



Monthly report Malawi, January 2019

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Mission Rabies

John and Lyson are busy with IBCM work, following up on dog bite victims and possible rabies cases. During the first month 6 animals tested positive for rabies in Blantyre (five dogs and one cat)! The IBCM officers are doing everything they can to identify everyone who was potentially exposed and stress the importance of post exposure prophylaxis vaccinations. The rabid dogs were not vaccinated and the high number of cases is a strong indicator that our surveillance is working well and people know how to identify the symptoms and to inform the government vet lab.

The education officers have been busy with stock take, collecting data about schools and number of children in the districts we have been working in and have also conducted trainings about rabies in cows to project officers and farm livestock technicians from one of the big Malawian milk producer associations.



Training of project officers by Jo, Alice, William and Chiku

WVS/BSPCA

The team at the BSPCA is now supported by Colin, a vet tech from Canada, who will hopefully stay for the entire year to help running the shelter and clinic! Two WVS vet volunteers, Steph and Edurne, have been working at the clinic this month as well as two Malawian vet students in their final year to get clinical experience. They came across many interesting cases, ranging from a bladder tumor in a dog, over burn wounds, mango flies and broken wings in a barn owl. We also saw quite a few animal welfare cases, three of these involving injured owls, which were hurt intentionally, as in some Malawian myths owls are associated with death and many people are scared and try to kill them. Education is very important in order to protect them and we will include the message when we talk to school classes about animals welfare.



Surgery on a very large skin tumor in a dog



These two puppies were seized by the police from road side pet vendors. Even though it is illegal to sell pets next to the road, the law is not enforced. The BSPCA is working with the city council on improving the animal welfare act in Malawi



Someone rescued this Eagle owl from children who threw stones at it. This owl was only very stressed but didn't suffer of any major injuries. It was released after a few days