Tanzania Small Animal Veterinary Organization (TASAVO) Annual Report January to December 2022

Title: Improvement of animal health and animal welfare of small animals in Tanzania

Introduction

Tanzania Small Animal Veterinary Organization (TASAVO) is striving to reach all dogs and cats in Tanzania to help them receive adequate veterinary care, including a rabies vaccination, together with shelter, food, water, and neuter and spaying through our members scattered the whole country. According to Director of Veterinary Service (DVS) Tanzania has four million five hundred thousand dogs (4,500, 000) and two million cats (2,000,000). We have seven small animal practices. With this number of practice, only small percentage of dogs and cats are attended by veterinarians, most of dogs and cats are not given adequate food and shelter. There is stray dogs and cats in parts of Tanzania, The aim of TASAVO is to raise the standard of small animal practice in Tanzania and to ensure that as many small animal as possible are attended by veterinarians.



Members of community brings dogs to members of TASAVO (veterinarians) to provide health care (anti-rabies and control of parasites)

The objectives of TASAVO in 2022 were:

1. Humane population management
2. Offering CPD and scholarship to members of TASAVO
3. Launching TASAVO and WSAVA branded merchandise, T-shirt, practice accessories such as health cards
4. Importing important veterinary medicine not available in Tanzania

5. Education awareness on good management of dogs and cats through mass media and social media and World Rabies Day

1.0 Humane Population Management

TASAVO is conducting neuter and spaying project in Dar es Salaam one day per month by a dedicate members of TASAVO. Before the surgery dogs and cats are checked for any other clinical disease and external parasites such as ticks and fleas. The aim of the project is to control population of both owned and free roaming cats and dogs in Dar es Salaam. Our approach in neutering and spaying has been to trap dogs and cats from the streets, bars, hotels, apartments and perform neuter and spaying at our members clinics and return them after 1 – 2 days where we collected when they are fully recovered. Neuter and spaying is performers at veterinary clinics to ensure that we perform aseptic surgery, we provide adequate anaesthesia and analgesia during surgery and there is post-operative care after surgery. Animal can be provided with fluid therapy or food if found weak before the surgery. We hope in future we can increase numbers of veterinary clinics in Dar es Salaam to provide neuter and spaying. Through this program owner of dogs and cats can pay for neuter and spaying for their dogs to help TASAVO buy veterinary medicine and consumable for neuter and spaying. We are demonstrating to government and dog owners the humane methods to control the population of dogs and cats can be adapted country wide.



Members of TASAVO trap, neuter and spay stray cats in Dar es Salaam

2. Offering CPD and scholarship to members of TASAVO

WSAVA has excellent education materials for animal health and animal welfare for small animals. We are encouraging members of TASAVO to watch recorded CPD from WSAVA. We have developed topics for online/webinar to members from local speakers and international speakers. In 2022 one members of TASAVO was awarded scholarship to attend British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) in 2023.

3. Launching TASAVO and WSAVA branded merchandise, T-shirt, practice accessories such as health cards

Members of TASAVO have agreed their practice to be branded by the logo of TASAVO and WSAVA as a recognition they provide good veterinary service to small animals in Tanzania, Sign board and sticker will be fixed to the doors of the clinic. All staff working to the clinic will put on clothes with TASAVO and WSAVA. Members of TASAVO will use vaccination cards with a logo of TASAVO and WSAVA

4. Importing important veterinary medicine not available in Tanzania

Tanzania allows importation of veterinary medicines which are registered by Tanzania Medicine and Medical Divices Authority (TMDA) and antiparasites (ticks and fleas) registered Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA). Registration process can take time and very expensive. Most wholesalers of veterinary medicine finds it is economically unjustifiable to register medicines for small animals because of the higher cost of registration and there is limited market for small animals. The demand of small animals products are in major cities such as Dar es Salaam. We have discussed with Director of Veterinary Service (DVS) on the possibility to import veterinary medicine which are not registered in Tanzania. In 2022 we imported 300 bravecto and from South Africa by applying **special importation permit** from TMDA.



Imported bravecto from South Africa

5. Education awareness on good management of dogs and cats through mass media and social media and World Rabies Day

TASAVO is designing and mobilizing financial resource to help create awareness through national TV on good management of dogs. We created leaflets and pamphlets which we distributed to public on about good management and rabies control. Members of TASAVO will use social media such as facebook, instagram and whatapp group to reach dog owners and educate them about good management of dogs.

TASAVO coordinated World Rabies Day, more than 2000 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies in Dar es Salaam and Coast Region

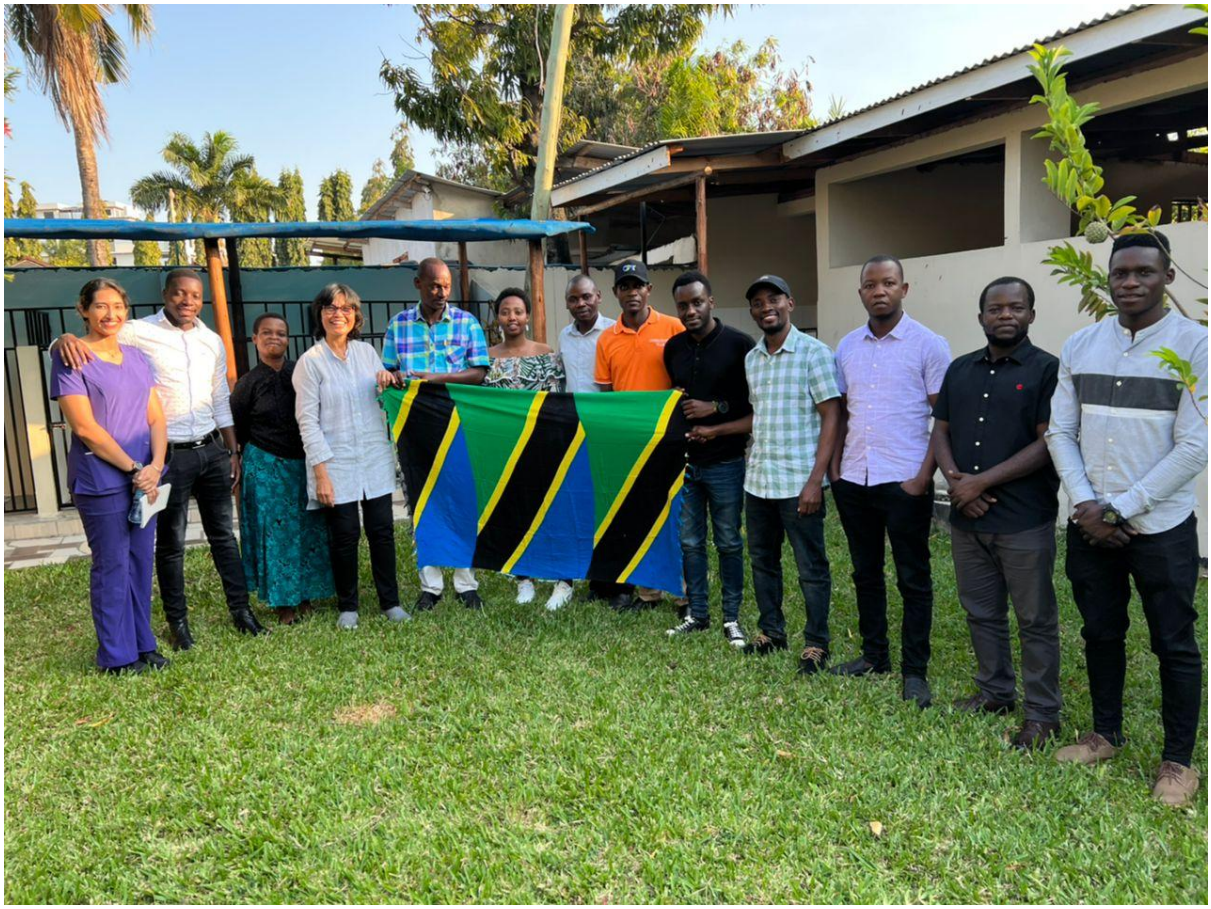




6. Other program achieved in 2022

TTASAVO developed plan and strategy facilitated by past WSAVA president Dr Siraya Chunekamrai through the program supported by WSAVA One Care Initiative. The grogram enable members of TASAVO to identify goals they want to achieve to raise the standard of small practice in Tanzania. Several projects were identified during the One Care Initiative Workshop, the most important is population management of dogs and cats through contribution to the cost by owners.

In another note TASAVO was upgraded to full member of WSAVA. Members of TASAVO are looking forward to engage in more activities and share experience with other members globally to raise the standard of veterinary practice in Tanzania



TASAVO core team with past WSAVA president Dr Siraya Chunekamrai

7.0 Conclusion and Way forward

Tanzania has large population of dogs and cats, however member of the community do not have knowledge on how to care dogs and cats. TASAVO in collaboration global veterinary community will try to provide outreach program to reach all dog and cat owners on good management of dogs and cats to improve the Animal Welfare of small animals.

TASAVO will use different communication strategy such as meeting, training workshops, magazine, radio, leaflets, TV and social media (whatapp, twitter and facebook) to reach community and explain the services which are provided by veterinary veterinarians in Tanzania. We hope in future there will be dogs and cats which access veterinary care, shelter and food