



**MISSION
RABIES**

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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TD VR MP

PATRON



Dr Ian Battersby
Specialist Medicine
Consultant



Clarissa Baldwin CBE
Dogs Trust



Professor Michael J Day
Emeritus Professor
Veterinary Pathology



Philip Daubeny
Dogs Trust



Dr Rachel Foster
Consultant in Acute
Medicine and Infectious
Diseases

OUR TRUSTEES

CEO'S MESSAGE

It's an incredible honour to be a part of Mission Rabies and to share this annual report. We are a charity

focused on saving the lives of children, dogs, and the countless victims of the world's deadliest zoonotic disease. It's only possible with an amazing team driving things forward, combined with a clear strategy, focused determination, and absolute commitment.

As we enter our fourth year of projects, with over 700,000 street dogs vaccinated and 1.6million children educated since we started, we are now beginning to see the impact of our international programmes.

It is inspiring, humbling, and brings a sense of purpose to the entire team as we realise the impact of our projects and fully appreciate what can be achieved with such fantastic sponsors, donors, and volunteers who keep the fire burning and power us ever forward. We're still a young charity, still growing, and still utterly committed to doing as much as we can. It's an exciting time for us to grow.

We have to strive to do more, to focus on expanding nationally, regionally, and to use our projects as proof-of-concept examples to encourage more groups and governments to take up the fight against rabies.



Working with





Dr Luke Gamble
CEO



Gareth Thomas
Head of Education



Dr Andy Gibson
Director of Strategic
Research



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Global Operations
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Manager





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Research Intern



**Samantha and
Mark Green**
Sri Lanka
Project Managers



Dr Ilona Otter
WVS Director of
International
Veterinary Training



Praveen Ohal
Ranchi Project
Manager



Dr Gowri Yale
Scientific and
Technical Manager



Dr Murugan Appupillai
Director of Education
in India



Julie Corfmat
Goa Project
Manager

An infographic with a background of several hands holding a globe. The globe is covered in splatters of yellow and orange paint. The hands are of various skin tones and are wearing yellow shirts. The text is presented in orange rounded rectangular callouts.

Rabies is a Neglected Tropical Disease that affects the poorest and most marginal communities

99% of human rabies cases are a consequence of dog bites

It kills an estimated 59,000 people a year, the majority of which are children

Known as the world's deadliest disease, rabies has a near 100% fatality rate once symptoms develop

WHY IS OUR WORK IMPORTANT?

Studies have shown that mass canine vaccination drives are the most effective measure for eliminating rabies. Vaccinating 70% of the dogs in an area is necessary to control the disease

Rabies is 100% vaccine-preventable

95% of all human cases are in Asia and Africa

Globally, the disease is estimated to cost \$8.6 billion USD every year.

**SINCE WE LAUNCHED IN 2013, WE
HAVE VACCINATED 738,825 DOGS
AND DELIVERED LIFESAVING LESSONS
TO 1,696,941 CHILDREN**

We are on track to achieve zero human rabies deaths within our project areas in India and Malawi by 2020.



INDIA

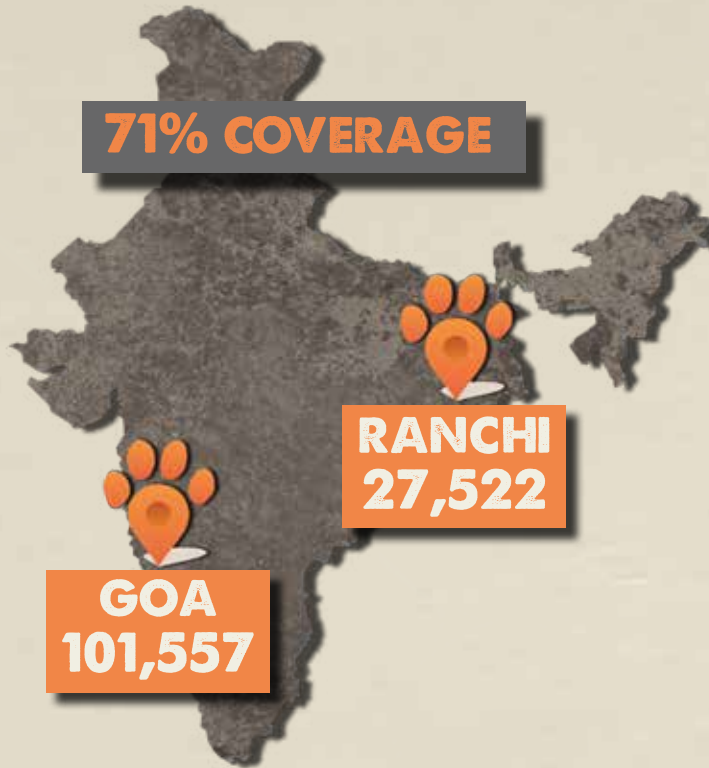
**TOTAL DOGS VACCINATED
IN 2017: 129,191**

Our work in Goa began in 2013 and this project has grown to become the largest systematic mass dog vaccination to have ever been conducted in India. In Goa alone, which covers an area the size of Cornwall, we have vaccinated more than **100,000** dogs since we started.

Now, after three years of vaccinations in the area, we have reached all areas in the state and have seen a clear decrease in human rabies deaths from 15 in 2014 to just one in 2017.

We have established an emergency rabies response service to react to community reports of rabid dogs. Our teams can then make sure that communities stay safe from potential rabies threats.

71% COVERAGE



**GOA
101,557**

**RANCHI
27,522**

Jharkhand state capital, Ranchi, was one of our first projects in 2013. Since then we have been working with HOPE and Animal Trust towards the ultimate aim of eliminating human rabies deaths from the city.

After vaccinating and sterilising 70% of the dog population in Ranchi and achieving zero human rabies deaths recorded since October 2016, the team have also been vaccinating a buffer zone between neighbouring Khunti district to prevent migrating dogs from bringing rabies back into the city.

This year we celebrated World Rabies Day in Ranchi city with a day of talks and workshops with influential thought leaders in the field of veterinary medicine and public health.

MALAWI

It's been yet another successful year in Malawi, which is among the world's hotspots for rabies. We increased our static point and mobile dog vaccinations across Blantyre and Zomba, as well as rural district, Chiradzulu in July.

In 2012, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre reported the highest number of child rabies deaths anywhere in Africa. In 2017, this figure dropped to one.

Although we are incredibly proud with the impact our work is having, one death is still one death too many. Therefore, we will continue our work in 2018.

**TOTAL DOGS VACCINATED
IN 2017: 89,016**

71% COVERAGE

ZOMBA - 24,212

**CHIRADZULU
14,489**

BLANTYRE - 50,315

CASE STUDY



Cecylia Simika's eyes well up as she talks about her granddaughter, Tupochele's, death from the rabies virus. "When I see a dog it's as if I have seen a lion" she says. Tupochele was only three years and six months old. No one had noticed that an infected puppy had bitten Tupochele. By the time the symptoms started to appear it was too late - death was inevitable. Cecylia says Tupochele was "a child who was loved by everyone in our family to an extent that our hearts were broken." We are working to make Cecylia's experience a thing of the past.

SRI LANKA

This year marked the third year of Mission Rabies' and Dogstar Foundation's partnership.

Working together, we set up a proof of concept project next to Negombo, our first working region, in Katana District. Our teams had great results, vaccinating nearly **80%** of the dog population.

The team will be returning to Sri Lanka in August 2018 to expand the project into other areas.



SRI LANKA
10,096

79% COVERAGE

TANZANIA

Mission Rabies began working in Tanzania in January 2016 following the death of a child from rabies in Maji ya Chai ward of northern Tanzania. Partnering with local charity Mbwa wa Africa, and supported by the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, we have been vaccinating dogs here ever since.

In 2017, we vaccinated an additional ward in the foothills of Mount Meru, Songoro.

We will be continuing our work for the third year in January 2018, targeting over **70%** vaccination coverage in Maji ya Chai, Usa River and Songoro wards.



TANZANIA
5,278

71% COVERAGE

EDUCATION

2017 was an incredible year for our education programme. By implementing a number of improvements and introducing new targets, we reached more children than ever before across our project areas.

As children aged between 7-11 are the main victims of rabies, we focused on visiting primary schools. This particular age group are the most receptive to our messages and are most likely to pass on what they have learnt. Attendance in all our locations is over 90% and schools provide a much larger captive audience, making them the perfect setting for our lessons.

In 2017 we passed a huge milestone: **1.5 million** children educated. The 2 million mark is clearly in our sights for 2018, a true testament to all the hard work that has been put into our programme since it began in 2013.



751,133

CHILDREN



20,341

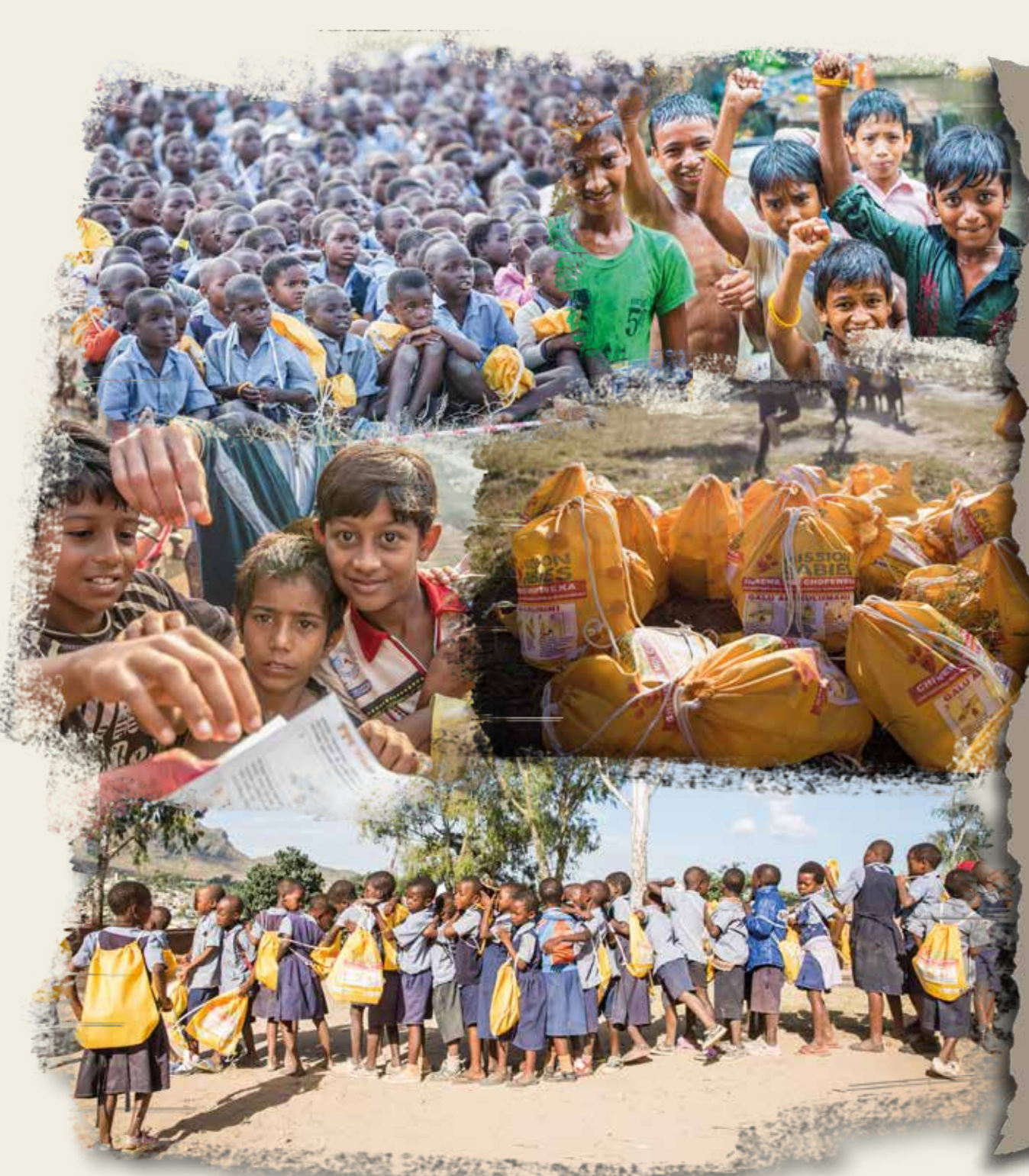
TEACHERS



130,658

COMMUNITIES

**WE HAVE TAUGHT
1,696,941 CHILDREN
SINCE 2013**



Palin's Story

Mission Rabies received a call from Palin and his family regarding their dog, Saroo. Unlike their other dog, he was not tied up during the most recent vaccination drive, and therefore did not get his vaccination.

Weeks later an unknown dog entered their compound, fought with Saroo and then disappeared. After some time, Saroo started acting strangely, biting objects and even trying to bite Palin's father. The family had no idea what to do.



Luckily Palin, who is only eight years old, remembered the lessons he had learnt from the Mission Rabies education teams, and about the Response Team Hotline. The team immediately responded to the case, removing Saroo from the compound who tested positive for rabies.

PALIN'S QUICK THINKING, AND THE WORK OF MISSION RABIES, ENABLED HIS FAMILY TO RECEIVE THE TREATMENT THEY NEEDED TO STAY SAFE FROM THIS DEADLY DISEASE.

TRUCK TRAINING

The mighty Mission Rabies truck is a head-turning Mercedes Zetros with a fully equipped mobile veterinary hospital. The off-road truck built for extreme operations is the centre of a flagship operation between Mission Rabies and Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) India, providing outreach training and clinics across India.

Since we started working in India, the truck has been running surgical training courses for Indian veterinarians and vet students across Goa, Nagpur, Ranchi, and Bhubaneswar. WVS also ran specialist courses in dermatology, neurology, wound management and emergency critical care.

This year the truck was used to support community outreach projects including free pet clinics, emergency rabies response, rural outreach, and animal birth control (ABC) surgeries.



7268		MILES
1539		STERILISATIONS
104		VETS TRAINED
13		COURSES

GROUND STAFF

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

I love the days when we have a lot of dogs to catch and I'm proud of my new responsibility which is to train new boys who join the team. I train them to catch dogs, make nets, and to handle dogs in a humane, gentle way.

I enjoy giving rabies awareness lessons to children because they are the main victims of this deadly disease and it is good that they know more about rabies while they are young and can remember how to protect themselves from it.

WHY DID YOU JOIN MISSION RABIES?

Before this job I was a construction labourer. I have become a better and a more responsible person since working for Mission Rabies. I feel I have a chance to make a name for myself in my society through this kind work and I can now help my father pay for my brother's and sister's education.

I joined Mission Rabies to take part in spreading rabies awareness to our country and helping provide free rabies vaccines so that Malawi can eliminate rabies. My family are so happy that I am part of the team that is helping our country.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT MOST ABOUT MISSION RABIES?

Rabies is a deadly disease that affects both humans and animals. I know how important this work is. Rabies is spread by dog bites so it feels good to get rid of this terrible disease from Goa.

I have learnt a lot with Mission Rabies about where we can find the virus, animals that can transmit the virus, how you can get rabies and what it does when it gets into our body. I've learnt how to stay safe around dogs and first aid to perform after being bitten by a dog. It is important to encourage everyone to vaccinate their dogs to eliminate the disease.

**NARESH MATRE,
ANIMAL HANDLER,
GOA**

**LAUREN MBENDERA,
EDUCATION OFFICER,
MALAWI**

RESEARCH & APP

Louis Pasteur, who pioneered the first rabies vaccine in 1885, concluded that science and the applications of science are bonded together as fruit is to the tree which bears it.

The very same philosophy is an integral part of Mission Rabies' work and approach. Together with the University of Edinburgh, we are conducting original research, and applying the latest research findings to our field projects. Through this approach, we are now leading the way in developing rabies elimination programmes that are effective, economic, and scalable.

An integral part of this approach has been the Mission Rabies App which provides a unique and easy-to-use platform to monitor and evaluate vaccination campaigns in the field. Throughout 2017 we have been working together with partners like the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop new components for expansion to national level campaigns.



VOLUNTEERS



**SANDRA MILBURN
UK, SRI LANKA**

"I was not quite sure what to expect from the trip, apart from expecting to go out and vaccinate dogs, but it turned out to be an incredible experience! It was interesting heading to the locations each day, past the hustling and bustling fish market, crossing numerous bridges and then navigating the never ending sea of tuk tuks, cars, lorries, buses, pedestrians and of course street dogs, that constituted morning rush hour in Negombo. It's been an experience like no other!"

**EMMA HOWSON
UK, MALAWI**

"Walking from house to house offering vaccinations was a great way to see what life was really like in Malawi, and the best thing about the trip was undeniably that we were really achieving something that would make a real difference and save so many human and canine lives."



**ELLIE SHELBURNE
USA, GOA**

"Helping dogs, saving human lives! It is a worthy effort and it feels good to play a small part in it. It's been wonderful meeting other veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and animal lovers from India, Italy, Germany, England, Egypt, and beyond. I can't wait for the next mission!"



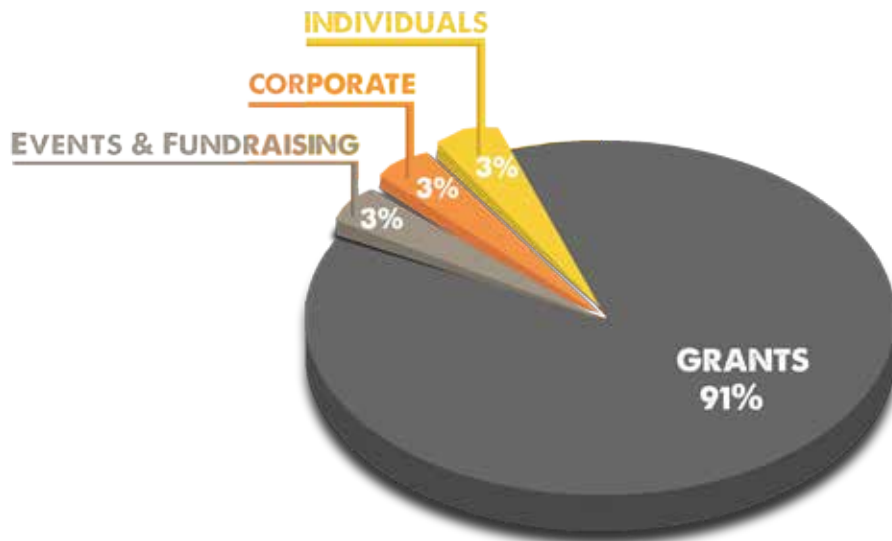
**ELLEN ARMSTRONG
UK, GOA**

"I loved how busy the days are! Every day you never know what to expect or what dogs you'll find, but you know every vaccine we're giving is doing some good out here. It's also amazing to see so many local people involved. It feels like a real community working together to fight this deadly disease."

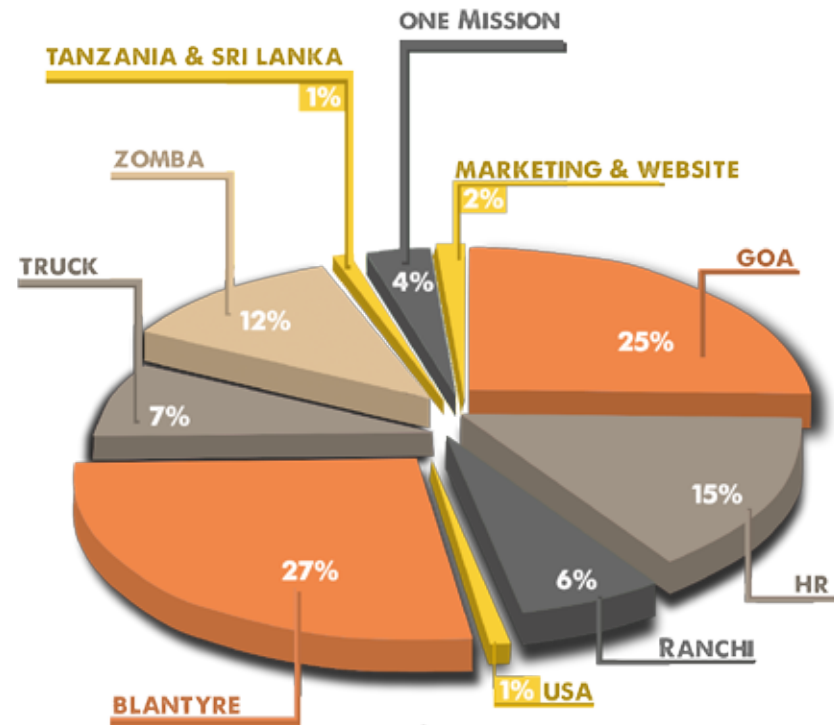
FINANCES

**FOR EVERY £1 DONATED
85 PENCE WAS SPENT WHERE IT IS
NEEDED MOST, ELIMINATING RABIES
IN THE WORLD'S HOTSPOTS.**

**MISSION RABIES INCOME 2017
TOTAL 1,060,782**



**MISSION RABIES EXPENDITURE 2017
TOTAL £1,357,867**



THANK YOU

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DAVIES VETERINARY SPECIALISTS
IDT
HENRY SCHEIN CARES FOUNDATION
IVSA

MAYHEW INTERNATIONAL
MEDIMARK SCIENTIFIC
STAR LEAF
WSAVA FOUNDATION
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH
AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT MALAWI
GOVERNMENT OF GOA

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI MUNICIPAL COOPERATION
BLANTYRE SPCA
DOGSTAR FOUNDATION
INDIA PROJECT FOR ANIMALS AND NATURE
MBWA WA AFRICA ANIMAL RESCUE
HOPE & ANIMAL TRUST



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