



# HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

## Anti – Rabies Task Force

Project : Malappuram (Kerala)
Month : April– 2018
Submitted by :Dr,Meera Mohandas DD(A.H)MALAPPURAM
Submitted to : HSI – INDIA

- Activities for the month
  - Animal Birth Control and Vaccination
    - Total number of dogs sterilized this month - **114**
    - Male: **64** and Female:**50**
    - We are using hand & net catching along with traps also.
  - The team is presently working in Parapanangadyand Tirur municipality areas of Malappuram District doing education and awareness as well as catching of dogs.
  - There are 45 wards in Parapanangady municipality but since there is no place to set up facility there for keeping the dogs, the team is still staying at the Tirur Veterinary Polyclinic facility and doing catching at Parapanangady area as well as the 38 wards of Tirur municipality.
  - Meeting was held at Trivandrum with LSG department government representatives and Dr.Meera Mohandas DD, Dr. Shivendra and Sally regarding increment of rates for the ABC program.
  - Meeting with District Collector Malappuram on extension of the MOU that ends on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

- **Challenges faced**

- Because of the start of severe summer season, the heat is extreme and it affects work and stress.
- Narrow streets and open terrains making net catching very difficult.
- Problems with public during release of dogs, especially in Parapanangady area.
- Damage to traps from dogs biting through the cage.
- Mostly getting already done dogs while catching and inside traps because most of the dogs in the area of the facility have already been sterilized and vaccinated by the team.
- Team also getting animals like Jackal and mongoose and civet cats inside the traps that we keep for the dogs. Malappuram area has a large number of such animals.
- The team faced issues during the hartals that were conducted in Tirur town during the protest against a child rape case in Kashmir.

- **Team**

- **Veterinarian : 1** Dr. Shivendra
- **Education and awareness officer:** Sally Varma
- **AWO's : 5** ( Santosh, Robert, Aman, Rohit and Ravidas )
- **DR.Meera Mohandas DD(A.H) Malappuram**

- **Next month Plan**

- Meeting was held with Dr. Meera Mohandas, DD and other doctors of the Animal Husbandry Department regarding an exhibition that is being planned to be held by them between the dates of May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> near the District Collector office at Malappuram. The department wants Humane Society International/India ART team to have a stall where we can explain our work to the public.
- Extension of MOU will be finalized with increment in rate from the Principal Secretary's office.

- New location for the team to move to will be finalized and necessary steps will be taken to shift the team as this present location is almost over.
- Dr. Ummuselma, Director of the Health Department of Kerala had contacted our team regarding taking awareness classes to people from the health department of Kerala, first in Malappuram district and then later on in other districts in Kerala state. This is being discussed and not finalized at present.

## **EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:**

### **Steps taken to spread awareness:**

- Regular awareness sessions in Municipality wards and panchayats regarding our program.
- Always having a person present in the back of the catching vehicle with the dogs. This helps a lot in convincing the public that street dogs are not dangerous and that people can be around them without being hurt. Every time our vehicle stops for catching or release, a big crowd gathers around the vehicle and this time is very useful for spreading awareness as the public sees how the dogs are being handled by the team members and a lot of them have many questions about the program which are answered.
- Leaflet explaining ABC and sterilization program and its importance has been translated into the local Malayalam language and will be with the team in the vehicle as well as facility to be given to the public.
- The main issue that people have is regarding release of the dogs back from where they are caught. Public always keep wanting the dogs relocated and not brought back to the same area. We convince the public that relocation is against the law and that it is always safer to have dogs from their own areas back there because these dogs are used to the people. Sometimes we are threatened by the public that they will take those dogs away and release in faraway places to which we respond that if they create a vacuum in their area, then dogs from different areas which are not friendly to them will come and take over those territories and also other animals like foxes will also increase and cause more problems to the public.
- Public are shown the ear notches of the dogs when they are being released and explained that it is a sign to show that the dog has already been operated on and had anti-rabies vaccination. People keep complaining that there are still many dogs in their areas unaware that those dogs have already been operated and vaccinated.