



**Tsunami
Animal-People
Alliance**



Annual Report

Jan-Dec 2018

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Our Name

Our name, Tsunami Animal-People Alliance (TAPA), emphasizes the interaction, welfare and importance of both animals and people in the community.



Goal

Our goal is to improve the welfare and living environment of Sri Lanka's animals and people, particularly in the tsunami-impacted zones, as well as in the former conflict zone.

Objectives

Our objectives to attain this goal include:

- Humane community dog population management
- Reduce rabies by creating rabies-free areas where TAPA works
- Reduce dog bites, particularly among children
- Raise awareness of animal welfare issues.

Strategy

Our strategy is to implement a no-charge Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (CNVR) programme in the tsunami-impacted zone and former conflict zone.

TAPA's mobile surgical field clinic moves from community to community, sterilising and vaccinating both community/street dogs as well as individually owned dogs.

We adhere to high standards of asepsis and use specialised surgery protocols, including pain management. The dogs are returned to the exact spot where caught (or to their owners), to make use of their territorial nature to manage the population. This is a critical factor to success as they will keep unsterilised and unvaccinated dogs away. We use **large "butterfly" nets to humanely catch community/street dogs**, which also reduces the risk of injury to them, as well as to TAPA staff.



Spay/Neuter in the Field Clinic
Mobile Surgery Theatre

A well-executed CNVR programme yields a stable vaccinated dog population, reducing the incidence of animal and human rabies, while preventing the mass killing of dogs as an uninformed, ineffective and inhumane means of rabies reduction.

About TAPA Work

Strategy—Cont'd

TAPA also seeks to improve the standard of veterinary medicine and surgery practice within Sri Lanka, including the introduction of pain management, practise of high levels of asepsis and the concept of Early Age Neutering (EAN).

Additionally, TAPA provides a model for dog population management in Sri Lanka, as well as seizing opportunities to propagate and replicate our field tested methodologies and processes throughout the region. Our field clinic also provides general veterinary care to all animals on an as-needed basis. This model has been recognised as a viable and humane solution to community/street dog population management – an alternative to mass killing.

Areas of Operation

East Coast: Tsunami -affected coastline from Yala National Park north.

South Coast: Tsunami affected coastline, including Tangalle and Hambantota. There is special emphasis on working in tourist zones in cooperation with the tourist industry.

Former Conflict Zone: We also work in the former conflict zone, including in refugee re-settlement areas. Particular emphasis has been on the Vauniya area, a frontline area during the civil war, as well as the East Coast areas of Trincomalee, Jaffna, and Batticaloa.

In 2018, we focused on work on the Kalpitiya area and Trincomalee areas.



TAPA Prioritisation Guidelines

- A focus on tsunami-impacted areas and former conflict zone
- Working where there is limited or no veterinary infrastructure
- The potential to transfer CNVR skills. Such replication can greatly leverage our limited resources to benefit additional animals and the people who share their environment.



Surgery prep

We use a combination of a mobile surgical theater vehicle and pop-up tents and set up on the grounds of community centres, government offices, hotel parking lots, Temple grounds, etc. We seek to be near the communities to make it easier for them to bring dogs to us.

About TAPA Work (con't)

Disaster Response



In addition to our regular work, TAPA stands ready to assist in disasters such as the massive flooding that occurred several years ago, displacing a million people. As a response to that disaster, TAPA worked with international disaster relief assessment teams. TAPA then teamed with several animal and humanitarian welfare groups to provide treatment to any animal needing assistance in flood areas.



TAPA responding to the floods, helping any animal in need of assistance.



About TAPA Work (con't)

Former Conflict Zone

Sri Lanka endured an ugly civil war for almost 30 years, ending only in 2009. Due to security issues, TAPA had been unable to work in the war zone during the conflict period. TAPA has now been working in the former war zone since 2010.

We were so busy, it took an outside observer from a humanitarian assistance group to put things into perspective.....

"TAPA is really a great, dynamic team and what I see is so much more than the work they are doing for dogs- their interaction with the communities is also beneficial. Here in Batticaloa for example, after 30 years of war, devastation, death and destruction, TAPA represents a whole new concept that some of the communities have never experienced- respect, care, nurturing, concern for others... The ethnic divide is also very key and having Sinhala staff at TAPA doing work without charge for Tamil communities sends quite a powerful message. People in Batticaloa really appreciated this show of kindness, care and respect from TAPA staff."



TAPA has worked in several severely war-impacted areas, including Vauniya in the north central area, Jaffna in the north, Mannar in the northwest, and Trincomalee and Batticaloa on the East Coast. Vauniya was a front line area during the conflict. By invitation, we have done spay/neuter in and around military bases and refugee resettlement areas.



The military has often provided logistics support and opens doors with local officials. In addition to providing our team the opportunity to help rebuild the country, we found it very positive that enlightened military and community leaders were discovering that spay/neuter is the solution to managing the dog population.



TAPA Education Programme



Community brings their dogs to a TAPA Clinic

About TAPA Work (con't)

Tourist Zone Programme

TAPA includes a focus on working in tourist zones, which are primarily coastal areas devastated by the tsunami. Tourism is regaining its stride in Sri Lanka, which also means a renewed concern over the "dog problem".

TAPA has implemented spay-neuter clinics in the beach communities of Kalpitiya, Tangalle, Arugam Bay, Batticaloa and Trincomalee, as well as in the growing tourist area of Dambulla. We have collaborated with tourism promotion boards, hotels, restaurants and have received excellent response. Tourist were happy to see concern for the animals.



TAPA Clinic set up in a tourist area



Sri Lanka's beautiful beaches attract visitors from around the world



Kitty comes to the clinic. Our focus is on dogs as the primary vector of rabies and the most at risk, but we are happy to spay/neuter cats brought to us.

In addition to helping the animals, the positive response of tourists encourages further tourism industry growth, which, in turn, contributes to the local economy.

About TAPA Work (con't)

Officially Registered NGO

TAPA is an officially registered charitable Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), registered with the Government of Sri Lanka (Registration FL-109595).

The TAPA Team

The highly motivated Sri Lankan team has been well trained by international veterinarians, vet nurses and animal handlers.

This programme builds on the Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release "template" originally successfully field tested and implemented in Bali and Banda Aceh, Indonesia and in Phuket, Thailand. This template has been refined by TAPA and has served as a model for spa/neuter programs in other countries.

The Field Clinic processes dogs through an organised routine of catch (or reception of animals brought by owners), evaluation of fitness for surgery, weighing, pre-surgery medication and anesthetic, pre-op surgery prep, surgery, post-op monitoring and recovery, and return to the exact spot where caught (or to the owner).

Each dog is fitted with a red collar to indicate that it has been vaccinated and sterilised. Because the red collars are eventually lost, one of the **dog's ears is notched while under anesthetic**. The ear notch also serves as a permanent indicator to TAPA animal handlers and municipality employees that the dog has already been sterilized.

This eliminates re-catching and reduces the risk of harm by misguided government employees given the task of reducing the population of community dogs.



TAPA team at work

Vet School Interaction

In the past, TAPA has teamed with Dogstar Foundation to implement a field clinic on the campus of the Vet School at the University of Peradeniya. This clinic exposed Vet Students to implementation of surgical protocols in a field clinic environment. The students were very enthused, and some scrubbed in to assist the TAPA vets. We look forward to additional opportunities to interact with vet students.



Working with vet students

Replication and Training

Over the years, TAPA has trained vets and staff from various Asian countries in our methods, including India, Malaysia and the Philippines. Training has taken place through on the job training working with our team and via seminar presentations.

About TAPA Work (con't)

Statistics

TAPA has thus far sterilized over 56,000 animals (about 95% dogs, and 5% cats.) We are sometimes hampered by spells of heavy rain, which makes it difficult to both catch dogs as well as operate the field clinic.

We sterilise both male and female dogs. The females are obviously sterilised for population control. But it is also important to sterilise the male dogs, not only for population control, but also to reduce aggressive behaviour, especially during mating season. This reduces the risk of dog bites to people, and especially children, who are at eye level with the dogs. This can also reduce injury to other dogs from fighting.



Dogs in the recovery pen

We seek to sterilise at least 75% of the dogs, as this is the level usually cited to result in zero population growth. At the same time, a 75% vaccination rate is **usually cited as the point at which "herd immunity" to rabies is attained.**

This 75% rate includes community and street dogs, as well as individually owned dogs as there is generally limited or no vet care available. Both owned dogs and community dogs contribute to the street population: as a result of our marketing efforts in the community, our overall average over time is about half community dogs and half individually owned dogs.



Releasing a recovered dog back to the exact spot where originally caught in our nets.



Re covered dog back in home territory

About TAPA Work (con't)

Publicity and Public Awareness

Descriptions of our work, as well as raising awareness of animal welfare issues, have been included in newspaper articles and TV broadcasts both within Sri Lanka and internationally.

Website / Social Media

Our website at www.tsunami-animal.org explains our work and is updated with current news. We also have a strong presence on Facebook (www.facebook.com/tapa.sri.lanka) with frequent updates, as well as on Twitter (@TAPAVetsLK).



Standards

TAPA Standard Operating Procedures, including asepsis, surgical techniques and strict protocols, are of paramount importance in protecting the welfare of the animals in a mass sterilisation programme.

The TAPA field clinic continues to successfully demonstrate that the standards expected in a static veterinary clinic can also be attained in a field environment. We continue to seek improvements in our protocols.

The TAPA team is trained and experienced in handling emergency situations during surgery. Unfortunately, however, we do lose several dogs each year due to anaesthetic shock issues. To our knowledge, no dogs have died due to post-CNVR complications.

On average, we find about one dog out of 500 that is in very bad condition. If our vets all concur that the animal is suffering without hope of recovery, we do, with great sadness, euthanise. We seek to honour the one and the many.



About TAPA Work *(con't)*

Medical Perspective

Although the mission of the Field Clinic is mass sterilisation, the team treats dogs and cats for various medical conditions and accident injuries. Many of these animals would have died due to lack of veterinary care. All services are provided free of charge.

TAPA introduced Early Age Neutering (EAN) to Sri Lanka as a safe and effective population management method. We screen for eligibility for EAN by age (minimum 12 weeks), weight (minimum 3 kg), general condition, and any specific medical conditions. TAPA has also raised awareness of post-surgery pain management and mitigation techniques. We do not spay lactating females.



Giving Anti-Rabies Vaccine



Catching a dog using a net—safer than using catchpoles for the dog and for the team.



Our team members are very committed to animal welfare



Community member brings his dog to a TAPA clinic.

About TAPA Work (*con't*)

Education

Community

In each community, TAPA first meets with community leaders and officials to explain how the CNVR programme works, the benefits of humane population management and how this reduces rabies and dog bites. Initial skepticism turns into offers of assistance once the community understands the concepts.

Education Programme

TAPA has offered education programmes in the communities served. We use different approaches to target kindergarten/primary school and secondary school / adults. We continue to seek new ideas and learning aids to better transmit the messages to younger audiences. The sooner we can reach the children, the better!



TAPA's education programme directly and indirectly (through sharing at home) has reached many thousands of people of all ages. We have made presentations in all levels of schools (students and parents), community centres, and Temple schools.



"Posable Dog" Crafts Activity. The children assemble and colour a dog from paper, and then the finished product is used to demonstrate dog behaviors to help the children safely interact with dogs and avoid dog bites.

The presentations include facts and myths about rabies, precautions, prevention, and treatments; simple behaviours to avoid dog bites; need for humane treatment of animals, responsible pet ownership, and how Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release impacts the dog population.

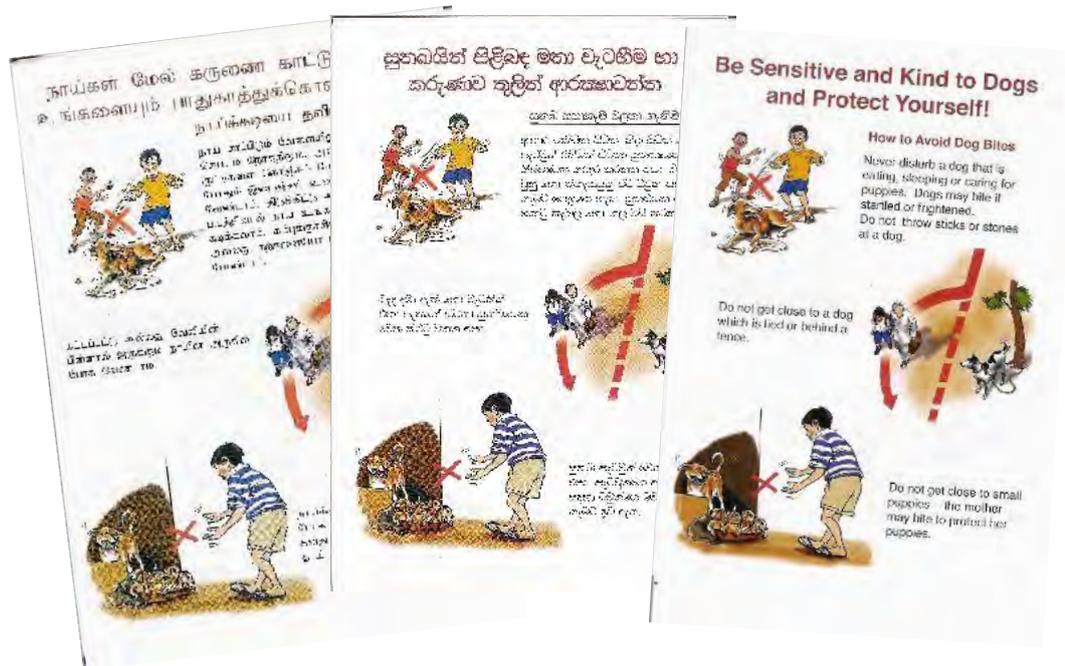
For the younger children, we focus more on raising awareness that animals are to be respected as sentient beings sharing the earth with us. We use toy animals, stickers, singing, dramas and paintings to transfer this message to the young children.

About TAPA Work (con't)

Leaflet—How to Avoid Dog Bites

Many dog bites by both community dogs and owned dogs are the result of a simple lack of knowledge of canine behaviour. The vast majority of dog bites do not involve rabid dogs. Regardless, most Sri Lankan victims seek medical treatment - even if the dog is known to them. If we can reduce dog bites, these costly, and most often unnecessary, treatments deplete precious limited government health resources that could be used for other benefits.

As part of our education effort, TAPA developed and published a leaflet on how to avoid dog bites, with a special focus on children. TAPA hopes this will reduce the actual pain of the victims who might otherwise be bitten, minimise subsequent harm to the dogs, and stretch scarce health care resources.



We have printed over 200,000 copies (in Sinhala, Tamil and English) for distribution in the community. The leaflets, endorsed by the Ministry of Health, include colour graphics depicting Sri Lankan children and adults with local dogs in Sri Lankan surroundings. The four page leaflet stresses simple behaviours to avoid dog bites, as well as how to react to a dog, who comes just to sniff, and what to do if actually bitten.



Localised versions of our booklet have now been produced by other groups including in India, Nepal, China, the Republic of Georgia, as well as an Arabic version. We offer the graphics files to any group anywhere to help spread the knowledge.

TAPA Capacity Building

Training

The TAPA team has been trained in high speed keyhole spay/neuter surgery with an emphasis on strict asepsis. These are critical components to reduce infection and post-operation complications, both crucial to the success of same day Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release.

TAPA also seeks opportunities to train others in the overall CNVR process, as well as **how to humanely and safely catch dogs using nets**. TAPA's expenses for training others are covered by the sponsors of that training—all general donations to TAPA continue to be used exclusively for spay-neuter work.



"Vaccinate & Sterilise" labels
donated by Studio Labels
(Australia)



Waiting for their turn at a TAPA Clinic

Challenges and Donors

Challenges

Funding remains our most serious challenge. It is not inexpensive to field a team working in remote locations. Our all-in cost to sterilise a dog or cat is approximately US\$25, including good quality medicines and surgical supplies staff salaries, team expenses, van to transport dogs and equipment, etc.)

In 2018, overheads were under 3% for administration and fund-raising. 97% of expenses were direct project costs. We seek to reduce costs through in-kind donations of medications, supplies, food & lodging.

To protect the welfare of the animals, we cannot compromise on the quality of the medicines or supplies, such as anesthetics, pain medications or suture materials. Additionally, the team is asked to spend long hours for extended periods, working and living in difficult conditions, so we must ensure their well-being with reasonable food and shelter.



TAPA's field clinic can set up wherever we need to go—using the field clinic

Sri Lanka is a developing country, so TAPA depends heavily on outside funding. We are, however, seeking to increase local funding to encourage national ownership of the programme. We also emphasize tsunami zone tourist areas, with support and cooperation from the tourism industry.

Friends of TAPA (U.S.)

Friends of the Tsunami Animal-People Alliance (FoTAPA) supports field sterilisation in the tsunami zone and former war zone. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has designated FoTAPA 501(c)3 (tax-exempt) non-profit organisation offering tax deductibility of donations for U.S. income tax purposes. Online donation from anywhere in the world via Paypal is available via the FoTAPA webpage www.tsunami-animal.org/about/fotapa.htm



Delivering a recovered dog home

Our Donors

TAPA's accomplishments are possible only with the generous support of animal welfare organisations and individuals around the world. TAPA and the people and animals of Sri Lanka wish to thank all of our supporters. Page 18 acknowledges our 2018 financial and in-kind donors. A special thanks to Fondation Brigitte Bardot, a major sponsor for the last ten years!

TAPA Team



The TAPA Field Team includes veterinary surgeons, as well as team members skilled in vet nursing, animal handling, community liaison, and education programme presentation. The team achieves its effectiveness and efficiency through training for flexible cross-over responsibilities.



Catching Team on the Road
(face masks are for dust protection)



Community member brings his



Meds Prep



Recovering Dog

Financials

TAPA 's appointed auditor (Sri Lankan Chartered Accountants Gajma & Company) provides continuing guidance to ensure that our accounting methods conform to professional norms. The Sri Lankan Fiscal Year is April 1 – March 31. Gajma audited our accounts for the Fiscal Year ending 31 March 2018. Our accounts will next be audited for the Fiscal year ending 31 March 2019. TAPA also retains a part-time accountant/administrator for several hours per month.

Sterilising each dog costs about US\$25 per dog, including medicines, vaccines and surgical supplies, salaries, field living expenses, van for transporting dogs, etc.). The cost of medicines and supplies is partially offset by in-kind donations whenever possible.

*(Approximate Currency Conversions in Jan 2019
US\$25 = €22 = £19).*

Our overheads in 2018 were less than 3% (Administration plus Fundraising) with 97% of expenses being direct field project costs.



Boy brings his kitty to a TAPA Clinic

This will not happen again for this family !!



TAPA sterilised the mother and then, when they qualified for Early Age Neutering, all eight puppies

Future

2019 Plans and Opportunities

- Continue CNVR Field Clinic programmes, including tsunami and war-impacted zones of Sri Lanka, and tsunami zone tourist areas, where hotels are becoming concerned about the dog population.
- Seek opportunities to implement our Education Programme for all ages. This programme includes rabies facts and myths, how to avoid dog bites, humane treatment of animals and responsible animal ownership, including the role of sterilisation and vaccination.
- Seek additional opportunities to continue building the capacity of the TAPA team. This includes seeking sponsorships to attend training seminars and exposing the team to visiting vets and vet nurses.
- Seek opportunities to expose Vet School students to implementation of protocols in a field clinic environment.
- **Leverage Impact.** TAPA's successful CNVR Field Clinic has gained recognition internationally and programmes to Train the Trainers can greatly leverage TAPA impact in improving the welfare of the animals and the people in Asia.



Releasing a recovered dog to the exact



We provide any vet treatment needed at no charge

Donors Jan-Dec 2018

Financial & In-Kind Donors and Facilitators

Amazon Smile Foundation (USA)
Brigitte Bardot Foundation (France)
Dept of Animal Production & Health (Sri Lanka)
Dogstar Foundation (UK / Sri Lanka)
Project Embark (Sri Lanka)
Friends of TAPA (USA)
Diann & Tom Hohenthanner (USA)
Georgina Hyams (UK)
Kalpitya Kitesurfing & Tourism Community
Marilee Meyer (USA)
Mark Passenheim (Germany)
Paypal Giving Fund (USA)
Project V.E.T.S. (USA)
Suzanne Samarawickrema (Sri Lanka)
Jacqueline Seal (USA)
Dilsiri Welikala / Kitesurfing Lanka
Alice Morgan Wright - Edith Goode Trust (USA)
Robert Blumberg & Andrea Yates (USA)



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**TAPA's field clinic is often near the ocean....
a reminder of the day everything changed
for Sri Lanka's animals and people.**