

Anti – Rabies Task Force

Project : Malappuram (Kerala)

Month : January – 2018

Submitted by : Dr. Meera Mohandas Deputy Director Malappuram

Submitted to : LSG

● Activities for the month

◆ Animal Birth Control and Vaccination

- Total number of dogs has been sterilized this month. **158**
- Male: **85** and Female: **73**
- We are using hand & net catching along with traps also.
- ◆ We covered all 38 wards in Municipality Area along with 5 Panchayaths.
- ◆ As discussed with HSI 21 new traps were given to our team by Animal Husbandry Department.



When we are keeping our traps people Disturbing the mechanism by keeping Stone, Sticks, Meat Etc.

- Tirur location was previously covered by the team when doing the program at the Ponnani facility, so there are large numbers of previously sterilized and vaccinated ear-notched dogs in the area.
- Narrow streets and open terrains making net catching very difficult.

● Team

- ◆ Veterinarian : 1 (Dr. Shivendra)
- ◆ Education and awareness officer: Sally Varma
- ◆ AWO`s : 5 (Santosh, Jaswant, Robert & Aman) & one Sr. AWO Sanjay rawat from T& A team till new driver join our team. **Implementing officer DR.Meera Mohandas**

● Next month Plan

- ◆ Awareness and sensitization sessions to the public and panchayat members about our program and what we wish to achieve.
- ◆ As AHD decided to shift our team from Current location to Malappuram Collectorate by middle of February.
- ◆ As new vehicle is coming for HBC so, we can take awareness sessions in all nearby panchayaths.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:

Steps taken to spread awareness:

- Regular awareness sessions in Municipality wards schools and panchayaths 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 in Malayalam language distributed 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.

