



**COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH INITIATIVE**

**WESTGATE CONSERVANCY - SAMBURU COUNTY**

**QUARTERLY REPORT (APRIL TO JUNE 2023)**



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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 of April to June 2023. During this period, the project managed to attend to 233 animals. Of these cases, 205 were dog cases, 12 cats, 10 camels, 5 donkeys and 1 goat case. The case type distribution was: 123 vaccinations, 89 medical cases, 18 emergency response cases and 3 population control surgeries.

**INTRODUCTION**

In 2019, Ewaso Lions, Animal Care Centre, VetinWild, 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 VetinWild) 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 programme 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 programme 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 between April and June 2023.

**OVERALL IMPACT (APRIL-JUNE 2023)**

The overall impact during this period is as follows:

123 dog and cat vaccinations	18 emergency responses	3 population control services provided
89 medical cases attended	29 suspected canine distemper cases attended	1 dog had an emergency castration from complicated local methods of castration
205 dogs attended to	10 camels treated	10 domestic animals treated from wild carnivore attacks
52 dogs received ectoparasite prevention treatments	5 donkeys attended to	11 dogs and 12 cats vaccinated

**VACCINATIONS**

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. These vaccinations were a continuation of our annual vaccination campaign held in the last quarter.

A total of 123 animals were vaccinated during the period. Out of this, 111 (90.2%) were dogs and 12 (9.8%) were cats.

LOCATION	DOGS		CATS		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Kiltamany	4	5	1	0	10
Lempaute	16	5	0	1	22
Lpus Leluai	17	7	0	7	31
Ngutuk Ongiron	21	7	0	0	28
Remot	5	3	0	0	8
Sasaab	6	6	0	1	13
Sukuroi	8	1	1	1	11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>123</b>



*Vaccination of a puppy in Sasaab*

**DOG POPULATION CONTROL**

Free roaming dogs and rabies transmission are integrally linked across many low income countries, and large unmanaged dog populations can be daunting to rabies control programme planners. Dog population management (DPM) is a multifaceted concept that aims to improve the health and well being of free roaming dogs, reduce problems they may cause, and may also aim to reduce population size. In theory, DPM can facilitate more effective rabies control.

CAHI aims to improve the well being of the community dogs through scientifically proven population management methods (spay and neuter) and also advising the dog owners on responsible dog ownership.

During this quarter, 3 dogs received population control services.

Location	Dogs		Total
	Male	Females	
Lpus Leluai	2	1	3



*Pilipili from Lpus Leluai recovering after a spay population control procedure*

**CLINICAL AND EMERGENCY TREATMENTS**

Eighty-nine (89) clinical cases were handled during the period of April to June 2023. In addition, we also 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 eighteen (18) emergency cases reported were attended to.

Species	Reason for treatment	Number
Dog (88 in total)	Ectoparasite control (tick, fleas and myiasis)	52
	Suspected Canine Distemper	29
	Deworming	6
	Dog fight wound	1
Goat (1 in total)	Dystocia	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>

Species	Cause of Injury	Number
Camel (10 in total)	Hyaena attack	6
	Lion attack	3
	Respiratory difficulty	1
Donkey (5 in total)	Hyaena attack	1
	Suspected Anaplasmosis	4
Dog (3 in total)	Hyaena attack	1
	Suspected traumatic head injury	1
	Local castration complication	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>



*Treatment of a camel attacked by a hyena at Lempaute*

## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**

Between April and June 2023, we have been able to educate the community members on various topics such as responsible animal ownership, diseases that dogs and cats get as well as conservation through the One Health approach. We managed to reach 175 people through 2 community films and 2 Lion Kids Camp visits.



*Showing a film on responsible animal ownership to our local community rangers*

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The project managed to attend to 233 animals between April to June 2023. Of these cases, 205 were dogs, 12 cats, 10 camels, 5 donkeys and 1 goat.
2. The case type distribution comprised of: 123 vaccinations, 89 medical cases, 18 emergency response cases and 3 population control surgeries.

## **NEXT STEPS**

1. The programme will invest more in disease surveillance (Rabies, Canine Distemper, and Transmissible Venereal Tumor) and community awareness
2. The focus will be within Westgate Community for the next three years (between 2021-2024)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Appendix 1: One map showing all efforts (combine vaccinations, population and clinical interventions in one map)**

