



WELFARE FOR ANIMALS GUILD OCTOBER - APRIL 2021 IMPACT REPORT



In October 2020, WAG-Rwanda was granted Rwandan NGO status by the Government of Rwanda. This was a major milestone that we had been working towards for the past year! Being formally recognised by the Government is a huge achievement for the dogs of Rwanda as well as the WAG volunteer team.

This report illustrates some key successes in the 6 months that WAG has been formally registered as an NGO, and some of our future plans as we grow to help more dogs in Rwanda.

6 MONTH SNAPSHOT

- SHELTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PURCHASED AND LAUNCHED
- SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA IN THREE ACTIVITIES
- WAG SHELTER POLICIES AND GUIDELINES COMPLETED AND IMPLEMENTED
- OVER 2,400 USD FUNDRAISED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA AND PRIVATE DONATIONS
- SHELTER WATERPROOFING AND KENNEL MAINTENANCE MADE POSSIBLE FROM DONATION
- WAG WEBSITE REVAMPED AND ADOPTION AND FOSTER HOME APPLICATION PROCESS STREAMLINED USING ONLINE FORMS



RESCUES AND REHOMING

35 DOGS RESCUED, VACCINATED & STERILISED

28 DOGS ADOPTED INTO FOREVER HOMES

OVER 40 HOME VISITS

OVER 120 ADOPTION APPLICATIONS

Dingo was rescued in October 2020 with six pups. She was malnourished and suffering. Fast forward to April 2021 and she has been adopted by WAG foster, Oriel!



HAPPILY EVER
AFTER: SOME OF
OUR ADOPTERS



MAKING HAPPY TAILS FOR RESCUED STREET DOGS

Much of WAG's rescue work is focused on emergency situations where a dog has been abused, injured or is in need of specialist medical attention. Here are two examples of such cases:



Ivu was rescued with a severely infected tail. It was so infected he had bitten part of it off and it was very painful. Vets performed an emergency tail amputation to prevent the infection spreading. Ivu is now fully recovered and has not been negatively impacted by the loss of his tail.



WAG received a call about a dog who had been put out on the streets by her owner when they left Rwanda and had been hit by a car. WAG picked her up and took her for emergency treatment. She received painkillers and strict rest, and after a couple of weeks, she was walking again!

ACTIVITIES WITH PARTNERS

NTD TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

In November 2020, WAG volunteer Olivia Clarke was invited to join Rwanda Biomedical Centre's Neglected Tropical Disease Technical Working Group to assist with developing Rwanda's Rabies Elimination Plan. Olivia discussed the importance of animal welfare and humane dog population management as a tool to reduce dog bite incidence and rabies transmission, using WAG's approach.



ILLEGAL BREEDER INSPECTIONS

In January, Rwanda Agricultural and Animal Resources Board (RAB) and the Rwandan Council of Veterinary Doctors (RCVD) inspected breeders to ensure they were registered and operating under appropriate conditions. Two female puppies were seized from an illegally operating breeder and WAG agreed to take them on. The puppies, Vava and Nonno, have since been adopted and WAG has agreed to take future puppies seized from illegal breeders by the Government of Rwanda.

WORLD NTD DAY

In February, Rwanda Biomedical Centre celebrated World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day and invited WAG to participate by visiting our shelter and interviewing some key WAG team members to raise awareness about dog rescue, responsible dog ownership and rabies transmission. This was a great opportunity for WAG to showcase how our work contributes to wider national goals and how dog health contributes to human health too!



CHALLENGES

COVID-19 has affected WAG's work significantly. More dogs than ever before are in need of our help, and more dog owners need support to continue feeding and caring for their dogs. However our funds have dropped significantly as fewer people have been able to donate to us and we have not been able to hold in-person fundraising events. We are simply unable to help as many dogs as we can due to lack of funds. COVID-19 has also resulted in a reduced number of people wanting to adopt a dog, so we are not able to rehome as many dogs as in previous years. This has resulted in dogs staying in our care longer.

We recognise that there are a huge amount of dogs abandoned, unwanted, or stray, who need our help. Another major challenge we face is a lack of space to house dogs until they are ready to be adopted. While our shelter is working successfully, our small capacity and minimal space to isolate sick dogs is a significant barrier to taking on more dogs.

LOOKING FORWARD

Dog ownership is increasing in Rwanda, and although that means more people adopting from WAG, it can raise challenges for dog welfare and result in rising numbers of free-roaming, unvaccinated, unsterilised dogs.

Over the next six months, WAG is seeking to formalise partnerships with the Government of Rwanda and international partners, as well as apply for grants, to increase rescue capacity and run projects that humanely reduce the street dog population and raise awareness of responsible dog ownership.

FUTURE PROJECTS

STERILISATION AND VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL ON DOG CARE AND WELFARE

INCREASE INTERNAL CAPACITY TO TAKE ON MORE DOGS