

# Activity Report 2008 – 2009

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## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

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### **Tibet Charity supports Old People’s home at Tibetan Settlement Tezu. (April 2008)**



We are very happy to be able to support the old people’s home and elders living in the OPH at Tezu.

We initially found that the OPH was facing a water shortage due to the malfunctioning of the old water pump. On top of that we found the water pipes were very old and water was leaking in many places. Because of all these problems the elders who could barely walk had to travel quite a distance to fetch water.

Now that we have been able to replace the water pump and the broken water pipes they receive a continuous flow of water and the people are very thankful that they don’t have to face water shortages anymore.

Besides the above the elderly people were also provided with some new clothes and mosquito nets. We were told that they had not received any new clothes for the last few years and so were wearing very old and torn clothes.

As the area has many mosquitoes in the summer causing the spread of malaria among the residents, we hope the mosquito nets will help them especially at night to get a good sleep. We hope they will also help prevent the spread of malaria among the elders at the OPH.

We thank Tibet Charity Denmark for their kind financial support.

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**Some poor and needy Tibetans in Orissa received new bedding materials. (May 2008)**



During the visit of the Director to Tibetan Settlement at Orissa he found that some of the elderly Tibetans living in the settlement do not have proper bedding materials. They either sleep on hard wooden beds or do not have anything worth calling a blanket.

So in order to help these people to get a more comfortable and relaxing sleep some bedding materials such as bed sheets, mattresses and pillows were brought there and distributed to the needy Tibetans through the Tibetan settlement officer.

We thank Tibet Charity in Denmark for their kind help.

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## EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

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### **A Tibetan School at Shillong thanks Tibet Charity. (January 2008)**



While submitting the completion report of the project supported by Tibet Charity in their school the Head Master of the School has profusely thanked Tibet Charity for its kind assistance in providing the school with various educational materials and teaching aids.

The Headmaster writes that the school which has a minimal amount of Rs. 500 for teaching aids has benefited a lot from the financial assistance provided by Tibet Charity in buying more teaching aids and educational materials. He felt that these teaching aids and educational materials have not only made the class rooms look more lively and attractive, it has helped the teachers and the students in having a better teaching/ learning experience.

He felt that the improvement in the annual result in the school is a good indicator of the amount of benefit these materials have been to the teachers and the students.

They have even held a grand exhibition on Tibet with the help of materials purchased from the fund received from the Tibet Charity.

He finally writes that "All the Staffs and Students of this school are very grateful to you and Thank you sincerely from the bottom of our heart. We promised you that we will use these materials with full care and take good care of them. Thank you once again."



### **A hostel in a remote Tibetan school gets new bedding materials. (April 2008)**



We are very happy to write here that we have been able to provide new mattresses and other bedding materials to the hostel students at Tibetan school, Tenzingang located in a remote area of the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh.

During the visit of the Director to the school last year the children were found to be sleeping on the folded plastic sheets which too were all not full-sized. These too had to be brought to the school with themselves at the time of admission. As most of the parents are poor, they couldn't afford to buy proper mattresses.

Now with the kind help of Tibet Charity in Denmark they have got proper mattresses along with the bedding materials.

We hope that the students can now have proper and comfortable sleep at night.

We thank Tibet Charity Denmark in general and Mr. Peter Hallum and Sine Hallum in particular for their kind help.

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### **Tibetan School Bhuntar supported with fund for supplementary diet. (May 2008)**



We are very happy to be able to provide some financial assistance to Sambhota Tibetan School Bhuntar to improve the diet of the boarding students in the school.

With the help of the funds received we hope that the school will be able to provide a more balanced and nutritious diet to the students.

kind help.

We thank the sponsors and the Tibet Charity Denmark for their

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### **Educational Tour for a Tibetan School funded. (July 2008)**



On the request of the Headmaster of Sambhota Tibetan School Shillong Tibet Charity funded an educational tour for the staffs and the students of the school who couldn't go home for their summer vacation.

During the tour they first visited Elephant Falls (three steps water fall) which is first discovered by a British.

Thereafter they reached Chera View Point; a place of scenic beauty the students collected samples of many exotic plants and flowers.

They then went to Cherrapunjee, the world's highest habited rainfall area.



They saw the Seventh Sister Falls where the water falls from a height of 140 meters. The students were told about the effects of weathering of the rocks and landscape. From here they could see

the plains of Bangladesh right before their eyes. They had their lunch at Thangkharang Park.

This park is known for its green house and dancing showers. The children enjoyed playing under the water. From there they could see the huge river of Bangladesh with its ox Bow Lake and delta.

They also visited Ma Vsmai cave. There are around 780 caves in Megalaya of which most Ma vsmai cave is the most famous. This cave is known for its Stalactite and Stalagmite structure. The length of the cave is 57 meters and it has many beautifully crafted structures formed by dripping water. This cave was first discovered by a British in the later 19th Century.

They then reached Mawphlang lakh which is known for its boating and scenic beauty. Children enjoyed boating in the lake and chased ducks. They were surprised to see fish of different color.

On their way back they stopped at Air Force Museum. Students saw small models of different aircrafts and ammunitions used during a war. They were also apprised of the history of the Indian Air Force and were shown videos of different Air maneuvers and fighting drills.

Here they saw a full size helicopter, Missile launcher, Aircraft and a Fighter plane. They were all awestruck and climbed over them to see the internal parts of these aircrafts. The children were given post cards of the Air Force and they were explained how to join the Indian Air Force in the future.

They were all very pleased that they could have pleasant tour during their vacation.

I Thank Bill and Bonita for kindly funding the tour.

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### **Scholarship Provided to 22 students (August 2008)**

Tibet Charity is very happy to thank all our sponsors who are involved in helping us to help the students to undertake professional courses. This is important as it would enable the students to become self reliant and less dependent upon outside support. Because of our sponsors we are in a position to support 22 students this year which is double the number from last year. Thank you once again and I look forward to receive more such help in the future.

The detail of the list is as under.

<b>Sl.no.</b>	<b>TC-code</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Course Undertaking</b>	<b>Course Duration</b>	<b>Sponsored by/ through</b>
1.	TCS-14	Kalsang Tsering	Computer application	26 months	SHAT, Holland

2	TCS-15	Tsering Youdon	B. Sc Nursing	4 years	SHAT, Holland
3	TCS-16	Dawa Tsering	BCA	3 yrs	SHAT, Holland
4.	TCS-17	Lhakpa Tsering	Bachelor of Science/BSC BCZ	4 years	SHAT, Holland
5.	TCS-18	Jangchup Dolma	Medical Laboratory Technology	3years	Peace & Fun Group, Austria
6.	TCS-19	Younden Dawak	BBM	3 years	Save Tibet, Austria
7.	TCS-20	Tenzin Choney	General Nursing	3 ½ years	HAN TRAN, America
8.	TCS-21	Jigme Dolma	General Nursing	3 ½ years	SHAT, Holland
9.	TCS-22	Tenzin Kunchok	General Nursing	3 ½ years	Tibet Charity, Sweden
10.	TCS-23	Tenzin Tharpa	GNIIT	3 years	Tibet Charity, Sweden
11.	TCS-24	Tenzin Chokden	BCA	3 years	Tibet Charity, Sweden
12.	TCS-25	Tenzin Norphel	General Nursing	3 ½ years	Tibet Charity, Sweden
13.	TCS-26	Tenzin Chodon	B.Sc Nursing	4 year	Tibet Charity, Sweden
14.	TCS-27	Kelsang Tsedon	B.Sc Nursing	4 years	Tibet Charity Denmark
15.	TCS-28	Tsering Chodon	General Nursing	3 ½ years	Tibet Charity Denmark
16.	TCS-29	Tenzin Bhutuk	BSC Degree Course( PEM)	3 yrs	Tibet Charity Denmark
17.	TCS-30	Tenzin Woser	General Nursing	3 years	Tibet Charity Denmark
18.	TCS-31	Pema Youdon	Genearl Nursing	3 years	Lakha Rinpoche, Denmark
19.	TCS-32	Tenzin Phurbu	B.Sc Nursing	4 years	Lakha Rinpoche, Denmark
20.	TCS-33	Kunga Chonzom	GNM Nursing	3 ½ years	Lakha Rinpoche, Denmark
21.	TCS-34	Tenzin Tsephel	B.Com (Computer)	3 years	Lakha Rinpoche,

					Denmark
22.	TCS-35	Karma Yeshe Lhadon	General Nursing	3 ½ years	Lakha Rinpoche, Denmark

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**Five New Computers donated to Tibetan Transit School (October 2008)**



Sherab Gatsel Ling School also known as the Tibetan Transit School (TTS) is a school meant for the older of the new arrivals from Tibet.

The school was started by the Department of Education under the Central Tibetan Administration to support this group of youngsters since they are too old to go to normal school but too young to manage on their own,.

The TTS students are taught relevant languages and practical work-based skills such as tailoring, carpentry and ICT.

The school doesn't have nearly enough computers for its 500 students. Even the ones they do have are obsolete or irreparable.

We were approached by the Department of Education to provide the school with some more computers. We in turn sought the help of SHAT Holland. They very kindly agreed to pay for five new computers.

As soon as we received the funds from them we purchased five new computers and got them installed in the school in the presence of the Project Officer from the Department of Education.

We very much hope that with the introduction of these new computers, more students will be able to learn computer skills.

We would like to thank all the members of SHAT and Mrs. Ellen Rose in particular for their kind gesture.

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**INTERNETWORKING DEMYSTIFIED! (December 2008)**



Tibet Charity hosted an internet security awareness program with 20 students from November 17 – 19.

The topics covered were

- Basic TCP/IP understanding.
- Understanding commonly used words in network security.
- Understanding today’s internet threats.
- Practice with some security tools.
- Understanding how to protect yourself.

The second session with about 10 students, conducted between 20-28 November was on intermediate network and security. The

students studied the basics of

- Understanding the TCP/IP protocol suite and its diagnostics tools (OSI layers, IP addressing v4, subnetting, DHCP, ARP, TCP, UDP, ICMP, etc...)
- Lab exercises with Microsoft Windows diagnostic tools.
- Understanding Domain Name System (DNS).
- Understanding Network Address Translation (NAT) and Firewall
- Understanding commonly today’s security threats and how to protect you from them.
- Lab exercises with third-party tools to help protecting the Microsoft Windows Operating System.

The class was conducted by Simon Veilleux from Montreal, Canada who has 12 years of experience in computer science out of which he spent 6 years working in the field of networking security for small, medium and large institutions. He says, “Even though I was the teacher, I truly feel that I was much more of a student in those courses than a teacher. Volunteering was a new experience for me, and it has been an absolute wonderful experience! The experience you get from such a invaluable time gives you reward far beyond what you are actually teaching.”

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**HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES**  
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## Tibet Charity funded the HIV/AIDS Awareness Program (January 2008)



Tibet Charity funded the HIV/AIDS Awareness Program organized by the Central Council of Tibetan Medicines (CCTM) at Dharamsala.

To coincide with the world AIDS day CCTM in collaboration with Regional Tibetan Youth Congress and Regional Tibetan Women's Association organized a day program titled RUN FOR AIDS on the awareness of HIV/ AIDS at Mcleodganj. The program attended by Mr. Paljor Tsering, the Health Minister CTA and other local

Dignitaries.

Besides the RUN FOR AIDS program talks were given by various experts on the symptoms and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

The program has been a big success in terms of creating awareness on the disease among the residents of Dharamsala.

There was considerable media coverage of the program as well.

The organizers thanked Tibet Charity for its kind contribution to the good cause.

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## First Aid Training at Tibet Charity (November 2008)



The St. John's Ambulance from Wales, UK, conducted a Basic Life Support training for 101 students and staff of Tibet Charity.

The training was conducted in three sessions of two hours each, with the group being divided into three groups. Basic Life Support training consists of training in removing foreign bodies, treating epileptic patients, arresting bleeding and **resuscitation**.

This session is designed for laypeople to provide First Aid at home and outside before the patient can be taken to the hospital. "I feel this kind of training is very important for everyone. Now these students can help someone who has been in an accident before they can be taken to the hospital," Tsering Lhamo, coordinator for St. John's Ambulance's activities here in Himachal Pradesh.

In its 6th year at Tibet Charity, this First Aid Camp is a regular annual feature as part of a tour of major areas in the Kangra district region. "I am willing to conduct this training in the community if

people are interested,” said Ms. Lhamo. At the end of the training, the participants were awarded certificates for Basic Life Support training.

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**SELF-SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES**  
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## **Tibet Charity organises Motivational and Personality Development Workshop (February 2008)**



Tibet Charity has successfully organized motivational and personality development workshop for the Tibetan teacher trainees from the Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah on the 19th and 20th of February 2008.

The workshop was conducted in two groups .The first group consisted of teacher trainees belonging to the Himalayan regions of India. There were participants belonging to places such as Ladakh, Spiti, Zansker etc.

The second workshop had participants who were all Tibetans.

The workshop touched upon topics such as finding one's personality, understanding resources, setting goals, overcoming obstacles, creating motivations to achieve one's goals and forming new behavioral patterns and commitments.

It is felt that by giving such workshops to the participants who are soon going to be teachers, they could further organize similar workshops to their students. In this way we hope to reach out to the maximum number of people.

The participants have found the workshop very beneficial and they all requested for more such workshops in the future. They felt that such workshops are very relevant to the Tibetans as they are by nature low on confidence and self-belief. They all promised to bring about a change in their way of thinking.

We thank, Mrs.Brita Jacobsen for kindly conducting the workshop. We also thank her family for their contribution in other areas.

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## **A Workshop on Taxation and Account Keeping organized (July 2008)**



On the 1st of July 2008 a workshop on taxation and Account Keeping was organized for the Tibet Business community of Tibetan Settlements at Bir and Chauntra.

The Workshop was attended by all the Tibetan shopkeepers of the two settlements. The Excise and Taxation Officer and the taxation inspector of Palampur and Bajnath attended the workshop. They explained in detail how the goods are to be transported from Delhi and elsewhere to their shops in Bir and Chauntra.

They listened to the various difficulties faced by the shopkeepers while conducting their business and also suggested solutions to the problems they faced. They promised full support in helping the business community of the region.

The workshop was also attended by the Chartered accountant and the Tibetan Business Consultant from Dharamsala who interacted freely with the participants providing guidance in the matter relating to the taxation and account keeping.

The Director Tibet Charity used the opportunity to introduce the various activity of Tibet Charity. He also emphasized the need to follow the law of the India while conducting any kind of business.

We feel the workshop has been a big success in making the public aware of some of the rules governing business transaction. It has also provided them an opportunity to interact freely with the concerned Indian officials and thereby clearing some of the problems they have faced while conducting their business transition.

We take this opportunity to thank Self Sustainable Business Development of Tibet Charity for providing the financial assistance to conduct the workshop.

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*ANIMAL CARE ACTIVITIES*  
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**Tibet Charity Animal Welfare Activities resume. (April 2008)**



With the arrival of Dr. Zinger Igor from Israel and with the formal appointment of Dr. R. S. Kistwaria from the Veterinary College at Palampur as our honorary consultant, Tibet Charity is happy to announce the Veterinary activities are in full swing.

On 4th April 2008, a meeting was held with Dr. R.S. Kistwaria, Dr. Zinger Igor, Dr. Gunver Jull, Mr. Tsering Thundup and Mr. Bishan Dass participate.

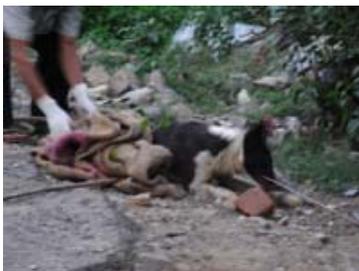
The meeting was focused on making plans for organizing our activities for the year 2008. The meeting also touched upon the need to restrict our activities to treating stray dogs and such dogs owned by various people.

The decision was also taken to organize Dog shows where the owner of the best such dog would be awarded a prize.

With the arrival of two female dogs hit by cars, the vet clinic became fully functional from 6th April 2008.

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### **Rabies alert in Dharamsala (May 2008)**



On 29 May 2008, a staff member of Tibet Charity was bitten on the face and arm by a dog in an unprovoked attacked outside the TC headquarters. The black and white dog, immediately suspected to be rabid, fled downhill towards lower Dharamsala. Armed with tranquilisers and a blow dart, Dr Mark and Vishnu prepared to capture the dog but as they traced the dog's path, it soon became evident from reports that the same dog bitten at least 5 other people and countless dogs, both owned and stray.

The dog was sighted later that same afternoon in lower Dharamsala. Mark and Vishnu followed it throughout the village and were able to tranquilise it after several attempts with the blow dart, but not before it had bitten at least one other dog as it was being chased. Once the drugs started to take effect, the dog crawled into a drain pipe and had to be coaxed out with a make shift pole catching device, upon which it was ensnared in a sack and brought back to the clinic.

The dog was observed for 24 hours in a cage. Its erratic aggressive behaviour, plus other clinical signs such as drooling and an increasing inability to swallow, left little doubt that it was rabid. The vets made the decision to humanely destroy the dog before the disease progressed any further. The following day most of the stray and owned dog population of McCleod Ganj, as well as about 15 in lower Dharamsala, were immunised against rabies.

The TC staff member who was originally bitten received immunoglobulins and began a course of multiple vaccinations at the local hospital. The prognosis should be fair to good with this treatment.

At the time of writing, no other dogs in the immediate area with similar symptoms have been reported. However, it is certain that there are some dogs that were bitten that day who were not immunised prior to or after being attacked. It still remains as to whether or not these dogs will show signs in the weeks to come.

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### **Veterinary Camp at TCV School, Suja. (May 2008)**



On May 22, Drs Sonya and Mark, 2 final year Danish vet students Maria and Louise, and our indispensable vet nurse Bishan Das, drove 3 hours to one of the satellite TCV schools in Suja for our first camp. A couple weeks earlier, one of the young students at the school died after being bitten by a suspect rabid dog sometime in April. They had since contacted us, and had a camp arranged with Director Tsering.

On arrival, we were greeted by one of the science teachers, who became our point of contact for this camp. Like everyone else we met, he was extremely welcoming, helpful, and sympathetic to our cause. After an excellent dinner by candlelight (due to power outages), we had a brief discussion about the school, and our aims over the next few days. During this discussion, a couple of interesting points came up.

First, despite rabies being relatively common and well known in these areas (and all of India), there were still many misconceptions about the disease. No one we spoke to understood that rabies is only passed on by the inoculation of saliva from an infected dog in the last 10 (or so) days of its life when it is showing clinical signs.

Secondly, it seemed that a few days before our arrival, someone had arranged for a truck to come and round up local stray dogs to be taken away. Apparently they were simply relocated to another area. This seemed to happen fairly regularly, especially when there was any sort of incident involving a stray dog. During our stay, we tried to impress on a few teachers and students the disadvantages of this practice- mainly that of allowing a new, alien group of dogs to inhabit the area, possibly bringing in new diseases, as well as causing conflicts with any local dogs that had been missed by the removal crews.

The other immediate downside of this mass relocation (approx 20-40 animals) meant that they had not been able to catch any dogs for us that day! So we went to bed hoping the next morning would be more rewarding.

The next morning at 8am, after another excellent breakfast of toast and eggs, we went over to our operations area- the courtyard of one of the dormitories, a square shaped building with an open area in the centre- where we set up 2 operating tables and a workbench, with a sheet of tarpaulin as our roof. At any time we had at least 1 student helping. These students had strong interests in animals, as well as having a more scientific mind (and of course, not being upset by the sight of blood and guts).

There were \_ females and \_ male. As we began operating, another group of students managed to catch another \_ dogs, \_ females and \_ males. However, they were finding it more and more difficult to catch any dogs, as by now, they were all very aware of what was going on. We realised that the mass roundup a few days earlier had turned normally very friendly dogs into nervous, unapproachable animals, that could only be caught by stealth/force. There were also a few dogs with suspect sarcoptic mange. These were given their first dose of ivermectin.

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### **Camp at Tashi Jong Monastery. (May 2008)**



Our group of 5, Louise, Maria, Bishan Das, and Drs Sonya and Mark, arrived at Tashi Jong Monastery on the evening of the 24th. We could see that there were quite a few strays in the area, but some had the noticeable ear notch indicating they had previously been neutered. After a meeting with the nun who co-ordinated the camp, Ji Dok Snim, and the head monk, Rinpoche, we set up the equipment in two vacant rooms in the grounds of the monastery. Again we were fed an excellent dinner and put up in rooms.



11 dogs were caught for surgery the next day, 8 females and 3 males. The surgeries went smoothly, even though it was our first time doing vasectomies on the males as opposed to castrations. Once the anatomy of the structures of the spermatic cord were identified, the procedure was relatively straightforward. The second room was used as a recovery room, as was the sun-drenched balcony. All but 2 of the males were kept overnight for further post-operative monitoring.

Once again, the dogs were a lot more aware on the second day, and only 3 males were caught. These were vasectomised. Another 2 males looked after by local Tibetans were also brought in for

castration. The dogs from the day before had all recovered well, and were released throughout the day. One seemed to enjoy the balcony and returned, and was still there when we left.

Before leaving that afternoon, we left behind instructions for post-operative wound care, and also medicine to treat a couple of dogs with sarcoptic mange.

### **Day Camp at Khanara. (June 2008)**



On 2nd June 2008, at the request of one Mr Ghosh, Dr Mark, Dr Sonya, Maria, Louise and Visnu headed for the small village of Khanara, 10 km from McLeod Ganj and set up a mobile desexing clinic – in Mr Ghosh’s living room!

Under the curious watch of Ghosh’s family and neighbours, we speyed 6 females (all strays), castrated one owned male and performed a vasectomy on one stray male.

We were provided with a delicious lunch of dhal, veggies and rice with chapattis, which was topped off with dessert consisting of custard and fruit.

A satisfying day.

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### **Ongoing fight against rabies reaches Bir. (July 2008)**



For sometime now, there have been some fatal cases relating to rabid dogs in the Tibetan settlements around Dharamsala. At least two deaths have been attributed to Rabies.

The situation in the Tibetan settlement Bir is no different. The people have sighted two rabid dogs that bit quite a number of people and animals. Though these two dogs have been stoned to death by the public, the fear of rabid dogs is very much in the minds of the public, especially after there are some dogs that got

bitten by these rabid dogs.

With this fear in mind, the veterinary section of Tibet Charity was called to vaccinate the animals there and also provide necessary treatment to the dogs that were bitten and also to those dogs with some other ailments.

So the consultant veterinary doctor of Tibet Charity, Dr. Arvind Sharma, a highly experienced surgeon at veterinary hospital Shahpur, was invited to visit the place and organize a camp there.

He along with Mr. Bishan Das of Tibet Charity provided Anti- Rabies vaccination to exactly 98 dogs and gave injections/treatment for dermatitis/mange to more than that number of dogs. Lastly we had a case of a young puppy with a prolapsed rectum that needed special surgery. In spite of repeated surgeries on this dog in the past, not much help was seen. But now with the kind and experienced hands of Dr. Arvind Sharma working on it, we are very hopeful of a positive result.

Here we were very happy to see the newly formed Animal Welfare Club having young and enthusiastic volunteers. They have been instrumental in organizing this camp and they had caught most of the dogs before our team actually got there. Though the manner in which they caught the dogs and brought them to the camp was very amateurish, funny and rough at times, it made the task of our veterinary team much simpler. It also saved them a lot of time and energy. The Director of Tibet Charity congratulated the team on their new association and promised all possible help in their endeavor to help the stray animals.

They in turn thanked Tibet Charity for organizing this camp and especially thanked Dr. Arvind Sharma for sparing his precious time for the benefit of the animals. They also promised to continue their good work in the future.

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### **World Rabies Day celebrated. (September 2008)**



Tibet Charity Animal Care Section (TCACS) joined the global effort to eradicate rabies from the surface of the globe. Though it was celebrated on the 28th of September 2008 worldwide, we had to postpone the celebration by a day so as not to clash with other local events.

So on the 29th of September 2008 we organized a function aimed at creating public awareness about the disease. On this occasion we were very fortunate to have Dr. AK Gupta, Deputy Director of Himachal Animal Husbandry Department and Dr. Tsering Dhundup from Tibetan Delek Hospital as our Chief Guest and Guest of Honor respectively. Besides these two the function was also attended by Dr. Katoch, Senior Vet. Doctor Dharamsala, and Dr. Arvind Sharma, the Veterinary Surgeon at Government Veterinary Hospital Shapur. The latter also happens to be our Honorary Consultant.

The function started with the welcome address by the director of Tibet Charity. He also related various activities undertaken by Tibet Charity's Animal Care section since its inception. He

explained that so far Tibet Charity Animal Care Section has neutered more than 450 dogs and has treated more than 500 dogs in and around Dharamsala. Tibet Charity Animal Care has also been actively involved in fighting for the eradication of rabies in the region.

He thanked the management of Himachal Husbandry Department, the Deputy Commissioner at Dharamsala, Tibet Charity Denmark, and all the volunteers of SOS Animal Denmark, past and present, for their co-operation and good work.

Apart from explaining what preventative measures need to be taken to avoid getting rabies, Tsering Dhundup of Delek Hospital also explained the steps that need to be taken if one is bitten by a rabid animal. He related the story of a monk who died due to his own negligence in failing to get the post-exposure vaccinations. This, he said, should be an eye-opener to all those who take animal bites lightly.

Dr AK Gupta expressed his appreciation for the work being done by Tibet Charity Animal Care Section and he and Dr Katoch pledged their full cooperation whenever their assistance is required in future.

Our Harmony Consultant, Dr A. Sharma, explained the risk of the disease in India. He highlighted the steps that need to be taken to keep the animals and humans free from rabies.



Finally Mrs. Tsering Lhamo, the Nurse-in-charge at Tibet Charity Health Care, vividly explained to the assembled public the causes and the facts of rabies in human beings. She also explained how we can save ourselves from getting rabies and the necessary steps to be taken if one is bitten by a rabid animal. She used a PowerPoint presentation to make her talk clearer and more engaging.

Once the presentations were over, a free Anti-rabies vaccination program was initiated which went on throughout the following 4 days. Our aim was to vaccinate at least 500 dogs in that time.

In the evening a public talk was given at TCV lower Dharamsala for the schoolchildren. During the lecture the causes of rabies were explained to staff and students and they were told how to avoid getting rabies themselves.

At the end of the talk there was a Q&A session to clear up any doubts and misconceptions in the minds of the audience regarding the disease.

A similar presentation will be given in two more schools. With these programs we hope that we will successfully raise public awareness and we also hope our efforts will bear fruit in the long run by helping to eradicate the disease completely in the region.

We thank the British Veterinary Association and the Worldwide Veterinary Service for their continued support and encouragement.

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**Free Anti-Rabies Vaccination Program concludes. (September 2008)**

As part of our program in joining in with the rest of the world to celebrate World Rabies Day, and wipe out Rabies from the face of the globe, we carried out a free mass Anti-Rabies Vaccination program in and around Dharamsala.

As of the 29th of September 2008, when we celebrated World Rabies, camps were organized in various places in the region. On top of that we hired a vehicle to transport an outreach team of veterinarians, vet nurses and dog catchers around the locale.

The areas covered included Mcleodganj, TIPA, TCV, Tushita, Dharamkot, Forsythganj, Naddi, Norbulinka, Sarah and the Tibetan Transit School.

The team vaccinated more than 600 dogs.

A series of talks were organized in schools and institutes to coincide with the vaccination program and inform students and the wider public about Rabies and its prevention.

All in all the program has been a big success and there was much appreciation of our effort in the public.

A local Indian Newspaper also carried the news of our activities.

We are very thankful to Tibet Charity Denmark, Animal SOS Denmark and all our other associates and volunteers for helping to make our campaign a big success.

With this we hope we have reduced the risk of Rabies in the region considerably.

But we hope to work on till we achieve our goal of *Making Rabies History* in the region.

We hope and pray for the same continued support and cooperation from one and all.

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**Tibet Charity organises a vaccination camp for street dogs around Dharamsala and Norbulinka. (December 2008)**

The Himalayan nature society, in association with the District Veterinary department and Tibet Charity, organised a vaccination camp for street dogs around Dharamsala as well as the Norbulingka Institute area. With a target of vaccinating 300 dogs in a span of three days, the project had a very good beginning with over 50 dogs being vaccinated in a span of 5 hours.



The dogs were captured in sacks and then given the injection. Vaccinated dogs were marked with red paint. The local people provided a lot of aid in terms of where dogs were to be found and in catching them too. In the course of this drive revealed the rising

concerns of the people about how the Government has been dealing with the ever-growing problem of rabies in the region.



On further investigation it was noted that there is very little or no awareness amongst them about rabies, its treatment, and repercussions of ignoring a dog bite.

Also involved in this project were D.C Rana – SDM Dharamsala, Dr. K.C. Katoch, Senior Veterinary Officer, Dharamsala and Dr. Sujay Sharma, Mobile Veterinary Officer. The District Administration provided the vaccines, while the technical support and van was provided by the District Veterinary Department.

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## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

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**Staff of Tibet Charity prays for the deceased in Tibet and in China. (June 2008)**



The staff of Tibet Charity in India have started daily prayers in the evening to pray for all these who have lost their lives in the recent earthquake in China and the political unrest in Tibet.

We offer our condolences to all those who have lost their loved ones in these calamities.

We also pray for the peaceful and quick transition of their souls from this life to the next.

We pray for a quick and early return to normalcy and peace in these regions.



**Inter-faith Prayer for Tibet organised in Denmark. (April 2008)**

Tibet Charity Denmark organized interfaith prayer on Good Friday in New Square in Copenhagen. The prayer was presided over by Venerable Lakha Lama, Priest Plessner and the Imam of the city.

Besides various prayers and talks by various religious heads gathered there, the Danish Buddhist sang the wishful prayer composed by His Holiness Karmapa.



They prayed for the Chinese people so that they may have greater happiness and harmony!

They prayed for the Tibetan people so that they may be able to preserve their culture, religion and identity.

They prayed for early return of peace and normalcy in Tibet.



**Two Board members of Tibet Charity Denmark visited India. (April 2008)**

We are very happy to receive Ms. Jette Hoffmeyer, the In charge of TC Denmark Social and Sponsorship Program and Ms. Susanne Hvidtfeldt, the In charge of TC Denmark Educational Program.



They reached Dharamsala on the 21st of March and left Dharamsala on the 3rd of April 2008.

During their visit here they took the opportunity to meet various officials related to the activities of Tibet Charity in India. They also visited some of the Tibetan schools, Settlements and Old People’s Homes to get first hand information about the situation in these places. They had good interaction with the staff, the students and the elderly people in the schools and Old People’s Homes respectively.

They were overwhelmed by their experience here and were happy to know that that the activities of Tibet Charity in India are targeted towards bringing more happiness in the lives of highly needy and deserving Tibetans in Dharamsala and elsewhere.

The staff of Tibet Charity in India too were very happy to see some of the people behind all the good works of Tibet Charity in Denmark.

We thank them for their kind visit and we hope to see them again in future.

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**The Director and the Office Secretary attends a meeting with the members of Tibet Charity Sweden. (January 2008)**



Mr. Rolf Olsson, the president and Mr. Eddy Otterloo, the editor of Marme (magazine) of Tibet Charity Sweden invited the Directors and Office Secretaries of Tibet Charity India and Nepal to a meeting at New Delhi on the 2nd and 3rd of January 2008.

The meeting focused on improving the coordination between the Tibet Charity units in three places.

Various ideas were shared to improve the working of Tibet Charity unit in India and Nepal besides the discussion on the future projects.

We very much thank Tibet Charity Sweden for this kind initiative as we feel that this meeting has been a very good eye opener for us in making the Tibet Charity activities in India more effective and beneficial for the public in and around Dharamsala.

Whatever little misunderstanding we had regarding our roles in relation to Tibet Charity Sweden were cleared.

We promise Tibet Charity Sweden that whatever ideas were suggested shall be implemented.

We hope to have more such session in the future as it has enabled Tibet Charity India and Nepal to learn a lot from each other.

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