



COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

WESTGATE CONSERVANCY - SAMBURU COUNTY

QUARTERLY REPORT (OCT-DEC 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 October to December 2022. During the period, the project managed to attend to 106 animals. Of these cases, there were 100 dogs, 3 camels, 1 donkey and 2 cats. The case type distribution was: 47 medical cases, 30 Canine Distemper cases, 23 vaccinations, 3 emergency cases, 2 population control surgeries and 1 necropsy.

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 Oct-Dec 2022.

OVERALL IMPACT (OCT-DEC 2022)

The overall impact during this period is as follows:

106 animals attended to	30 Canine Distemper treatments	3 emergency responses from attacks by wild animals
100 dog treatments	1 necropsy performed	23 dog and cat vaccinations
3 camel treatments	47 medical cases attended	2 emergency castrations
1 sick donkey treatment	1 cat clinical case attended	45 deworming and ectoparasite control services provided

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. Other domestic animals are not a primary target for vaccinations, but they also receive rabies vaccinations if bitten by suspected rabid dogs or other domestic animals.

A total of 23 animals were vaccinated during the period Oct-Dec 2022. Out of this, 22 were dogs and 1 cat.

Species	Males	Females	Total
Dogs	13	9	22
Cats	1	0	1



Issuing of vaccination cards for vaccinated dogs and cats

DOG POPULATION CONTROL

Responsible dog ownership is an effective means of rabies control. This responsible dog ownership entails proper nutrition and dog population management. Dog population control using surgical approach 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 to the population. 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 prioritising the welfare of the animal first.

During the period (Oct-Dec 2022), a total of 2 dog castrations were performed. Both were due to complications from rubber castration done by dog owners.



Dog recovering from anesthesia after a Castration

CLINICAL CASES/TREATMENT

Seventy-seven (77) clinical cases were handled during the period Oct-Dec 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 3 animals (3 camels) were attended to.

Species	Reason for Treatment	Number
Donkey (1 in total)	Suspected Anaplasmosis	1
Cat (1 in total)	Suspected infection	1
Dogs (75 in total)	Deworming and ectoparasite control	45
	Suspected Canine Distemper	30
Camel (3 in total)	Lion attack	3



Treatment of a camel injured by lions

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Between October-December 2022, we have been able to hold community education awareness on various topics on responsible animal ownership and on animal health. We managed to reach 275 people through 1 community film show, 1 school visits and participating in 3 Ewaso Lions Kids Camps.



Solomon teaching school children at Lempaute school about the dog care and diseases

CONCLUSIONS

1. The project managed to attend to 106 animals between October to December 2022. Of these cases, 100 were dogs, 3 were camels, 2 were cats and 1 was a donkey.
2. The case type distribution comprised of: 100 were medical cases, 5 emergency interventions and 1 necropsy.

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

