

# Activity Report 2009 – 2010

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## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

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### Ani Lhamo meets her sponsor (December 2009)



Lena Arstarm, a sponsor from Sweden came all the way from Malmo in Sweden to meet the adopted person here in Dharamsala.

Ani Lhamo is a recent arrival from Tibet and as she has no relatives here in India life started becoming very difficult for her. It became all the more difficult as she prefers spending most of her time on prayers and meditation. With no source of income, she lived entirely on whatever little she gets in the form of donations from people who makes offerings to these hermits in retreats. But sometimes days went with no offerings forthcoming.



As living under such hardship even disturbs her normal prayer and meditation sessions, she approached Tibet Charity for assistance.

We in turn were very happy to find Ms Lena Arstarm who immediately took up her case as she has always wanted to adopt a lady in need. She felt that people tend to take up children's case more promptly thereby ignoring the plights of grownups that face hardships in life.

When she met Ani Lhamo she was overwhelmed with joy to see how much difference she has been able to make in someone's life with some financial support.

We thank Lena Arstarm profusely for supporting Ani Lhamo.

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## Drinking Water brought to doorsteps (March 2009)



Water has always been a big problem with the 2700 people living in 418 households at a Tibetan Settlement in a place called Miao in Arunachal Pradesh a small state in Northeast part of India. The people in the settlement used to walk a long distance to fetch water and with the younger population going out of the settlement to fetch their livelihood, it was left for the elder people to do this strenuous task.



Though the Tibetan Government in Exile has set provided them with pump sets and has constructed structured tanks, much of the drinking water problem remained as these pump sets could be used only for one hour daily due to the expenses involved in using the electricity.

So to help the people living in the furthest of the camps from the main village tank, Tibet Charity provided them with funds to construct a separate tank close to a bore-well so that they could store water in the tank and use them as and when they want.

In the peak seasons when there is excess water in this tank, the excess water is used for their Organic Demonstration Farm.

Now the people living in that particular no longer needs to walk a long distance to fetch water nor do they need to be dependent upon the village water supply which provides water only for one hour a day.

This has also helped the settlement as a whole as there is now one camp less relying upon the main water source because of which the settlement is able to provide more water to other camps.

The Settlement Staff and the general public have expressed their deep appreciation of the kind help they received from Tibet Charity.

We extend our heartiest thanks to Tibet Charity Denmark for their kind help.



## Crèches in a remote Tibetan settlement gets a face-lift (February 2009)



The settlement has a few crèche where very young children are sent while the parents are busy attending to the field or other community activities.

But the facilities in the crèches were very poor.

The floors of these crèches were concrete and the children had to sleep on these bare floors in the afternoons. Now they have been able to lay wooden planks on the floors and some mattresses were also laid on these floors. This made them much more comfortable to sit during the class hours or sleep in the afternoon.

Then the kitchen still used firewood to cook food for these children which was a hard task for the cooks. They also had very poor utensils and insufficient number of plates and spoons. They have now been provided with LPG gas stoves. They were also provided with new utensils which have made the task of the cooks much easier. The children were provided with new plates and spoons.

The teachers used a polished part of the wall as blackboards which becomes very difficult to write on after a few use. But now thanks to the white boards, teaching has become much more enjoyable for the teachers. Writings too have become clearer for the children.



Then the class books and other items were kept on the floor which got eaten up by the rats. But now thanks to the steel cupboards, the things could be safely kept in them.

The settlement officer who is also the in-charge of these crèches writes in his completion report, "project has greatly benefited the children and this has ultimately resulted in the increase in the children's attendance to these crèches. All these have been possible because of the kind support of Tibet Charity in general and Mrs. Pia Lakha in particular who works endlessly in aid of the poor and needy Tibetans living in India and Tibet".

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## EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

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### **Spiritual and Cultural Teacher Training funded: (January 2009)**



In 2005, Department of Education has organized first ever Spiritual and Cultural teacher training and on its completion placements were given in secondary and senior secondary schools.

It has been a long felt need to have spiritual and cultural teachers at the middle schools also to assist in the spiritual and moral development of children from an early age.



With this intention, 3 months' training for 16 religious and cultural teachers was organized from the 4th of October 2008 till 7th January 2009. After the successful completion of the training, all the trainees were given placement in various Tibetan schools and institutes.

With this training we hope that the upcoming generation of Tibetans will be able to receive in-depth knowledge on Buddhism and they will also be in a position to implement them in their daily lives as they grow up. With the growing restriction on practicing one's faith back inside Tibet, the onus is on the Tibetans in exile to keep the flame of Buddhism burning.

We are very happy to have been able to provide financial support to carry out this workshop. We are very grateful to Venerable Lakha Rinpoche in particular and Tibet Charity Denmark in general for providing us the financial support.



### **Workshop on Kitchen Garden organized (April 2009)**



A workshop on setting up kitchen gardens in schools was organized at CST Chauntra from 23rd to 27th March 2009.

The workshop was conducted by Mr. Sten Melson and Mrs. Nette from Denmark with kind financial support from DANIDA. The workshop was attended by staff and students from various Tibetan schools under Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society and Tibetan Children's Village.

The main objectives behind organizing the workshop are as under:

1. To instill gardening skill among the school children so that they can set up their own kitchen gardens when they grow up.
2. Encourage schools to cultivate their own vegetables (as much as possible) so that they can save on the money spent on buying vegetables from the market.
3. Introduce organic farming to the students.
4. Educate the schools on proper dietary habits
5. Correlate classroom teaching with practical work in the field

Mr. Sten Melson gave detail information on setting up kitchen gardens and the general technicalities related to planting vegetables and fruits.

Mrs. Nette talked on the nutritional values of various crops and fruits.

The participants were also taken to the state Agricultural universities where they learnt the composition and the requirements of soil for proper growth of plants.

They thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the vermicompost site where they received knowledge on special kind of earthworm that helps in creating manure from the house and other wastes.

On the final day they expressed their gratitude to all those concerned in organizing this workshop which they said has been very beneficial.

They have all shown great eagerness to get the kitchen garden started as soon as they reach back to their schools. Mr. Karma Chungdak la, the Director of Sambhota Tibetan Society promised all necessary help to the schools in setting up and successfully running the schools under his administration.

We thank all those involved in making this workshop a grand success. Our special thanks goes to the School Administrations, STSS, the Resource persons and the participants, Mr. Peter Hallum, Tibet Charity Denmark and the staff & the students of CST Chauitra – the host school.

Last but not the least we thank DANIDA for their kind financial support without which this workshop would not have happened.

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## **New Bathrooms and Toilets built for a school (May 2009)**



STS Shillong is a primary school located in Arunachal Pradesh in the North East part of India. The school has 93 students and 29 staff members. Most of the children are from various remote places around the area such as Shillong, Dimapur, Itanagar, Kohima, Tawang and most importantly from remote areas of Tuting, Arunachal Pradesh.

The school was facing problems in poor hygiene standards due to lack of clean toilets and bathrooms. Earlier children used to relieve themselves everywhere during early morning as there were only two functional toilets for 122 people including students. This caused a lot of health issues and made the place unhygienic with bad smells. It was also very inconvenient and unsanitary for female staff and students with no proper toilets around.

With the help of Save Tibet Austria the school now has adequate number of toilets and bathrooms which gave the place a much better look and it has also become more hygienic. They can now bathe in the nice closed bathrooms instead of having to bathe in the open.

We thank Save Tibet Austria on behalf of the staff and the students of the school for their kind support.



## **Educational Tours (July 2009)**



Tibet Charity India, with the help of generous sponsorship from Ven. Karma Yeshe and Red Cross Limoux, successfully ran educational tours for the staff and students at Sambhota Tibetan School, Shillong and the Central School for Tibetans, Chauntra respectively. The students were mainly those who could not go home for their vacation as their parents could not afford to take them home.

The two schools ran two separate trips. Sambhota Tibetan School, Shillong ran their trip in early June and all students and staff enjoyed the tour immensely. The first day of the trip consisted of a visit to Lady Hydray Park, on the outskirts of Shillong. After that the children visited Crinoline Swimming Pool. For many, this was the first time they had seen a swimming pool and they loved diving in and swimming in the clear blue water.

The next day of the tour the children were given the opportunity to learn about different cultures and indigenous peoples by visiting museums and other areas of natural beauty. Visiting Shillong Peak gave them the chance to learn about the local Khasi people and their way of life from local guides. The visit to Don Bosco Museum for Indigenous Cultures was one of the highlights of the trip. The day then ended with a peaceful visit to Umiam Lake which is 20 km from Shillong.

The final day of the trip incorporated a visit to two museums, a science exhibition. The tour ended with a memorable trip to Ward's Lake. In total, 85 people went on the trip and every agreed that it was an unforgettable summer vacation.

The same reflections were also echoed by CST Chauntra after their tour. It was a much bigger tour, with 200 students taking part. It took place in near-by Galu and the summer camp lasted for the whole of the 20 day vacation period. It was a perfect opportunity to study and appreciate the beauty of the natural world and many students even took to cleaning the forest areas. Through community living and co-operation, the students learnt many invaluable life skills. As the Principal of the school so accurately stated, 'in nut shell - it was a successful and a memorable summer camp'.

The staff and students at CST Chautra and Sambhota Tibetan School, Shillong, along with Tibet Charity India, would like to pass on their deepest thanks to the generosity of Ven. Karma Yeshe and Red Cross Limoux. Without the financial help and support of these contributors, the summer educational tours would not have been able to have taken place.

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### **A Tibetan school at Shillong supported (September 2009)**

Sambhota Tibetan School Shillong is situated in the North-Eastern part of India. It is in the state of Meghalaya where a considerable number of Tibetans



reside and do petty businesses for their living. The school not only provides quality education to the children but also acts as an ambassador of our rich culture and tradition by actively participating in the state organised programs.

Though the school has shown some positive result as far as the standard of education is concerned, the school faced some problems relating to their infrastructure with leaking roofs, lack of basic teaching aids, library books, reference materials and other audio-visual teaching aids.

So when they approached us with their needs, we found their needs to be genuine and something that required immediate help. We then provided them with the necessary fund to carry out the purchases and renovation works.

With the fund the school received from us the school purchased a photo copier and a fax machine which they said not only saved them money on stationeries but also saved some precious time as they had to go to the town which is 5 km away from the school whenever they needed to do some photocopies or send faxes.

The colour television they bought with the help has made the life of the students in the hostel more fun and entertaining.

The staff too felt more at ease after the staff quarters were renovated, roofs repaired and rooms refurnished. "The teaching aids and reference materials have been of great help to make the lessons more interesting and effective", says the school headmaster. He further says, "The students have developed good reading habits and a special liking for Tibetan story books".

The Department of Education, CTA Dharamsala extended their "sincere gratitude to Tibet Charity and its members for their generous support. " They further wrote, "It would not have been possible for us to implement this project without your kind support. We eagerly look forward for your continuous warm support in future too".

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## HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

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### **Home for the sick inaugurated (January 2009)**



The Director of Tibet Charity India inaugurated the home for sick in Chandigarh on 7th January 2009.

Chandigarh is a well known city in the state of Punjab in India. The city has some of the best hospitals in the region because of which many Tibetans who are seriously ill are referred to various hospitals in the city – the most prominent one being the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science, more commonly referred to as PGI.

Many of these patients who come to the city for treatments are new comers from Tibet who come with various ailments. Many fall sick while traveling on foot across the Himalayas to escape the hardships there. When they come to the city for treatments, they face great difficulty as they don't speak any other language other than Tibetan. Even for those who can speak Hindi or English, some of the hospitals are so big and crowded that they face difficulty in locating the right hospital or the right doctor.

So to help these patients the Sangye Menlha (Buddha of Medicines) Trust was formed with some volunteers to help them in getting treatment. The rooms are too expensive in the city for many of those who have recently arrived from Tibet and for those with little money. In order to help these patients to have a proper room to stay in during the periods of their treatments, the Sangye Menlha Trust approached Tibet Charity for help. Tibet Charity in Denmark has kindly agreed to pay for the rent of the building. This will greatly benefit all those Tibetans coming to Chandigarh from all over India.

We thank Tibet Charity Denmark for their kind help.

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### **Health education tour to TCV School Suja and CST Chauntra (19/11/09 to 21/11/09)**

Tibet Charity Health Care Section visited TCV Suja and CST Chauntra where special talk was organised on Rabies, Women's Health, HIV/AIDS/STDs and Hepatitis B.

We started with TCV Suja School where there were 1676 students and 175 staff members. We did the power point presentation on Rabies first, followed by question and answer session. There were so many interesting and clever questions asked after the presentation.



In the afternoon a special discussion on Women's health with 709 girl students and 30 ladies teachers and home mothers was held. We had a separate talk with the teachers and home mothers as well. The home mothers and teachers were advised to pay more attention to the teenage girls and boys. Special health issues related to the teenagers were also discussed. We were happy to see school girls and the staff asking many questions after the presentation. We felt that we need to spend more time in the school discussing women's problems.

Our Health Section In-charge also talked about HIV/ Aids and Hepatitis B to the students and staff as this is a growing menace in the small Tibetan community. She also stressed on the need to pay more attention to their prevention rather than the treatment.



On Friday, 20th November, at 7am we did Fasting Blood Sugar test of 50 staff members who were 35 to 64 years of age for Type 2 Diabetes. We gave advice on diet, because the Type 2 Diabetes is due to eating wrong food. There were three staff members with high blood sugar, but two of them are known Diabetes patient and are not on any treatment.

They were explained the

omplications of Diabetes & high blood pressure and the danger of not being on any treatment.

A similar program was arranged at CST Chauntra where there were 365 students and 41 staff members.

After seeing the response of the students and the staff in the two schools, we feel that more talks need to be organise in various schools on topics related to their health.

We thank the administrations in the two schools for organizing this program for us in their schools.

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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 joined local Vets in organizing a Camp. (February 2010)



Tibet Charity organized a camp aimed at carrying out Animal Birth Control and Vaccination program for the dogs in Dhari, a small Indian village close to Dharamsala.

This camp was organized at the request of local Indian administration to curb the increasing menace caused by the growing dog population.

The Doctors carrying out the program for us were Dr. Sujoi, Dr. B.N. Sharma and Dr. Atul Puri. These three are well experienced veterinarian of local vet hospitals.



The camp went on for three days during which time more than 25 dogs were sterilized and vaccinated.

This collaboration with the local vets marks a beginning of a new chapter in the history of our Animal Care Program. Such joint collaboration will enable us to carry out animal welfare programs and organize camps even when no volunteer vets are available. All the three vets have promised their full cooperation whenever their helps are required.



We thank the local administration and the vets for making the camp a success. We thank Brigitte Bardot Fondation for funding this camp.

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## The construction of new kennels for dogs started (December 2009)



The construction of seven new concrete kennels for dogs has started. These new kennels will be a big help in keeping the animals who come to our clinic for treatments or operations. Initially they were kept in metallic cages with tin walls but the dogs have repeatedly broken these cages and escaped.

Sometimes they have escaped before they have fully recovered from some operations thereby putting themselves in great danger of major infections. Sometimes they have broken the cages halfway and escaped



and in the process they have caused great damage to their own bodies. It was then decided to build these concrete cages. Once these are constructed we hope to give them greater care after operations.

We are very grateful to Tibet Charity Denmark in general and Ms Gunver Juul in particular for taking up this case and sanctioning the amount for the construction.

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## Animal Birth Control Camp at TCV Suja concluded (November 2009)



The last of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) camp at school for the year was organised at TCV Suja from 19th to 20th November 2009.

Although we have organised the camp at this school few weeks back, our vets felt that there were quite many puppies that were too young to be operated at that time. So they chose to go back to this school after a few weeks time when these puppies will be big enough to be operated.

So on the 19th and 20th our vet group operated 24 puppies and some other dogs.

A special talk on Rabies and its prevention & cure was also organised. Mrs. Tsering Lhamo, In-charge Tibet Charity Health Care Section explained to the students about the prevention and cure of the dreaded disease. At the end of the talk she answered questions in relation to the talk.

With this we have come to the end of ABC camps in the schools for the year. We really appreciate the good works of our vets throughout the year for doing wonderful service to the community. We also thank all those who have hosted these camps in their respective school.

We thank our sponsors, particularly Brigitte Bardott Fondation for funding all such camps. We also thank Animal SOS Denmark for paying for the accommodations of our volunteers and for sending us volunteers from time to time.

We shall soon come out with the Annual Report of our Animal Care Activities.

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### **More than 600 dogs given anti-rabies vaccination (October 2009)**

As part of our program to eliminate rabies from the region we carried out mass vaccination program for both the stray and pet dogs and cats. Under this program we vaccinated more than 600 dogs in Mcleodganj and the adjoining areas.

Four volunteer vets from abroad and few of our staff took part in the vaccination program.

The vaccination program started from the World Rabies Day where Dr. Anil Gupta, the Deputy Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, gave the first vaccination to one of the dogs which has started living with us after its owner has thrown him out of the car.



Thereafter the program went on for one week during which time our team went around the town and villages surrounding it. At many places they had to walk some distance so that they can reach those animals staying away from the main road.

The public showed much appreciation to the initiative taken by Tibet Charity Animal Care Centre and extended their full cooperation in finding the dogs and catching them.

This is the second time we have done such program on a large scale though we carry out sterilization program along with vaccination program on dogs of the region on a regular basis.

It is because of this initiative that we have had no deaths caused by rabid dog bites this year though we did have one rabid dog that was caught and euthanized this time. Last year around this time some precious lives were lost due to rabid dog bites and there were many more rabid dogs seen around the town.

Though our initiative has brought about great progress in combating the disease we intend to continue doing our bit till Rabies become a history in the region.

But all our effort would not have borne the desired result if Brigitte Bardot Fondation had not come to our aid. They have funded these ABC and vaccination program. It is thanks to them that we have achieved so much in so short period.

We thank all those concerned at Brigitte Bardot Fondation for providing us this much needed support.

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### **Tibet Charity joined the global community in celebrating World Rabies Day. (September 2009)**



Though World Rabies Day is celebrated worldwide on the 28th of September, we had to postpone the celebration by a day as it coincided with Dushera, an important Hindu festival.

On the 29th of September there was a large gathering of people outside Tibet Charity House. Dr. Tseten Sandhotsang, the private physician of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chief Medical Officer of Tibetan Delek Hospital at Dharamsala was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He explained to the public how dangerous the disease can be to the people. He also explained what one needs to do if one is bitten by a rabid dog. He mentioned how some Tibetans have died of rabies in the past.



Dr. Anil Gupta also attended the program with some local vets. He spoke on how animals can get rabies and what one needs to do to prevent the animals around us from getting

rabies.

Both the speakers lauded Tibet Charity for taking the noble initiative to make Dharamsala Rabies free zone.

The Director of Tibet Charity briefly explained the various activities of Tibet Charity Animal Care Section and how its activities have helped in controlling the canine population in the region.

The In-charge of Tibet Charity Health Section used power point presentation to explain the details of the disease in relation to human beings.

On the next day mass vaccination program was launched which will run for few days. During these three days we hope to vaccinate at least 500 dogs.

A special Rabies Awareness talk was organised in a nearby school where children below 12 years of age and the staff attended. At the end of the talk students were encouraged to ask questions relating to the disease.

Along with the talk, both the stray and the pet dogs in the schools numbering around 30 were vaccinated.

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### **Tibet Charity in Kanyara (21st- 25th September 2009) -By a volunteer vet**

Khanyara is a small Indian village about half an hours drive outside of Dharamsala. We were very kindly offered the opportunity to provide a camp by the local people.

#### **Monday 21st**

The team arrived at Khanyara and provided with very amenable facilities including a room suitable for recoveries post surgery and a separate operating room. The team consisted of 4 qualified voluntary veterinarians and two full time para-vets. We had 'chai' with the village head and then the camp was started. Some only required a rabies booster, 10 were sterilized. The local veterinarian was invited to the camp to oversee procedures.



#### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The team sterilized 14 dogs (6 males and 8 females).

#### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The day started with a phone call from a neighbouring village, where a dog was showing some of the signs of rabies, had been spotted trying to bite other dogs. The team divided it to 2. Half went to Norbulinga and the other half stayed in the clinic to manage a dog with a deep wound on its leg. Unfortunately the dog had run off before the team had arrived but we were able to start post exposure vaccination of the local dog population and took 5 young dogs for sterilization and one severely underweight one for treatment. The team joined together again after lunch to carry out sterilization on 8 dogs. A tail was also amputated due to a fracture and chronic changes to the adjacent tissue.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**

The team was down by one vet due to illness; however 10 street dogs were sterilized.

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

The team started the day by sharing ‘chai’ with the village head. 6 dogs were sterilized. One puppy was found with injuries to its jaw. The camp was closed on the Friday at 2 o clock. At which point everything was packed up. The young dogs were returned to Norbulinga and street dogs from the local area had their surgical wounds inspected and were released.

In total 48 dogs were sterilized over the week and many more were vaccinated. The underweight puppy and the one with the damaged jaw were taken back to the clinic where they have continued to improve everyday. The team would like to thank the village, not only for being such pleasant hosts, but for their support and interest in animal care and rabies prevention. We would also like to extend our thanks to the local veterinarian and pharmacist for their input.



**Local and National Press Lauds Tibet Charity for its Animal Welfare Activities**

(September 2009)



Many local as well as national newspapers lauded Tibet Charity for its animal welfare activities.

The Tribune, one of the national newspapers wrote in their front page that Tibet Charity has extended support to the veterinary department authorities in curbing the menace of stray dogs by sterilizing both male and female dogs in “humane and scientific way”.



They further wrote that our camps have served the “Indian Society in the right perspective”.

The Tribune reporter said that he was amazed at the dedication of the volunteer vets in serving the dogs.

They wrote, “ The affection and love that the team members showered on the dogs was appreciable. They (dogs) were hugged and carried by the team members in their laps”.

The Divya Himachal which is one of the most read newspapers in the state appreciated the opening of the new Animal Care Centre. They wrote that this is first such centre in the region

where dogs will be sterilized, vaccinated and treated for various ailments. They wrote," the facilities in the Centre is far superior to many human clinics in the region".

Besides these two newspapers many other newspapers also carried news on the animal care centre and the good work done by Tibet Charity for the welfare of all the communities in the region.

We are happy to write here that through our animal welfare activities we have not only been successful in drastically reducing the problems related to stray dogs but we have also been able to bring the people of the two communities closer. The amount of support we have received and continue to receive from the Indian administration as well as the general public is highly commendable.

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### **Mass ABC and vaccination program for the dogs (September 2009)**



With the help from 20 volunteer vets, nurses and helpers from Norway, Denmark and Sweden, Tibet Charity has organised mass ABC and vaccination camps at various places around Dharamsala.

The first of the camps was organised inside the premises of Tanda Medical College where we sterilized and vaccinated 30 dogs. The location is a place frequently visited by people of the region for medical checkups and treatments. But the increase in dog population has caused great inconvenience to the people coming to the hospital. With the camp we hope we have been able to support the community by controlling the dog population at least for some time now.

We then organized a camp at the Tibetan settlement at Bir (65 km from Dharamsala). Here we sterilized and vaccinated. This is a place where we had some cases relating to rabid dogs. A girl in a neighboring school lost her life due to a bite by a rabid dog. So the people were really scared by the growth in the population of the stray dogs in the region.

During the camp at Bir we sterilized and vaccinated 65 dogs. We were given excellent support by the local volunteers for animals.

Finally we organised a camp at a picturesque but remote village called Rir Kamar which is around 2 hours' drive from Dharamsala. The people there were also frightened by the massive increase in the population of the stray dogs in the region. So when we started our camps there we were

amazed by the enthusiasm and the cooperation of the people in the region. People brought dogs from all around and waited in queues with their dogs.

Under bad weather and poor light our volunteers worked very hard from dawn to dusk and in three days they have done more than 140 dogs which is something unheard of till date.

Besides ABC and vaccination programs, our volunteers also treated animals that come to them for treatments including a cow at Rir Kamar.

When our volunteers left after staying here for a few weeks, they did so with a great sense of satisfaction and joy. Dr. Irene has aptly said, "I feel that I have done something that has made my life more meaningful."

We extend our heartiest thanks to all of them for their dedication towards their work while they were here. The amount of love and affection they show to the animals is something that we can learn a lot from.

We also thank our sponsors especially Brigitte Bardot Fondation from France for helping us financially to organize such camps. Without their support we may never be in a position to do what we set out to do for these animals here.

Last but not the least we thank the local Administration, especially the SDM of Dharamsala, the local vets and village heads for their kind support and cooperation during the period of the camps in their region.

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### **The new Centre of Tibet Charity Animal Care Section inaugurated (August 2009)**



The new Centre of Tibet Charity Animal Care Section was opened on the 21st August 2009. The ceremony was presided over by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of the region, Mr. D. C. Rana. We were also delighted to have the Health Secretary, under Central Tibetan Administration, as the Guest of Honour. Besides these two, we were fortunate to have dignitaries from Tibetan Children's Village (TCV), volunteer vets, nurses & helpers from Scandinavia among

our guests.

Mr. Sonam Topgyal la (Chairman of Tibet Charity Governing Body) started the proceedings by welcoming all our guests to the celebration. He emphasized the need for full public cooperation with the noble tasks of controlling the dog population and carrying out massive vaccination programs in the region.

The Director of Tibet Charity then gave the audience a full explanation of the organization's activities, with special emphasis on the Animal Care Program. In his speech he spoke of his happiness with the progress achieved so far in this area. The assembled guests were told "[that] more than 3000 dogs have been sterilized and vaccinated at the clinic and at camps around Dharamsala during the last three years".

He expressed his sincere thanks to TCV for offering to help Tibet Charity's initiative by providing the room to run our animal care programs. "With this new building I am sure we can carry out our activities with much more efficiency" he said.

He expressed his thanks to all Tibet Charity's sponsors such as the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, (France), Animal SOS (Denmark) and Worldwide Veterinary Service for providing financial assistance to the Center or for helping find volunteer vets. There were also a number of other contributions recognized in the Director's speech including the Local Indian Administration for their guidance and cooperation, all the hard work put in by Ms Gunver Juul of Tibet Charity Denmark which ensures the continuous and successful running of the Animal Care Section. Special mention was given "to all our volunteers without whom we could not have achieved what we have achieved so far".

Both the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Secretary of Department of Health praised the work done by Tibet Charity in the Animal Care Program and promised their full cooperation with the cause.

After the function the guests were taken round the new clinic and everyone present expressed their admiration at the planning of the new Centre. Crucially, the volunteer vets told us how pleasantly surprised they were with the facilities on offer.

We thank one and all who have been with us in our effort to help these animals – you are all very welcome to return and help in the future!

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### **First ABC Camp for dogs at Dalhousie: (May 2009)**

The growing population of stray dogs has been a great cause of concern for the Tibetans living in Dalhousie. As their religion doesn't allow killing of animals to control their population, they approached Tibet Charity Animal Care Section to organize ABC program in the region for these dogs so that they can keep a check on their numbers in the long run.



TCAC happily took up the matter and went all the way to Dalhousie (around 5 hours drive from Dharamsala).

During the five days of the Camps from 4th to 9th May 2009, they sterilized 34 and provided Rabies vaccination to 54 dogs. 2 dogs were put to sleep through paralyze drug. Dr. Igor from Israel and Dr. Ioana were the doctors at the camp. They were ably assisted by our vet attendant Mr. Lobsang

Thukje, Mr. Bishan Das and Miss. Amelia from Sweden.



They were amazed to see no dogs with skin problems or other major ailments which, they feel, shows how much people of the region care for these animals.

During the period of their stay in Dalhousie they received very good cooperation from the local Tibetan administration and the public in general.

We thank all those involved in this camp. We also thank the local administration and the public for the kind hospitality and cooperation.

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### **Rooms for Tibet Charity Animal Care Donated (April 2009)**



Tibet Charity is very grateful to Tibetan Children's Village for kindly donating the ground floor of a building to Tibet Charity for its Animal Care Section.

Presently we have a small but well functioning clinic at the ground floor of Tibet Charity House. Though the present clinic boasts of all the required facilities for carrying out our ABC program and for providing basic treatments and vaccinations to the stray animals of the region, we have

always felt the need for a bigger clinic and more spacious space outside the clinic.

Sometimes the number of animals requiring our attention far exceeds the number we can actually take in considering the space available with us. But now thanks to the rooms provided to us, we can offer better service to the animals requiring our attention.

One big room is intended to be used as an operation room and the room next door is intended to be used as preparation and recovery room.

One room is to be used as the consultation room cum office. At present the building has been used as staff quarters so the rooms will need to be changed and outfitted as a clinic, therefore there will be much maintenance to complete and all offers of help with time or donations will be greatly appreciated.

If everything falls into place we hope to shift into the new building soon.

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### **The first ABC and Animal Vaccination Camps organized: (April 2009)**



We are very happy to have organized the 1st Animal Birth Control Program and vaccination camp for the year 2009 at three Tibetan settlements in the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh.

The first camp was organized at the Tibetan Settlement at Bir where we received very good cooperation from the young volunteers for animals in the region. The next camp was organized at Chauntra and the last one at the Tibetan settlement of Tashi Jong.

This is our third such camps in these places due to which the number of dogs requiring sterilization and castration has dropped down drastically. They were very happy to hear from the residents of the region that the population of these animals has been very much under control – thanks to the initiatives requiring treatments for skin problems and other ailments have also been low.

This time the task of our vet team has been made much easier due to the vehicle and the foldable operation tables. In the past much time is wasted during these camps in catching dogs and bringing them to the site but now because of the vehicle we received from Brigitte Bardot Fondation, France these tasks could be completed much faster.

Thanks also to Brigitte Bardot Fondation for kindly sponsoring the portable operation tables which has made it much easier for our vets to carry out the operations. In the past it used to be a big problem with makeshift tables which could be crates of cold drinks piled one on top of another.

This time we have sterilized 50, castrated 05, vaccinated 92 and carried out major surgeries on 2 dogs besides treating 32 other dogs for various ailments in these three places.

We thank our volunteers vets, the authorities at the Settlements, the volunteers who have helped us catching dogs for making this camp a grand success.

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### **A pup – A miraculous survivor** (March 2009)



A few weeks old pup was brought to the clinic by two young girls. The pup was as good as dead, with very little sign of life.

On enquiry it was found out that the pup was initially owned by a tourist who had been staying in a village close by. But, at the time of her departure the pup was just left in the open to fend for itself.



But because of its young age and because it was so used to being fed, the pup had difficulty in surviving on her own. It slowly started getting weaker and also caught some illnesses along the way.

That was the time when the girls found the pup and brought it to our clinic. Our vet straightaway started working on it. The vet found that the pup had bad physical condition with signs of neurological distress. It was also highly dehydrated due to excessive vomiting and diarrhea.

Though the vet did all he could to bring the pup back to life, he felt that the chance of its survival was very slim. After receiving a painkiller, it stopped breathing.

As it was already quite late in the day they decided to bury it the next day.

Next day, Bishan Das dug a hole for the burial and went to the cage to get the supposedly dead puppy. When he uncovered the dog, he got a shock...a happy shock, because the 'dead patient' was alive again!

It was immediately rushed to the clinic where more medication was provided. After a few days of taking care with injections and infusions three times a day, the dog could walk again, opened his blind eye and was ready for taking a bath (what was really necessary). One week later, Tashi (tib. "Lucky"), as it now received a name from our vet Dr. Igal, cutely guarded its plate against the big dogs with dangerous puppy-barks.

Thereafter the pup recovered very rapidly and is now as healthy as any other dog can be.

**Animal Care Section received new operation tables. (March 2009)**



We are very happy to write that we have just received three operation tables and two preparation tables for our veterinary clinic. So far we have been using makeshift operation tables for conducting Animal Birth Control programs and other veterinary procedures.

Now, thanks to the Brigitte Bardot Fondation in France, we no longer need to be dependent on these make shift tables. The problem with the previous tables had been their height.

Because of their low height, many of our vets experienced a painful back after conducting long operations. Now with the new, adjustable height tables our vets can feel much more comfortable during and after the operations.

These tables can be a major help when we conduct camps in various villages, schools and settlements. In almost all these places even makeshift tables are very hard to get, so sometimes our vets had to come up with innovative ideas, such as using crates of soft drinks as operation tables.

But now because of these tables, we can carry out our work very well, in every place we visit; with the best efficiency and least discomfort.

I thank the Brigitte Bardot Fondation for their kind contribution to our clinic. It will surely go a long way in making our work more effective while extending our help to the sick and stray dogs of the region.

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**A staff receives training in Humane Dog Catching. (February 2009)**

Mr. Lobsang Thukje a staff of Tibet Charity received two weeks' training in Humane Dog catching and ABC Compounding skills from 29th January 2009 to 12th February 2009 at Help In Suffering, Jaipur (HIS).

He was first taught various skills needed to work as an assistant to a veterinarian during Animal Birth Control Program. After that he was taught how to treat animals with skin problem and wounds.



He too received very good training in catching dogs from the street using sacks for more aggressive dogs and catching with bare hands in case of friendlier dogs.

Then of course he was taught the importance of handling animals with love and care. This hasn't been very difficult with him being a Buddhist monk himself.

When he returned we could see a big change in his attitude towards his work and in the way he handled the animals.

We are very grateful to Help In Suffering Jaipur for kindly providing the necessary training to both our dog catchers. They have provided the trainings absolutely free of cost. We did not even have to pay for the food and lodging during the period of their stay there. We thank all those in HIS Jaipur for their kind cooperation

With the knowledge that they have gained, I am sure they can serve the animals with much more love, care and skill.

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### **Vaccination Camp 2**(February 2009)



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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## Brigitte Bardot Fondation donates a vehicle for Animal Care Section (April 2009)



We are very happy to receive a vehicle for our Animal Care Section (TCACS) from Brigitte Bardot Fondation of France.

For long we have felt the need to have a vehicle for our Animal Care Section as we are dealing mostly with stray dogs that have to be brought to our clinic from places far and near for our ABC and vaccination programs. At such times we need to either hire a taxi which becomes rather

expensive or bring them on two wheelers which are highly inconvenient and dangerous. Then bringing one or two dogs in a taxi or on two wheelers is very time consuming as we cannot bring more than one or two animals at a time.



Now with the help of the vehicle we have got, which has been specifically designed for our need, the task of our veterinary group will become much easier. We can now bring more animals at a time and we will also be in a

position to provide necessary treatments to the sick animals more quickly.

It will be highly helpful when we have to bring sick animals from various places. Most importantly the vehicle will make the task of organizing veterinary camps much easier. It will be a big help in transporting our veterinary team and their equipments to the camp site. It will also help them in catching dog at the places where the camps are being organized.

As soon as we have received the vehicle, it is now being planned to organize the first camp of the year in some of the settlements close by – the details of which will soon appear in this section.

We thank all the members of Brigitte Bardot Fondation for the generous help and we assure them that their help will go a long way in helping the sick and stray animals of the region.

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## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

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### **Tibet Charity India bids farewell to Mr. Bhishan Das. (January 2010)**



Tibet Charity India bade farewell to Mr. Bhishan Das who has worked as the Dog Catcher and attendant to the Vets in our Animal Care Section.

He joined us as our staff in November 2005 and from then till the date of his resignation, he has been very good at his work. He has earned appreciation from everyone he worked with.

But citing personal reasons he decided to resign from this job w.e.f. 1st January 2010.

A special farewell dinner was organized in his honor by the staff of Tibet Charity India. The Director

In his speech Mr. Bhishan Das recalled the good times he had with Tibet Charity and he thanked Tibet Charity for providing him with this wonderful opportunity. He promised his help to our Animal Care Section whenever required.

We wish him best of luck in whatever he does in his life.

In the meantime Mr. Tashi Norbu has volunteered to take his place. We hope he will be able to carry out his work with great dedication and efficiency.



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## **Director Tibet Charity Nepal visits Tibet Charity India (November 2009)**



Mr. Jampa Thupten, Director Tibet Charity Nepal visited Tibet Charity India from 20th November to 27th November 2009.

During his one week's stay he took time to interact with staff of Tibet Charity India and exchanged ideas. He also attended the meeting of the Tibet Charity Education Centre besides attending some of the English lessons here so as to gain more experience on the functioning of the Education Centre

here in India.

A simple farewell tea party was organised in his honour and we here in Tibet Charity India appreciated the good work he has been doing for the poor and needy Tibetans in Nepal in spite of the volatile political situation there. We urged him to continue his good work and we on our part expressed our full cooperation whenever it is required.

He in his farewell speech introduced the workings of TC Nepal and he applauded the activities undertaken by TC India. He said that he felt much enriched by the short visit.

We on our part wish him and all his staff in Tibet Charity Nepal very best of luck in whatever they do.

We thank Tibet Charity Denmark for making this visit possible.

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## **The Chairperson, Save Tibet Austria visits Tibet Charity (October 2009)**



We are greatly honoured to receive Mrs. Elisabeth Zimmerman, the Chairperson of Save Tibet Austria and her husband during their visit to Dharamsala in October this year.

They have been long time friends and supporters of Tibet and its people. They and Save Tibet Austria have for many years supported Tibetan schools, institutions and individuals with sponsorship and developmental projects. For the last

five years they have very kindly supported Tibet Charity in its endeavor to help the poor and needy Tibetans.

During their stay here they took time to visit the house of the first beneficiary of Tibet Charity Emergency Medical Fund supported by Save Tibet Austria. They enquired after his health. They were thrilled to see how much this help has meant for this man who could not have seen the light of the day, if not for their kind support. He in turn thanked Save Tibet Austria for giving him a new life.



They also visited the house of Mr. Tenzin Tashi who is doing Fine Arts course in Chandigarh with the kind support from Eva Trippl through Save Tibet Austria. His mother had to sell some of her precious ornaments to meet the fees of the Institute. Thanks to Save Tibet Austria and the individual sponsor, the boy is now able to do his course without becoming too much of a burden on the mother.

Mrs. Elizabeth Zimmerman also gave us fund to support the toilet project at CST Paonta Sahib. This kind support will surely go a long way in making the school more clean and hygienic. She also left some more money for the

Ladakh Solar Project with which we hope to bring solar light to the homes of nomads in the remote Changthang region of Ladakh.

We thank Save Tibet in general and Elisabeth Zimmerman in particular for all their support. We thank them for taking time to visit us in spite of her highly busy schedule.

We also thank Ms Eva Trippl for taking time to visit the family of Mr. Tenzin Tashi and for supporting him.

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### **The Founder and Chairman of Tibet Charity visited Dharamsala (September 2009)**

Most venerable Lakha Lama, the founder and Chairman of Tibet Charity visited Dharamsala from the 11th October to 16th October 2009.

During his visit he was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Pia Lakha and some members of Tibet Charity Denmark.

During his stay in Dharamsala he visited various Departments of Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetan parliament in Exile.

He was invited to Tibetan Astrological and Medical Institute where he was received by the Deputy Director of the Institute. He also interacted with the parents of those students receiving sponsorship through Tibet Charity Denmark.

He took time to visit Tibet Charity House in India on the 14th where he met the students of Tibet



Charity English and computer classes. He explained the nature of Tibet Charity activities and urged the students to make the best use of their time here in the school. He also advised them to do something for one's own community once they become self-sufficient. He thanked all the volunteer teachers and veterinarians for spending their precious time and expertise here for the benefit of the people and the animals of the region. Thereafter a dance show was presented in the honour of the visitors by the dance group of the Bawa Association.



In the afternoon he went to Jampa Ling Old People's Home where there are some elders receiving sponsorship through Tibet Charity Denmark. There he and the group joined the elders for their daily afternoon prayer. He asked the elders to spend the remaining time of their life doing prayers and good deeds to earn more merit that can be taken to one's next life. He also requested them to pray for Tibet Charity

so that it can continue serving people with need.

On the 16th, Lakha Lama had a private audience with Samdhong Rinpoche, the Prime Minister of Tibetan government in exile.

We were highly honoured to have Lakha Lama and the group here with us. We thank them for their kind visit and we wish them happy onward journey to Nepal and back home.

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