



## MEDIA RELEASE

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT KEEPS BALI SAFE & HEALTHY

**24 March 2017 DENPASAR, Bali:** Community Health Days conducted by Program Dharma\* with BAWA always have people rushing their animals to the location for treatment and then patiently waiting their turn. Health Days educate people on good care for their animals and provide vaccination, sterilisation and treatment for their dogs and cats against parasites and skin problems.

When people have healthy animals they tend to care for them more and are much less apt to throw them away – a far too common practice in Bali which increases the risk of rabies. Community Health Days in Bali banjars provide a vital service to people who simply cannot afford to treat the animals they love.

Mass vaccination of at least 70 percent of dogs in an area creates herd immunity to rabies which protects both humans and animals in that community from the disease. Culling vaccinated dogs, including roaming dogs, is counterproductive to rabies control.

Program Dharma focuses on community education & engagement to achieve rabies control. It relies on planning, monitoring, documentation & assessment. The innovative program is showing that robust vaccination and rabies management which targets both dogs and their owners is effective and suitable for Bali-wide application.

Program Dharma has worked in 28 Bali banjars for almost 12 months. Program Dharma banjars are rabies-free.

#### **Achieved:**

- Census: More than 5500 dogs in 3 villages
- One on One Education: More than 2000 dog owners
- Community Health Days: 29, including 220 sterilisations
- Vaccination: More than 800 dogs.

**Results:**

- Improved vaccination coverage in Sanur Kaja village from 61.5% at July 2016 to 81.2% at March 2017
- Zero suspected cases of rabies in the 3 Program Dharma villages
- Improved dog health. eg in Sanur Kaja the 13% of dogs that were very thin or emaciated has reduced to 4%
- Fewer dogs on the streets.

**\*Program Dharma is a world-first pilot program in 28 banjars (sub villages) within 3 semi-urban communities in Sanur, Bali, where it is reducing the threat of rabies in humans and dogs. It is a community outreach / One Health program to eradicate rabies. Program Dharma is an innovative public sector / NGO partnership between:**

- **Udayana University, Department of Public Health & Faculty of Veterinary Science**
- **Yayasan Bali Animal Welfare Association (BAWA)**
- **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)**
- **Yayasan Kerti Praja (YKP)**

MORE INFORMATION: Please see Program Dharma: The Facts.

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