

PONDA STERILISATION PROJECT REPORT 2025



#saferkinderponda

OVERVIEW



Hicks Outreach in Action

The Ponda Sterilisation Project 2025 (PSP 25), a WVS Hicks ITC Outreach, was conducted from 29th September to 31st October 2025, in collaboration with Mission Rabies Goa.

Set in the center of Goa, the project focused on the Ponda Municipality and surrounding villages, with the goal of sterilising and vaccinating 1,000 dogs. The initiative was driven by the urgent need to address ongoing human-dog conflict, largely arising from an unchecked rise in dog population, lack of humane education and waste management issues.

Through science-backed humane intervention and a structured, high-volume short duration approach, this project aimed not only to control the canine population but also to serve as a model for effective and compassionate community engagement in Goa.



OVERVIEW



A dedicated team of 30 members worked tirelessly over the five-week campaign, completing an outstanding **1121 canine sterilisations and 1235 anti-rabies vaccinations** across Ponda municipality and its neighbouring areas. Despite unpredictable weather (unseasonal monsoon showers, hot October sunshine and Cyclone Montha) and the logistical challenges of operating in a densely populated urban landscape, the team's expertise, adaptability and compassion ensured smooth and impactful operations every single day.

The trapping and catching teams played a crucial role in the project's success. Engaging with local feeders, residents, and community members, they built trust and co-operation, encouraging active public participation in bringing dogs for sterilisation. This collaborative spirit strengthened the foundation of community-based animal welfare in the region.

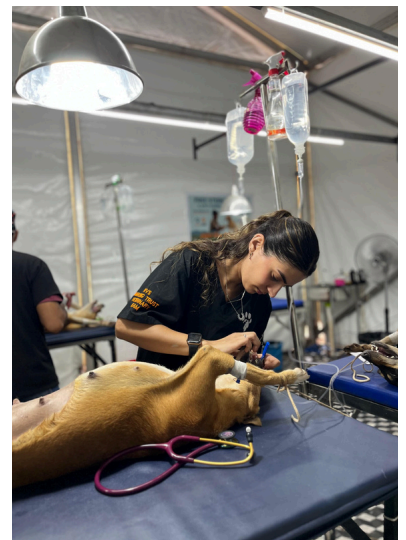
Beyond the surgical targets, PSP 25 incorporated three critical dimensions into the outreach format:

- Surveillance, to assess population density and optimise trapping routes;
- Community humane education, to spread awareness about co-existence with animals, importance of sterilisation and responsible feeding as well as understanding canine behaviour.
- A purpose-built camp, designed for operational efficiency and animal comfort, featured designated areas for kennels, surgery, patient prep and recovery and utility.

By the end of October, PSP25 had achieved more than its numerical targets – it had rekindled a sense of compassion between people and the animals they share their space with. Through every sterilisation, conversation, and act of care, the project reaffirmed the power of teamwork, education, and empathy in building safer, more compassionate communities.



TIMELINE



THE CAMP SITE



The camp site for the PSP25 was the KVS ground , adjacent to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science in Curti, Ponda. The camp was set up within an 800sqm chain link enclosure with a 60sqm German Hangar tent that housed our operating theatre, prep, recovery and autoclave area; four 36sqm Pagoda tent structures and three 40sqm army tents where 110 individual kennels were used to house dogs.



The camp site also included a registration kiosk, a dining tent for the staff, bowl washing station, an animal food prep area, plenty of fans to keep the doggies cool and industrial grade rain proofing. The entire area was under CCTV surveillance and also had 24x7 security.

CAMP FACILITIES



The PSP25 Campsite was designed keeping in mind animal comfort and workflow optimisation. The facilities at the campsite included:

- 110 Kennels in a protected and well-ventilated tent.
- Air conditioned OT Tent and prep area.
- Two ventilated and specially designed catching vehicles with a total capacity to hold upto 30 transport cages.
- Dedicated owner animal sterilisation and vaccination helpline.
- Dining area for staff
- Utility area to clean dog bowls and cook food.



HUMANE EDUCATION



These sessions focused on key themes such as the importance of sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination, responsible dog population management, understanding dog behaviour, bite wound treatment, and above all, fostering empathy towards community animals.

In total, the initiative directly reached **13,306 students**, **1,932 teachers**, and **1,492 community members**, making it one of the most extensive humane education drives conducted in Ponda to date. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with participants demonstrating improved understanding of animal welfare, public health, and rabies prevention.



HUMANE EDUCATION



#SaferKinderPonda was what we all wanted - for humans and animals alike. Our team went to great lengths to explain how science backed programmes coupled with compassion was the answer to the growing human-dog conflict.

Education and change at the grassroots level are essential for achieving long-term impact. Beginning in early September and continuing through October 2025 our teams conducted sessions across Ponda.

Over the course of two months, the outreach covered 10 government schools, 14 private schools, 9 higher secondary institutions, 13 municipal wards, and 8 public service sectors – including post offices, police stations, an orphanage, sub-district human hospital staff, and anganwadi workers.





HUMANE EDUCATION



HUMANE EDUCATION

The interactive sessions encouraged students to think about animals as living beings with feelings. We also taught them ways they can make a difference in the lives of the street animals around them.

To reinforce these lessons, we organised an art contest themed “My Favourite Pet and Me.” The response was deeply heartwarming - children created touching drawings showing themselves hugging their dogs, caring for them, providing vaccinations, offering food, water, and shelter, and expressing messages like “They’re not our enemies but our friends.”

The artwork reflected a genuine sense of empathy and awareness - highlighting the positive impact of humane education in nurturing the next generation of animal advocates.



PARTNERSHIPS



The Ponda Sterilisation Project was truly a collaborative effort, and its success stands as a reflection of the incredible support we received from a wide network of partners, allies, and friends. We are deeply grateful to everyone who played a role in making this initiative possible.

A heartfelt thank you to the **Mission Rabies Goa** Team, without whom this project would not be possible. The team that supported us was instrumental throughout—from camp setup and daily operations to conducting surveys, helping in education sessions, and assisting with the humane trapping and release of dogs. Their expertise and energy were at the heart of this outreach.



We are very grateful to the **Ponda MLA**, late Shri. Ravi Naik and the **Ponda Municipal Council** for their hospitality, support and co-operation throughout the camp. We extend our sincere thanks to the **Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services**, Goa, for their constant guidance and support with outreach camps and a big thank you to the team from the Animal Husbandry Veterinary Hospital in Ponda, that helped us with treatment of injured animals during the campaign.

Shout out to **Rooney Marlee Animal Welfare Trust** who donated 20 kennels and an army tent to house additional dogs during the camp. This is a big boost to our arsenal and greatly increased our capacity.

They also made a generous donation of 500 Spot-On tick and flea treatments, which were administered to every dog sterilised at the camp, as well as provided an oxygen cylinder—a critical resource for the operating team. We are especially thankful for the enthusiastic contribution of Ms. Alieta from RMAWT, whose efforts in managing appointments and coordinating with feeders and dog owners ensured smooth daily operations and strong community participation.

Local NGO **Animal Welfare and Environment** extended crucial support on the ground. They assisted with co-ordination between our catching teams and local feeders as well as helping the teams catch shy and timid dogs from every street and corner in Ponda.

Our work also garnered interest from like minded individuals outside India. **VegVoyages Foundation** made a donation of 2000 dollars that enabled us to purchase additional surgery kits as well as sponsored 100 dog sterilisations. Their generous donation will go a long way and help out in many more surgeries in the future.

Our gratitude also goes out to **PRINTPRO** who donated two 10x10feet tents that served as additional reception area for owners to shelter from the weather, while getting their pets neutered with us.



IMPACT



30 TEAM MEMBERS

30 DAYS

1121 DOGS STERILISED

1235 DOGS VACCINATED

16730 PEOPLE EDUCATED



Lastly a big thank you to all our supporters, who make such meaningful work possible. Without your generois contributions, none of this work would be possible.



ROONEY MARLEE
ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST
EST. 2022



**To each of you—thank you for standing with us.
Your partnership has made a lasting difference
to the community and animals of Ponda.**



WVVS