



December 2017 Special Update

From Sarah Schmidt, Project Coordinator

E-Mail: sas4dogs@outlook.com

www.TheBigFixUganda.org

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9 December 2017

Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, The BIG FIX raised just over \$3,100 during the past 12 days through Facebook, Global Giving, and donations on our website. These generous contributions helped us so much. Our monthly expenses are approximately \$5,000 and your donations helped us to finish raising enough money to send a wire transfer to Uganda to cover our expenses for January 1 – March 31, 2018. (If you are interested in seeing our quarterly budget, or receiving a copy of our financial accounting, just let me know and I'll be happy to send it.) We are sincerely grateful to everyone who has joined hands with us to help the animals in Northern Uganda!

During November, we held field clinics in 8 Gulu District villages where people would not otherwise have access to veterinary services for their companion animals. Our hospital was also open 7 days a week. In total, we treated 946 dogs and cats and performed 231 spay/neuter surgeries on 224 dogs and 7 cats. All companion animals brought to our field clinics received a rabies vaccination, de-worming, brief health assessment, treatment of any wounds/injuries, and the guardian was invited to participate in a dog washing and grooming class. Any dog brought with an unsafe neck restraint (such as a chain, wire, or similar) had the neck restraint removed and replaced with a piece of soft rope and the guardian was educated about the dangers of using chains and wires. 496 ropes were given out and 576 guardians participated in the washing and grooming of their dogs. In the villages, we treated 8 dogs with transmissible venereal tumors (cancerous growths) with surgical excision plus chemotherapy. At the hospital, we provided intensive treatment for 2 puppies with parvo virus, and treated 1 dog for kennel cough, 1 dog with a hematoma on the head, 2 dogs with tick fever, 1 dog with allergic dermatitis, 3 dogs with severe mange, 2 dogs with wounds, 4 dogs with fractures, 1 dog who had been poisoned, and 1 dog who had been involved in a car accident.

Two final year vet students from Makerere University in Kampala interned with us in November. Our ongoing partnership with the university vet school is important to ensuring that new vets are educated about animal welfare issues and the importance of respecting each life. This can be a foreign concept to many people in Uganda who are shocked to see us lay hospital

patients on white towels and treat them with i.v. fluids, in conditions that sometimes appear even better than human hospitals.

Our staff at The BIG FIX includes two full time vet doctors, one full time and one part time vet assistant, two vet assistants who work with us in the field clinics (and are normally employed by the District Veterinary Office), a hospital administrative assistant, a housekeeper, an animal caretaker, a financial manager, a grounds caretaker, and the manager of our Comfort Dog Project. Graduates of our Comfort Dog Project who complete training are also eligible to serve as Field Educators at our village clinics, for which they are paid for day labor. These positions all provide important income for our team of devoted Ugandan animal advocates who work tirelessly every day to improve the quality of life for animals. We also have many volunteer positions and our volunteer rescue team has at times overwhelmed the hospital with dogs in need of care, which required us to develop intervention plans to provide assistance to dog guardians who want to keep their dogs but just don't have the food or medicine to give their dogs (or cats) what is needed.

In November, we also held a meeting of all the head teachers and patrons of our 19 school-based animal kindness clubs. The meeting was attended by 100% of our clubs. The head teachers all expressed commitment to carrying out our 2018 work plan which will include more community outreach and will focus on the ethical and legal requirements to provide food and water to our animals, and the criminal penalties associated with acts of cruelty. In January, our Club Patron Coordinator will be carrying out community surveys in 3 key areas which will give us information about how people view companion animals. This information will be used to maximize the impact of our 2018 outreach efforts. A survey done at the end of 2018 will tell us if we have been successful.

Please always feel free to ask me any questions at all about the work you are helping us to do, or to offer your suggestions or comments.

In the meantime, please enjoy these photographs of some of the patients who received help recently from The BIG FIX Uganda.

With Sincere Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sarah Schmidt
Project Coordinator
SAS4Dogs@outlook.com



Rocky came to the hospital with parvo virus and was in intensive care for 8 days. He survived and went home to his grateful family.



Clement Agaba came to get updated vaccinations for Sasha, a dog he adopted from BIG FIX. Sasha was one of 5 puppies brought to the hospital with parvo virus. She and one sister survived. to



This kind man walked a long distance with his two female dogs (right) and his male dog (left), to bring them to a village field clinic. He requested that all 3 of his dogs be fixed so that they would not produce more puppies, which we gladly took care of for him.



This boy enjoyed learning how to groom and wash his dog during our village field clinics, and his dog enjoyed it also.



A sack of puppies brought to us for vaccinations and de-worming.