



COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

WESTGATE CONSERVANCY - SAMBURU COUNTY

QUARTERLY REPORT (APR-JUN 2022)



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SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the efforts and achievements of the Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) in Westgate Conservancy, Samburu East, for the period April to end of June 2022. During the period, the project managed to attend to 103 animals. Of these cases, there were 100 dogs, 1 donkey, 1 goat and 1 sheep. The case type distribution comprised of: 29 preventative interventions (13 vaccinations and 16 deworming), 2 neuterings, 2 Transmissible Venereal Tumour treatments, 4 emergency treatments, 23 clinical cases and 43 Canine Distemper cases.

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, Ewaso Lions, Animal Care Centre, Vet in Wild, County Government of Samburu and other conservation partners started conducting annual mass rabies vaccinations targeting domestic dogs and cats. These efforts were aimed towards protecting wildlife (African wild dogs and other wild carnivores from contracting rabies and distemper) and by extension working towards contributing to the national goal of elimination of dog mediated human rabies by 2030. These were mainly one-off campaigns and therefore not sustainable. With the goodwill from the County Government of Samburu, the three partners (Ewaso Lions, Animal Care Centre and Vet in Wild) initiated a Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) in a bid to bring veterinary services closer to the communities. Additionally, CAHI has the aim to reduce the burden of canine diseases of zoonotic importance that can also have negative impact on endangered wildlife populations.

The Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) began operations in October 2021 and is run by a Kenya Veterinary Board registered veterinary surgeon and an assistant from the Samburu community. For the first three years, CAHI will focus in Westgate Conservancy with the aim to expand to other areas based on demand for the services and availability of funds.

CAHI has 4 main objectives:

- (i) Managing rabies and canine distemper diseases in domestic carnivore populations through vaccinations and domestic carnivores' population control
- (ii) Disease surveillance and monitoring (focusing on canine distemper and rabies)
- (iii) Emergency treatments of animals attacked by wild animals
- (iv) Education and awareness programmes to communities in order to reduce burden of disease and improve responsible domestic animal ownership and welfare.

This report provides highlights and achievements of the Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) for the period of Apr-Jun 2022.

OVERALL IMPACT (APR-JUN 2022)

The overall impact during this period is as follows:

103 animals attended to	13 dogs vaccinated	4 emergency conflict treatments attended to
100 dogs treated	2 population control surgeries completed	43 suspected canine distemper management cases attended to
1 goat and 1 sheep treated	2 transmissible venereal tumour management surgeries completed	16 dogs dewormed as a preventative measure
1 donkey treated	74 clinical cases attended to (4 emergency due to conflict and 70 due to other causes)	4 wildlife species involved in livestock-wildlife conflict (snake, baboon, crocodile and hyaena)

PREVENTATIVE INTERVENTIONS (VACCINATIONS/DEWORMING)

One of the objectives of CAHI is providing sustained vaccinations against rabies and canine distemper virus diseases in domestic dogs, and rabies and cat flu in domestic cats; for public health benefits and preventing disease spillover to endangered wildlife species. Camels are not a primary target for vaccinations, but they also receive rabies vaccinations if bitten by suspected rabid dogs or other camels.

A total of 29 animals were given preventative measures (13 vaccinated and 16 dewormed) during the period April – June.

Preventative interventions (Vaccinations and deworming)

Action/intervention	Species	Males	Females	Total
Vaccination	Dogs	11	2	13
Deworming	Dogs	7	9	16



Dog waits patiently as his annual vaccination is prepared

DOG POPULATION CONTROL

Domestic dog population control is a means to improving dog welfare and can play a positive role towards rabies management. Surgical interventions (spay or castration) is only done upon owners request, so there must be owner's consent or surgical procedure is medically indicated. During earlier rabies vaccination campaigns, we collected data through questionnaires on whether communities required any domestic dog population control. Majority of the respondents answered yes and dog population control (spay or castration) was only done after owner's consent. Communities have been performing dog population control through crude methods e.g. use of rubber ring and detergents and human hormones to control dog population, so this programme brought in scientifically proven humane methods keeping the welfare of the animal first.

During the period (Apr-Jun 2022), a total of 4 castrations (2 elective and 2 due to medical emergency) were performed.



Dog recovers following a castration - keenly watched by his owner

CLINICAL CASES AND EMERGENCY TREATMENT

Seventy-four (74) clinical cases were handled during the period Apr-Jun 2022. We have a responsibility to attend to domestic animals injured by wild animals as a way of responding to conflicts and promoting coexistence between communities and wildlife. A total of 74 animals (71 dogs, 1 donkey, 1 goat and 1 sheep) were attended to. We thank Dr Sharon Mulindi for assisting with treatment of a dog attacked by a crocodile on the 17th of June, a sheep attacked by a hyaena and a dog with suspected distemper on the 23rd of June, when Dr Jessicah Kurere was unavailable.

Species	Reason for treatment	Number
Donkeys (1)	Hyaena bite wounds	1
Sheep (1)	Hyaena attack	1
Goat (1)	Baboon fight wounds	1
Dogs (71)	Snake bite treatment	1
	Transmissible Venereal tumour treatment	2
	Suspected canine distemper case	43
	Mango worms treatment	21
	Tick infestation treatment	2
	Neutering	2



Treatment of a camel attacked by a lion (next quarter)

EDUCATION/AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Four (4) education and awareness sessions were conducted during the period (April to June 2022). A total of 125 people were reached during the sessions and these were; 10 men, 63 women and 62 children.



Children from Naisunyai being taught about Rabies and Canine Distemper in dogs

CONCLUSIONS

We continue to excel in offering disease preventative interventions through vaccinations thereby reducing disease incidence and improving animal health. Wildlife attacks to livestock were attended to promptly and swiftly. During the period we managed to offer education/awareness sessions hence improving knowledge on animal health and welfare. We have not been able to collect samples for disease surveillance but this will be done once we have the necessary infrastructure (freezer and power source) in place.

NEXT STEPS

1. The programme will invest more in disease surveillance (Rabies, Canine Distemper, and Transmissible Venereal Tumour) and community awareness.
2. The focus will be within Westgate Community for the next three years (between 2021-2023).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix 1: All efforts (vaccinations, population and clinical interventions)

