

PROJECT REPORT

Date 7th/Dec/2017

Project title.

IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE AND HEALTH THROUGH TRAINING OF PARAVETERINARIANS (TP) IN BUSOGA REGION UGANDA NOV 2017.

Background :

Bam animal clinics is an animal welfare charity organization based in Uganda with its head offices in Iganga Municipality Nakavule Village in Eastern Region of Uganda.

Since its formation in august 2009 we have been engaging communities especially Busoga region and its surroundings in mobilization, sensitization, education, Animal vaccination, treatments, rescue, rehoming, spay/neuter activities.

A situational analysis baseline survey about animal welfare/health situation in firstly 6 Districts in Busoga region revealed a great need to address the issue of continuous professional skills development amongst the stake holders in animal treatments and management. It was also noted that most animals including pets were badly abused; mistreated, neglected even under their would be masters.

On the other side of general treatment and animal handling by some of the animal practitioners /Vets, a lot was not done professionally and fewer vets to the animal population.

It was also noted that there were a lot of stray dogs and cats that needed to be rescued, re-homed as some of them were a sources of rabies spreading within the communities.

Animal handling amongst animal owners was another aspect that was so appalling as most people could not observe the basis of animals freedoms eg freedom from hunger. Freedom from stress, freedom from diseases etc.

We also observed that the animals moved very longer distances to market places and that no water no feeds were provided while waiting to be taken away. We noticed overcrowding in packs like boxes, vehicles while in transit and at markets.

There was urgent need to strongly reach out to communities with a common message to help them change their attitudes, do treatments, offer advisory services , carry out demonstrations and other animal husbandry practices.

As part of the commitment by the WTG-Vets United to support Bam animal clinics education programs focusing on animal welfare and health we were again privileged to continue getting support for trainings and this time the Paraprofessionals in the Eastern Districts of Busoga.

The criterion for selecting the participants was that the DVOs of the 6 Districts were requested to submit the names of at least 5 willing participants to Bam animal clinics. Each submitted participants proved by supportive documents to be a paraprofessional in the field of Veterinary. We submitted the names to WTG-vets United and the list was approved.

The training commenced on the 23rd /11/2017to 29th of November/ 2017. The training involved theory and practical lessons plus one outreach community clinic.

Everything went on as planned.

Objectives:

- i) To continue imparting theoretical and practical knowledge and skills to firstly all paraprofessionals in the fields of animal welfare and health.
- ii) To strengthen and promote a strong partnership force/ platform within and outside to animal lovers to join hands to address animal welfare issues.
- iii) To liaise with stakeholders at all levels to promote stronger laws/policy by laws that address animal welfare and health concerns.

1) Discussions and training activities.

Phase 1 included selected topics that covered the following:

- Animal care
- Animal welfare – Five Freedoms

- Clinical Examination
- Hygiene and Infectious Diseases
- Endoparasites/Ectoparasites
- Wound Managements/ Sutures
- Analgesia
- Euthanasia

These topics were successfully handled both theoretically in class and practically in the fields.

2) Based on the evaluation of training/education

- i) It was recommended that since this training came in timely when Uganda is considering to join the rest of Easter African countries and other many countries embracing CPD programs, The trainings should be scaled up to cover all districts in eastern Uganda and beyond.
- ii) There is great need for a follow-up program for almost all levels of Veterinary professionals as even some surgeons cannot handle minor surgeries.
- iii) We reiterated stakeholders mostly districts/ sub- counties, ministry and Government to revisit the animal welfare laws/ policies to effectively address the concerns of the animal's heath/welfare.
- iv) There is need for increased outreach programs
- v) Decentralized paraprofessional training
- vi) The use of media to lobby for policy reforms.

3) Follow- up action plan.

- i) There is need to organize more district training programs to have enough skilled personnel to manage animal welfare/health practices.
- ii) For effective service delivery and proper handling of animal welfare/health there is need for Bam animal clinics together with districts and the sub-counties authorities to organize a massive outreach program in animal welfare/health practices'
- iii) Bam animal clinics together with the trainees to strengthen animal welfare/health management practices.

- iv) Bam Animal clinics, through this training it's a yard stick to start propelling, it's strategies to have its home as a training center in animal welfare/health one of its kind in the region.
- v) The 30 trainees now act as focal points to Bam Animal clinics broad base awareness creation centers.

4) Conclusion:

- i) Vets United and Banm Animal clinics should continue mobilizing funds for more trainings in the region.
- ii) There is need for Bam Animal clinics to have its Training center (home)
- iii) There is need for Bam Animal Clinic and Vets United to continually use mass Medias for information dissemination in animal welfare/health.

5) Acknowledgement of collaboration with sponsors.

A special thanks is extended to:

- WTG/Vets united for modeling Bam Animal clinics and for sponsoring the whole training programs in Animal welfare/health since 2016.
- The same vote of thanks is extended to the Ministry of Agriculture Animal industry and fisheries Entebbe through its Chief Veterinary Officer/ the Commissioner Dr Wesonga for back stopping Bam Animal Clinics with a recommendation letter and spot in technical guidance to the program at all times.
- Districts stakeholders of Namutumba, Jinja, Bugiri and Iganga Luuka, Mayuge for the willingness to accommodate the WTG/Vets united program and also for allowing in their staff to undergo the 8 days training workshop.
- The facilitators Dr. Kagoda, Dr Kalange and Dr Suuna Paul for proper back stopping the whole training together with our external facilitator Dr. Ruprecht
- The course organizers Dr Balondemu ~Coordinator, for the timely organization.
- The workshop trainees for giving in their time and being very good participants.
- The hotel administrators of Sana Country Hotel for making life possible for us.
- The farmers who allowed in their animals/pets for the 8 days at the site for demonstration anytime there was need to conduct the practicals.

6) Appendix:

- ❖ Attendance list.
- ❖ Workshop timetable.
- ❖ Name

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