

From Fear of Dogs to Love of Dogs: A village transformed - Sarnath

Reports continue to flow in from tourists and pilgrims visiting the holy site of Sarnath. They comment on how grateful they are to see healthier and fewer dogs, villagers loving their dogs rather than fearing them, and even saying that Sarnath is a beacon of light and a village of hope, a place in India where dogs are now loved and not feared.



Adit, a village boy, shows the shelter he has made for his dog Julie, and Julie lets us take her photo with her five pups.

2018 Update

We have now completed five Animal Birth Control (spay/neuter/vaccination/education) Camps since the project's inception in 2014. We particularly wish to thank the **Brigitte Bardot Foundation** for four consecutive grants to Help Animals India which has made it possible for Dr Akshay Prakash of the Sarvodaya Sevabhavi Samstha NGO to follow his comprehensive plan. Each Animal Birth Control camp is accompanied with a very strong awareness program in the schools.

Dr Akshay Prakash of Sarvodaya Sevabhavi Samstha realized during our second camp in 2015 that if a plan was implemented, he could transform the village of Sarnath, helping not only the dogs and the villagers but also showing that Animal Birth Control is the true way to end the dog problems that plague much of India. Fear of rabies and over population are the two main areas we targeted.

- The dog population is less and therefore the dogs are loved and healthy
- Dog bites are less and have not been reported in the villages
- No more reported rabies cases
- Fewer puppies born, thus fewer puppies die on the roads
- The dogs are now community dogs (dogs fed and cared for by community) and most have names
- The sterilized dogs are healthier with less skin problems due to improved immune systems
- 70% of the dogs in the core area have been sterilized to date



Dr Akshay Prakash performs surgery on a female dog and the sign outside of our temporary Clinic

THE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

A very large part of our project is an awareness campaign in the schools, the villages and throughout the community. We teach compassion for animals, dog bite prevention, and what to do if bitten to prevent the possibility of rabies. Our thanks go out to Dr Abhaya Kumar Jain and his Sarnath Village Development Society. Without his help our awareness project would not be the wonderful success that it is.



Clockwise from top left: Dr Akshay Prakash with Dr Jain leading an awareness class in a large nearby school, awareness class

with the young monks at the Vajra Vidya Institute Sarnath, a young boy reads the five points of dog bite prevention and what to do if bitten. The children listen attentively and are always thrilled with the pamphlets we give them to read and take home.

THREE AWARENESS VIDEOS WERE MADE DURING OUR CLINICS

Mr Tom Riddle donated his time to make three videos for the awareness and education project. They are great fun to watch and the vets and children enjoyed making them!

- The Friendly Dog Catchers India, Sarvodaya Vets, made during our spring 2014 Clinic
https://youtu.be/mwU_7rXwyBY
- The dog wise and street wise children of Sarnath present a musical on dog bite prevention
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUzIZYnacwg&list=FLFQi13Q-uKqH0QQtEHGnlAw&index=2>
- The Five Points of Dog bite prevention made spring 2015 Clinic to use in the local schools
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhX7Er7mDTw&index=1&list=FLFQi13Q-uKqH0QQtEHGnlAw>

Our thanks to everyone who donated to make 2018 one of the best years ever for the children dogs and animals of Sarnath!

If you have not already donated, or wish to donate again now, here is our link.
Please specify that your donation is for 'Sarnath'.

www.helpanimalsindia.org/donate

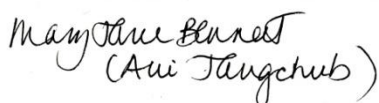
Donations are USA tax deductible.

For more photos and info, check out our Sarnath Animal Welfare face book page.

https://www.facebook.com/Sarnath-Animal-Welfare-632238840232089/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

We are inspired to help more than ever when people like you are generous, joining in a worldwide circle of kindness. Once again, from the bottom of our hearts.

THANK YOU!



Mary Jane Bennett (Jangchub Zangmo)

Help Animals India volunteer, Director of the Sarnath Animal Welfare Project

Eileen Weintraub, *Help Animals India* Founder and Director

Why Sarnath:

Sarnath is a sacred pilgrimage site for Buddhists, a tiny village that surrounds a park in north central India where the Buddha first taught. During a visit to attend a seminar in 2013, Mary Jane (Lama Jangchub) saw puppies run over by fast moving vehicles without a care, children abusing puppies and terrible conditions of starvation for both mother dogs and their pups. She and Mr Ken Dubois vowed to help. Thanks to her long time friend Eileen Weintraub of Help Animals India, and the assistance of Ken Dubois and Dr Abhaya Jain of the Sarnath Village Development Society, the Sarnath Animal Welfare project to help that community began in the spring of 2014.

Compassion for animals is now a reality in this sacred pilgrimage place, thanks to you!