



# **IPANews**

June 2007

Rains have begun bringing back the different shades of green to the Mudumalai area. Most of the animals who live in the wild have been suffering from thirst and inadequate nutrition during the dry months can finally fill their stomachs. The long hot summer is over



## ***On the green pastures again***

IPAN has a new project to build water tanks in two nearby villages to provide cattle with drinking water during the dry season. We also plan to buy bulk grain and re-pack into small quantities which are easily affordable for the local farmers who may not be able to pay for feed by the sack full. This will be another charitable venture which means that we will be using our own funds and will turn to you for support.

Remember that there are many ways that friends can help. One day a lorry arrived at IPAN's gate loaded full with building materials. Old and used planks, poles and broken wooden boxes were waste for someone but gratefully welcomed material for us to fix sheds and enclosures of our rescued animals.

Empty deal wood boxes that once contained raw material for a local Needle industry makes warm secure beds for stray dogs after ABC in the hills of the Nilgiris..

It is all about making a difference. At IPAN we dream of a lot of wonderful things that need to be done Without funding and support of friends these dreams will just remain as dreams.

Nigel Otter  
Managing Trustee

## ***Recent activities***

### ***Vaccination campaigns***

Together with the Animal Field Worker trainees IPAN has conducted large scale vaccination and deworming campaigns of domestic livestock in the remote villages around Masinagudi; Anacutti, Sokanalli, Vazaihattam, Mavanalla, Bokkapuram, Thotalingi, Kurumarpadi and Singara. Total number of 1309 backyard poultry were vaccinated against fatal Newcastle disease and 2134 young calves or small ruminants were dewormed. Vaccinations against Blackquarter disease and sheep enterotoxemia have been included, too.



***An AFW assisting Dr. Selvaraj to vaccinate backyard poultry***

These campaigns are also used as a method of teaching the farmer and tribal owners of cattle about preventive medicine. Many of the sick and suffering animals that are brought to IPAN's veterinary clinic are ill because of high burden of internal parasites. Calves have lost their immunity because they have been deprived of *colostrum*, the first milk of their mothers after calving. A lot of animals suffer because they have been treated with harmful first aid practices which are based on ignorance.

### ***Extensive ABC in the Nilgiris***

This year by the end of May IPAN had operated 1000 stray/community dogs in the Nilgiris. After initially having set up surgery in an abandoned school in Ooty, we have now begun to use three large tents for the purpose. These tents are on loan from the Army and have helped us to operate dogs in remote areas. In ten days of May with only one vet and helpers we operated and vaccinated 250 dogs in the Wellington military area. Panchayat areas that were difficult targets for ABC due to lack of space are now easily done because of the Army Tents. Our schedule of ABC for June includes, Aravankadu, Ketti and Gudalur.

### ***New personnel***

We are happy to have another in-house veterinarian. Dr. Ragini, who joined us in April. She is mainly responsible for treatment of the shelter animals as well as all the out patients that come to the IPAN veterinary clinic while our other veterinary doctor, Dr. Selvaraj, concentrates on the ABC.

Another welcome addition is Mr. Selvam who joins us as a full time accountant and office administrator.



### ***Stray dogs – where do they come from?***

Stray dogs are often feared, blamed or abused by the general public and media but how often do the media go deeper into the origins of the stray dogs – where do they come from?

One obvious reason for stray dogs in towns and inhabited areas is the easy availability of food thrown out with the garbage. Irresponsible solid waste management by the municipalities is the prime reason for increase in stray dog population.

For example, the Wellington Cantonment [an Army area] had started a "Zero Garbage" campaign two years ago. There is a remarkable reduction of stray dogs in this area.

During the past three months IPAN has again experienced how the lack of responsible ownership adds to the stray dog problem in the Nilgiris.

Dog breeders in the Nilgiris have added to the stray dog community as they just abandon old females that are no longer useful for breeding. Three German shepherds have been rescued by IPAN and are now happy in our animal shelter.

### ***Donations as dog food***

Another good way to support animal welfare work is by donating food for the shelter animals. IPAN's dogs are now enjoying nutritious meals donated by friends from leading pet food companies and also broken biscuits from bakeries. These biscuits are also a great favourite with our horses, ponies and donkeys who receive this as a morning treat.

### ***Racehorse shelter***

We have now six ex-racehorses rescued from the streets of Ooty in the new Racehorse Shelter built on the new land IPAN was lucky to receive as a donation from friends and trustees. The new grazing land allows the old and disabled animals for easier pasture safe from the wild animals.



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