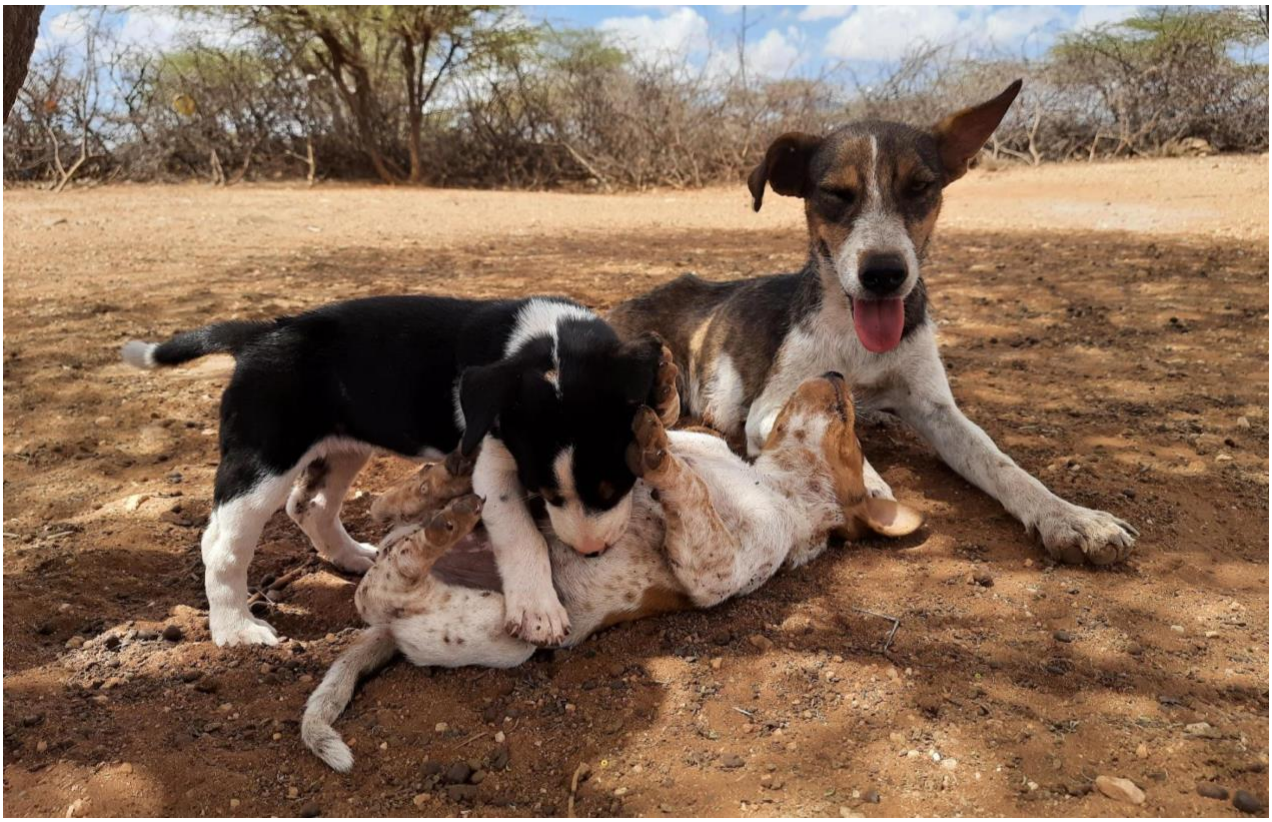
COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

# WESTGATE CONSERVANCY - SAMBURU COUNTY

## QUARTERLY REPORT (JANUARY-MARCH 2022)



**Stephen Chege, Jessicah Kurere, Solomon Lenasalia, Mohsin Likoniwalla,**
**Toby Otieno, Shivani Bhalla & Matthew Wachira (authors from the following organisations):**

Animal Care Centre
Because they are part of us

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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 January to end of March 2022. **During the period, the project managed to attend to 250 animals.** Of these cases, there were 223 dogs, 23 camels, 2 donkeys, 1 goat and 1 cow. The case type distribution comprised of: 45 vaccinations, 36 castrations, 8 Transmissible Venereal Tumour treatments, 24 emergency treatments, 51 clinical cases and 86 Canine Distemper cases (115 reported 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 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 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 January-March 2022.

**OVERALL IMPACT (JAN-MARCH 2022)**

The overall impact during this period since the programme began operations is as follows:

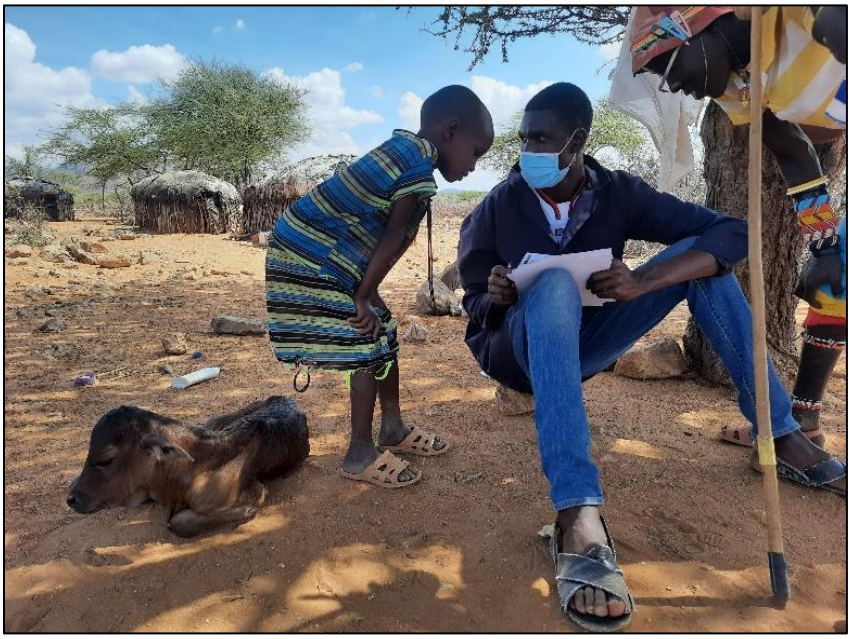
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 250 animals attended to | 45 animal vaccinations administered | 24 emergency treatments attended to |
| 223 dogs treated | 36 population control surgeries completed | 86 canine distemper management cases attended to |
| 23 camels treated | 8 transmissible venereal tumor management surgeries completed | 1 goat and 1 cow wild/ domestic animal conflict attended to |
| 2 donkeys treated | 51 clinical treatments cases | 15 camels attended in wild/ domestic animal conflict |

**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. 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 45 animals were vaccinated during the period January-March 2022.

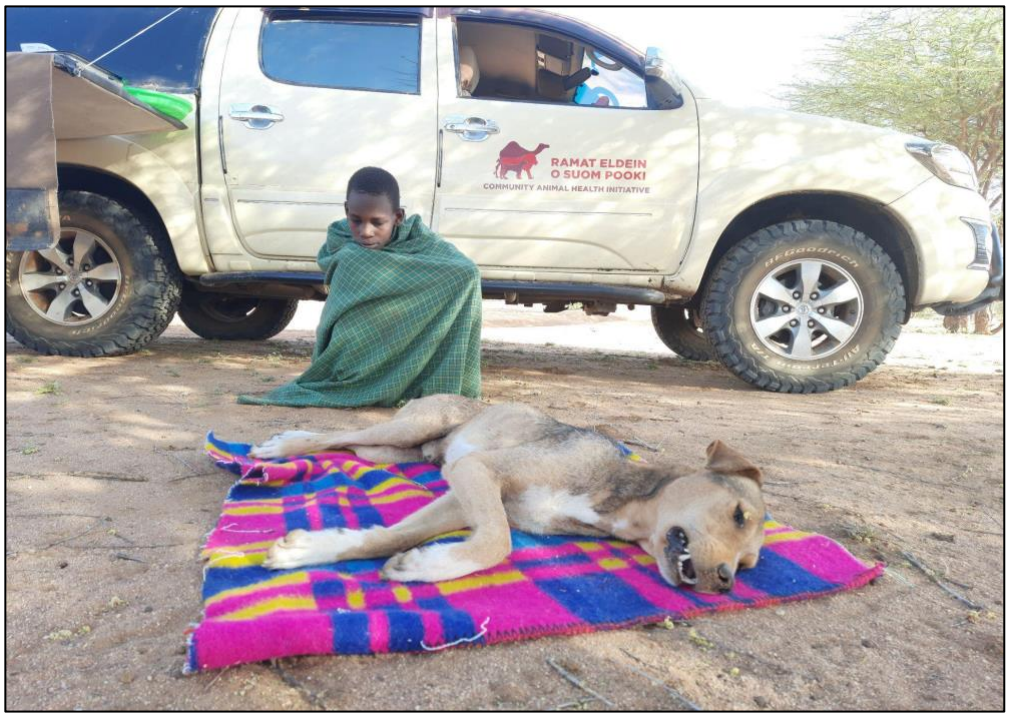
| Species | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dogs | 38 | 7 | 45 |



*Solomon fills out a vaccination card for a young dog owner*

**DOG POPULATION CONTROL**

Domestic dog population control has been shown to be effective as a means of rabies control. However, this cannot be done without consultations and consent from the communities. 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 eg use of rubber ring and detergents and human hormones to control the dog population, so this programme brought in scientifically proven humane methods keeping the welfare of the animal first. During the period (January-March), **a total of 36 castrations were completed**.




*Dog recovers following a castration - keenly watched by his owner*

**CLINICAL CASES AND EMERGENCY TREATMENT**

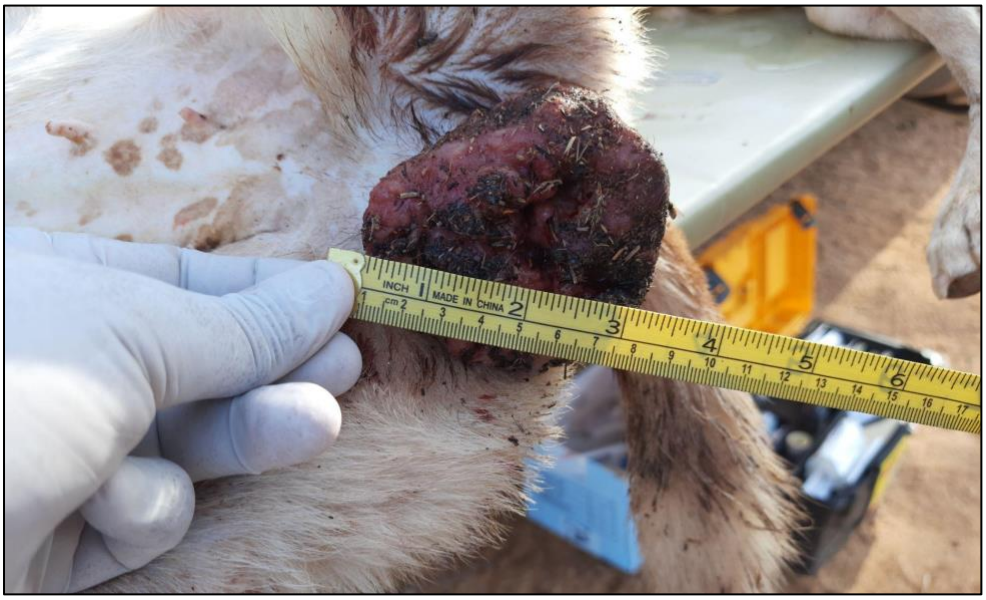
Fifty-one (51) clinical treatments and twenty-four (24) emergency treatments were handled during the period between January and March 2022. We have a responsibility to attend to domestic animals injured by wild animals as a way of responding to conflicts and promoting coexistence between communities and wildlife. **A total of 24 animals (15 camels, 5 dogs, 2 donkeys, 1 cow and 1 goat) were attended to.**

| **Species** | **Reason for Treatment** | **Number** |
|---|---|---|
| Camels (8 in total) | Suspected Trypanosomiasis | 8 |
| Dogs (43 in total) | Coughing | 11 |
| | Eye discharge & rough coat | 1 |
| | Deworming | 3 |
| | TVT management | 1 |
| | Myiasis control | 17 |
| | Myiasis control and deworming | 8 |
| | Myiasis and tick control | 1 |
| | Wound management | 1 |

| **Disease** | **Number of dogs treated** |
|---|---|
| Canine Distemper cases | 86 (115 reported) |
| Transmissible Venereal Tumor | 8 |

| **Species** | **Cause of Injury** | **Number** |
|---|---|---|
| Camel (15 in total) | Donkey bites | 2 |
| | Hyaena attack | 2 |
| | Lion attack | 8 |
| | Camel bites (suspected rabid) | 3 |
| Cow (1 in total) | Hyaena attack | 1 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Donkey (2 in total) | Donkey bites (suspected rabid) | 2 |
| Goat (1 in total) | Jackal bite | 1 |
| Dogs (5 in total) | Dog bite (suspected rabid)<br>Local castration complication<br>Critical suspected canine distemper case | 3<br>1<br>1 |




*A female dog with Transmissible Venereal tumor undergoing treatment*

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. The project managed to attend to 250 animals between January-March 2022. Of these cases, 89.2% were dogs, 9.2% were camels, 0.8% were donkeys, 0.4% were goats and 0.4% were cows.
2. The case type distribution comprised of: 18% vaccinations, 14.4% population control, 3.2% Transmissible Venereal Tumour treatments, 9.6% emergency treatments, 20.4% clinical cases and 34.4% Canine Distemper cases (115 reported cases). (See Appendix 1: One map showing all efforts).

**NEXT STEPS**

1. The program 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 2021-2023).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to thank the County Government of Samburu and more specifically Dr Lekinit, County Director of Veterinary Services and his team, for their unwavering support of this initiative. Many thanks to the Westgate Conservancy and all communities for the support and acceptance of this project. We thank our supporters who fund this critical work and our partners the Foundation for International Aid to Animals. All parties who made this possible are gratefully appreciated.

**Appendix 1: Map showing all efforts (vaccinations, clinical interventions, emergency intervention and population control procedures).**