



Animal Welfare Network Nepal launches 'Dogs of Kathmandu Valley' Research Report

## 65 percent of Kathmandu's pet dogs chained for life

Kathmandu, October 16, 2009 - The Animal Welfare Network Nepal today released the report 'Dogs in Kathmandu Valley - Man's best friend betrayed', which shows that people's awareness regarding dog care remains low and that Kathmandu's pet and stray dogs continue to live a life of neglect and abuse.

The report was launched on the occasion of Kukur Tihar or Dog Worshipping Day. According to the network the report findings call for immediate intervention by government authorities, civil society and the public at large.

'Today we ask everyone to take a vow to treat dogs humanely, not just on Kukur Tihar, but 365 days a year,' said Animal Nepal Director Pramada Shah. 'The government must take immediate action to address the problems of pet and stray dogs.'

'However, we as citizens should not wait - all of us in our own way can do something to alleviate the suffering of man's best friend. Dogs look up to us; we should not let them down,' she said.

The report is written from research initiated in 2008 and carried out by AWNN. The survey focused on people's perceptions of pet and stray animals in Kathmandu Valley. Six different teams interviewed a total of 656 individuals (297 pet owners and 359 community members) in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur District.

It shows that dog owners tend to treat their pets as objects that they OWN rather than living creatures with a right to some freedom and a good life. Stray dogs are considered a problem and are at best ignored. They hardly ever receive professional medical care.

A shocking 64% of pets are kept on a chain, of whom 36% on a very short one. [1] Pets die at a young age, possibly due to general neglect and a lack of awareness on canine health. Only 17% receive some kind of family planning. This is a great cause for concern as offspring tend to be abandoned on the street, further increasing the stray dog population.

The prospects of stray dogs continue to look bleak. 99% of interviewees consider strays as a problem, mostly due to noise pollution and fear of rabies. However, there are positive developments too. Most interviewees opt for the right solutions: the majority propagates humane population control by the government, while some 30% demand education to increase awareness. Others call for increased NGO intervention or stricter laws. A quarter of interviewees seek help when they come across an injured or sick stray dog.

To read the full report go to: <http://www.animalnepal.org/reports.htm#research>

For more information about this press release contact:

Pramada Shah & Lucia de Vries, [animalnepal@gmail.com](mailto:animalnepal@gmail.com), 98510-41103