, was rescued from one of Kathmandu's busiest intersections, Koteswor, on July 15, 2009. Seti until

recently was yet another nameless scavenger donkey, abandoned by a careless owner. The five year old working donkey was covered in wounds when volunteer director Pramada Shah spotted her first.

Seti was rescued by Animal Nepal's vets and programme manager. It took them some time to convince the local community, who were concerned that the emancipated donkey would be put to work in a brick kiln. Our staff managed to convince the neighbourhood that Animal Nepal has no intention to do so, and that Seti will be provided with all the loving and professional care she requires to recover.

Seti is given a new lease on life and enjoys the peace and quiet at our temporary shelter in Chobar. Once the Animal Nepal Donkey Sanctuary has been completed she will move there as one of the first residents.

July 28 - Kennels at ABC/AR centre almost completed

The ten kennels at our Chobar ABC/AR centre are almost completed. Built by Dinesh Shrestha, the kennels are

constructed according to WHO standards. They will be used to house female stray dogs they will be vaccinated and spayed at our centre.

The kennels are funded by individuals who name it after a loved one, be in human or animal. Two sponsor couples come from Holland (Judith & Eric and Miriam & Martin) while others (Ann & Brett) come from the UK. The children of Ama Ghar in Godavari are funding a kennel while two kennels are funded by Brigitte Bardot Foundation (France).

The construction of the operation theater will commence in August.

August

August 16 - Blind donkey Naina rescued

Animal Nepal with the help of Allison Marston

and Emily Kate today rescued a blind donkey abandoned at Nag Dunga, Kathmandu. The donkey was named Naina.

Many brick



donkeys suffer from eye infections due to dust particles. When left untreated some go blind. Naina lost most of her eye vision and was abandoned after her owner returned to Nepalgunj in May. The unfortunate donkey wandered aimlessly on the busy streets of Kathmandu until she was spotted by expats Allison and Kate.

Naina now leads a safe and happy life at our temporary shelter in Chobar. She is treated for malnutrition and plastic waste in the stomach. Her vision will not return. Naina will be allowed to retire at our upcoming Donkey Sanctuary at Godavari.

August 26 - 'Beasts of Burden' report marks start of rights campaign

Animal Nepal today released 'Beasts of Burden', a campaign report based on shocking findings of abuse in Nepal's equine bazaar, Nepalgunj. We

call for immediate action by national and local authorities, exposure by the media and involvement of civil society. The

report can be read on this website.

In June 2009 Animal Nepal's staff Sudeep Koirala and Krishna Singh conducted a 10-day monitoring visit to the Nepal-India border area. They were shocked to find hundreds of abandoned working donkeys living as scavengers on the streets of Nepalgunj. Many of them are on the verge of death.

Animal Nepal wants the authorities, media and civil society to wake up. The campaign report marks the start of a long term rights campaign. In the coming months AN plans to organise

press conferences and interactions in the capital. Next year it will pressurise the Nepalgunj municipality and civil society to build shelters for the donkeys and arrange medical care.

August 29 - Animal Nepal welcomes Minister's decision

Animal Nepal welcomes the decision of Forest Minister Dipak Bohara to put a definite halt to the breeding of monkeys for biomedical research in the

USA. Bohara calls for the release of all captive monkeys. "Hats off to Bohara. He shows what is possible when a Minister takes up his responsibility", says board member Manoj Gautam, who together with his colleagues ran a campaign since 2004.

In January a group of concerned citizens filed a Public Litigation Interest case at the Supreme Court. In February a parliament committee ordered the Ministry to stop the process of export of rhesus monkeys for biomedical research.

"The government is responsible for taking the monkeys out of their cages and rehabilitate them in a professional manner," says spokesperson Manoj Gautam. "Those born in the center need to be taught how to survive in the wild. Those caught from the wild need to be released gradually as they have spend many years in captivity."

The government in the past captured monkeys from the wild and sold them to the Lele-based National Biomedical Research Center. Around



20% of Nepal's lab monkeys are euthanized or die a natural death.

August 30 - Dutch auction raises 500 euro



An auction organised in Zwolle, Holland, raised 500 euro for Animal Nepal's projects. At the birthday party of Volunteer Director Lucia de

Vries and her sister Judith around thirty people brought one or more items to be auctioned. When the auction got started some serious competition arose among the bidders. Boxes of firewood raised a record 30 euros.

The auction was coordinated by Eric Schloesser who managed to raise interest for each item, from a handwoven jacket from India to a Mexican flute made from clay. "I think it was a very successful fundraising event. It was a lot of fun. No matter how obscure the items seemed to be there was always someone who wanted to have it. People left with a sense of satisfaction", says Judith, who plans to reintroduce the Benefit Birthday concept next year.

September

September 11 - Animal Nepal exposes grave donkey abuse

In a grave case of animal abuse, an estimated 55 working donkeys died due to mismanagement in Khopasi, Kavre district. Of a herd of 54 working donkeys that were left behind by their owner, and ten foals that were

born to the pregnant mothers, only nine are still alive. Animal Nepal rescued the surviving donkeys today.

Animal Nepal unearthed the mass grave in Khopasi earlier this week. The team, consisting of Dr Sudeep Koirala and Surendra Basyal, found nine donkeys huddled together in a small makeshift bamboo shelter, covered with a simple plastic sheet.

The deaths are caused by multiple causes



resulting mostly from infected wounds and allergic pruritis as well as malnutrition and unsuitable climate and shelter.

Says Pramada Shah, Volunteer Director at Animal Nepal: 'The death of some 55 donkeys at Khopasi stands as an example of the irresponsible attitude of equine owners in our country. The animals have died a slow and painful death. The suffering of these donkeys and countless others goes unreported and no one seems to care.'

Animal Nepal plans to file a case against donkey owner Rajesh Kashgar who left the caretaker

with only NRs 5000, expecting him to feed and treat the donkey for 6 months. The organisation also calls for the passing of an Animal Welfare Act to make animal abuse punishable by law.

Watch a photo album of the rescuers in action on this website by going to Videos

September 15 - Plant a Tree to Shelter an Animal



'I want to plant my tree here!' The 25 children from Saathi's shelter today turned the Plant a Tree to Shelter an Animal event into a loud and fun happening. The kids planted fragrant trees along the Bagmati river, the lowest part of our Chobar Animal Shelter land, and flowering trees in the vicinity of the kennels and shelters.

The kids were having a great time hugging the donkeys at their temporary shelter in Chobar, and making sure their tree was planted and watered properly. They marked the samplings with circles of stones. The kids brought life to the spreading sanctuary, which until now only saw injured animals, builders and caretakers.

Said board member Shobha Rayamajhi: 'These kids are amazing. We should bring them to the sanctuary on a regular basis. They will make our job easy, and will have so much fun in taking care of the animals.' A total of 120 trees were planted.

September 16 - Friends of Animal Nepal launched

'We have kept quiet for a long time, but now we will break the silence.' That was the pledge of some twenty individuals who will be the founder members of Friends of Animal Nepal. The friends' group will support the work of AN, volunteer at the sanctuaries, and raise funds.

Volunteer Directors Pramada Shah and Lucia de Vries gave an introduction to the organisation and their own views on animal rights and welfare. 'It is not an easy job, but very rewarding. The ban on the breeding and export of monkeys to US labs has been an enormous encouragement to us. The campaign proves that with dedication we can make a real difference in the lives of people and animals alike', the duo said, adding that legislation and awareness raising are the most essential steps. The invitees came up with many suggestions for volunteering and fundraising. The first step will be a benefit concert and visits to international schools.



September 18 - Donkey Sanctuary shelter handed over



Today the first shelter at the Donkey Sanctuary at Godavari was completed and

handed over by the builder. The shelter is one of two planned large stables that house around ten donkeys. 'It is such a happy moment for us and the donkeys,' said Volunteer Directors Pramada Shah and Lucia de Vries.

The shelter consists of a stable, an operation room cum office and store room. It is leopard-proof and provides maximum comfort for both sick and healthy donkeys. The 3-ropani land also caters for a grazing area, and a plot for growing staple food. Ten rescued donkeys will shift to their new home after Dasain holidays, in the first week of October.

October

October 10 - Painting for a cause

Only a week left till Kukur Tihar.....Today a group of volunteers painted the 12 kennels at the Chobar Animal Sanctuary. To match the office/operation theater building (which is constructed with renewable materials) we

chose the colours Nepali red and yellow. We trust the dogs will enjoy



their spacious colourful rooms! Thank you volunteers Shristi, Mohan, Surendra, Sudip, Aicha, Josephine, and Chobar kids!

Next Saturday is Kukur Tihar. Although the sanctuary is not fully completed we organise a soft opening and a dog puja. Our ABC programme is scheduled to start on November 1.

October 13 - Donkeys come home

Twelve rescued working donkeys today moved from different parts of the city to their new home, the Godavari Donkey Sanctuary. After arriving they sniffed the place out, drank some water and banqueted on the lush bamboo plants. The move was filmed by Kantipur Television.



It was a dream come true. for us and the donkeys. Since a month ten rescued donkeys, including blind Naina, were kept at a temporary shelter in our Chobar Animal Sanctuary. The conditions here were not ideal as construction was going on and the night shelter was cramped. Today the donkeys, together with Kutchuri (a partly blind donkey) and Kabita who were kindly taken care of by Windhorse Stables until the sanctuary was completed, all met in Chobar, before being transported to Godavari.

Blind donkey Naina enjoyed her stay at Chobar so much, she did not want to leave. However, after checking out her new home, she got

excited and did not stop grazing until she was forced to enter the night shelter at 5 pm.

October 17 - Kukur Tihar celebrated with opening of Chobar Animal Sanctuary



Today a long standing dream came true when we celebrated Kukur Tihar (Dog Puja) by opening the Chobar Animal Sanctuary. In the presence of children from Ama Ghar

children's home (who supported the construction of one kennel) rescued dogs were worshipped with flowers, incense, food and garland.



As the office building (with operation theatre) is not completed yet the opening marked only the start of Animal Nepal's rehabilitation programme for

sick and injured dogs. Already four dogs are being treated at the center. During the informal ceremony Pramada Shah introduced the work of Animal Nepal and launched the research report: 'Dogs in Kathmandu valley - Man's best friend betrayed'. Lucia de Vries thanked the donors and supporters as well as designers, engineers and builders.

Do watch this lovely documentary produced by filmmaker Tassia Kobylinska by visiting 'Media Center' on www.animalnepal.org.

October 17 - Report: 65% of Kathmandu dogs chained for life

The Animal Welfare Network Nepal today released 'Dogs in Kathmandu Valley– Man's best friend betrayed'. The report shows that people's awareness regarding dog care remains low and that Kathmandu's pet and stray dogs continue to live a life of neglect and abuse. A shocking 64% of pets are kept on a chain, of whom 36% on a very short one.

The report was launched on the occasion of Kukur Tihar or Dog Worshipping Day. According to the network the report findings call for immediate intervention by government authorities, civil society and the public at large.

'Today we ask everyone to take a vow to treat dogs humanely, not just on Kukur Tihar, but 365 days a year,' said Animal Nepal Director Pramada Shah. 'The government must take immediate action to address the problems of pet and stray dogs. However, we as citizens should not wait – all of us in our own way can do something to alleviate the suffering of man's best friend. Dogs look up to us; we should not let them down.'

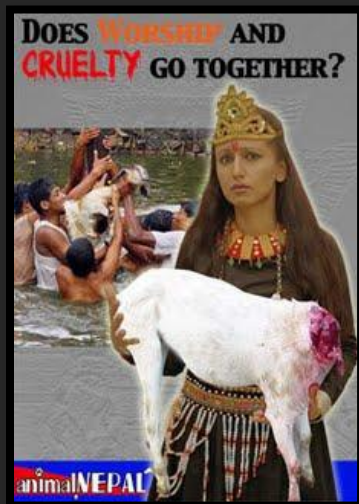
The survey shows that dog owners tend to treat their pets as objects that they OWN rather than living creatures with a right to some freedom and a good life. Stray dogs are considered a problem and are at best ignored. They hardly ever receive professional medical care.

Pets die at a young age, possibly due to general neglect and a lack of awareness on canine health. Only 17% receive some kind of



family planning. This is a great cause for concern as offspring tend to be abandoned on the street, further increasing the stray dog population. Read the full report by clicking on 'Reports and Docs' on this website.

October 18 - Network launches campaign against world's largest animal sacrifice



Today the Animal Welfare Network Nepal launched a campaign against Gadhimai Festival, the world's largest animal sacrifice, which will take place on November 24 and 25.

Can you picture 7,000 young buffaloes being rounded up and killed by a thousand drunk men carrying large knives? A

festival where 200,000 animals are killed to please a goddess? This is exactly what -if nothing is done- will happen in November 2009 in Nepal. The Gadimai Festival in Bariyarpur, Bara District, is held each 5 years. The mass sacrifice turns the entire area into a marshy land of blood.

Animal Welfare Network Nepal wants to end this bloody, cruel practice.

For more information about the festival go to 'Campaigns' on www.animalnepal.org or www.stopanimalsacrifice.com

A number of religious groups in Nepal are opposing the mass sacrifice. Palden Dorje or Buddha boy, a young religious leader, plans to bless the devotees ahead of the event with the aim to stop their involvement in animal sacrifice.

October 24 - Hotel manager cuts hair to save donkeys

Kit Spencer, managing director of Summit Hotel and owner of a rescued blind working donkey called Lucia, no longer sports a beard not a mane of hair. Today he had it cut to raise funds for rescued donkeys housed in our Godavari Donkey Sanctuary. The deed paid off: Spencer has already raised Rs 64,000 to further improve the conditions at the sanctuary.

Friends of supported gathered at the Summit Hotel to observe the ceremony. Spencer admitted he found the thought of being bald 'traumatic'. 'I have not cut my hair and beard since I joined the army,' he explained. His wife Moyra supported the action, and so did the family's two dogs. But the most supportive factor was adopted donkey Lucia, who throughout the ceremony feasted on the hotel's flowers and trees.



November

November 2 - Animal Nepal presents Animal Ambulance

Animal Nepal is delighted to present its Marutu Gypsy Animal Ambulance. We hope it will drive



many dogs and other animals towards a better future.

The gypsy was purchased with the help of 30 Million d'Amis and Martin Schoenmakers and Miriam Lindwer. The ambulance will be used to transport sick and injured companion animals and smaller size sick and injured donkeys to our shelters. It will also carry female dogs which will be vaccinated and spayed under our ABC/AR programme. Many thanks to Jiggy Gaton for design and to Aicha for teaching our staff to drive!

November 3 - School children collect money for donkeys



Grade 7 of the British School in Patan is all set to collect donations for sick and injured donkeys that have found a new home at

the Godavari Donkey Sanctuary. Today they met with two Lucia's, one being a blind, rescued donkey now staying with teacher Moyra Spencer, and the other being Animal Nepal director Lucia de Vries.

The students were very much interested in the powerpoint presentation about the problems of working donkeys and came up with great solutions to their problems. 'We need vets to visit them regularly,' 'We need a law to punish bad owners,' and: 'The donkeys need to be given good food and sufficient rest.' But the highlight of the day was meeting donkey Lucia and feeding her carrots. 'Oh, she is sooooo sweet!,' concluded the children, who readily posed with the delighted visitor.

November 13 - Nepal's 'Laurel-Hardy' Join Protests Against Gadhimai Animal Massacre



Today Animal Nepal helped organize a candlelight vigil to protest the mass slayings of half a million animals during the Gadhimai Festival on November 24 and 25. This mass sacrifice takes place at the Gadhimai Temple, now dubbed the "Temple of Doom". The government of Nepal refuses to step in and stop the practice on grounds that the religious ceremony is "too sensitive an issue."

November 26 - Animal Rights Campaigners Deeply Disturbed by Gadhimai Killings

Birgunj/Kathmandu – Animal campaigners are 'deeply upset and traumatized' by the mass sacrifices that took place at Gadhimai temple on Tuesday and Wednesday. 'The organizers have violated every single code of animal welfare. Despite worldwide protests they have not introduced a single measure to alleviate the tremendous suffering of the thousands of animals involved', say campaigners, including Animal Nepal's Pramada Shah, Lucia de Vries



and Manoj Gautam, in a witness report.

A team of campaigners from the Animal Welfare Network Nepal and Anti-Animal Sacrifice Alliance returned to the capital last night. According to the team the public beheading of some 16,000 water buffaloes ranks 'among the worst examples of animal cruelty in the world'.

Manoj Gautam: 'The animals were not provided with any water and food in the days before the sacrifice. Many young animals had in fact already died from stress, exhaustion and dehydration before the killings started. Their bodies were left among the live animals.'

The organizers failed to issue rules for the general sacrifices that were carried out randomly in a radius of 3 kilometer of the temple. 'Everyone could kill anything, with whatever knife or sword. Many animals died an unbearable slow and violent death because the knives were not sharpened properly and the butchers were inexperienced.'

For more information go to www.gadimai.blogspot.com or www.stopanimalsacrifice.org

December

December 12 - Christmas Bazaar Raises Rs 14,000



A stall at the annual Summit Christmas bazaar raised Rs 14,000 for the treatment of injured and sick dogs and donkeys. Volunteers

Josephine and Aicha manned the stall together with Animal Nepal staff.

A new feature at this year's stall was the 'Pin the tail of the donkey' game. The organizers sold special Christmas cards that pay for a week's food and treatment of a donkey at the Sanctuary or the spaying and vaccination of one stray dog.

But the biggest attraction was Lucia, a blind working donkey that was rescued from a miserable life in a brick kiln and now lives at the premises of 3-star Summit Hotel. Lucia was cuddled by numerous children, who vowed to help donkeys such as Lucia.

December 15 - Signboards Show Way to Office and Sanctuary

Today Animal Nepal staff put up signboards at the Donkey Sanctuary and our new office in Ekantakuna. The signboards were designed by Jiggy Gaton,



Animal's Nepal's Communication Director. Dr Surendra Basyal dug many holes to secure the signboards. People driving towards Godavari won't miss the large signboard pointing towards the Donkey Sanctuary.

December 19 - AN vets treat 35 dogs

Animal Nepal in the period November 1- December 20 treated a total of 35 stray dogs. 25 dogs could be treated on the street or received surgery at Mobile Vet Clinic. 10 dogs were in a very serious condition and had to be admitted at the Chobar Animal Sanctuary.



One dog, Luna, made her debut at the gate of volunteer Director Lucia de Vries. 'Suffering from the worst form of scabies, her

hairless skin had become crusted and resembled the face of the moon,' says De Vries, who named the visitor Luna. Luna was treated with deworm and ivermectin and received nutritious food with vitamins. Today, 1,5 month later, she looks almost like a normal dog.



Animal Nepal is grateful having an Animal Ambulance which enables us to help more injured and sick stray dogs in the southern part

of Kathmandu Valley. Among the dogs are 3

females who were spayed and vaccinated as part of our recently launched ABC/AR programme.

December 28 – Animal Nepal launches ABC/AR programme

Today Animal Nepal officially started its Animal Birth Control/Anti Rabies Programme for the southern part of Kathmandu Valley. In the first session five dogs were vaccinated and spayed or neutered: Tommy, Luna, Kitchuri, Dhobi (females) and Jimmy (male).

The vets showed that thanks to exposure at the Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre they were able to conduct the surgeries in a professional manner. The staff of the Chobar Animal Sanctuary made sure the dogs were well prepared, kept warm during post-operative care and well looked after when the dogs returned to their kennels.

Sadly it was discovered that Dhobi suffered from CTVT and could not be saved.

The launch of the ABC/AR programme was delayed due to problems with water and electricity supply.

We like to thank our donors for their patience!



Animal Team in 2009

S.N.	Name	Position	Date of joining
	Pramada Shah	Vice President, Volunteer Director	2008
	Lucia de Vries	Volunteer Director	2004
1	Krishna Singh	Programme Coordinator	1 March 2009
2	Dr. Sudeep Koirala	Vet Manager	1 March 2009
3	Dr. Surendra Basyal	Vet Assistant	August 2009
4	Harka Lama	Caretaker	August 2009 to October 2009
5	Mohan Maharjan	Caretaker	Sept 2009
6	Thulo Kancha	Caretaker	August 2009 to Nov 2009
7	Prerana Marasini	Campaign coordinator AWNN	May 2009 to Nov 2009
8	Mahesh Sharma	Campaign coordinator AWNN	Dec 09
9	Narayan Khanal	Vet technician	Dec 09
10	Bishnu Basnet	Shelter caretaker	Dec 09



Figure 2 Lucia and Pramada



Figure 1 - Sudeep, Krishna and Surendra



Figure 5 - Narayan carrying Kitchuri



Figure 4 - Mohan preparing food for dogs



Figure 7 - Mahesh Sharma, AWNN



Figure 3 - Thulo Kanchha, caretaker



Figure 6 - Sudeep, Mohan, Parisha, Ishwori, Surendra

Working equines health status before and after intervention

Problem	Before	Solution	After
Saddle wounds	80%	Teaching owner s to dress wounds, give rest to wounded equines, improved harnesses	40%
Malnutrition, mineral deficiency	95%	Provide mineral mixture, vitamin injections, liver extract	40%
Gastric problems	95%	Deworming, improved feeding	15%
Colic (leading to death)	15%	24 hour emergency service; immediate response	6%
Skin problems	60%	Topical creams, ivermectin injectins, vitamins	30%
Eye infections/blindness	30%	Eye wash and drops, vitamin A	5%
Respiratory problems	60%	Deworming, antibiotics,	20%
Anemia	20%	Iron, mineral mix	5%
Hoof problems, lameness	80%	Provide hoof cleaning tools, regular treatment	60%
Birthing problems	40%	More rest, better food, emergency care	20%

Financial Report 2009

Income

Item	Amounts in NRs	Name donor
Chobar Sanctuary construction	€ 5800 € 3979.50 € 147.60 € 314.50	Brigitte Bardot Foundation Serve & Share Mary Beth Eric & Judith
Godavari Donkey Sanctuary construction	€ 4000	Brigitte Bardot Foundation
Salaries	€ 752.73	Mayhew Animal Home
Running costs ABC/AR and dog rehabilitation project	€ 3760.81	Humane Society International
Running costs Donkey Outreach project	€ 6500 € 3631 € 965	Brigitte Bardot Foundation Animal Aid Abroad Donkey Sanctuary (training)
Donations AWNN campaigns	€ 5000	Kindness Trust
Donations AN	€ 4539.50 € 622.79 € 2051	30 Million d' Amis Family De Vries Individual donations
Local fundraising and donations	€ 2695	Local fundraising events and Individual donors
TOTAL	€ 44.759.42	

Construction expenses

Programme	Particular	Amount	Remarks
Chobar Animal Sanctuary	Kennel Construction	504.544.99	Complete
Chobar Animal Sanctuary	Office block	550.000.00	Including toilet, kitchen and fences
Chobar Animal Sanctuary	Lease of land	18.000.00	One year lease expenses
Sub Total		1.072.544	

Godavari Donkey Sanctuary	Stable Construction	596.945.00	Complete
Godavari Donkey Sanctuary	Emergency Shelter	4.150.00	Pilot
Godavari Donkey Sanctuary	Lease land	14.000.00	One year contribution
Sub Total		NRS 615.095	
TOTAL		NRs 1.687.639 EUR 16.876	

PROGRAMME EXPENSES

PROGRAMME	TOTAL AMOUNT
CHOBAR ANIMAL SANCTUARY	1.625.665.71
GODAVARI DONKEY SANCTUARY	1.186.475.18
ANIMAL WELFARE NETWORK NEPAL	119.535.42
WORKING CHILDREN DAY CARE	10.698.47
ACQUISITION ANIMAL AMBULANCE	349.621.10
OTHERS	137.193.00
TOTAL	NRS 3.429.188.88 EUR 34.292



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With thanks to:

