

Compassionate Paws International (CPI)

Annual Report
31st March 2023



Mission

Our mission is to prevent and alleviate the suffering of street animals in resource limited settings.

Strategy

We have three main areas of work:

- Sterilisation & Vaccination
- Veterinary Care
- Education

Location

We operate in Freetown, Sierra Leone.
We are registered in England & Wales, and Sierra Leone.



Compassionate Paws International

Current Activities (March 2023)

1. Intensive CNVR projects (Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Release) using international vet teams
2. Rabies vaccination
3. Data collection – mapping, recording & analysis of dog demographics

1. Mobile clinics
2. Small-scale fostering & adoptions

1. Animal Compassion Club in one school
2. Training of one Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) and three animal care assistants

CPI Programmes

Dog
Population
Management

Veterinary
Care

Education

Long Term Changes Required

Higher proportion of
sterilised dogs in
Freetown

At least 70% of dogs
vaccinated against rabies

Better knowledge of
rabies prevention and
animal care among
people

Qualified and competent
veterinary services exist
in Sierra Leone

Closer collaboration of all
major stakeholders –
governmental, national,
local

Vision

- Less or no free roaming dogs
- Eradication of rabies
- All dogs have access to high standard veterinary care
- Improved education on pet ownership



CPI Impacts – April 2022 to March 2023

Sterilisation & Vaccination – Female	96
Sterilisations & Vaccination - Male	46
Total Sterilisation & Vaccination	142
Veterinary Treatments	312
Students Receiving Animal Welfare Club classes	25



What We Know About Free-Roaming Dogs in Freetown

CPI conducts regular household surveys in our intervention areas. This data allows us to understand the needs of dogs and their owners, monitor our progress towards achieving our goals, and plan future interventions.



**Human : Dog
Ratio
12:1**

This indicates a much higher density of dogs than the expected average human : dog ratio for urban Sub-Saharan Africa of 21:1.



**Male : Female
Dog Ratio
2.6:1**

This is because females are much more likely to be abandoned and then die, than males. Our research also shows that females are more likely than males to be underweight and in poor health.



**89% of owners let
their dogs roam in
the street**

In the street, they reproduce, pass on infectious diseases and are at risk of injury. 95% of owners cite 'security' as the main or only reason for owning a dog. Male dogs are preferred.



**33% of roaming
dogs have a
visible health
condition**

Over 50% of dogs also have an underlying blood-borne disease such as erlichia, anaplasma or heartworm.



Dog Population Management

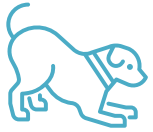
April 2022 to March 2023



October 2022

Spay-Neuter and Rabies Vaccination Clinic

5 days



Impacts:

- ❖ 63 Sterilisations – 47 female and 16 male
- ❖ 63 Rabies vaccinations
- ❖ > 100 veterinary treatments



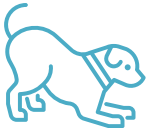
March 2023

Spay-Neuter and Rabies Vaccination Clinic

5 days

Impacts:

- ❖ 79 sterilisations – 49 female and 30 male
- ❖ 85 rabies vaccinations
- ❖ 140 treatments for worms, mange and tick/fleas
- ❖ Removal of 3 large tumours
- ❖ Removal of an extremely large bladder stone
- ❖ 3 dogs treated after a road accident (1 euthanasia)
- ❖ 1 dog treated for TVT
- ❖ 1 dog treated for broken leg
- ❖ 1 dog treated for tick-borne disease
- ❖ 3 lives saved from underlying uterine infections which were visible when surgery began



Mass Rabies Vaccination Project

2022

Freetown City Council (FCC) asked CPI to advise on a mass rabies vaccination project.

\$50,000 was allocated for the project by the German Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI).

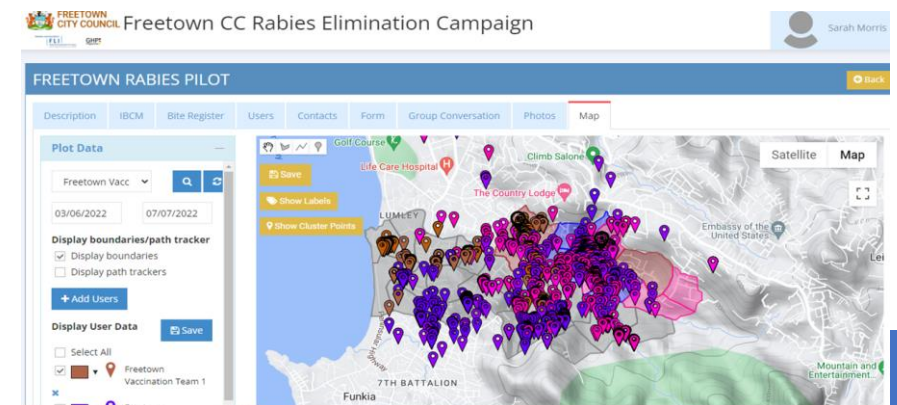
Along with Mission Rabies and the World Health Organisation (WHO), CPI provided advice and support with data collection and mapping. CPI also analysed the data collected and submitted a report on the findings.



Impact: 4000 dogs vaccinated against rabies – achieving 70% coverage in two wards of Freetown.



Compassionate Paws International



Watch These Short Videos

Click Image to View



CPI team
returning dogs
after surgery



Tour of March
2023 spay-
neuter clinic



Veterinary Care

April 2022 to March 2023



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Chubby



Start



3 weeks of treatment



5 weeks of treatment



10 weeks of treatment
March 2023 - ongoing

Chubby was one of several dogs that CPI treated for mange in the first quarter of 2023. Chubby's owner asked us to treat her for a severe case of mange and intestinal parasites that had caused her to become very thin.

Mange is easily treatable, but many people in Sierra Leone believe that mange is a sign of rabies. This means that dogs with bad skin are in danger of abandonment and abuse.

Chubby will continue to be treated and monitored until all her hair has grown back.



Kenzie

Kenzie is a female dog who was found walking alone at only a few weeks old by CPI's co-founder, Sea Ramanat

Females are far more likely than males to be abandoned and then die in the street.

Kenzie was very unlikely to have survived had Sea not taken her in.

Sea fostered her for 6 weeks, allowing her to grow strong. We were then able to find her a fantastic forever home to go to. She even gets to sleep on the bed with her new human family.

All adopters sign a contract, are vetted and receive follow ups



Doggy

Doggy was found by the side of the road with a huge tumour hanging off his neck.

He was taken in by CPI and it was surgically removed.

He was also castrated at the same time.

He returned back to his very grateful owners the same day.

[See a short video of Doggy's recovery here.](#)



Blacky

Blacky had a very large retained abdominal testicle. This is where one of the testicles did not descend as it should have, and it has become enlarged.

In time, it would have developed into cancer.

Blacky, therefore, received a life-saving operation to remove the retained testicle.



Supa

Supa came to us with a broken front leg.

Our experienced veterinary volunteers were able to assess the leg without the luxury of an x-ray machine.

Supa's leg was immobilised and pain relief was provided.

He received follow-ups over the following weeks and has made a full recovery.



Topsie Senior

Topsie is a dog who has beaten the odds to survive into senior age.

We treated him for mange and his fur has grown back very well.

Topsie has been through a lot in his life and was once hit by a car.

His owner told us that one of the neighbours had suggested that Topsie should be killed as he had no use.

After we treated him, his owner was incredibly grateful.



Agatha and Scooby

Spay & Veterinary Care Beneficiary

"I was able to get a diagnosis and treatment for my dog who was sick with parvo. If I had not brought her to your [field] clinic on that day she would have died."





Education

April 2022 to March 2023



Compassionate Paws International

Animal Compassion Club

Our first animal welfare education programme, the Animal Compassion Club began in April 2022. It's aims include:

- Teaching students about the needs of animals
- Enabling students to become role-models by showing kindness, empathy and compassion for animals in need.
- Providing a forum for students to discuss important issues relating to animals in their own communities.

The programme is led by our programme co-ordinator, Alie Turay, who is a former teacher and school manager. Lessons and activities have been planned by CPI co-founder, Sarah Morris, a teacher.

25 students from one school were able to benefit from the programme in the last year.

Students' knowledge and attitudes towards animals is assessed at the beginning and end of each term to assess learning.



Financials

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the period ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
<i>Voluntary income:</i>				
Donations	14,745	-	14,745	24,692
Grants	-	1,000	1,000	3,405
Total incoming resources	14,745	1,000	15,745	28,097
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
Expenditure on charitable activities	- 15,378	- -	15,378 -	23,349
Salary costs	- 1,229	- -	1,229 -	180
Total resources expended	- 16,607	- -	16,607 -	23,529
Net income for the year				
Other recognised gains				
Foreign exchange movement	- 124	- -	124	23
Net movement in funds	- 1,986	1,000 -	986	23
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	6,874 -	2,283	4,592	-
Total funds carried forward	4,888 -	1,283	3,606	4,592

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.



Financials

*Compassionate Paws International
Registered charity 1191988*

Compassionate Paws International Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
			£
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		3,606	4,592
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		-	-
Net Current Assets		3,606	4,592
Net Assets		3,606	4,592
Unrestricted funds		5,889	6,874
Restricted funds	-	2,283 -	2,283
Total funds		3,606	4,592



Financial Summary

We are immensely grateful for a few individuals who continue to provide support to us in the form of a monthly donation. These donations, typically of between £10 and £25 a month, give us a monthly income of approximately £320.

We have also received occasional one-off donations which have helped with funds.

This year, we received a grant of £1000 from Animal Friends Pet Insurance, and a donation of \$500 from Philadelphia Adult League Softball (PALS) who kindly fundraised for us.

Our main expenditures have been on our bi-annual spay-neuter projects. However, costs have been reduced by various in-kind donations by organisations and the veterinary professionals that have volunteered for us.



Supporting Organisations

We are very grateful to the following organisations:

Vet Partners, Hawthorne Lodge Veterinary Practice, Westway Veterinary Group, Animal House Veterinary Surgery, Wilson Veterinary Group, Far Vets International and Philadelphia Adult League Softball (PALS) for donating veterinary equipment and supplies.

Animal Friends Pet Insurance and Philadelphia Adult League Softball (PALS) for donating £1000 and \$500 respectively towards spay projects.

Flash Vehicles for providing vehicles and drivers for free during out project weeks.

Flash Vehicles



Mission Rabies for providing a huge amount of advice.



Freetown City Council and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for continued support.



vetPartners



Compassionate Paws International

International Veterinary Volunteers

This year, we had a total of five international veterinary volunteers in Sierra Leone.

We are grateful to all for their huge skills, enthusiasm, energy and donations of supplies.

Angela Elia (November 2022 and March 2023)

Dr. Jade Kadhim (November 2022)

Dr. Hugh Duffin (March 2023)

Dr. James Portsmouth (March 2023)

Becky Wade (March 2023)

All volunteers are self-funded.

Free accommodation was kindly offered by Freetown residents.



"I gained a great sense of achievement, having challenged myself clinically for such a good cause.

A great team, very supportive and so kind to each other.

A beautiful, friendly country with such welcoming local communities.

A great way to experience another country that wasn't on my radar."

- Dr. Hugh Duffin, Veterinary Surgeon



Other News

Kenya Training Trip

CPI members were invited by the USA-based non-profit, Vet Treks, to attend a training week in Kenya.

CPI's veterinary director, Dr. Rebecca Dobinson, joined the event in June 2022. The event was kindly offered to us for free, with Rebecca paying for her own flights, accommodation and subsistence.

Rebecca joined in on a spay-neuter clinic, run by [Vet Treks](#), in partnership with [ANAW \(Africa Network Animal Welfare\)](#), the [KSPCA \(Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals\)](#) and [TNR Trust](#).

Although Rebecca has worked as a veterinary surgeon on various high volume spay-neuter clinics before, this was a chance for her to learn how to set up and run a campaign. It was also an excellent opportunity to network with other organisations in the animal welfare sector.



Lisa McCarthy, Vet Treks Founder (left) with Rebecca Dobinson



Other News

Article Publication on Bloodborne Parasites

In 2022, CPI's veterinary director, Dr. Rebecca Dobinson and renowned parasitologist, Dr. Ian Wright collaborated on a research article about bloodborne parasites in dogs in Sierra Leone.

Their article was published in the Veterinary Record and can be [read here](#).



Surveillance Focus

Exotic bloodborne parasites and dogs imported from Africa

The number of dogs legally imported to the UK from Africa is on the rise, and so too, therefore, is the risk of co-importing currently exotic parasites. Here, **Rebecca Dobinson** and **Ian Wright** report the results of a small study carried out in Sierra Leone, in which visibly healthy dogs were screened for the presence of several bloodborne parasites.

OVER the past 10 years there has been a large increase in the number of dogs legally entering the UK under the Balai Directive. Although most of these dogs originate in Europe and Asia, the APHA recorded 580 dogs travelling from Africa to the UK in 2020, up from 251 dogs in 2018. This upward trend looks set to continue.

While there are many studies examining human and livestock parasites in Africa, there have been relatively few establishing which parasites may be present in dogs.¹⁻³ Such research is essential to assess the risk of exotic parasites entering the UK with imported dogs.

In this prospective cross-sectional study 53 dogs presented to the charity Compassionate Paws International for neutering or other surgical procedures (including mass removal and enucleation) in Sierra Leone were screened with a patient-side rapid test (SNAP 4Dx Plus Test; IDEXX) on whole blood to look for evidence of infection with a number of bloodborne parasites. Twenty-four samples of whole blood were also examined microscopically.

The dogs were owned by low-income families or were free roaming in Freetown, Sierra Leone. One dog presented with signs of weight loss

and weakness and tested positive for *Ehrlichia* antibodies. The remaining 52 dogs were visibly healthy. The results of rapid testing and blood smear examination are summarised in Table 1. Four main bloodborne parasites with veterinary and zoonotic significance were identified.

Ehrlichia and *Anaplasma* species

Of the dogs studied 39.6 per cent (21 dogs) tested positive for *Ehrlichia* species antibodies and 18.9 per cent (10 dogs) tested positive for

Parasite	Number of dogs positive on	
	Rapid test	Blood smear examination
<i>Ehrlichia</i> species	21/53	7/24
<i>Anaplasma</i> species	10/53	2/24
<i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> antigen	4/53	4/24
<i>Babesia</i> species	–	2/24

Anaplasma species antibodies. All seven blood smears examined from *Ehrlichia*-positive dogs had organisms visible in white blood cells (Fig 1). No samples from *Anaplasma* antibody-positive dogs were examined microscopically; however, *Anaplasma platys* organisms were visible in the platelets of two dogs that tested negative on the rapid test (Fig 2).

Dogs can become infected with three species of *Ehrlichia* that are detectable by the rapid test used in this study: *Ehrlichia canis*, *Ehrlichia ewingii* and *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*.⁴ Infected dogs may present with an acute phase of pyrexia, anorexia, lymphadenopathy, petechia and increased bleeding tendency caused by thrombocytopenia and platelet dysfunction.⁵ Neurological signs including seizures and meningoencephalitis,⁶ ocular signs such as uveitis and retinal detachment,^{7,8} polymyositis⁹ and polyarthritis¹⁰ have been reported.

Diagnosis can be made by identification of morulae on blood smears, serology and PCR testing of blood or tissue samples. It is important to recognise the signs of acute infection as without treatment

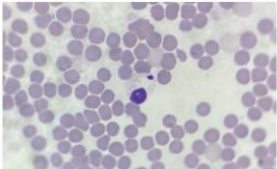


Fig 1: *Ehrlichia* species organism in a white blood cell

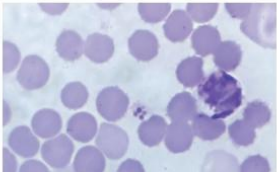


Fig 2: *Anaplasma platys* organism in a platelet

Rebecca Dobinson, Veterinary director, Compassionate Paws International, Westway Veterinary Group, Houghton Business Centre, Houghton-le-Spring, OP8 5BB, email: becca@compassionatepaws.org

Ian Wright, Head of ESCAP UK & Ireland, Mount Vets, 1 Harris Street, Fleetwood FY7 6JX, email: hammondia@hotmail.com



www.compassionatepaws.org
facebook.com/compassionatepawsinternational

Registered Address:
63 Regent Road, Leicester, LE1 6YF

Compassionate Paws International
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity in England and Wales:
Number 1191988

Board of Trustees:
Rebecca Dobinson MRCVS
Megan Fisher
Karen Malia
Sarah Morris
Sea Ramanat
Raj Rajput



Compassionate Paws International

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Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all trustees

Name

Date of approval