



## Animal Nepal Annual Report 2025

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## Mission statement

To build a harmonious and  
compassionate society for all animals.

## Message from our President

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude and hope. This year, Animal Nepal continued to grow not only in the number of animals we reached, but also in the breadth and depth of our impact. From working equines and companion animals to farm animals, education, advocacy, and sanctuary care, we remained guided by a simple belief—that a compassionate society benefits animals, people, and the environment alike.

Our work increasingly embraces the One Health approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of animal welfare, human wellbeing, and the health of our planet. I am particularly proud of the launch of our Climate Smart Cities programme, which is empowering young people to become champions for cleaner, kinder, and more sustainable communities.

Another source of pride is our long-standing veterinary internship programme. Over the years, it has helped shape a new generation of compassionate veterinarians, many of whom now serve on the frontlines of animal welfare in Nepal. This legacy of education and mentorship is one of our most meaningful contributions and gives me great optimism for the future.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the trust of local communities, and the generous support of our partners and donors. Together, we are creating lasting change and bringing us closer to our vision of a harmonious and compassionate society for all animals.

Shoba Rayamajhi

President, Animal Nepal

## Helping Working Animals – How our work made a difference in 2025

Since 2009, supporting working equines has been at the heart of Animal Nepal’s mission. Donkeys, mules, and horses continue to play a vital role in livelihoods across the country—powering industries such as brick production, transport, and tourism—**yet they remain among the most vulnerable and overlooked animals.**

### *Castration of mule in Nepalgunj, Dec 2025*



In 2025, our work focused largely on the far-western districts of Banke and Kailali, key entry points for equines crossing from India into Nepal. In these regions, animals are widely used in brick kilns and busy markets, often under challenging conditions shaped by low literacy levels and limited economic resources. Despite these constraints, we continued to deliver vital veterinary

services and awareness programs, **directly treating 630 working animals over the year.**

Encouragingly, 2025 also continued to show a shift in attitudes toward humane animal care. While practices such as castration without anesthesia are still common in some areas, more owners are choosing to wait for trained veterinarians and opting for safer, humane procedures. A notable example from Nepalgunj saw an owner willingly delay treatment and cover the cost to ensure castration with proper anesthesia—**demonstrating growing awareness and a willingness to invest in animal welfare.**

### *Glanders infected horse in Kailali, Aug 2025*



During the year, outbreaks of Glanders—a highly contagious and fatal zoonotic disease—were detected in

Nepalgunj and Kailali, posing serious risks to both equines and human health. Our team responded swiftly by isolating affected animals, conducting testing, and working closely with owners to manage the situation responsibly. With no cure available, humane euthanasia remains the only effective method to prevent further spread. **These cases underscored the importance of continued vigilance, cross-border coordination, and strict biosecurity, particularly in high-risk environments such as brick kilns.**

Collaboration remained a key pillar of our approach. In line with our One Health strategy, we strengthened partnerships with Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) in Kailali and Nepalgunj. **By sharing animal health knowledge and integrating community-based observations into our work, we are improving early detection and response to both animal and public health concerns.**

*Interaction session with FCHVs in Nepalgunj, May 2025*



**Alongside emergency response, we continued to provide essential preventive and curative care.** For example, at the Bungamati brick factory in Lalitpur, 18 equines received deworming and treatment for blood protozoa, and two mules suffering from colic were successfully treated. These routine interventions are critical to maintaining the health, productivity, and welfare of working animals.

*Taking Glanders sample from a working horse in Kailali, May 2025*



This year, we also extended equine support to remote mountain communities through our **Cham Nyingje programme in Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality.** In April 2025, 29 mountain mules received treatment, including care for lameness, wound management, and deworming, improving their health and working conditions in this hard-to-reach region.

**Overall, 2025 demonstrated both the ongoing challenges and meaningful progress in improving the lives of working equines in Nepal.** Increasing demand for humane veterinary care,

strengthened community collaboration, and effective disease response all point toward a positive shift. Animal Nepal remains committed to building on this progress – ensuring that working animals receive the care, dignity, and protection they deserve while supporting livelihoods of the people who depend on them.

*A mountain mule with owner in Tsum Valley, Apr 2025*



## Helping Companion Animals – How our work makes a difference

### Launching Humane Dog Population Management Program in Kirtipur Municipality

In 2025, Animal Nepal achieved a major milestone by launching the Humane Dog Population Management programme across the entirety of Kirtipur Municipality for the first time. Through this initiative, 846 dogs were spayed and neutered—including 478 females and 368 males—surpassing the initial target of 800. This achievement reflects strong collaboration with local stakeholders and a shared commitment to humane, effective population control.

*A community member helping to catch a dog in Kirtipur Ward 10, Nov 2025*



Beyond sterilisation, Animal Nepal prioritised the overall health and wellbeing of dogs. Across the Kathmandu Valley, 1,068 dogs received treatment for a range of injuries and illnesses, including wounds, infections, and skin conditions.

These interventions not only alleviated suffering but also contributed to reducing disease transmission and improving community safety. In addition, 13 dogs were successfully rehabilitated and adopted, giving them the opportunity for long-term care in safe and responsible homes.

*Chobhar Dog Treatment Center, Aug 2025*



Kirtipur remains a critical focus area due to persistent challenges such as dog abandonment and unregulated breeding. The municipality is widely

recognised as a site where unwanted pet and community dogs are frequently left, and where unsustainable breeding practices often result in animals being discarded once they are no longer profitable. Addressing these root causes will be central to future programming.

**Looking ahead, Animal Nepal will continue sterilisation efforts for both stray and owned dogs in Kirtipur while expanding its focus to tackle abandonment and promote responsible ownership and breeding practices.** With sustained collaboration and community engagement, Kirtipur has the potential to become a model for humane and sustainable dog population management, reducing human–dog conflict and improving outcomes for both animals and people.

*Dr. Saru Waiba performs spay surgery, April 2025*



This progress would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our partner, **The Edgard & Cooper**

Foundation, and the cooperation of community members, ward authorities, and municipal leadership, whose contributions were essential to the programme’s success.

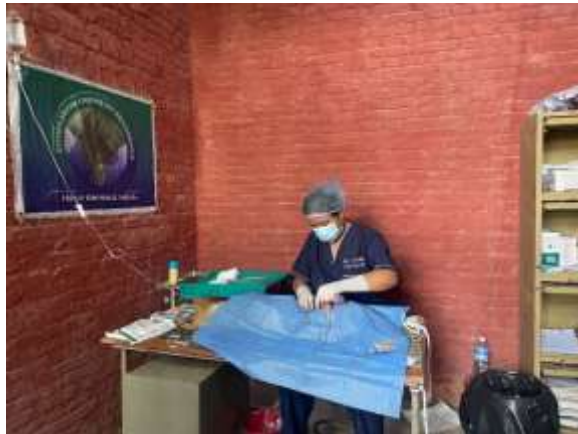
*Dog catching in Kirtipur, Sep 2025*



### **Humane Dog Population Management Program – Lumbini Cultural Municipality**

In October 2025, **Animal Nepal, in partnership with Help Animals India,** successfully completed another cycle of its Animal Birth Control programme in Lumbini Cultural Municipality. **During this phase, 176 dogs were spayed, neutered, and vaccinated, while also receiving treatment for internal and external parasites.** Dogs with injuries or wounds were provided with additional medical care, ensuring a comprehensive approach to their health and wellbeing.

*Spaying of a female dog in Lumbini  
Animal Clinic, Oct 2025*



This programme has been running since 2017, marking seven consecutive years of sustained intervention in Lumbini. Over this period, consistent efforts have led to significant and measurable progress.

Lumbini, as the birthplace of Gautama Buddha, holds deep spiritual significance rooted in the values of compassion and non-violence. It is therefore especially meaningful to see these principles reflected in the way animals are increasingly treated within the community. Over the years, attitudes toward dogs have become more compassionate, incidents of human–dog conflict have significantly decreased, and encouragingly, no rabies cases have been reported in the area. **These outcomes demonstrate how sustained, humane interventions can align with and reinforce the cultural and spiritual ethos of the region.**

*A local man helps to catch a dog for  
surgery in Lumbini, Oct 2025*



**Year 2 of Cham Nyingje Dog Welfare Program in Tsum Nubri Valley**

In 2025, Animal Nepal successfully completed the second year of the **Cham Nyingje Dog Welfare Programme** in Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality, a remote and ecologically sensitive mountain region increasingly facing challenges related to growing feral dog populations.

Launched as a humane and sustainable response, **the programme focuses on sterilisation and vaccination to reduce and stabilise dog populations while improving overall animal health.** Building on the extensive outreach achieved in 2024—when our

team reached nearly every village across both the Tsum and Nubri valleys, this year's efforts concentrated on the lower villages that serve as key entry points into the region, helping to strengthen long-term population control.

***A man carries his dog to Animal Nepal ABC Camp in Tsum Valley, Apr 2025***



**During this year's intervention, 114 dogs and cats received treatment and care. This included the sterilisation of 44 dogs (21 males and 23 females), rabies vaccination of 45 dogs (21 males and 24 females), and 5 cats vaccinated against rabies. In addition, 20 dogs received deworming treatment, contributing to improved health and disease prevention across the population.**

The programme is delivered in close collaboration with key partners, including Himalayan Environment and Life Protection (HELP), the Manaslu Conservation Area Project (MCAP), Gorkha Veterinary Hospital, and Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality. Their support has been instrumental in enabling access to remote communities and ensuring the programme's continued success.

***Surgery on a male dog in Tsum Valley, Apr 2025***



Equally important has been the cooperation and hospitality of local communities. In this region, animals are widely regarded as valued companions, and this cultural respect provides a strong foundation for humane population management. It has been a privilege to continue serving the dogs and cats of Tsum Nubri, contributing to both animal welfare and the ecological balance of this unique Himalayan landscape.

## Animal Birth Control Camp in Godawari Municipality

In December 2025 Animal Nepal completed an Animal Birth Control camp in Thecho, Godawari Ward 12. **During the camp, 130 community dogs (59 males and 71 females) were spayed, neutered, and vaccinated.**

We are grateful to our partner, Help Animals India, whose support made this camp possible.

*Surgery in progress – Godawari, Dec 2025*



## Launching Humane Dog Population Management Program in Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City

In 2025, Animal Nepal launched the Humane Dog Population Management programme in Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City, marked by the successful completion of our first Animal Birth Control (ABC) camp. During this

initiative, 250 community dogs (155 males and 95 females) from wards 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, and 25 were spayed, neutered, and vaccinated.

*Dogs being transported for surgery – Kalaiya, Nov 2025*



Kalaiya—one of the largest and busiest cities in Madhesh Province—has a large street dog population and rising instances of human–dog conflict, particularly in central areas. During the camp, a higher proportion of male dogs was observed, while many females were in late-stage pregnancy or early lactation, highlighting the complexities of timely and safe intervention.

*A local woman helping to catch a dog for surgery, Nov 2025*



Building on our experience working in nearby Mahagadhimai Municipality since 2019, this programme reflects a deeper, long-term commitment to the region. Alongside sterilisation, there is a clear need to strengthen community awareness around responsible dog care and welfare to ensure sustainable impact.

We extend our sincere thanks to our longstanding partner, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, for their continued support, as well as to Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City authorities and the Kalaiya Government Veterinary Hospital for their collaboration.

This initiative not only directly improved the lives of 250 dogs but also strengthened local partnerships—laying the foundation for a more structured, humane, and sustainable approach to dog population management in Kalaiya.

*A man and his best friend, Tsum Valley, April 2025*



## Helping cats

**Between June 2022 and August 2025, Animal Nepal successfully spayed and neutered 140 cats in the Kathmandu Valley.** This is a remarkable achievement considering the shy and elusive nature of cats, which makes them extremely difficult to catch.

Cats can become pregnant up to four times a year, putting them at high risk of overpopulation and poor welfare if not managed.

*Cat being brought in for surgery by community caregiver, May 2025*



This milestone would not have been possible without the dedication of community caregivers, who patiently feed and care for their neighborhood cats, gradually earning their trust and bringing them in for surgery. Unlike

dogs, cats cannot simply be caught on the streets—it is virtually impossible without such support.

*A cat being spayed, Aug 2025*



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Help Animals India for funding this initiative, and to our wonderful partners at Catmandu Lovers for working alongside us to make it a success.

## Helping Farm Animals – How our work makes a difference

For over a decade, Animal Nepal has been working to improve the welfare of farm animals in Nepal through a combination of **field monitoring, emergency response, advocacy, awareness raising, and documentation of welfare conditions.** Our work has been consistently focused in key transport and trade corridors, including Chitwan, Bara, Kathmandu, and surrounding highways—areas where large numbers of buffaloes, goats, and other farm animals are transported daily for trade and slaughter.

*Buffaloes being transported for slaughter from Lumbini, July 2025*



## Emergency Response and Field Intervention

In 2025, our teams **continued to respond to urgent welfare crises on major transport routes.** Following a major landslide on September 19 in Mugling, hundreds of vehicles were stranded, including trucks carrying buffaloes in severely overcrowded and distressing conditions. Our team reached the site and found 11 vehicles loaded with buffaloes in poor condition—many weak, injured, and dehydrated. Immediate first aid was provided, along with water and fodder, to alleviate suffering.

*A truck carrying buffaloes for slaughter gets stuck on the highway – Sep 2025*



During the same intervention, two tourist buses were found illegally transporting 28 goats in luggage compartments with no ventilation or welfare considerations. The animals were provided space, water, and basic care, and drivers were advised on proper transport practices, although enforcement support was limited.

On September 21 in Aaptari, Chitwan, our team encountered another truck carrying 32 buffaloes in extreme overcrowding conditions. The animals were severely dehydrated and exhausted. After intervention, they were provided with water and access to a nearby river, offering immediate relief from prolonged distress.

*Buffaloes being transported in over crowded conditions – Chitwan, July 2025*



Later in the year, in Ramnagar, Chitwan, our team intercepted an Eicher truck transporting over 30 buffaloes from Lumbini towards Kathmandu in severely inhumane conditions—tightly confined, tied, and deprived of water, food, and rest.

**These repeated incidents highlight ongoing gaps in enforcement of animal transport regulations and the urgent need for systemic change.**

### **Advocacy, Awareness, and Systemic Change**

These field realities underscore the importance of long-term advocacy. **Animal Nepal continues to document cases of animal welfare violations and actively engage with authorities, transporters, the public, and policy makers to advocate for stronger enforcement of existing animal welfare laws and the development of a comprehensive Animal Welfare Act in Nepal.**

Our work also engages with broader ethical questions surrounding the treatment of farm animals within systems of trade and consumption. These experiences reinforce our long-standing call for greater compassion, accountability, and adherence to humane standards across animal transport, trade, and slaughter practices.

## Community Engagement and Prevention

Alongside emergency response, we continue to invest in prevention through community education and capacity building. The training conducted in Bharatpur Metropolitan City with smallholder farmers is one such example of this work. The session focused on humane animal care, proper feeding, disease prevention, and the importance of regular veterinary check-ups. Participants shared their experiences and practical challenges, helping to strengthen understanding of welfare-friendly livestock management and improve day-to-day animal care practices at the community level.

*Awareness training for smallholder farmers, Jan 2025*



## Long-Term Approach

Animal Nepal's farm animal welfare programme is built on sustained engagement rather than isolated interventions. Through continuous monitoring in high-risk transport corridors such as Chitwan, Bara, and

Kathmandu, combined with community awareness programmes and ongoing policy advocacy, we aim to reduce suffering and improve welfare standards for farm animals across Nepal.

**Despite ongoing challenges in enforcement and infrastructure, each intervention, training, and advocacy effort contributes to a growing recognition that farm animals deserve protection, dignity, and humane treatment throughout their lives and during transport.**

*Buffalo loading center in Parwanipur, Bara – Jan 2025*



## Promoting Humane Farming & Cage Free Systems

In 2025, Animal Nepal continued its advocacy efforts to promote humane and sustainable farming practices, **with a particular focus on improving the welfare of laying hens and supporting a transition toward cage-free systems.**

*Meeting with journalists to discuss cage free egg production, Oct 2025*



Through interaction programmes with key stakeholders—including media, egg suppliers, and small-scale farmers—we worked to raise awareness and encourage the adoption of welfare-friendly practices.

In parallel, Animal Nepal conducted several interaction programmes with egg suppliers and small-scale farmers, to discuss practical strategies for improving hen welfare. These

discussions focused on better living conditions, proper nutrition, and humane handling practices, while also addressing the economic realities faced by smallholder farmers.

By fostering dialogue among stakeholders, these programmes aimed to help build a shared understanding of how improved welfare standards can be both ethical and sustainable. The strong engagement and positive response reflected a growing willingness to adopt more humane and responsible farming practices.

These stakeholder engagement programmes are an important part of Animal Nepal’s advocacy approach—bridging knowledge gaps, encouraging collaboration, and driving gradual but meaningful change within Nepal’s farming systems.

## Animal Welfare training for Law Enforcement

In 2025, Animal Nepal launched the first-of-its-kind animal welfare training programme for Nepal Police and municipal police in Nepal, marking a significant step toward integrating animal protection into mainstream law enforcement practice. These initiatives aim to ensure that those responsible for upholding the law are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively protect animals.

*Police trainees attending animal welfare training at Gandaki Province Police Training Center, Aug 2025*



Municipal police in Nepal play a key role in maintaining public order and enforcing local regulations, including responsibilities directly linked to animal welfare—such as managing street animals, preventing cruelty, monitoring slaughterhouses, and ensuring humane transport and handling. However, limited exposure to animal protection laws and humane handling practices has

historically constrained effective enforcement.

To address this gap, in 2025 Animal Nepal launched structured training programmes across all seven provinces, focusing on animal welfare principles, legal frameworks, and practical field responses to cruelty and neglect cases. These sessions are designed to strengthen understanding of both the legal and ethical responsibilities of law enforcement officers.

*Delivering animal welfare training at the Bharatpur Police College, Sep 2025*



In 2025, training sessions were conducted for police personnel at multiple institutions, including the Police College in Bharatpur, the Rajbiraj Police Training Academy in Madhesh Province, the Gandaki Province Police Training Centre and the National Police Academy in Maharajgunj. Across all trainings, officers were oriented on animal protection laws, humane

handling practices, and appropriate responses to cruelty, neglect, and unsafe transport cases.

Feedback from participants has been highly encouraging, with trainees showing strong engagement, asking thoughtful questions, and sharing field experiences. Senior police representatives have also reaffirmed institutional commitment to animal welfare, reflecting growing recognition of the importance of this work within law enforcement.

Despite these positive developments, challenges remain in the implementation of animal protection laws. Many cases of cruelty go unaddressed not due to lack of intent, but due to limited awareness and training. These programmes are therefore helping bridge a critical gap between legislation and enforcement practice.

*Lumbini Province Police Training Center, April 2025*



## Animal welfare education & awareness

In 2025, Animal Nepal continued to prioritise education as a key driver of long-term change, delivering 40 animal welfare awareness sessions to students, communities, and future professionals across Nepal. These programmes are designed to foster empathy, promote responsible behaviour, and build a culture where animals are treated with compassion and respect.

*Student from Premiere International School spending time with one of our puppies, Dec 2025*



A central focus of our education work is engaging young people. Throughout the year, we conducted school-based awareness sessions reaching hundreds of students across Nepal. Topics covered included animal welfare,

responsible pet ownership, rabies prevention, and the importance of humane treatment of animals. Through interactive discussions, activities, and real-life examples, students were encouraged to reflect on their role in creating safer and more compassionate communities.

*Animal welfare class in Chitwan, Nov 2025*



In addition to schools, Animal Nepal also engaged with higher education institutions, including veterinary students. These sessions emphasised the importance of integrating animal welfare into veterinary practice, encouraging future professionals to uphold ethical standards and act as advocates for animals throughout their careers.

Experiential learning also played an important role. Students often visit our

Chobhar Dog Treatment Center and Dukuchhap Animal Sanctuary where they get to interact with animals. Such visits provide valuable firsthand insight into the realities faced by animals.

Animal welfare education remains fundamental to Animal Nepal's mission. While rescue and treatment address immediate suffering, education addresses its root causes. By nurturing awareness, compassion, and responsibility—especially among young people—we are helping to build a future where animals are treated with dignity, and communities are safer and more humane for all.

*Animal Welfare session at Rampur Veterinary Campus, April 2025*



## Animal Advocacy

Advocacy remains a cornerstone of Animal Nepal's work, recognising that lasting improvements in animal welfare require not only direct intervention, but also systemic change. In 2025, we continued to advance animal protection in Nepal through policy engagement, stakeholder consultation, public awareness, legal advocacy, and strategic partnerships—working to ensure that animal welfare is recognised as both a societal and legislative priority.

### Policy and Legal Advocacy

Animal Nepal has been actively engaged in the development of **Nepal's Animal Welfare Act**, working closely with the **Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development** and key **policymakers**. Through ongoing dialogue with government officials we contributed to discussions on critical issues such as live animal transport, dog abandonment, breeder regulation, inclusion of equines, and rabies control.

*Meeting with Minister & the Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development to discuss the passage of the Animal Welfare Act, Nov 2025*



We also played a leading role in shaping the legal framework itself. **Animal Nepal, in collaboration with a network of organisations and experts, developed a model Animal Welfare Act, which has been used as a reference in the government's drafting process.** Legal experts associated with Animal Nepal have contributed directly to the draft, reinforcing the need for a standalone, comprehensive, and enforceable law to address gaps in existing legislation.

*Consultation on Animal Welfare: Challenges, Gaps, Opportunities & the need for a Comprehensive Animal Welfare Act, July 2025*



A major milestone in 2025 was the consultation event held on July 2, bringing together lawmakers, government officials, veterinarians, legal experts, civil society, and media representatives. The consultation highlighted the urgent need for a unified legal framework to ensure protection, dignity, and justice for all animals in Nepal.

### Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Collaboration is central to effective advocacy. Throughout the year, Animal Nepal worked alongside government departments, legal professionals, civil society organisations, and academic institutions to strengthen a collective voice for animal welfare. Engagements

with the Department of Livestock Services and participation in national-level policy discussions have ensured that field realities are reflected in decision-making processes.

## Public Awareness and Campaigns

Raising public awareness remains a key advocacy strategy. In 2025, Animal Nepal organised campaigns to highlight critical welfare issues, including a cycle rally in Chitwan on International Awareness Day to Ban Live Exports. This initiative drew attention to the severe cruelty involved in live animal transport and mobilised public support through petitions calling for policy change.

### *Cycle Rally in Chitwan, June 2025*



We also leveraged media and storytelling to amplify animal welfare issues. Through collaborations with journalists, advocates, and public voices, we highlighted the link between animal welfare, public health, and ethical responsibility—encouraging

broader societal reflection and engagement.

## Linking Animal Welfare to Public Health and Ethics

Animal Nepal’s advocacy emphasises the interconnectedness of animal welfare, human health, and consumer safety. Discussions with legal and consumer rights experts highlighted how poor animal welfare practices—particularly in farming and transport—can directly impact food quality and public health. This approach strengthens the case for reform by positioning animal welfare as a cross-cutting issue affecting society as a whole.

## Building Momentum for Change

Advocacy efforts in 2025 also included participation in public events such as Buddha Jayanti in Lumbini, where we raised awareness and connected animal welfare to values of compassion and non-violence. Through continuous engagement, education, and dialogue, we are working to shift both policy and public perception.

Overall, Animal Nepal’s advocacy work reflects a multi-layered approach—from influencing national legislation to mobilising communities and strengthening institutional accountability. While progress takes time, these efforts are essential to creating a future where animals in Nepal are protected not only through direct care, but through strong laws, informed systems, and a compassionate society.

## Animal Nepal Climate Smart Cities Program

In 2025, the Climate Smart Cities Program led by Animal Nepal in partnership with Creasion Nepal, made tangible progress in building cleaner, kinder and climate resilient communities through a One Health approach. The program worked with 20 government schools in Chitwan and Kathmandu districts, equipping students and teachers with practical knowledge on environmental protection and waste management. More importantly, it translated awareness into action, encouraging young people to take ownership of the challenges in their communities.

Students moved beyond classrooms to deliver real impact such as through building shelter for street dogs with recycled material. Other activities like community cleanups, learning how to weave dustbins out of bamboo, school dramas, etc. helped to build lasting behavioral change. Across all activities, it showed that small, practical actions when led by motivated and informed young people can drive meaningful change. By linking environmental stewardship with animal welfare and community responsibility, the Climate Smart Cities Program is not only improving local conditions today, but also helping to shape a generation committed to healthier, kinder and more sustainable urban futures.

*Students in Chitwan making a dog house with recycled & eco-friendly materials, Dec 2025*



## Dukuchhap Animal Sanctuary – a haven for our rescued animals

2025 was another meaningful year at Animal Nepal's Dukuchhap Animal Sanctuary, marked by continued care for our rescued animals and ongoing efforts to promote animal welfare in Nepal. Our team remained committed to ensuring that every resident animal lived in safety, comfort, and dignity. Several of our animals required additional medical attention during the year. Honey the horse made a full recovery from a leg wound, while mule Tara healed from a leg infection linked to a previous fracture. Our senior horse Markhu continued to receive ongoing care and monitoring for chronic tendonitis.

The sanctuary is home to over 30 rescued animals, including horses, mules, donkeys, goats, bulls, cows, dogs, hens, ducks and buffaloes—all with their own stories of suffering and survival. Of these, 21 animals are supported through sponsorship by Animal Aid Abroad, whose continued support plays a vital role in sustaining their care. This year, we also welcomed Aashu, a young buffalo calf rescued from the Gadhimai festival, where he was destined for ritual sacrifice. His rescue is a powerful reminder of both the scale of suffering animals face and the importance of providing sanctuary to those we are able to save.

### *Aashu's first day at our sanctuary*



Beyond physical health, the sanctuary prioritises emotional wellbeing. Many animals have formed strong social bonds, reflecting their complex emotional lives. Donkeys Bruna and Sangeet remain inseparable companions, while Raamri and Moni developed a close bond following the loss of Moni's mother earlier this year. Similarly, Apache the miniature horse and Haluman the hinny share a strong companionship, supporting one another in their recovery and adjustment. These relationships highlight the importance of providing rescued animals not only with medical treatment, but also with companionship, stability, and a peaceful environment.

A key highlight of the year was the continuation of our long-standing partnership with the Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (HICAST). In September, 40 final-year veterinary students completed practical training with Animal Nepal, gaining hands-on experience at both the Dog Treatment Center and the Dukuchhap Sanctuary. Since the programme began in 2010, over 500 veterinary students have received training in animal welfare and equine care. The sanctuary serves as an important learning hub—not only for veterinary students but also for school groups—helping to build understanding and empathy toward animals. In particular, it provides future veterinarians with the opportunity to see farm animals as sentient beings deserving of care and respect, beyond their role in food production systems.

#### *HICAST Interns learning about hoof care*



This year, we also said goodbye to Soni, a young donkey rescued from a brick kiln alongside her foal, Moni. Soni had been battling Babesia, a parasitic disease that affected her mobility. Despite dedicated care and treatment, she sadly passed away. While her time with us was short, she spent her final years safe, cared for, and free from suffering. Her daughter Moni continues to thrive at the sanctuary with the companionship of Raamri.

*Soni at the time of rescue, Bhaktapur 2023*



While we cannot save every animal, those who find refuge at Dukuchhap stand as living reminders that animals are not commodities—they are individuals who seek safety, companionship, and the chance to live. The sanctuary continues to serve not only as a safe haven for rescued animals, but also as a space for learning and reflection—demonstrating the importance of humane treatment, long-term care, and respect for all animals.

We are deeply grateful to Animal Aid Abroad and all our sponsors for their continued support in making this work possible.

*Sanctuary resident horse Shakti receives dental care*



## Animal Nepal veterinary internship program

In 2025, Animal Nepal continued its long-standing partnership with the Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (HICAST), providing hands-on internship opportunities to 40 final-year veterinary students, gaining practical experience with both small and large animals.

Since the programme began in 2010, over 500 veterinary students have been trained through this initiative—making it one of Animal Nepal’s most impactful and enduring contributions to animal welfare in Nepal. Notably, many of Animal Nepal’s current veterinarians are themselves former interns, reflecting the program’s lasting influence on shaping compassionate and skilled professionals in the field. The internship provides invaluable hands-on clinical experience. Under the guidance of our veterinary team, interns actively participate in examinations, treatments, surgeries, and other medical procedures. They are exposed to a wide range of cases—often more diverse and complex than those encountered in traditional clinical settings—helping them develop strong diagnostic, problem-solving, and adaptability skills.



At the sanctuary, interns gain a deeper understanding of equine and farm animal care. Training includes safe and humane handling and restraint techniques, grooming, hoof care, and physical examinations. Through direct interaction with rescued horses, mules, and donkeys—each with their own history and temperament—students develop both technical competence and confidence in working with large animals.

Beyond clinical skills, the programme plays a critical role in shaping perspectives. By working within an animal welfare organization, interns gain insight into the broader context of veterinary practice—understanding the links between treatment, prevention, ethics, and long-term welfare. They learn that animals are not simply cases to be treated, but sentient beings deserving of compassion, dignity, and respect.

This exposure is especially important in a context where farm and working animals are often viewed primarily through an economic lens. Through this programme, Animal Nepal is helping to nurture a new generation of veterinarians who recognize the intrinsic value of animals and are committed to improving their welfare.

Animal Nepal is deeply proud of this programme and the legacy it continues to build. By investing in education and mentorship, we are not only strengthening veterinary capacity in Nepal but also ensuring that compassion remains at the heart of animal care for years to come.

## Animal Nepal Board

### Board members

Shoba Rayamajhi – President  
Pramada Shah – Immediate Past President  
Dr. Sanjay Bhattachan – Vice President  
Sangeeta Khadka – Secretary  
Jyoti Simha – Joint Secretary  
Kishori Shah – Treasurer  
Jyoti Simha – Member  
Urvashi Rana – Member  
Paralita Malla - Member  
Rita Limbu – Member

## Animal Nepal Partners

Our life-saving work would not have been possible without our loyal local and international donors. We would like to especially thank:

Animal Aid Abroad	Fondation Brigitte Bardot
Creasion	Infinite Compassion Foundation
World Horse Welfare	Open Wing Alliance
Help Animals India	Edgard and Cooper Foundation
Open Philanthropy Project	NIBL Ace Capital Limited

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