



**BOTSWANA
PREDATOR
CONSERVATION**

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Vaccination Drive and Outreach 2021

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During the months of November and December 2021, Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) along with Botswana Predator Conservation (BPC), with funding from the Natural Selection Conservation Trust (NSCT), conducted a vaccination and sterilization drive in the villages of Khwai, Mababe, Sankuyo and Shorobe. These villages border the Moremi Game Reserve and some surrounding Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

The purpose of the vaccination drive was to create a “buffer zone” between domestic dogs that live in the villages/livestock areas and the adjacent African wild dog populations residing in the protected areas and WMAs, by vaccinating domestic dog populations. Domestic dogs were given a 5 in 1 vaccination which prevents canine distemper, parvovirus, parainfluenza, and two types of adenovirus (hepatitis), along with a rabies vaccination. Animals were also dewormed and given treatment for flea and ticks. Any cats seen during the vaccination drive were also vaccinated and treated for parasites. Due to the assistance of two volunteer vets, sterilizations were also offered to those who wanted it for their pets.

Before the outreach was conducted, Tsepho from the ReMogo project (a BPC project) went to all of the villages and spoke to the Chiefs to get the necessary permissions and inform each village of the outreach date.

Khwai Village 19/11/2021

Khwai was the first village reached on the outreach, with operations occurring out of the Khwai Kgotla. Turnout was initially slow, with some hesitance from pet owners with regards to the sterilizations. A number of owners mentioned that their animals are frequently killed by wildlife and often succumbed to disease. There were no signs of canine distemper or rabies seen in any of the dogs, yet their parasite loads were high (fleas and ticks) with tick or flea borne diseases being suspected to be responsible for the previously noted disease mortalities.

The domestic dog population was noted to be small, with dog owners generally having between 1 or 2 animals. In addition to treating animals that were brought to the kgotla, the team was kindly assisted by Sandra from Khwai Private Reserve who drove the team to the outlying areas of the village to vaccinate any remaining dogs. The team are confident that the majority of the domestic dogs in Khwai were vaccinated.

Mababe Village 20/11/2021

Mababe village only had 3 households with domestic dogs, which were all vaccinated apart from 1 heavily pregnant female. Again, there were reports that animals were frequently killed by wildlife and disease. There were no signs of rabies or canine distemper seen in any of the domestic dogs.

Sankuyo Village 20/11/2021

Due to the small number of domestic dogs in Mababe, it was decided that Sankuyo would be targeted in the afternoon of the same day. There was a large turnout in Sankuyo, with many owners happy to get their dog vaccinated. Due to the large number of domestic dogs requiring vaccinations and time restraints, no sterilizations were able to be performed however it has been noted that there is a definite need for this service in Sankuyo village.

The team is confident that the majority of dogs in Sankuyo were vaccinated as the VDC and the village chief had encouraged the population to get their pets vaccinated.

Shorobe Village 18/12/2021

The first attempt to vaccinate in Shorobe (on the 18/11/2021) was cancelled due to another organization having an event on the same day. The second attempt was severely hindered by a large rainstorm that lasted the whole day. A few people showed up to the kgotla, but the majority of people were reached by driving to them with the assistance of Tsepho from BPC's ReMogo program. In the end, the rain was too severe and it was decided to stop for the day. There are DVS vets stationed at Shorobe, so it is possible for the unused vaccines to be administered to the domestic dog population at a later date.

Vaccination Overview

Table 1. Number of vaccinations and sterilizations given at each village during the 2021 vaccination drive.

Village	Dogs			Cats	
	Sterilizations	Rabies vaccinations	5 in 1 vaccinations	Sterilizations	Rabies and 4 in 1 vaccinations
Khwai	3	36	38	0	2
Mababe	0	12	12	0	6
Sankuyo	0	31	37	0	0
Shorobe	0	24	24	0	0

NB: only dogs/ cats 3 months and older are able to be vaccinated against rabies, vaccinations are not recommended for pregnant bitches or queens.

All dog and cats receive tick and flea treatment as well as deworming in addition to the vaccinations.

Total animals vaccinated: 119

Budget

Table 2. Breakdown of costs for the 2021 outreach program. Funds were transferred directly to MAWS.

<u>Invoice / Company</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (BWP)</u>
225546 Medswana	Tick & Flea Powder	165.64
228152 Medswana	Nobivac Canine Vax, Felocell Feline Vax	4125.22
228142 Medswana	Rabisin Vax	790.62
228130 Medswana	Dormicum x 1 box (Sterilizations)	94.42
228133 Medswana	Rompun x 1 (Sterilizations)	674.75
228166 Medswana	Bacdip x 1 (left for Sandra in Khwai)	122.82
228166 Medswana	Antezole Wormers	449.5
228166 Medswana	21g needles	92
228166 Medswana	3ml syringes	177.24
228166 Medswana	Disposable Gloves meduim and small	391.35
228153 Medswana	Antezole Wormers	449.5
228132 Medswana	Rimadyl Inj (Sterilizations)	392.65
225561 Medswana	Nobivac Canine Vax	715.8
234572 Medswana	Mediworm Wormers (Shorobe)	778.96
2345572 Medswana	Frotline Spray (Shorobe)	377.34
234573 Medswana	Rabisin Vax (Shorobe)	153.28
Spar 17/11/2021	Food for crew outreach	579.2
Khwai Guest House	Cold drinks and water Crew outreach	110.5
19/11/2021	Airtime purchased during outreach	50
19/11/2021	Tshepo Fuel (ReMogo)	440
<u>Total</u>		<u>11130.79</u>

There is still 12609.21 BWP of the 23740 BWP granted by the Natural Selection Conservation Trust. The remainder of the funds will be used by MAWS in early 2022 for a follow up vaccination drive. In order to prevent the spread of Diseases like Canine Distemper Virus it is important that puppies receive at least 2 booster shots and adult dogs receive 1 booster shot after the initial vaccination.

Conclusion

The outreach was a success, with the majority of domestic dogs receiving a vaccination in the villages of Khwai, Mababe and Sankuyo. In the coming months, MAWS will return to the four villages to carry out a follow up vaccination drive to ensure that as many domestic dogs are fully vaccinated as possible. The villages were happy with our presence and seemed to understand the importance of the vaccinations.

In closing, MAWS will conduct an additional vaccination and sterilization drive be in early 2022. This will ensure a domestic dog population with good immunity against diseases. It was noted that the majority of dogs being vaccinated had never had previous vaccinations, with exception of some who had been vaccinated by MAWS in previous years, or where veterinary dept had vaccinated for rabies in Sankuyo. This vaccination drive, and the booster vaccinations that will be administered in the future, are therefore of high importance in creating a buffer zone to help prevent disease transmission to wild dog populations.



The MAWS vehicle at the Khwai kgotla

The MAWS team in Khwai; volunteer vets Phillipa and Brian, vet nurse Shayna and vet assistant Vasco along with Natural selection staff and the Khwai village policeman.





Vet Brian administers vaccinations, vet assistant Vasco administers dewormer, and vet nurse Shayna keeps records and administers villagers with vaccination certificates.

Vet assistant Vasco administers flea and tick powder to a dog in Sankuyo.



Vet assistant Vasco administering dewormer.



Volunteer vets Phillipa and Brian prepare vaccinations.

Village children with their puppies waiting for treatment.



The vaccination outreach at the Sankuyo kgotla.