



The KAT Updates

Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre Monthly e-newsletter

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Salute to Dr. Dogs

Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT) has brought 'Pet therapy' – therapeutic contact with friendly dogs for the first time in Nepal.

Last month, the joy of a damp nose and soft cuddly fur reached orphaned children at Bal Mandir in Kathmandu.



Mango and Tara of KAT bring joy in the faces of orphan children at Bal Mandir in first ever pet therapy program in Nepal.

The first 'Dr Dog' session is a joint initiative between the Kathmandu Animal Treatment centre (KAT), Bal Mandir children's home and the Mitrataa Foundation. The program has proven to be an outstanding success.

Two special canine guests were welcomed with open arms by the tiny children of Bal Mandir - Mango, the loveable Tibetan Terrier KAT mascot, and Tara, a paraplegic KAT permanent resident dog.

For some of the little tots who had never before been in such close contact with dogs, it was at first frightening, but within a very short time both dogs and children were tumbling and playing. The children that initially showed the most fear were often the ones that were eventually the most excited and confident.

Overwhelmed by the two successful sessions Bal Krishna Dangol, the deputy director of Nepal Children's Organization wants to make it a regular feature for the children at the orphanage.

The program was facilitated by Bec and Adam Ordish of Mitrataa Foundation. Mitrataa Foundation is an Australia based non-profit educational organization established almost eight years ago by Bec and Adam.



The stars: Mango and Tara

Jan Salter, the Founder of KAT, said: "It was absolutely heart-warming to watch. Shy tiny Sabin clung desperately to his foster parent, burying his head into her neck and screaming as hard as his little lungs could muster. Just as we were thinking to take him away, the screaming stopped and his curiosity grew. As he saw the other toddlers playing, his inquisitiveness got the better of him. By the time the session was over Sabin was jumping up and down laughing and shouting - arms pumping up and down with excited pleasure.

The Response from the children that were physically and mentally challenged was a joy to watch. – Jan Salter, KAT Founder

"Kamala, an older girl with learning difficulties, very cautiously joined the group. Unable to at first relate to this new situation she sat shyly on the side. But within half an hour she was hugging Tara."



Jan became interested in involving the charity in a 'Dr Dog' programme after hearing the success of a similar programme in China.

Jan said "The exchanges, which lasted over an hour and a half, left the children with radiant smiling excited faces. Wow, what a success! I hope we can attract other institutions to follow Bal Mandir's lead."

'Pet therapy' is well established in the UK and USA. Scientific studies have shown encouraging results including evidence that heart attack victims who have pets live longer and that people with schizophrenia feel more motivated and improve their quality of life if given pet therapy.



Guess who is happier?

KAT intends to be increasingly involved in the program to bring joy in more faces. Please contact us at katco@katcentre.org.np or jsalter@mail.com.np if you would like to be involved in similar program.

Together, let's create a city where cruelty towards animals is eliminated.