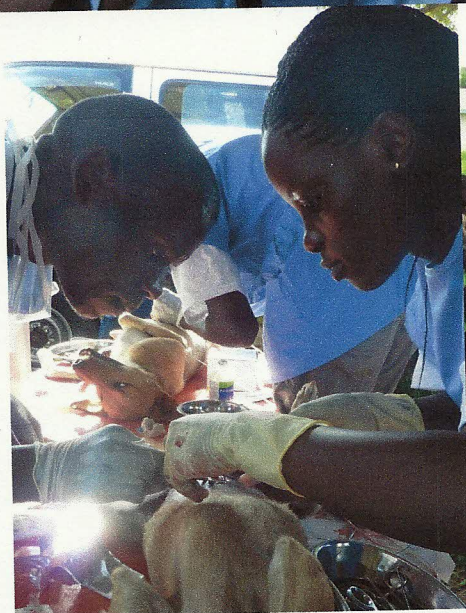
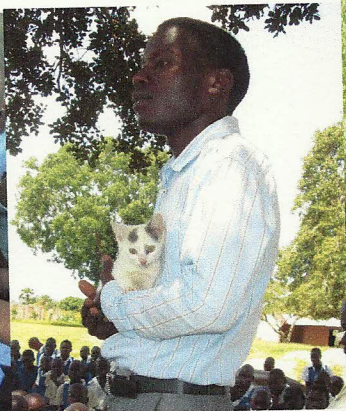
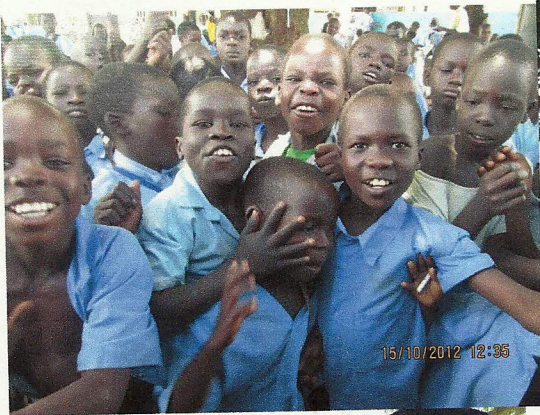


*Veterinary Service
and
Animal Welfare Education
for Northern Uganda*

**2012
Report**



2012 Achievements

2,194 Rabies Vaccinations

2,543 Animals Treated for Parasites

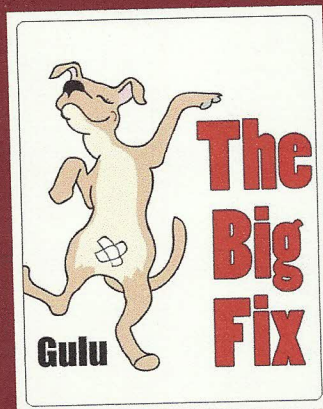
156 Puppies Vaccinated against Parvo Virus

252 spay/neuter surgeries

8 complex TVT removal surgeries

*7,668 students and 130 teachers received
Humane Education*

*One Hour Radio Broadcast which
Reached over 1 million people*



Dear Friends,

The Big Fix Gulu brings much needed veterinary service and animal welfare education to the Gulu District in Northern Uganda. After years of insurgency caused by civil war, people in Gulu District are re-building their lives but the area is seriously underserved by veterinary medicine. People value their dogs and cats for protection, hunting and as friends. However, the lack of veterinary services means:

- Rabies is still a major problem, causing many horrible and needless deaths of animals and people each year. Post-bite anti-rabies serum injections are not readily available and even when they are available, people cannot afford them.
- Dogs and cats suffer during their abbreviated lives with easily treatable conditions such as parasite infestation and mange.
- The vast majority of puppies die from Parvo virus or other treatable conditions.
- Transmissible venereal tumors are prevalent and cause pain and death.

Over 9 million people in Uganda are living in extreme poverty and can afford only one meal per day. When veterinary services are available, people have no money to pay for them. Our field activities this year have demonstrated an overwhelming need for veterinary service and animal welfare education. Our team members are deeply devoted to our mission but we need the support of our donors and friends to carry out this work.

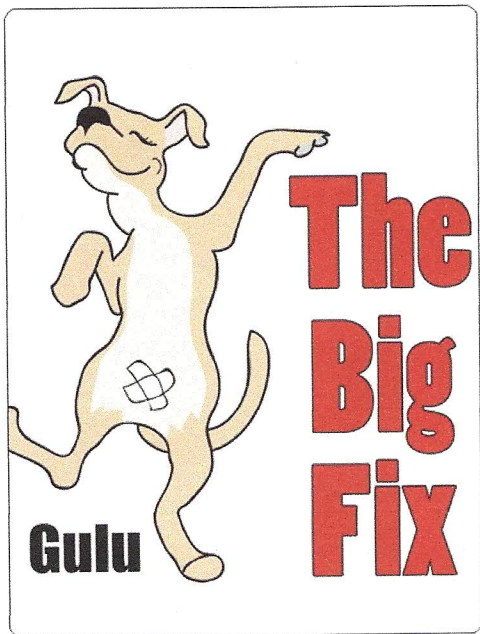
The Big Fix Gulu exists to alleviate the suffering of animals and to promote the human-animal bond. We accomplished these goals in 2012 by:

- Working closely with all local leaders and utilizing mass communication such as radio broadcasts to provide community education on animal issues.
- Conducting sensitization activities in the schools through presentation of information focusing on the sentience of animals and their physical and emotional needs.
- Administering a school essay and drawing contest to promote the importance of kindness toward animals.
- Conducting field clinics in remote village locations and offering free rabies vaccinations, free parvo vaccinations, free de-worming and parasite/tick control, free spay/neuter and free animal welfare education.

We are very proud of our accomplishments during 2012. At our August field clinics, we vaccinated and de-wormed 1,437 animals. During our October school outreach, we visited 8 of the largest primary schools in the district and reached over 7,500 pupils. Our October field clinics resulted in 252 sterilization surgeries, surpassing our goal of 200, and we treated over 1,100 animals. The Big Fix Gulu has won the support and admiration of local leaders and our services are being requested in other areas of Northern Uganda.

Thanks to our donors, The Big Fix Gulu has already impacted the lives of many animals and people. With your help, we can make 2013 even more successful.

- *The Big Fix Gulu Team*

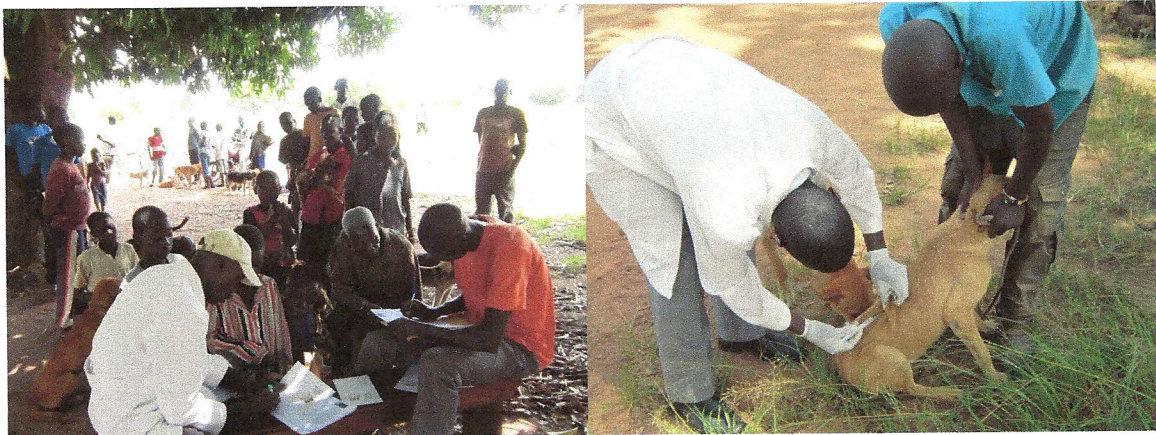


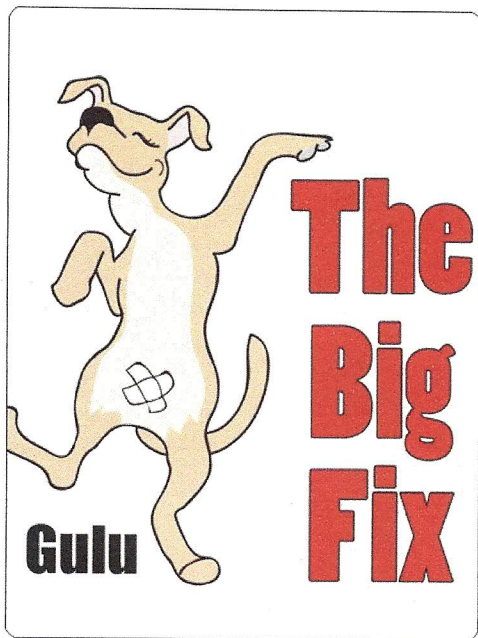
Field Clinics August 2012

*4 days
1,437 Rabies vaccinations and
Ivermectin injections*

The turn-out exceeded all expectations at our August vaccination clinics. 1,437 animals were vaccinated against Rabies and treated with Ivermectin (for internal parasites and mange).

Our field team included: Dr. Wilfred Opira, Dr. Robert Omara, Dr. Moses Migadde, Dr. Solomon Alier and veterinary technicians Stephen Okot, Susan Lanyero, Denis Acellam, Samuel Omon. Our driver was Charles Komakech. Each day, the team offered free services at four different remote locations within our 4 sub-county target areas.





School Outreach October 2012

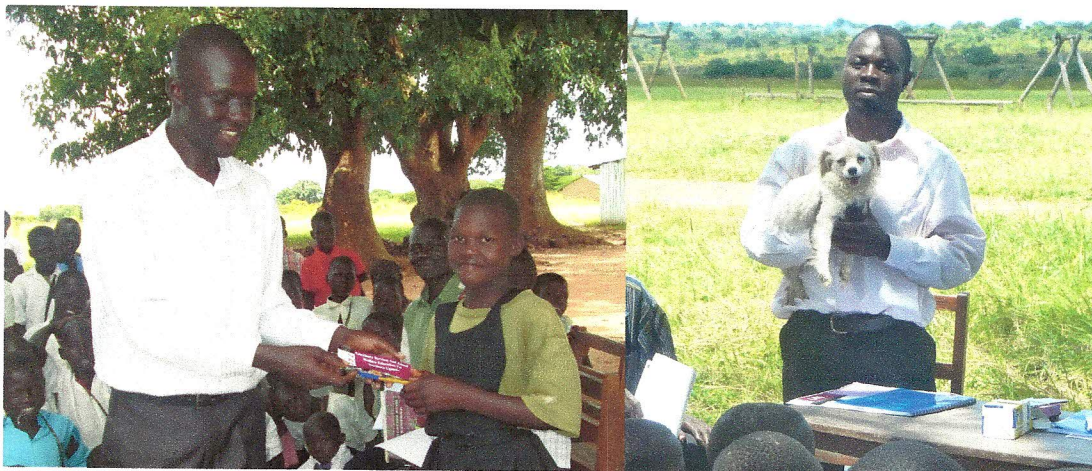
We reached
8 primary schools
7,668 children
130 teachers

Our Team

Remmy Mukulu - Humane Education/Field Officer for the Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (USPCA);
Dr. Moses Migadde, Dr. Robert Omara and Dr. Wilfred Opira.

With special thanks to our Advisor

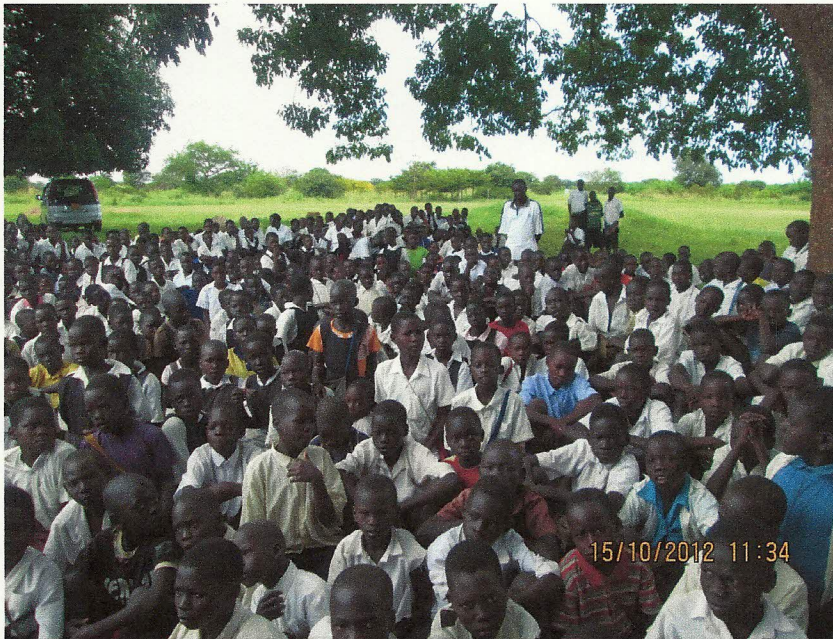
Dr. Samuel Okech - President of the Uganda Veterinary Association, Board Member of the Animal Welfare Society of Uganda and Senior Lecturer of Veterinary Surgery at Makerere University



Schools Visited

Our work is presently focused in the four most remote sub-counties in Gulu District: Palaro, Patiko, Paicho and Awach. At the request of the Gulu District Education Officer, we visited 8 of the oldest and largest primary schools in these areas and we thank these schools, their teachers and students for the warm welcome we were given.

<i>Cwero Primary School</i>	<i>Kilama Alex, Head Teacher</i>
<i>Paicho Primary School</i>	<i>Oyella Josephine, Head Teacher</i>
<i>Awach Central Primary School</i>	<i>Abaco James, Head Teacher</i>
<i>Awach Primary School</i>	<i>Adongowy Catherine, Head Teacher</i>
<i>Ajulu Primary School</i>	<i>Adongo Charles, Head Teacher</i>
<i>Kiju Hill Primary School</i>	<i>Palalyec Vincent, Head Teacher</i>
<i>Patiko Prison Primary School</i>	<i>Otim Kenneth, Head Teacher</i>
<i>Palaro Primary School</i>	<i>Acaye Julius Peter, Head Teacher</i>



The Five Freedoms

Every animal has the right to:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst - through ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor;
2. Freedom from discomfort - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment;
4. Freedom to express normal behavior - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind;
5. Freedom from fear and distress - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

2012 School Contest Winners

To encourage children to think about why and how we should be kind to animals, The Big Fix Gulu held an essay and drawing contest. The prizes given included rare and treasured possessions: first place received a mattress, second place a kerosene lantern, third a basin and exercise books, fourth a math set and exercise books and fifth exercise books. Winners also received Big Fix Gulu pens and a copy of the USPCA book *The Story of Hope*. In addition, the overall winner in the district received a suitcase.

Animals, animals, animals,
How good you are!
You accompany us
And we like you very much.
You look so beautiful!
Especially the pets.

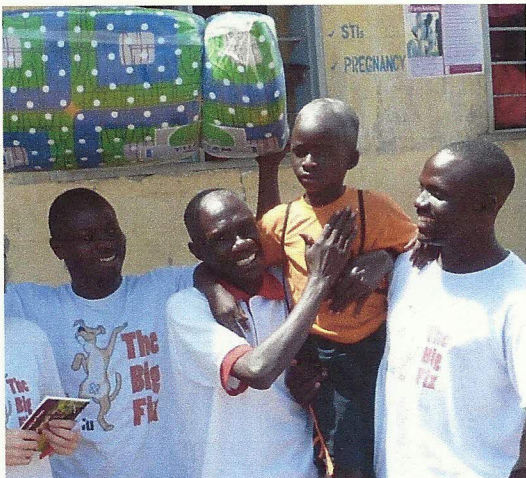
Animals, animals, animals,
I don't know where you have come from.
You are good for children,
Good for big people and also
For other animals.

Animals, animals, animals,
There is nothing like you.
You protect our life from our enemies,
You keep our home in peace.
Especially you dogs and cats.
We love you and we need you.

- by *Lagum Betty*,
P-5, Paicho Primary School

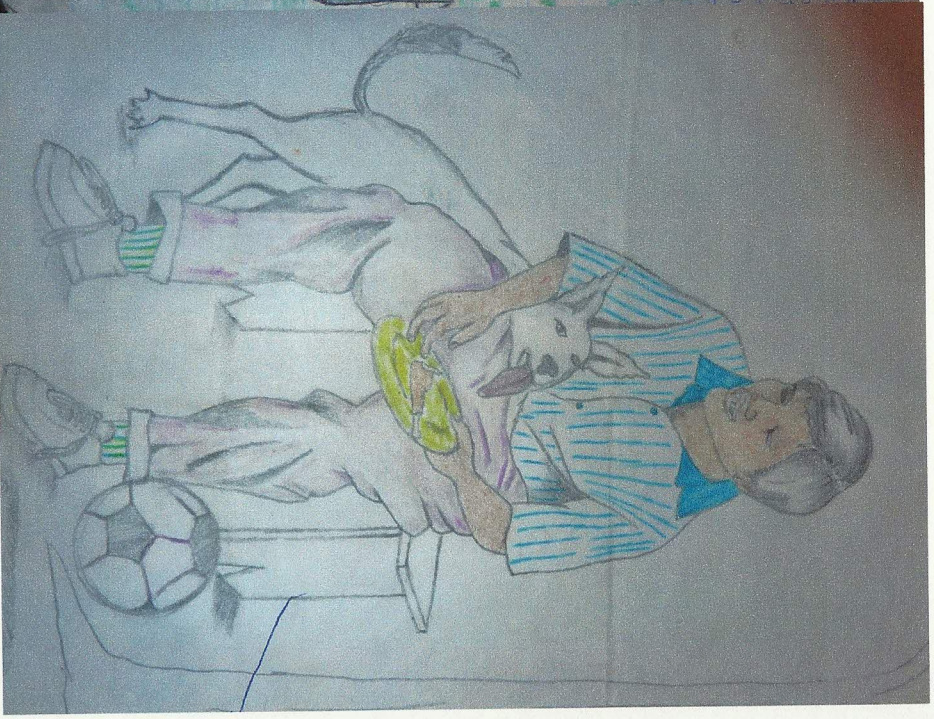


Lagum Betty (above) is overwhelmed with excitement at the announcement that her poem was the top winner at her school. School Inspector Ocii Santo (left) holds her prize. Olanya Jerome (below, left) is held up by his teacher in celebration of his winning story (below).



Peace my Pussy Cat
By *Olanya Jerome*,
P-2, Awach Primary School

The name of my cat is Peace. She likes milk and meat. She catch rats from the food store. I love Peace very much. My cat plays with my ball when she is happy. My brothers dog frighten my cat. It make me sad. God should teach dogs to share with other animals.



Drawings by Okot
Trinity, Level 1/P1E,
Awach Primary School
(above left); Ojok
Michael, Level 1,
Awach Primary School
(above right) and
Ojok Fred, P-7, Ajulu
Primary School (left).

Dogs, dogs, dogs!
A creature so dear to man
Once wild but tamed
Tamed by man of long ago
To help him follow scent of animals
And catch it.
What an animal he is!

Dogs, dogs, dogs!
A creature so pleasant to own
Man's faithful servant.
He serves wholeheartedly without pay
Endangering his life for that of his master
In scorching sun and terrible cold
With neither gun nor bow
But with his sharp teeth and ear piercing barking
He scares all heartless troublemakers away.
What a loyal servant he is!

Dogs, dogs, dogs!
A creature so admirable
Man's great companion.
He often greets his master by wagging his tail
Even if he is mistreated, he obeys.
Even if he is starved, he still wakes up early
To go hunting.
What an obedient creature he is!

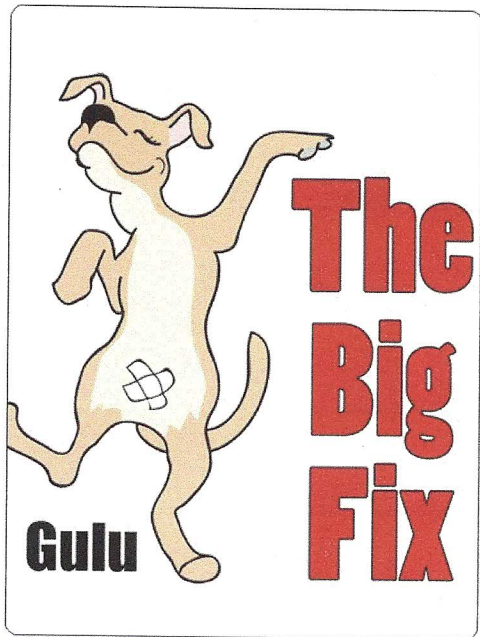
Dogs, dogs, dogs!
A creature so gifted
Gifted with a powerful nose
Which has helped man
Even in civilized world
To smell explosives which has been planted
In public gatherings to
Murder men in big number.
What an important animal he is!

- by *Oryema Simon*
P-7, Ajulu Primary School



Oryema Simon won the top award in his school and was the overall district winner of The Big Fix Gulu's contest for his poem (left) *Dogs, dogs dogs*. He is pictured with Dr. Wilfred Opira (left) and Remmy Mukulu.





Field Clinics October 2012

*8 days
252 sterilization surgeries
1,106 animals vaccinated/treated*

Our Field Team

Veterinary Surgeons

Dr. James Okwee-Acai (Surgical Team Leader), Dr. Simon Onyait, Dr. Solomon Alier, Dr. Pamela Abwoyo, Dr. Moses Migadde, Dr. Robert Omara, Dr. Wilfred Opira and Dr. Bruce Nokrach.

Veterinary Assistants and Drivers

Susan Lanyero, Denis Ocan, Dennis Acellam, Remmy Mukulu, Jackie Ocaya, Sarah Schmidt, Charles Komakech and Andrew Maato.



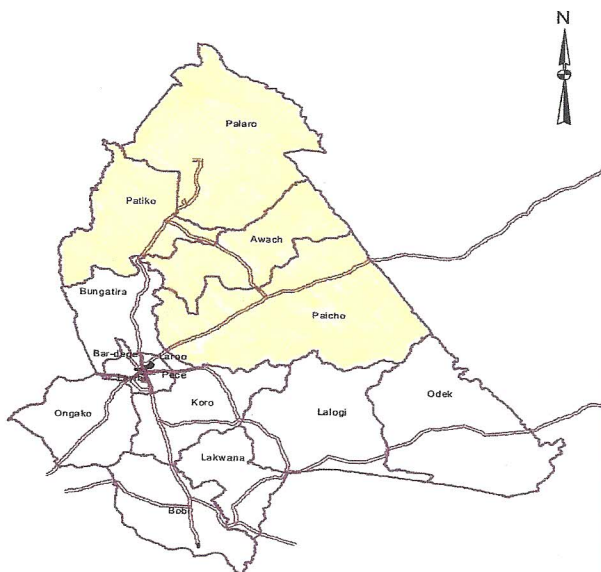
Field Conditions

Remote locations and bad roads



At the request of the District Veterinary Officer, The Big Fix Gulu has focused its activities in the most remote sub-counties of the district: Awach, Palaro, Patiko and Paicho. It is not always easy for us to reach these locations and many people still travel great distances (up to 20 km) by foot or bicycle to reach us and receive our services.

GULU DISTRICT SHOWING SUB COUNTIES AND ROADS



Rabies

Although it is a vaccination-preventable disease, Rabies still poses a significant health problem in Northern Uganda.

The 15th International Congress on Infectious Diseases in 2012 found that the number of Rabies cases in Uganda has been increasing annually and concluded “Rabies is big public health problem in Uganda”, emphasizing the need for “mass dog vaccinations to alleviate this zoonotic threat.” Unfortunately, public resources are severely limited and people cannot afford to pay to have their dogs vaccinated. The result is:

- Every day, dog bite victims make reports to the DVO’s office in Gulu. The number of actual bite victims in Gulu District is much higher than these reports, however, since most people live in remote villages and cannot reach Gulu.
- In most cases, dogs who bite are killed because of a fear of Rabies. This means that mother dogs who bite in protection of their offspring and unaltered male dogs are routinely given a death sentence when they bite since their Rabies-status is unknown.
- People who are bitten face horrible uncertainty as almost no one can afford the cost of post-bite anti-Rabies serum injections *and* the injections are not readily available even in Gulu town. It can take 6 months after a bite for Rabies to cause symptoms (and subsequent death) in humans.

The Big Fix Gulu is committed to continuing its mission to provide free Rabies vaccinations in Northern Uganda to break the cycle of this terrible preventable disease.



At the request of the District Veterinary Officer, The Big Fix Gulu team restrained and euthanized a rabid dog (left) which had bitten other animals and was posing a serious danger to villagers. The demise of this dog and the danger his rabid condition posed could have been avoided with a Rabies vaccination.

The Big Fix Gulu Provided Free Rabies Vaccinations to a total of 2,194 animals in 2012.



Rabies kills!
After an animal bite . . .

An illustration showing a grey dog biting a person's arm. A woman in a blue patterned dress and a young boy in a yellow shirt are standing nearby. Below them is a green bowl and an orange jerrycan, suggesting a washing station.

- Wash the wound with plenty of water and soap.
- Go to the nearest Health centre for immediate treatment.

