



COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

WESTGATE CONSERVANCY - SAMBURU COUNTY

QUARTERLY REPORT (JAN-MARCH 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 January to March 2023. During the period, the project managed to attend to 935 animals. Of these cases, there were 861 dogs, 66 cats, 5 camels and 3 donkeys. The case type distribution was: 739 vaccinations, 121 medical cases, 54 neutering procedures and 21 emergency response 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 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 of January to March 2023.

OVERALL IMPACT (JAN-MARCH 2023)

The overall impact during this period is as follows:

739 dog and cat vaccinations	21 emergency responses	54 population control services provided
121 medical cases attended	82 Suspected Canine Distemper cases attended	861 dogs attended to
4 dog Transmissible Venereal Tumors treated	5 camels treated	7 domestic animals treated from wild carnivore attacks
33 dogs received ectoparasite prevention treatments	674 dogs and 65 cats vaccinated	9 dogs and 1 cat reported at risk from contact with a suspected rabid dog

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. From 9th to 12th of March, we held our annual vaccination campaign.

A total of 739 animals were vaccinated during the period. Out of this, 674 (91.2%) were dogs and 65 (8.8%) were cats.

LOCATION	DOGS		CATS		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Kiltamany	81	44	4	7	136
Lempaute	24	12	1	1	81
Loijuk	29	3	0	0	32
Lpus Leluai	103	47	4	8	162
Naisunyai	53	13	2	2	70
Ngutuk Ongiron	90	31	8	9	138
Remot	12	8	2	3	25
Sasaab	61	18	0	5	84
Sukuroi	38	7	7	2	52
TOTALS	491	183	28	37	739



Vaccination of a cat during the annual vaccination campaign in Westgate

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. Communities have been performing dog population control through crude methods such as use of rubber ring and detergents as well as human hormones to control dog population, so this programme brought in scientifically proven humane methods keeping the welfare of the animal first. This year, we held our first neutering campaign on the 11th and 12th of March in two locations in Westgate.

During the campaign, a total of 54 dogs received the population control services.

Location	Dogs		Total
	Male	Females	
Ngutuk Ongiron	27	9	36
Lpus Leluai	8	10	18
TOTAL	35	19	54



Dogs recovering after being spayed and castrated at Ngutuk Ongiron

CLINICAL AND EMERGENCY TREATMENTS

One hundred and twenty-one (121) clinical cases were handled during the period January to March 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 twenty-one (21) emergency cases reported were attended to.

A total of twenty-one (21) Clinical interventions case were reported and attended.

Species	Reason for treatment	Number
Dog	Deworming and ectoparasite control	35
	Suspected Canine Distemper	82
	Transmissible Venereal Tumor	4
	TOTAL	121



Treatment of a dog with Transmissible Venereal Tumor

Species	Cause of Injury	Number
Dogs (12 in total)	Dog bite (suspected rabid)	9
	Suspected Scorpion bite	1
	Fight wound	1
	Orchitis	1
Camel (5 in total)	Lion attack	3
	Hyena attack	1
	Traumatic injury	1
Donkey (3 in total)	Hyaena attack	3
Cat (1 in total)	Dog bite (suspected rabid)	1
	TOTAL	21

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Between January and March 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 212 people through 1 school visit in Nalele Boys high school and through attending 3 Lion Kids Camps.



Talking to students at Nalele Boys High School

CONCLUSIONS

1. The project managed to attend to 935 animals between January to March 2023. Of these cases, 861 were dogs, 66 cats and 5 camels and 3 donkeys.
2. The case type distribution comprised of: 739 vaccinations, 121 medical cases, 54 neutering procedures and 21 emergency response cases.

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 2021-2023)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

