

# Animal Nepal Annual Report 2024



*"Never be afraid to do what is right,  
especially if the well-being of a person or  
an animal is at stake" – Martin Luther  
King Jr.*

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## Mission statement

To build a harmonious and  
compassionate society for all animals.



*Dear friends and our kind supporters,*

*It is a privilege to serve as President of Animal Nepal, an organization that has grown from a small community effort into a leading force for animal welfare in Nepal and the wider region. My journey with Animal Nepal began long before its official registration—as early as 2004, when I joined Lucia (Animal Nepal’s co-founder) and a small group of friends to help care for the street dogs in our neighborhood in Jhamsikhel. What started as a few individuals moved by compassion has now become a dedicated organization working across the country to improve the lives of thousands of animals every year.*

*Having served as a Board Member for many years, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication, resilience, and compassion that define Animal Nepal. In 2024, I have the honor of taking on the role of President, following in the footsteps of Pramada Shah, whose visionary leadership and tireless commitment have shaped the organization into what it is today. I am deeply grateful for the foundation she has laid and am committed to continuing her legacy of care, advocacy, and impact.*

*As I step into this role, I am inspired by how far we’ve come and even more committed to carrying our mission forward—with empathy, collaboration, and the belief that every animal deserves respect and care. Together, we will continue to build a kinder, more compassionate Nepal for all living beings.*

*With warm regards  
Shoba Rayamajhi*

## Helping Working Animals – How our work makes a difference

### Equine Welfare Project in the Far West of Nepal

In partnership with World Horse Welfare (WHW) since 2017, Animal Nepal's Equine Welfare Project continues to improve the lives of working horses in Kailali and Banke districts—regions where these animals are vital to the livelihoods of marginalized Muslim and Muslim Dalit communities. The program provides veterinary care, promotes preventive health, and supports the socioeconomic empowerment of equine owners, recognizing that animal welfare and human wellbeing are deeply interconnected.

#### 2024 Highlights

- **Equine Health & Welfare:** 638 working equines received treatment for wounds, infections, and lameness; welfare assessments and vaccination camps were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Services.
- **Training & Capacity Building:** Over 70 veterinary professionals, service providers, and equine owners were trained in equine health, wound care, hoof management, and One Health principles—building a stronger local network of skilled animal caretakers.
- **Community Empowerment:** 111 community members (97 women) participated in savings and credit groups, saving over Rs. 3.5 lakh collectively. Forty members adopted alternative livelihoods, while others gained access to citizenship, education, and vital registration services. Distribution of berseem seeds improved feed quality and animal nutrition.

*Photo 1: Training a government veterinary service provider on equine examination, Nepalgunj*



- Partnerships & Collaboration: The program worked with multiple partners, including Children Welfare Foundation, BAS Nepal, Nepal Muslim Community Development Forum, Little Star Germany, and government agencies to promote education, sustainable energy (four biogas plants), and zoonotic disease control under a One Health framework

### Looking Ahead:

In 2025, Animal Nepal aims to deepen its impact by promoting education for children from equine-owning families, enhancing veterinary accountability through a WhatsApp-based monitoring network, and advancing financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Collective farming and expanded One Health initiatives will further strengthen the wellbeing of both animals and the communities that depend on them.

*Photo 2: Training veterinary service providers on equine health & welfare, Nepalgunj*



## Equine Health Camp in Tsum Nubri, Gorkha

In December 2024, Animal Nepal partnered with the Gorkha Veterinary Hospital to lead an Equine Health Camp in the remote Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality. Over several days in Gap and Nakchep villages, the team provided essential veterinary care to 292 working horses and mules, treating wounds, lameness, and infections while conducting vaccinations, deworming, hoof trimming, and castrations to improve long-term health.

Recognizing that equipment quality directly affects animal welfare, owners were trained and supplied with materials to craft proper harnesses and saddles—simple improvements that greatly reduce pain and injury. In a region where horses and mules are vital for transporting goods and supporting local tourism, these interventions have far-reaching impacts on both animal and community wellbeing.

Animal Nepal commends Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality and Gorkha Veterinary Hospital for allocating a dedicated budget for equine welfare—a pioneering step in Nepal’s local governance. Their leadership sets an inspiring example for other municipalities to invest in the welfare of working animals that sustain rural livelihoods and high-mountain economies.

*Photo 3: Treatment of a mule, Tsum Valley*



## Helping Companion Animals – How our work makes a difference

Animal Nepal works to reduce the suffering of homeless and vulnerable companion animals through humane population management, disease prevention, rescue and rehabilitation, and community advocacy.

*Photo 4: Rescue puppy Kiwi ready for her vaccinations, Lalitpur*



Through our Humane Dog Population Management (HDPM) programs in Lalitpur, Kirtipur, Lumbini, Godawari, Gorkha and Chitwan we combine sterilization and vaccination to control populations ethically and improve community dog health. Rabies prevention remains a top priority, with mass vaccination campaigns protecting both animals and humans. Our Dog Rescue and Treatment Center in Chobhar provides medical care, rehabilitation, and adoption opportunities for injured, sick, and abandoned dogs, while our Mobile Response Treatment (MRT) service ensures street dogs receive timely care within their communities. We also advocate for stronger animal protection laws, encourage responsible pet ownership through adoption and fostering, and respond to cases of cruelty and neglect.

*Photo 5: Rabina with Nikki – adopted from Animal Nepal, Lalitpur*



## 2024 Highlights:

- **923 dogs sterilized** across Lalitpur, Kirtipur, Godawari, Lumbini, and Tsum Nubri
- **949 dogs treated** for illness and injury through our treatment centers and mobile units.
- **1,186 dogs vaccinated against rabies** in multiple districts, ensuring safer, healthier communities.
- **24 dogs adopted** into loving homes, giving rescued animals a second chance at life.
- **Launching the Cham Nyingje Dog Welfare Program** in Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality
- Conducting the **first dog population census** of Kirtipur Municipality

Each of these achievements reflects our ongoing commitment to building more compassionate, healthy, and humane communities for both people and animals.

*Photo 6: Spay surgery of a female dog, Chobhar Dog Treatment Center*



Photo 7: Rescue dog Simba with his foster brother, Godawari



## Launching the Cham Nyingje Dog Welfare Program in Tsum Nubri Valley

The Cham Nyingje Dog Welfare Program takes its name from a Tibetan phrase meaning “compassion for all sentient beings.” Rooted in the Tsum Nubri Valley’s Buddhist culture, the name reflects the program’s guiding values of compassion, non-violence, and coexistence between humans and animals. Initiated by Himalayan Environment and Life Protection (H.E.L.P)—a Samagaun-based nonprofit working on environmental protection and climate adaptation in the Himalayas—the program was developed in response to the growing population of feral dogs in the Samagaun–Samdo area. The increase had begun to impact the welfare of wildlife, domestic animals, people, and the dogs themselves.

*Photo 8: A man waits patiently for his dog to be neutered in Ripchet village, Tsum Valley*



To ensure a humane and sustainable response, Animal Nepal was brought on board as a technical partner, contributing its expertise in veterinary care and animal welfare strategies. The program is funded by H.E.L.P. with additional support from the Manaslu Conservation Area Project (MCAP), Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality, and the Gorkha Veterinary Hospital and Livestock Expert Center. These partnerships ensure the program’s alignment with local governance, conservation efforts, and national veterinary standards.

The initiative adopts an interdisciplinary, One Health approach to manage the dog population scientifically and humanely, aiming to protect biodiversity, improve animal and public wellbeing, and uphold the region’s cultural values. A one-year pilot program, launched in April 2024, tested the model through a series of 35-day health camps across the valley. In total, 94 dogs and cats were sterilized, 268 vaccinated, and 12 treated, marking the first time most animals in the region received modern veterinary care.

*Photo 9: A man holds his dog for his ARV, Chhekampar*



Strong community engagement and stakeholder collaboration have been central to the program's success, helping to build local ownership and awareness. Early findings from the pilot have provided valuable insights into the scale of the feral dog issue and informed strategies for long-term management. The program now serves as a model of compassionate, science-based animal population management in remote mountain regions—demonstrating how local culture, conservation, and welfare can work together in harmony.

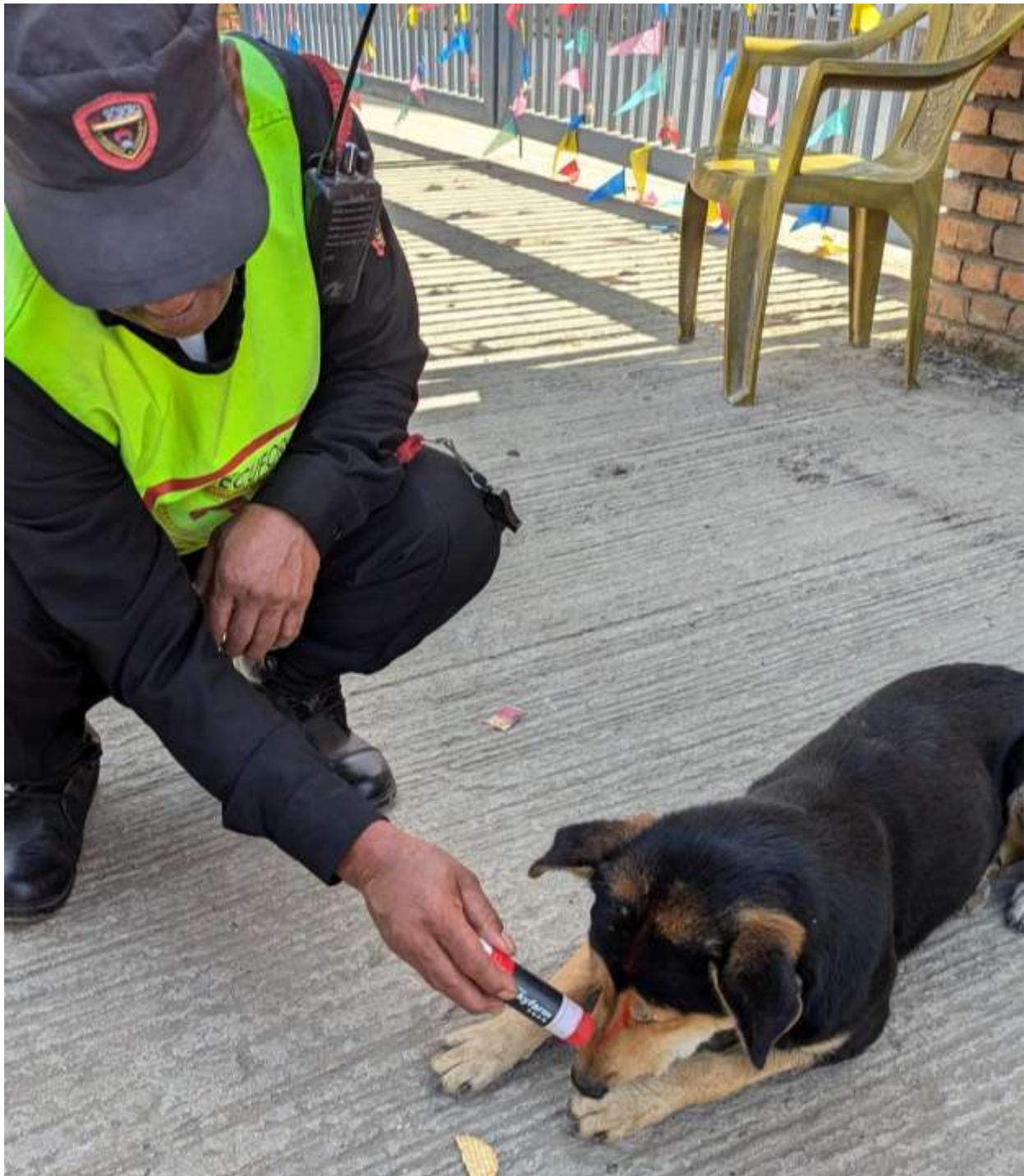
*Photo 10: A woman brings her puppy to our camp for his first vaccinations, Tsum Valley*



## First Dog Population Census in Kirtipur Municipality

In November 2024, Animal Nepal conducted a comprehensive dog population census across all ten wards of Kirtipur Municipality using the mark-resight method. The findings revealed 1,409 street and free-roaming dogs, with 56.2% unsterilized. Ward 9 has the largest population, while Ward 7 has the lowest. This data will guide our Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate & Release (CNVR) program in 2025 to target areas in need effectively. A big thank you to our partners, Edgard & Cooper Foundation for supporting this initiative and HART Nepal, for providing the Dog Data App and assisting with the census findings.

*Photo 11: A security guard helping to mark a dog during our dog census, Kirtipur*



## Street animal welfare in Lumbini Cultural Municipality

In 2024, with support from Help Animals India, Animal Nepal’s Lumbini Animal Clinic continued to make a meaningful impact on the welfare of community animals in the region. Throughout the year, the clinic provided vital veterinary care to 222 street dogs and 52 street cattle, addressing a range of issues including accidental injuries, infections, malnutrition, and skin diseases. To promote humane population control and improve the long-term health of community animals, the clinic also spayed and neutered 51 dogs and 11 cats as part of its Animal Birth Control initiative. Each sterilization not only helps reduce the number of unwanted litters but also contributes to a healthier and more stable street animal population. These efforts—combining direct treatment, preventive health measures, and population management—reflect Animal Nepal’s ongoing commitment to improving the lives of street animals while fostering safer, more compassionate communities for both animals and people in Lumbini.

*Photo 12: Animal Nepal volunteer helping to restrain an injured cow for treatment, Lumbini*



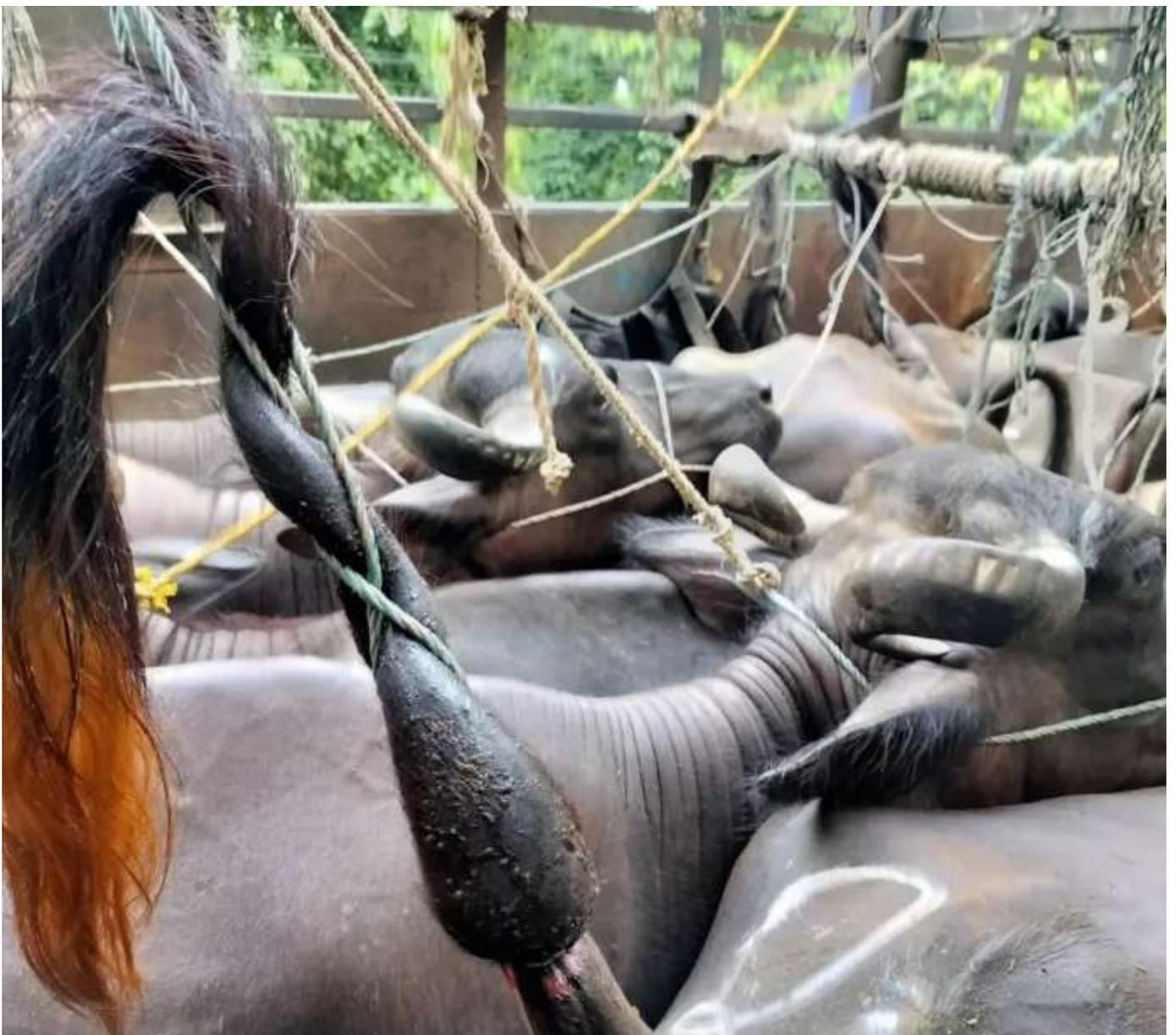
## Helping Farm Animals – How our work makes a difference

Animal Nepal’s Farm Animal Welfare Program is committed to improving the well-being of farmed animals, particularly those used for food, through a holistic approach encompassing humane transportation, poultry welfare, legislative advocacy, infrastructure development, and grassroots engagement.

### **Humane Transportation & Slaughterhouse Welfare:**

Animal Nepal advocates for the safe transport of animals, addressing widespread issues such as overcrowding, lack of ventilation, and limited access to food and water. In 2024, buffalo overcrowding in transport trucks was reduced by 33% through training for farmers, transporters, and veterinary officials, while over 1,200 training sessions strengthened awareness of humane transport, quarantine protocols, and slaughter standards. Strengthened inspections and oversight at key checkpoints, along with the closure of an illegal slaughterhouse, contributed to safer and more regulated animal handling.

*Photo 13: A buffalo tied by their tail during transportation from Lumbini - Kathmandu*



### **Poultry Welfare & Cage-Free Advocacy:**

The program ensures adherence to the Five Freedoms standards on farms, conducting assessments and providing guidance to improve animal welfare. A major initiative has been transitioning 68 poultry farms to cage-free systems, allowing hens to perch, dust bathe, and exhibit natural behaviors. Advocacy efforts, including public campaigns, corporate engagement, and policy discussions, target the phase-out of battery cages while promoting consumer awareness and legislative reform.

### **Legislative Advocacy & Policy Reform:**

Animal Nepal drafted and presented a Model Animal Welfare Act, driving commitments for standalone animal welfare legislation. Multi-stakeholder dialogues addressed key concerns such as antibiotic misuse in poultry and veterinary accountability, resulting in new malpractice guidelines and disciplinary action against unethical practices.

*Photo 14: Meeting held by Animal Nepal & Department of Livestock Services on Animal Welfare Act, Lalitpur*



**Grassroots Outreach & Public Awareness:**

The program conducted 36 transport inspections and 63 street theater performances, reaching over 3,000 citizens to raise awareness of farmed animal welfare. Televised policy debates amplified discussions on humane farming practices, cage-free egg production, and responsible consumer choices.

**Infrastructure & Technology:**

Provincial funding has been secured for a livestock resting center in Bara (operational by 2026), reducing stress and suffering during transport. A mobile application was developed to monitor transport conditions in real time, enhancing enforcement and data collection.

*Photo 15: Session on animal welfare for small farmers, Chitwan*



### 2024 Impact Summary:

- 68 poultry farms transitioned to humane systems.
- Over 1,200 trainings for farmers, transporters, and veterinary officials conducted.
- Buffalo overcrowding in transport reduced by 33%.
- Closure of an illegal slaughterhouse improved enforcement of welfare standards.

### Challenges & 2025 Priorities:

Bureaucratic delays and industry resistance remain, and enforcement gaps persist. In 2025, Animal Nepal will focus on:

- Finalizing and passing the Animal Welfare Act.
- Promoting egg labeling policies and expanding cage-free adoption.
- Reducing long-distance live animal transport through frozen meat supply chains.
- Supporting farmers with subsidies and financial assistance for humane farming transitions.

Through sustained advocacy, policy engagement, and grassroots education, Animal Nepal continues to lay a strong foundation for a humane, sustainable, and ethical farming sector in Nepal, benefiting both animals and farmers.

*Photos 16 & 17: Buffaloes during transportation from Lumbini - Kathmandu*



## Dukuchhap Animal Sanctuary – a haven for our rescued animals

Since 2009, Animal Nepal’s Animal Sanctuary has been a safe haven for animals rescued from suffering, neglect, and exploitation. Nestled in the hills of Lalitpur, the sanctuary currently provides lifelong care to 5 horses, 4 mules, 4 donkeys, 1 hinny, 2 bulls, 1 cow, 2 buffaloes, 5 goats, 1 duck, and 11 dogs. Each of these animals carries a story of hardship and survival—representing countless others who endure similar fates. While we cannot rescue every animal in need, those who find their way to Dukuchhap are assured a life free from fear, pain, and exploitation.

*Photo 18: Bruna and Sangeet loving their new collars from the Tsum Valley, Dukuchhap*



Photo 19: Our caretaker Bikram with some our residents, Dukuchhap



Our sanctuary serves as an ethical alternative to zoos, where animals live in natural, peaceful conditions that allow them to express their normal behaviors. It also offers an invaluable learning environment for final-year veterinary interns, who gain hands-on experience in equine handling, management, and welfare, preparing them to become compassionate and skilled veterinarians. Through guided interactions and storytelling, visitors and students alike are encouraged to reflect on empathy, responsibility, and the shared bond between humans and animals.

In September 2024, Nepal faced one of the worst floods in a century, bringing severe landslides and widespread damage—including significant destruction to the fencing and infrastructure around our sanctuary. Thanks to the generous support of **Raj and Raisha Shah**, we were able to repair and renovate the damaged areas, ensuring continued safety and comfort for our animal residents.

We remain deeply grateful to our long-term partners, **Animal Aid Abroad**, whose sponsorship program ensures lifelong care for all our ex-working animals. Their continued commitment, along with the support of many local well-wishers over the years, has allowed us to create and maintain a truly compassionate space of healing, learning, and hope—a place where every animal’s story becomes a lesson in kindness.

*Photo 20: Caretaker Bikram with Pappu one of our rescued mules, Dukuchhap*



## Gadhimai Festival – 2024 – lessons learnt and way forward

Since launching our campaign against religious animal sacrifice in 2009, Animal Nepal has worked tirelessly to promote compassion and protect animals from cruelty. Recognizing that these practices are deeply intertwined with cultural and religious identity, we have approached this issue with sensitivity, persistence, and a long-term strategy. Over the years, our work has included continuous advocacy with government bodies, local authorities, and temple committees, aiming to create dialogue and encourage alternatives to animal sacrifice. These efforts have been challenging, particularly in an increasingly polarized world where religious and cultural sentiments are closely tied to identity, making systemic change difficult to achieve.

In 2024, our awareness and engagement initiatives included 50 street theater performances across Bara and Parsa districts, performed in Bhojpuri by local artists. These performances, which ran from April through 7 December 2024, the day before the Gadhimai festival, attracted large audiences and sparked important conversations about kindness, empathy, and animal welfare. While these interventions helped raise awareness and inspired discussion, they also highlighted the limits of education and outreach alone, as deeply rooted traditions continue to perpetuate cruelty.

*Photo 21: Street Theater performance on animal sacrifice and animal welfare, Bara*



The Supreme Court’s landmark ruling directing the government to take steps to end religious animal sacrifice represents a legal milestone. Yet, the continued participation of government officials, including the Vice President in the 2024 Gadhimai festival, underscores a troubling disregard for legal mandates, amounting to contempt of court. This contradiction between legal rulings and government action emphasizes the urgent need for stronger enforcement measures.

In response, Animal Nepal is now preparing a report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (GC26), highlighting the right of children to be protected from all forms of cruelty—including exposure to ritualized animal sacrifice. The report draws directly from our observations and documentation at the 2024 Gadhimai festival, detailing the scale of animal suffering, the participation of minors, and the failure of authorities to implement court-mandated protections. Through GC26, we aim to hold the government accountable and advocate for measures that protect children from witnessing or participating in acts of violence, while simultaneously promoting alternatives that respect cultural traditions without inflicting harm.

Moving forward, Animal Nepal will continue to combine public awareness, advocacy with religious and governmental authorities, and international human rights mechanisms to challenge cruelty, protect animals, and promote compassionate cultural practices. While the path is difficult, especially given the sensitivity of faith and identity, we remain committed to building a society where empathy and respect for all living beings are central values.

*Photo 22: a child leads 2 buffalo calves to their slaughter, Mahagadhimai*



## Humane education and welfare awareness raising

In 2024, Animal Nepal directly reached over 3,500 people across 9 districts through more than 80 animal welfare sessions. From street theater and classroom lessons to interactive discussions and professional orientations, these initiatives engaged a wide range of audiences — including students, teachers, farmers, community members, veterinary service providers, government officials, and law enforcement personnel — spreading compassion for animals far and wide. Including animal welfare education in schools and community programs plays a vital role in building a compassionate and responsible generation, one that recognizes the connection between animal welfare, human well-being, and environmental harmony. These awareness sessions not only encourage humane practices and reduce cruelty but also inspire a long-term cultural shift — where kindness to animals becomes a shared value and a daily practice across Nepal.

*Photo 23: Animal welfare session for school students in our sanctuary, Dukuchhap*



## Animal Nepal veterinary internship program

In 2024, 34 interns from the Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (HICAST) successfully completed their internship with Animal Nepal, where they received hands-on training in the management and medical care of dogs and equines under the close supervision of our veterinary team. This practical experience equipped them with the skills to handle a wide range of medical cases — from routine treatments to complex emergencies — while deepening their understanding of animal welfare in real-world settings. By working directly with animals that have experienced neglect or trauma, the interns not only strengthened their clinical abilities but also cultivated empathy and compassion — qualities essential to advancing animal welfare in Nepal.

Through Animal Nepal’s internship program, which has been running since 2015, we have proudly trained over 300 veterinary students from HICAST, other national colleges, and even international institutions. Many of these young professionals have gone on to contribute significantly to animal health and welfare, both within Nepal and abroad. We take great pride in this legacy — and are especially proud that all of Animal Nepal’s current veterinarians are themselves former interns who chose to continue their journey of compassion and service within our organization.

*Photo 24: 2024 HICAST interns at Chobhar Dog Treatment Center*



## Animal Nepal Board

### Board members

Shoba Rayamajhi – President  
 Pramada Shah – Immediate Past President  
 Dr. Sanjay Bhattachan – Vice President  
 Rita Limbu – Secretary  
 Kishori Shah – Treasurer  
 Jyoti Simha – Member  
 Sangeeta Khadka - Member  
 Urvashi Rana – Member  
 Paralita Malla – Member

## Animal Nepal Partners

Our life-saving work would not have been possible without our loyal local and international donors. We would like to especially thank:

Animal Aid Abroad	Edgard & Cooper Foundation
Fondation Brigitte Bardot	Gorkha Veterinary Hospital
Help Animals India	Himalayan Environment & Life Protection
Infinite Compassion Foundation	Manaslu Area Conservation Project – MCAP
Marchig Animal Welfare Trust	NIBL Ace Capital Limited
Open Philanthropy Project	Open Wing Alliance
Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality	World Horse Welfare

## Financial Summary 2023/4 (Based on 2023/24 Audit Report)

No.	Description	Amount (NRS)
1	Overseas Grants	14,22,16,682.58
2	Local Donation	24,50,590.01
3	Bank Interest	6,97,562.27
<b>Program cost</b>		
No.	Description	Amount (NRS)
1	Office General	8,79,297
2	Equine Outreach Program	15,698,629.58
3	Companion Animals Program	71,26,042
4	Open Wings Alliance Program	41,37,530
5	Equine Welfare Project	62,32,462.98
6	Farm Animal Welfare Program	1,12,45,314
	<b>Total Program cost</b>	<b>4,53,19,275.56</b>
	<b>Administrative cost</b>	<b>24,77,014</b>
<b>Summary</b>		
Total expenditure (Program + Admin)		NRS 4,77,96,289.56
Total Fund Received		NRS 17,36,98,834.86
Balance (Carried Forward)		NRS 12,59,02,545.30

Photo 25: Jackie and Setu, Dukuchhap



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