

APRIL 11, 2025

# REPORT ON ONE HEALTH PROJECT

TRANSFORMING HEALTH OF ECOSYSTEM THROUGH ONE HEALTH INITIATIVES TADOBA  
ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE



SOCIETY FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (WILD-CER)

**Title of the project**

Dog sterilization in and around protected areas around Nagpur, Maharashtra

**About Wild-CER**

- Wild-CER is a registered non-profit charity working towards environment sustainability across India.
- Since 2012, Wild-CER is involved in addressing several conservation issues including rescue and rehabilitation of wild fauna, conservation of critically endangered species like tiger and vultures, study of diseases of wildlife, implementation of one health, man animal conflict mitigation and several conservation challenges.
- The conservation journey that started in 2000 as nature club transformed into the registered organization in 2012.
- We have provided veterinary support to more than 50000 animals so far and have reached around 51000 people through our outreach programs.
- We have extended our services in 10 states and 25 protected areas across India. We are associated with several national and international institutions involved in conservation.

**Background of the project**

Wild-CER with its one health approach is committed to focus on the health of the human being, domestic animals, wild animals and that of environment. While we have provided veterinary support to more than 50,000 animals so far, our decade long research has revealed many diseases in wild animals, main source of which are domestic animals like dogs, cats and cattle.

Dogs being most abundant and free roaming has become a problem animal in many protected areas. Large population of these free roaming dogs is mongrels or mixed breed dogs and is ownerless. Feeding by animal lovers, exposure to garbage dumping sites, improper waste disposal methods make available large quantity of food to these dogs.

With increased dog population, public health has become a great concern due to increase in rabies cases in human and other animals. From public health point of view, to overcome this problem, long term ABC program is the only viable option.

We have planned this 'Animal Birth Control' (ABC) program targeting 600 dogs from 30 villages surrounding protected areas in and around Nagpur, Maharashtra. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve being more prone to interaction between dogs and wild carnivorous needs special attention from one health point of view.

### Objectives of the project

1. To perform 600 neutering operations and anti-rabies immunizations of dogs in villages around Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra
2. To conduct awareness programs on one health initiatives with focus on rabies.
3. To conduct disease prevalence study for rabies and canine distemper on at least 150 dogs.

### Summary of key achievements

- 1) Total dog neutering operations done with immunization against anti rabies in TATR = 280
- 2) As part of rabies campaign, we completed 1026 anti-rabies vaccination in dogs in several .
- 3) 160 samples collected for rabies titre study from Kolara range and Wadala range, TATR.
- 4) Number of rabies positive cases in dogs detected in TATR = 1
- 5) Number of Canine Distemper symptomatic (individual showing symptoms of canine distemper disease) dogs reported = 32 (21% symptomatic dogs from 151 dogs operated during the camp organized in January 2025 at Kolara range of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.)
- 6) Number of villages covered in awareness programs = 46
- 7) Total number of people reached = 2222
- 8) Total awareness programs conducted= 72
- 9) Total number of participants of awareness programs in villages = 912
- 10) Number of villages covered in school awareness programs = 12
- 11) Total awareness programs conducted in schools during rabies campaign = 17
- 12) Total participants of awareness programs in school during rabies campaign= 1140
- 13) Number of training programs conducted for frontline staff of the forest department during rabies campaign = 4
- 14) Number of participants of training for Primary Response Team of TATR during rabies campaign = 170
- 15) Total ranges covered in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)= Three including Mohurli, Wadala and Kolara

### 1) Key activities accomplished from October 2023 to December 2023

- 1) Preliminary survey for dog population started.
- 2) Contacting local authority of identified villages completed.
- 3) Finalizing team members for dog catching team and awareness team.

### 2) Key activities accomplished from January 2024 to March 2024

- 1) Preliminary survey for dog population
- 2) Received approval from TATR.
- 3) Establishment of the camp site started at Mohurli FDCM Tourism complex.

### 3) Key activities accomplished from April 2024 – June 2024

- 1) Awareness programs on one health and dog sterilization conducted in 24 villages in and around Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. 6 informal meetings with villagers were conducted making them aware about the ongoing project. In all, 30 awareness sessions were organized.
- 2) We have sensitized 210 people through Awareness programs.
- 3) Total number of dogs Vaccinated: 65
- 4) Number of dogs Sterilized: 65



Dog capture with net method at Mohurli



Neutering operation being performed in the operation theatre at Mohurli



Rabies Awareness Programs at Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve



Rabies Awareness Programs at TATR in May 2024

#### 4. Key activities accomplished during July 2024 – September 2024

- 1) As part of rabies campaign in September 2024, Wild-CER conducted several awareness programs on 'Rabies and its mitigation' including one health and dog sterilization aspect in academic institutions in and around forest areas around Nagpur and for Primary Response Team members of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.
- 2) In all, 21 awareness programs were conducted with total reach 1310.
- 3) Our efforts were recognized by Global Alliance for Rabies Control.
- 4) Dr. Shashikant Jadhao, World Veterinary Services, Head, Task force visited the camp site, Mohurli and alternate camp site at Kolara for possibilities of training program for vets.



Visit of the Field Director, TATR Dr. Jitendra Ramgaonkar to the camp site at Mohurli.



Rabies awareness program in schools around the forest areas around Nagpur, Maharashtra





Awareness programs in schools  
around forest areas around Nagpur



Awareness programs in schools around  
forest areas around Nagpur



Through 17 awareness programs Wild-CER sensitized around 1140 students about rabies and its mitigation.





Dr. Shashikant Jadhao from World Veterinary Services, India (WVS) and Dr. Rahul Bombatkar, Veterinary Surgeon visited the camp site, Mohurli in August 24. (Snake skin in the background)



Dr. Shashikant Jadhao from World Veterinary Services, India (WVS) inspected the site at Kolara gate for the training program for vets.



Through 4 training programs Wild-CER sensitized 170 Primary Response Team members of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra about Rabies and its mitigation.



Dr. Bahar Baviskar, wildlife veterinarian, Wild-CER guided the participants of the training program of PRT members



Members of the Primary Response Team of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve with pledge cards.





Presence of insects swarms and other wildlife at the Mohurli camp site July 2024



Presence of snakes continued in September 2024 at Mohurli camp site



Fostern cat snake and its shedded skin was observed during visit of HCLFoundation team members in July 2024at Mohurli



Meeting with Dr. Jitendra Ramgaonkar (CCF & Field Director, TATR), Dr. Shashikant Jadhao (WVS India, Head, Task Force) and Dr. Rahul Bombatkar (Veterinary Surgeon) was organized at the office of Field Director, TATR, Chandrapur.



Certificate of Recognition for anti-rabies campaign by Global Alliance for Rabies Control

#### 5) Key activities accomplished during October 2024 – December 2024

- 1) As part of rabies campaign, we completed 1000 antirabies vaccination in dogs in several villages around protected areas around Nagpur. 850 vaccinations done in October 2024 and 150 vaccinations were done in December 2024.
- 2) Considering the challenges at the Mohurli base camp, we shifted the camp site to Mudholi for temporary period in November 2024.
- 3) We could complete 55 neutering operations and anti-rabies vaccination at new camp site, Mudholi. These 55 vaccinations are not added in the mass vaccination drive as they are part of neutering operation.
- 4) We collected 20 serum samples for rabies prevalence study.
- 5) All the biologically hazardous waste and 120 organs of operated dogs were disposed off by burning in the presence of authority of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.





1 Mass antirabies Vaccination drive



4 Mass antirabies Vaccination drive



2. Mass antirabies Vaccination drive



5 Mass antirabies Vaccination drive



Mass antirabies Vaccination drive



6 Mass antirabies vaccination drive



3 Mass antirabies Vaccination drive





*7 Mass antirabies vaccination drive*



**Monitoring and inspection of the alternate camp site at Mudholi in November 2024. In all, 55 operations were completed at this site.**



*8 Mass antirabies vaccination drive*



**Neutering operations in progress at new temporary camp site established at Mudholi**



*9 Mass antirabies vaccination drive*

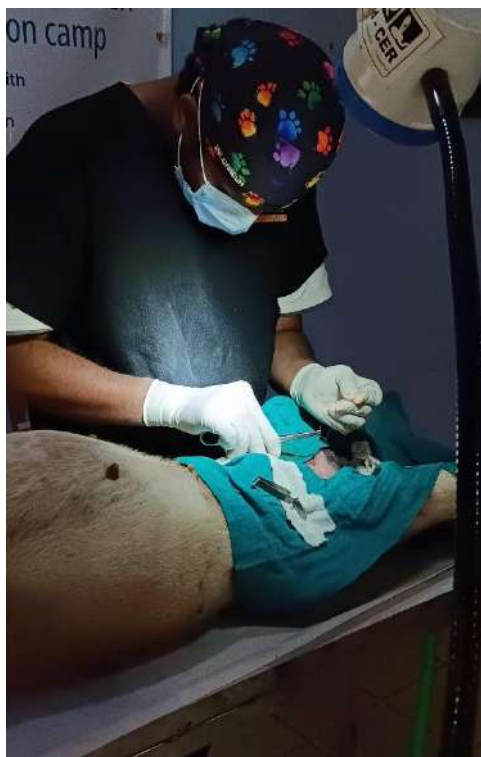


**Disposal of biohazardous waste and 120 organs of the dogs neutered in the presence of authority of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.**

#### **6) Key activities accomplished during January 2025 – March 2025**

- 1) In January 2025 (20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025), ABC camp was organized in collaboration with WVS task force at Kolara range of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.
- 2) Dog neutering operations and immunization with anti-rabies vaccine completed = 151.
- 3) In February 2025, 9 dog neutering operations and immunization with anti-rabies vaccine were completed.
- 4) Number of villages covered in awareness programs in February 2025 = 22 villages
- 5) Total awareness programs in villages in February 2025= 25 program.
- 6) Total participants of awareness programs in villages in February 2025 = 375
- 7) We collected 140 serum samples from the dogs during the operation in all.

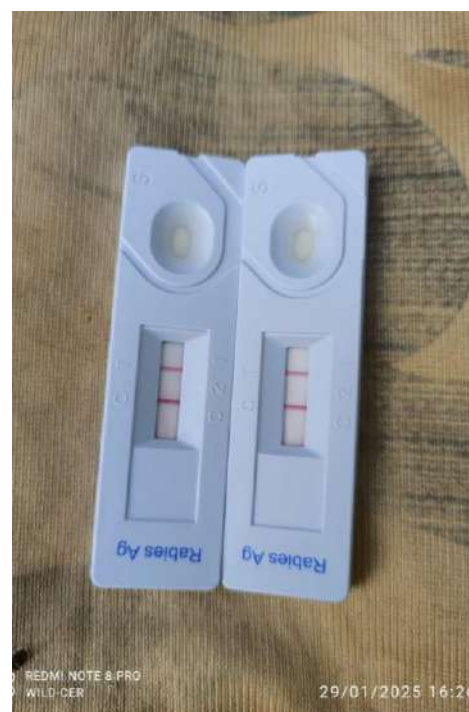




Neutering operations during the camp organized in association with WVS.



Postmortem of the dog died with suspected rabies with history of aggressive behavior.



Results of Rapid Antigen Test performed on site. The test confirmed the cause of death as rabies in the dog died with history of aggressive behavior.





Dr. Ganesh from World Veterinary Services performing neutering operations.



One of 32 symptomatic cases of Canine Distemper reported during the camp at Kolara range of TATR.



Team during the ABC camp at Kolara range of TATR.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1. We are thankful to HCL Foundation for supporting the dog neutering project financially.
2. We are thankful to WVS for organizing ABC camp for carrying out the neutering operations.
3. We are thankful to team TATR for their support and providing infrastructure.
4. We are also thankful to all veterinarians and veterinary students who volunteered during the project.

