

Chancellor College Dog Cull Averted

Paul Grossman, Zomba Project Coordinator and Myson Jambo, the newest member of Malawi's management team, successfully prevented a move by Chancellor College (a college of the University of Malawi) to cull dogs living on their campus. We have an agreement in place with the authorities to prevent culling, but Myson became aware of an attempt by the University to recruit private contractors to cull dogs on their campus. Paul and Myson held an emergency meeting with the campus as soon as they found out about the initiative. They were able to explain why culling efforts do not effectively control dog populations and offered support in dealing with the source of the problem: primarily inadequate food waste management. Together with the Dean of Students and other executive staff, they agreed a plan of action starting in April 2019 that would:

- Review and revamp waste management, especially around the school's cafeteria (which will be implemented by the University)
- Allow WVS to conduct sterilisation clinics targeting the dogs living in the communities surrounding the campus.
- Introduce Mission Rabies education to student clubs at Chancellor College to give presentations on food waste, how 'stray' dog populations can be avoided, rabies awareness and the basics on how to act around dogs. These efforts will also be extended through radio dramas and announcements on the College's local radio (which has a listener base across Zomba, Machinga, Phalombe, Chiradzulu and northern Blantyre) and national television channels. The Department of Fine and Performing Arts have agreed to help by taking on a project where students will create advertisements and dramas that will be designed to encourage positive behaviour change among the students.



Myson Jambo and Paul Grossman with Chancellor College's executive staff members

The team worked quickly and decisively to turn a bad situation into a positive particularly if we are able to get free air time on their TV channel.