



2020

# *Annual Report*



## *President's Report*

Dear friends,

As we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of how important the work at Veterinarians International really is. With disease and need not being concerned about borders, it is imperative we continue our efforts to improve the health and welfare of animals globally.

Despite operational set-backs, such as not being able to travel for the majority of 2020, we managed to keep all of our programs running and have maintained strong communications with our partners through virtual platforms like Zoom and Google Meet. Here are some of our great accomplishments in each of our programs:



## Healthy Elephants SRI LANKA

As the human population expands, the food and land available for wildlife becomes more and more sparse. Conflict between humans and wildlife is at an all time high, with Sri Lanka experiencing the highest rates of Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) in the world. Official statistics declared 318 elephants were killed in 2020 due to electrocution, jaw-bomb explosives, gun shot wounds, or poison. Our partners at the Elephant Transit Home (ETH) took in a 3.5 year old bull elephant with 11 bullet wounds. He was successfully treated by Drs. Malaka and Kalani thanks to positive reinforcement training incorporated by Erin Ivory, VI's Vice President of Programs and animal behavior expert. This training technique was implemented for the first time at the ETH with great success and decreased the amount of anesthetic procedures needed for his recovery.





## Healthy Pets CHILE

In partnership with the Global Alliance for Animals and People (GAAP) in Chile, we delivered a successful online humane-education program that was attended by over 3,000 participants and provided quality veterinary care to hundreds of families in need. Programs such as this further our goal of a stronger human-animal bond resulting in a more peaceful coexistence between humans and animals.

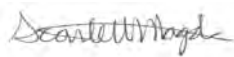
## Healthy Farms KENYA

With our partner, Sauti Moja in Marsabit, Kenya, we conducted multiple workshops on trending diseases (Covid-19, MERS-CoV) and livestock disease prevention. Training included how to prevent the spread of Covid-19 along with education about the current risk from another coronavirus that has made the jump from camels to humans, MERS-CoV, which has a staggering 40% human mortality rate. For many, basic hygiene practices like hand-washing were made available for the first time to help prevent the spread of these viruses. I am proud to report that as of December 2020, we provided animal health services to over 700 households, saving the lives of over 250,000 goats and sheep and over 200 donkeys.



As we finish our sixth year at VI, I'd like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement despite the challenging times we all face.

With gratitude,

A circular inset image showing a woman in a green dress standing in a body of water with other elephants in the background.

Scarlett Magda, BSc, DVM  
Founding President, Veterinarians International





# Where We Work



We have 11 programs in 5 countries.

## GUATEMALA

Healthy Pets



## CHILE

Healthy Pets



Healthy Wildlife



## KENYA



Healthy Farms

Healthy Pets

Healthy Wildlife

Healthy Elephants

## SRI LANKA



Healthy Elephants

Healthy Pets

Healthy Wildlife

## THAILAND & MYANMAR



Healthy Elephants



2020

## *In-Depth Program Reviews*





## Healthy Elephants

Human development has displaced animals and led to increased human-wildlife conflict. Some communities have resorted to extreme measures to stop wildlife such as snares, ditches, bombs, and guns. These tactics have resulted in elephants and other wildlife to be orphaned, injured, and even killed at staggering rates. In 2020, 318 elephants and 285 people died from Human Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka. The Elephant Transit Home is Asia's first and only elephant orphanage that rehabilitates and releases animals back into the wild, and VI is proud to partner with them and support their mission.

### Our major accomplishments for the year include:



In Sri Lanka, we strengthened our Elephant Health and Conservation Task Force of experts and worked on initial plans with the Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Smithsonian Institute to create the Center of Excellence. The Center will include the building of a diagnostics lab, a wildlife holding and rehabilitation facility, and the country's first elephant hospital. We are pleased to be utilizing the technical expertise of the Smithsonian Institute of Conservation Biology to help train the veterinarians and animal care providers at our program partner, the Elephant Transit Home.



Helped in the care of a bull elephant with 11 bullet wounds by utilizing positive reinforcement training.



Assisted in the veterinary care of dozens of orphaned elephants by providing emergency medicine and laboratory tests aiding in diagnosing disease.



Helped save the life of Galpaya, a 6-year-old bull elephant who suffered a terrible mouth injury from a jaw bomb.



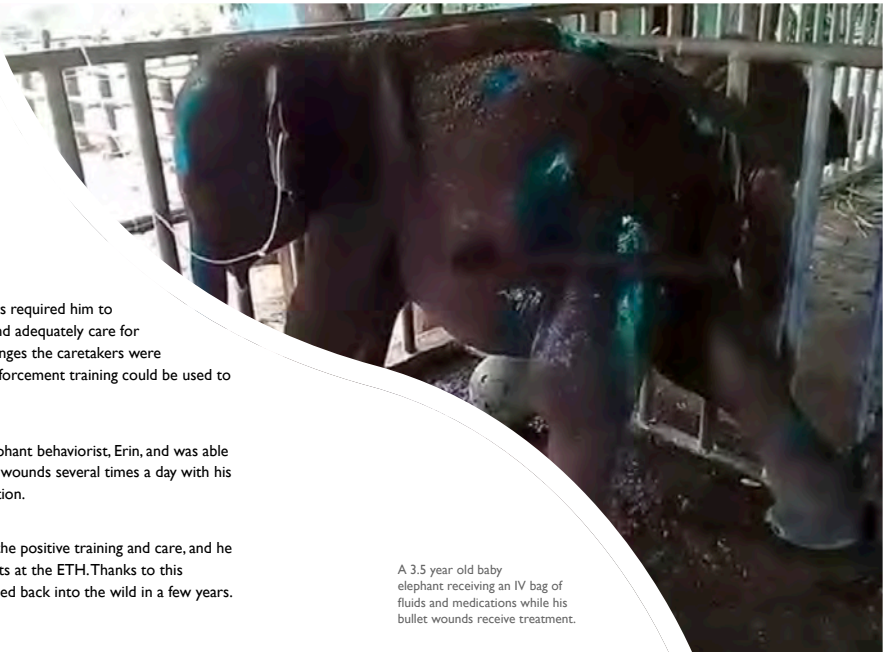
Provided nutrition and veterinary assistance to 20 elephant calves who were successfully released back into the wild in Sri Lanka.

It is never easy to see man's impact on animals, it is even harder to see a 3 ½ years old elephant riddled with gunshot wounds. This tiny bull had eleven bullet holes and, as you can imagine, was very fearful and aggressive towards humans following this human inflicted trauma.

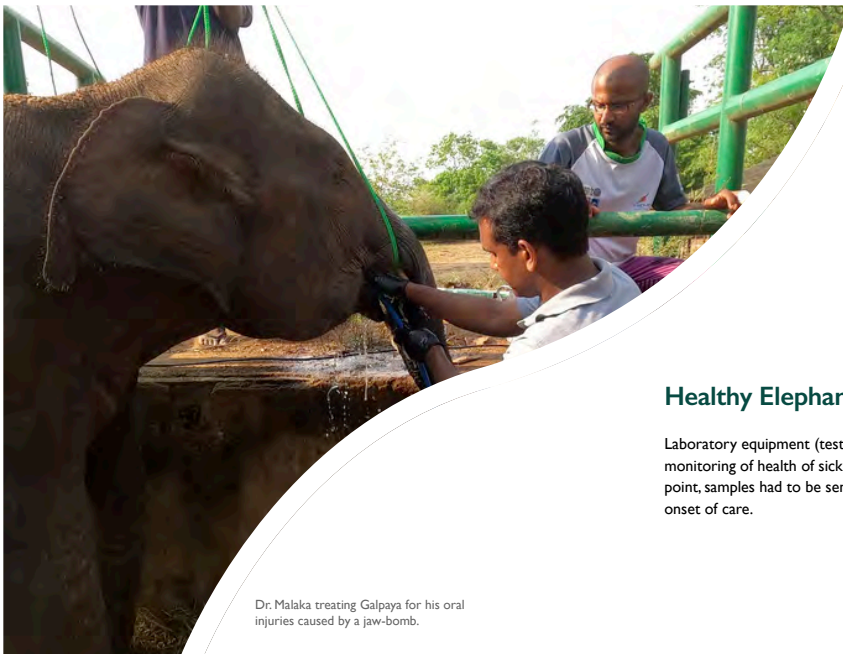
His intense aggression towards caregivers required him to be sedated in order for them to safely and adequately care for his wounds. When VI heard of the challenges the caretakers were facing, we shared how using positive reinforcement training could be used to gain his trust and cooperation.

The team followed the advice of our elephant behaviorist, Erin, and was able to successfully treat his deep and painful wounds several times a day with his complete cooperation and without sedation.

The deep wounds healed fast thanks to the positive training and care, and he soon joined the other orphaned elephants at the ETH. Thanks to this successful rehabilitation, he will be released back into the wild in a few years.



A 3.5 year old baby elephant receiving an IV bag of fluids and medications while his bullet wounds receive treatment.



Dr. Malaka treating Galpaya for his oral injuries caused by a jaw-bomb.

## Healthy Elephants SRI LANKA

Laboratory equipment (tests and reagents) were purchased to enable the monitoring of health of sick elephants and wildlife patients. Up until this point, samples had to be sent to a laboratory hours away delaying the onset of care.



## Healthy Farms KENYA

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As of December 2020, we have provided animal health services to over 700 households saving the lives of over 250,000 sheep and goats, as well as over 200 donkeys.

Vaccinated 1,300 animals for Foot and Mouth Disease, a life threatening disease affecting bovine species.

Over 1300 animals got vaccinated in a time span of four days. The site visited is a hot spot for foot and mouth disease and being among the most prone to a periodic outbreak.



Multiple workshops on deadly communicable diseases conducted.



700 households received animal health services saving 250,000 goats and 200 donkeys.



Over 1,300 animals got vaccinated for foot and mouth disease in just 4 days.



Vaccination of a cow taking place in a locally made crash, at Dub Gindole shallow well site in Badasa, September 2020



Administration of an eye ointment to a calf with severe eye infection, September 2020



## Healthy Farms Program Success Story

Jillo Chachu is a widow with six children living in Dirib Gombo cluster, Saku sub county. She had two goats before Sauti Moja (SMM) came into her life. Of the two goats, one was eaten by a hyena, and the other she sold because it was her only option to buy food for her family. She never forgets how her life changed as her family struggled to survive when she was introduced to our Healthy Farm Program Partner - SMM. She was given four goats and one donkey during a restocking program and she was told to "pass on" the female offspring to a widow or most vulnerable friend like her. She managed to pass on five female goats and one female donkey successfully, and now she possesses a flock of around 15 goats with the exception of their kids and lambs.

She confessed that the presence of Sauti Moja was like a "God sent" plan because her life was never the same again. She tells the story of how she was properly equipped with livestock treatment training and livestock drug knowledge (mode of action, withdrawal time, sites of injection) by a vet official during the training. She said she cannot only treat her animals, but also treat most of her friends' animals as well, and consults other villagers on livestock health dynamics. She has a knapsack sprayer which all her neighbors use for acaricides spray to control vectors like ticks in their herds and flocks.

Jillo Chachu restraining her kid for treatment during Sauti Moja initiated treatment campaign.





# Healthy Pets KENYA

## The Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign 2020 Report

### BACKGROUND

Every year, an estimated 2,000 people die of canine rabies in Kenya World Health Organization (WHO, 2014), and 98% of those human rabies cases in developing countries are caused by a bite from an infected domestic dog (Butler et al, 2004). Particularly at risk of the disease are populations in remote rural areas, who may find it difficult to access or pay for rabies treatment with post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and children under the age of 15 years, who interact most closely with domestic animals.

Mass vaccination of domestic dogs remains the most cost-effective intervention method to control rabies and to prevent transmission of the virus to humans (WHO, 2014). The World Health Organization estimates that vaccinating 70% of domestic dogs for 3 consecutive years in a spatial locale, is sufficient to eliminate the disease from the domestic dog population and, by extension, humans (Cleveland et al, 2003).

The ultimate goal of the Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign (LRVC) is to eradicate rabies from the domestic dog populations in Laikipia County, as part of the national rabies eradication effort in Kenya.

### CAMPAIGN EXECUTION STRATEGY

Veterinarians, students, and volunteers conducted the campaign door to door during the pandemic to avoid people gathering. The area chiefs, group ranches chairmen, churches, and other public functions were utilized to gain trust of the community and spread awareness of the event.

VI is proud to have contributed \$30,000 to the campaign as well as provided several experts to participate.

By improving community awareness about both rabies and vaccination safety and efficacy, we can address misconceptions and ensure the long-term success of the campaign. The campaign could expand its reach, increase trust, and fight misinformation by increasing involvement from within the communities themselves.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, the majority of the campaign was held in winter of 2021, with a couple thousand animals being vaccinated in 2020. The remainder of this report will be provided in the 2021 annual report.





## Healthy Pets CHILE

As 2020 unfolded and the pandemic became a reality, it brought significant challenges to our work. Yet, the silver lining has been that many people realized that their pets may actually be their closest friend during these tough times, and this has presented a unique opportunity for us to engage with our clients about animal, human, and environmental health.

### STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED



Social veterinary clinic



Education for children



Telemedicine services

## Key Impacts

### EDUCATION

# 8

#### Number of videos made and topics

- Pets as invasive species/ Pet invasion!
- Rabies rabiosa
- Super pet owners
- Healthy pets
- Learning to “speak dog”
- Caring for Pets: Play, exercise, and responsibility
- Local laws protect our pets
- Animal emergencies: How to help

#### Number of workshops done

- 34 workshops
- 1 interview with Universidad de Chile veterinary school via Instagram Live – 862 views

Our Healthy Pets Program assisted 461 families with 46 surgical emergencies, 33 spays and neuters, 348 medical cases, 211 vaccinations, and dewormings. We supported a telemedicine program in Todos Santos, Guatemala, where 190 dogs were visited in their homes for a variety of medical needs all through our COVID Emergency Fund.

# Healthy Steps for Healthy Pets Walkathon



With the pandemic preventing large gatherings, we created a virtual event for the Inaugural Healthy Steps for Healthy Pets walkathon which had over 200 participants in 4 countries! It was our first ever dog walk where individuals signed their pets up to raise funds for VI's most critical programs.



**Our movement raised \$40,000!**

We are grateful to our sponsors and partners the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation, Paul Hastings Law Firm, Civic Entertainment Group, Fashion Institute of Technology, Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island, the Baker House, Steven Klein, and David Burke. A special thank you to Dopo La Spiaggia for the light fare and Altaneve.



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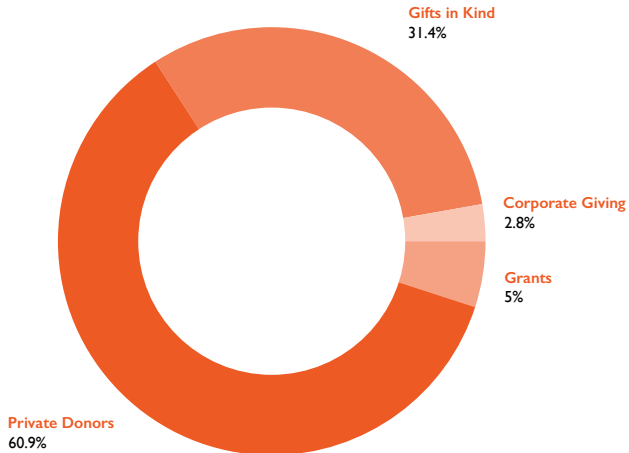
# Financials

VI INCOME 2020

**\$448,147.83**

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Private Donors	60.9%
Gifts in Kind	31.4%
Grants	5%
Corporate Giving	2.8%



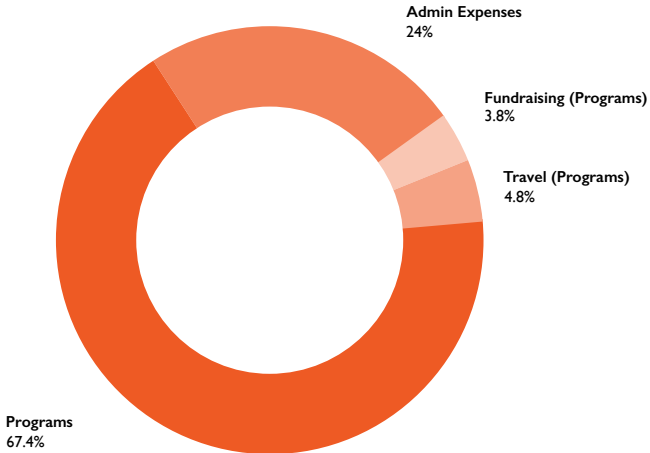
# Financials

## VI EXPENSES 2020

**\$407,784.11**

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Programs	67.4%
Admin Expenses	24%
Travel (Programs)	4.8%
Fundraising (Programs)	3.8%



# Team

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