



## Mission Rabies Goa

### Monthly Report – December 2018

*By Julie Corfmat, Project Manager*



# Whole state of Goa completed!!!!

**Total number of dogs vaccinated in Goa during 2018 = Over 97,000!!**

Mission Rabies Goa (Figure 1) have done it again! For the second consecutive year, the vaccination teams have covered the whole state of Goa – an area of 3,702 km<sup>2</sup> (1,429 square miles). The teams have worked tirelessly and walked systematically, day after day, across the state vaccinating as many dogs as possible. The map in Figure 2 highlights the total vaccination coverage achieved during 2018.



**Figure 1. Mission Rabies Goa Team**



## Goa State Total Vaccination Coverage 2018

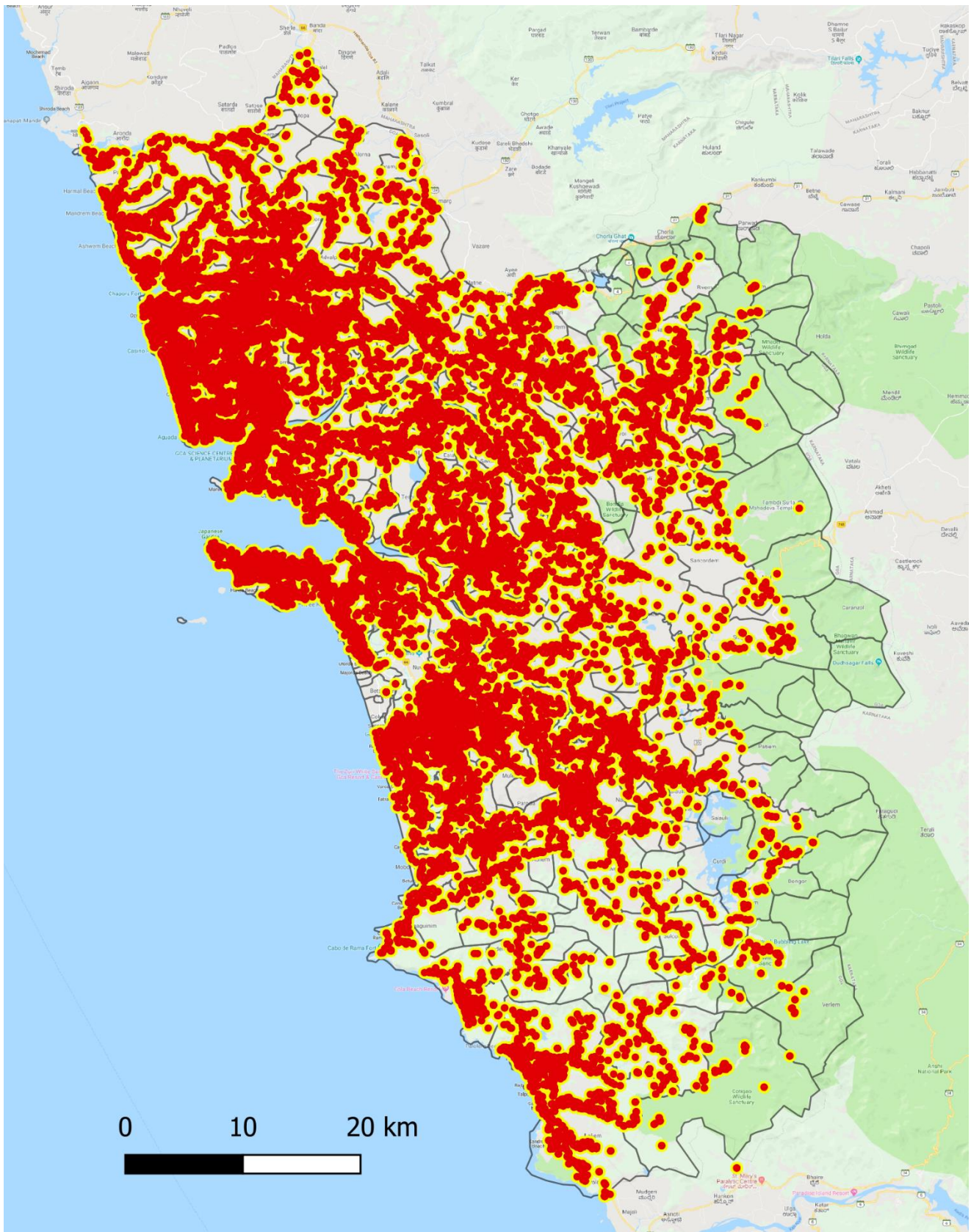


Figure 2. Goa. Total vaccination coverage 2018

## Vaccination

**Total number of dogs vaccinated in December 2018 = 12,768**

Three talukas' in North Goa were completed during December 2018 and the total number of vaccinations administered in each taluka is given below;

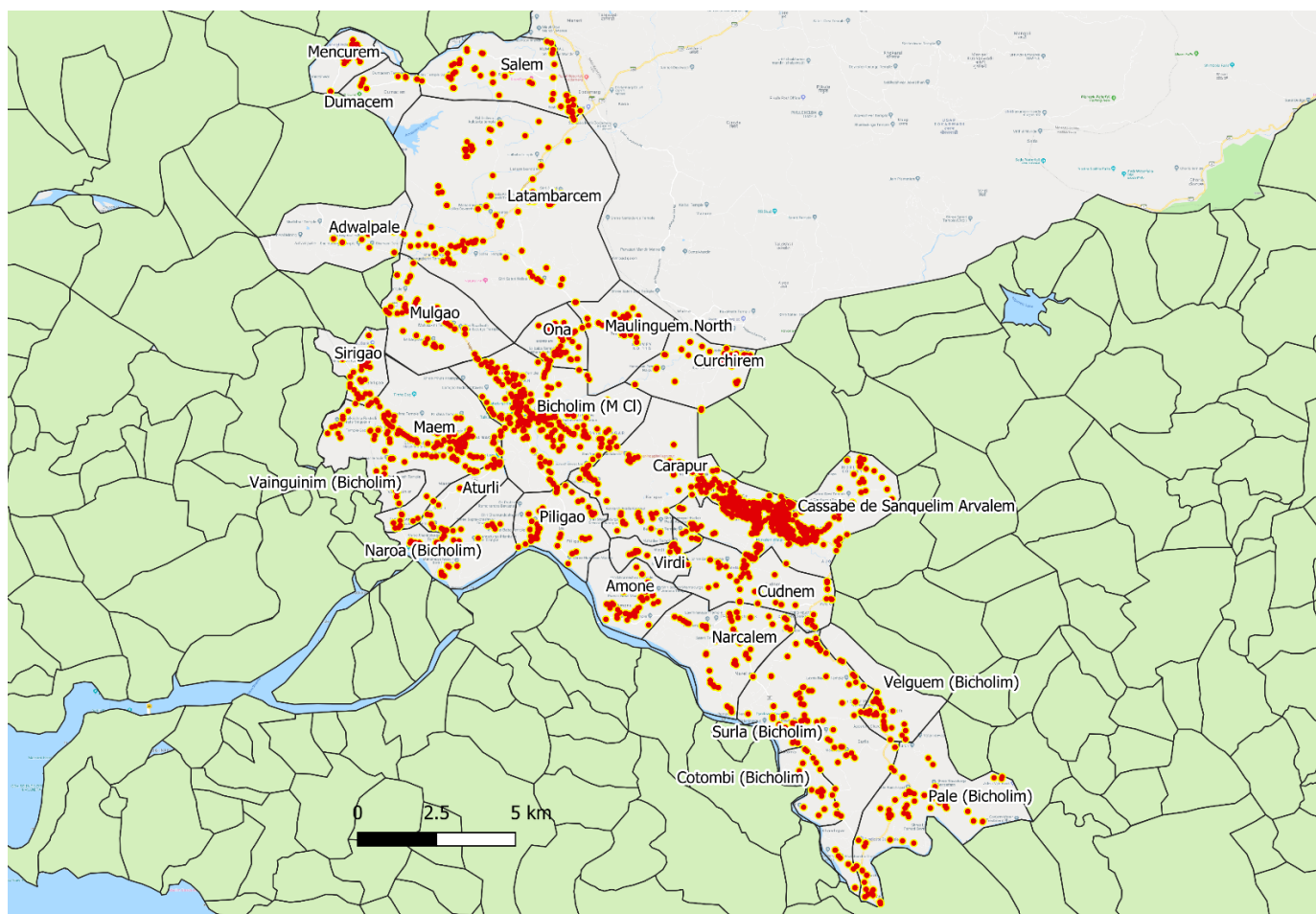
**Bicholim – 6,287 dogs vaccinated (Figure 3)**

**Satari – 3,880 dogs vaccinated (Figure 4)**

**Bardez – 20,920 dogs vaccinated (Figure 5)**

In all three talukas' a higher number of dogs were vaccinated than in 2017.

### *Bicholim Total Vaccination Coverage 2018*



**Figure 3. Bicholim Taluka. Total coverage 2018.**



## Satari Total Vaccination Coverage 2018

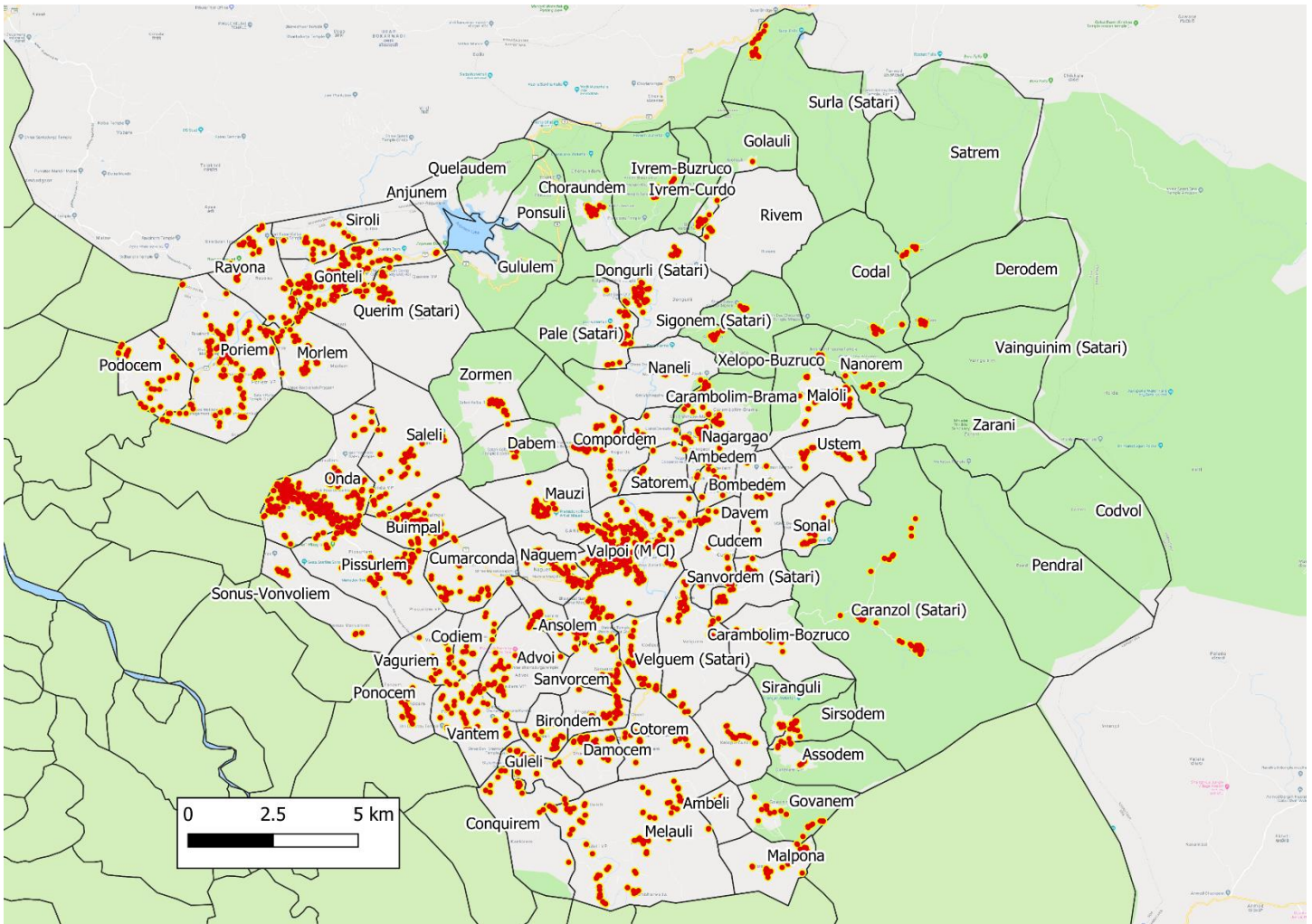
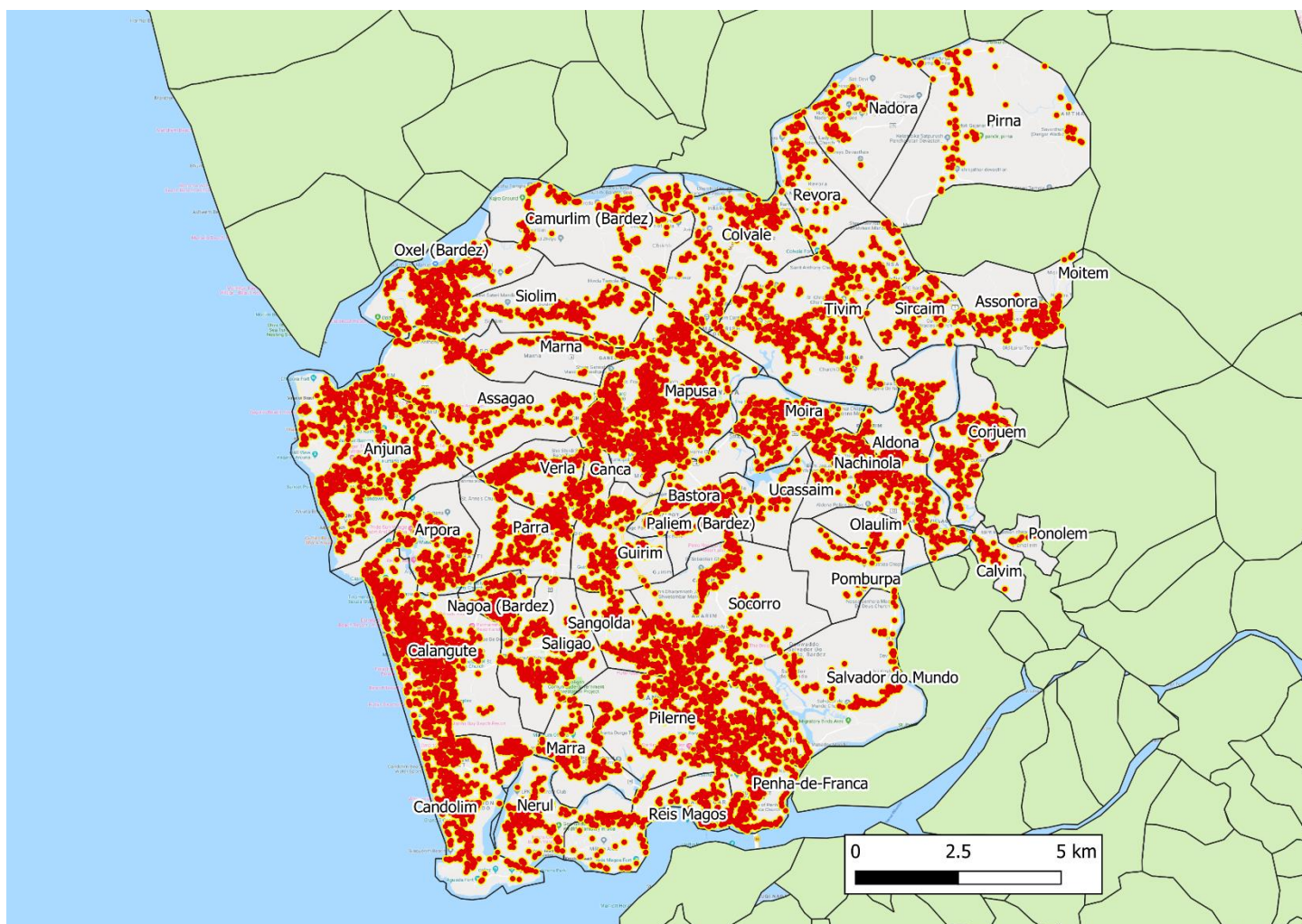


Figure 4. Satari Taluka. Total coverage 2018.



## *Bardez Total Vaccination Coverage 2018*



**Figure 5. Bardez Taluka. Total coverage 2018.**

The South squad commenced vaccination in Salcete Taluka at the beginning of December and have made excellent progress. Salcete is the largest taluka so all eight teams will work together over the next two months (January-February 2019) to complete the area.

The hand catching has also continued to go from strength to strength with most of the hand catching teams vaccinating over 100 dogs per day (Figure 6). Although the net catching teams are still required, the number of hand catching teams will be gradually increased during 2019 to save resources and promote positive human-animal interactions.



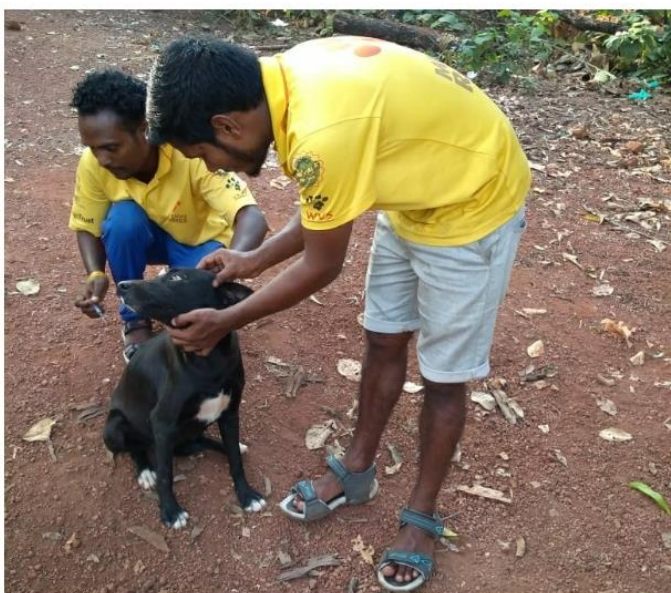


Figure 6. Hand catching teams are working exceptionally well



## Team Structure



Figure 7. Dr Kevin

During December 2018, there was a shortage of team leaders so Dr Kevin kindly stepped in to help. Dr Kevin (Figure 7) had recently graduated and despite being new to WVS he did an excellent job managing the team. Thank you also to Dr Sachin, who has just completed his six-week MR/WVS rotation. We hope to see them both back again with Mission Rabies in 2019!

In addition, two new permanent team leaders have been welcomed to the team – Dilip Gaude (Figure 8) and Anex Wilson (Figure 9). Dilip is a government trained veterinary assistant from Ponda, Goa and Anex is from Thrissur in Kerala. Anex recently completed his degree in computer science and has previously undertaken the veterinary assistant training course with WVS in Ooty.



Figure 8. Dilip – Team Leader

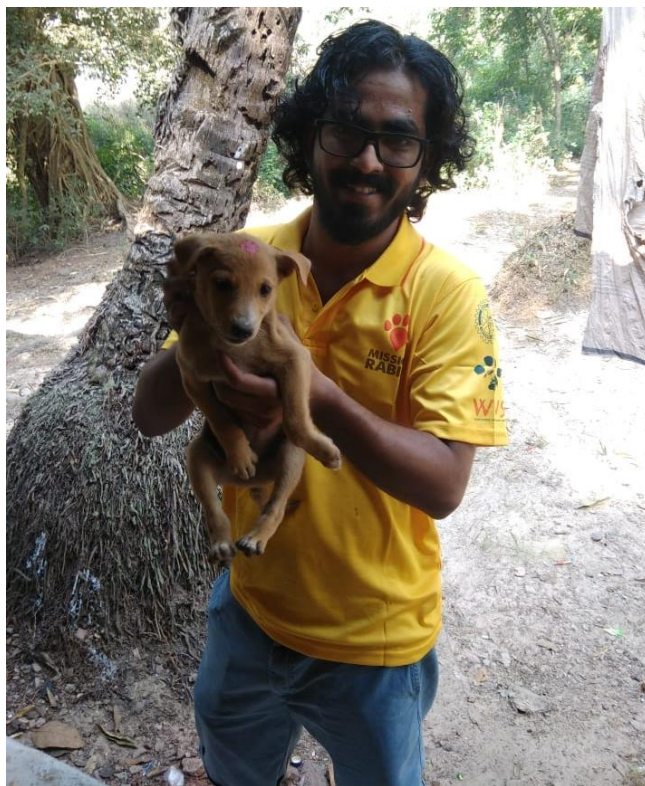


Figure 9. Anex – Team Leader

## Zero human rabies deaths in Goa in 2018!!!!

Since Mission Rabies commenced working in Goa the human rabies deaths decreased dramatically and this year there have been zero human deaths in the state.

### Total number of positive rabies cases in December 2018 = 1

Although the number of positive rabid animals has decreased, the team are still actively responding to cases and removing suspected rabid dogs from the community. During December 2018, three cases were attended to and three necropsies were performed. One dog was confirmed positive for rabies and details of the case are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Positive Rabies Summary

Date of rabies case	Taluk	Ward/Area	Male/Female	Neutered or entire	Age	Owned or Stray
27.12.18	Pernem	Arambol	Male	Entire	8 years	Owned

The dog which was confirmed positive, was a family pet aged 8 years. However, he was not operated and had no history of vaccination. The dog was bitten by another dog in the local area and after several days he started to become more and more aggressive. On the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2018, the dog bit his owner. Due to the sudden change in behaviour the owner tied the dog but he managed to escape and was chasing people in the village. Omkar – IBCM Officer along with one of the teams attended to the case after receiving a call on the emergency hotline and managed to catch the dog that was running out of control. The dog was humanely euthanised and a post-mortem was conducted.

This was a particularly sad case, as the owner was completely distraught at the loss of his dog – a loving, friendly dog who had been a part of their lives for 8 years. They requested to have the dogs body returned following post-mortem so that a burial ceremony could be carried out. If only the dog had been vaccinated this sad loss could have been prevented. The images in Figure 10 show the teams responding to the case, the post-mortem result and the dog's burial.

The Mission Rabies Emergency Hotline received a total of 303 calls this month (Table 2). The majority of calls (145) concerned a request for vaccination followed by treatment requests (111) for a sick or injured dog. Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM) Officer – Omkar, has continued visiting hospitals and following up on bite cases. Table 3 summarises the IBCM cases during December 2018.



**Table 2. Monthly Hotline Report (1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)**

	<b>Nature of call</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Vaccination request	145
2	Treatment request for sick or injured dog	111
3	Suspected rabid dog	3
4	Dog Nuisance/Menace	25
5	Adoption/rehoming request	3
6	Missing dog	1
7	Dog bitten by another dog	2
8	General dog related inquiry	10
9	Wrong number	3
10	Other	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>

**Table 3. IBCM Monthly Report (1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)**

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>Mapusa District Hospital</b>	<b>Aldona Hospital</b>	<b>Siolim Primary Health Centre</b>	<b>Valpoi Government Hospital</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total cases followed up	216	34	85	35	<b>370</b>
People contacted	85	8	30	8	<b>131</b>
Stray dog bite	52	3	15	2	<b>72</b>
Owned dog bite	33	5	13	6	<b>57</b>
Phone investigation	85	8	30	4	<b>127</b>
In-person investigation	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Full PEP advised	35	2	8	1	<b>46</b>
Could have stopped PEP	20	5	15	4	<b>44</b>

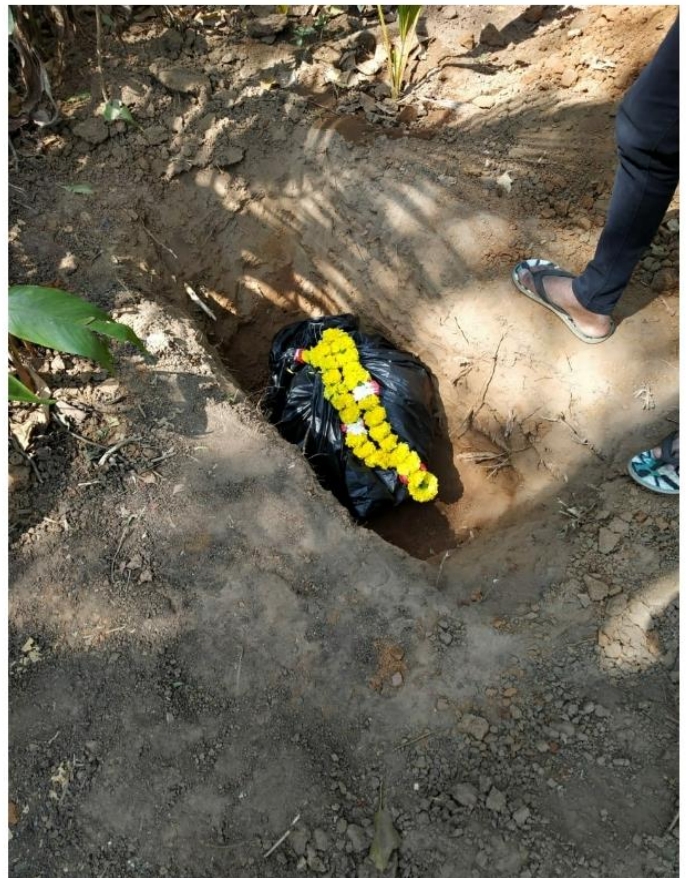
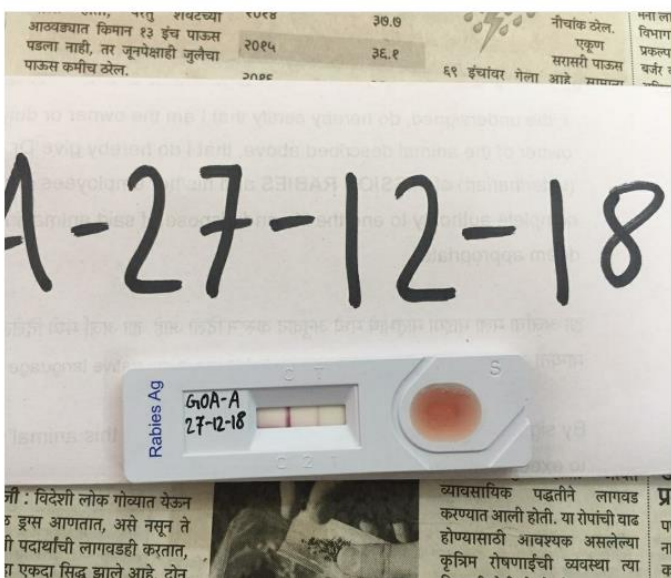


Figure 10. Pet dog aged 8 years confirmed positive for rabies



## Education Team

### Mission Rabies Educates One Million Children in India!!!!

It has been a special month for the education team in Goa as they celebrated the education of one million children in India. The milestone is a result of its work delivering rabies education lessons over the last five years, empowering children in local schools and community groups with the knowledge of how to protect themselves from rabies and what actions to take if bitten by a potentially rabid dog.

In 2018, no rabies-related human deaths have been recorded in Goa or Ranchi, Mission Rabies' two Indian project sites, as a result of Mission Rabies' focused vaccination and education campaigns. The lessons often take the form of creative role playing performed by Mission Rabies staff and interactive participation from children to help them learn the actions they should take to stay safe from rabies.

Dr Murugan Appupillai (Figure 11), Director of Education in India stated that:

*“One third of all human rabies deaths occur in India which is why our work here is so important. By educating children in schools we are having a real impact where it’s needed most. We prioritise primary schools as we know that children are more receptive to new messages at this age and more likely to share these with their community, so there is a multiplier effect for each of these one million children reached. It is great to see people putting our lessons into practice.”*



Figure 11. Dr Murugan – Director of Education in India

During 2018, **86%** of all the 1633 Primary, Middle and High schools of Goa state were covered in addition to the community education and education support for higher vaccination coverage. The education statistics from all rabies projects are recorded on the Mission Rabies app similar to vaccination, a bespoke tool that utilises smartphone technology to support Mission Rabies work and ensure the campaigns are effective and measurable. To mark the occasion the Times of India as well as many other local papers published articles declaring that Goa is on its way to becoming India's only rabies-free state (Figure 12).

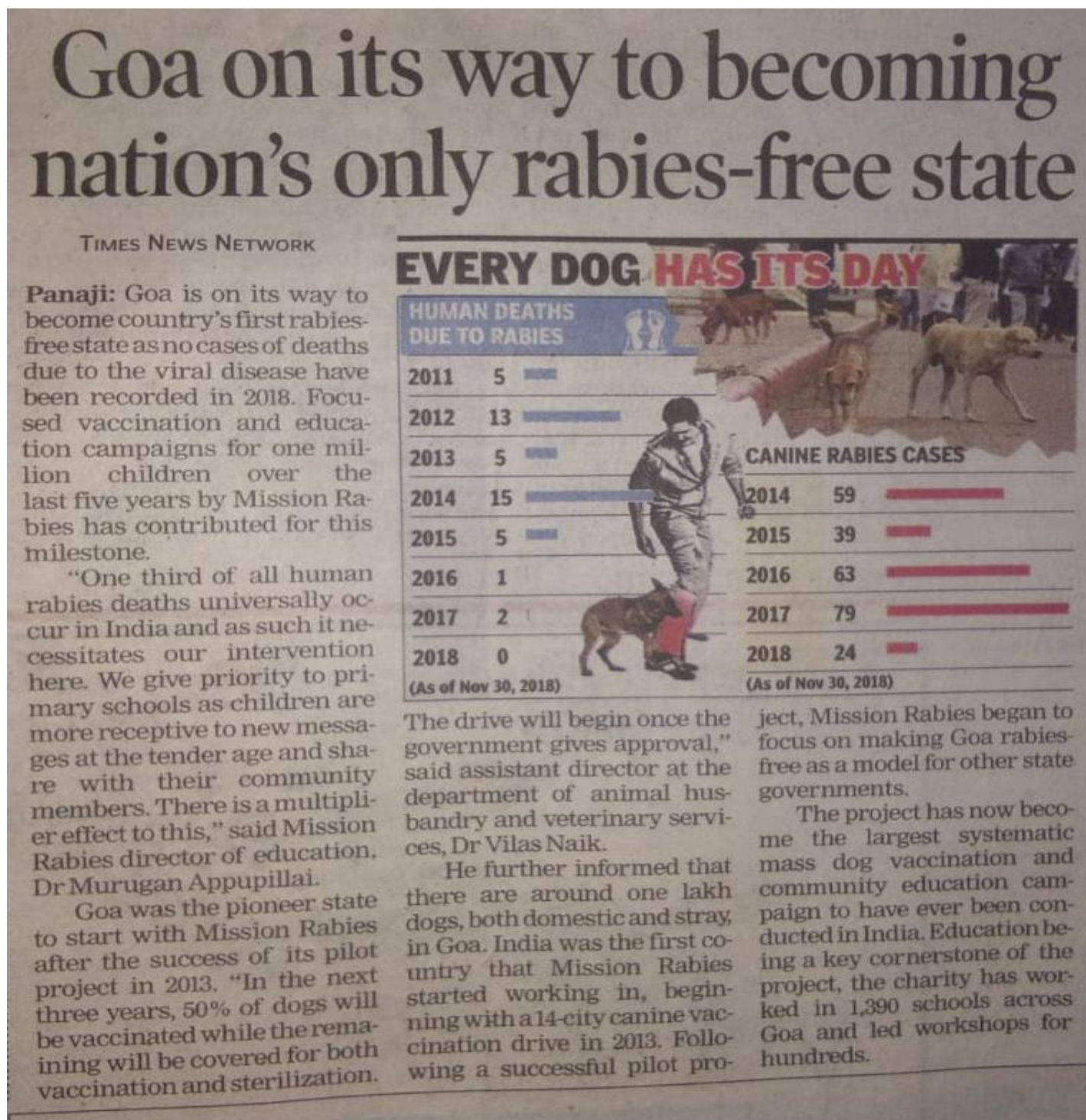


Figure 12. Article published in the Times of India



## Rescues and Releases

### Total number of rescue cases during December 2018 = 41!!!!

It has been an extremely busy month for the team but this hasn't stopped them attending to animals in need. A total of 41 sick and injured animals were rescued by the teams which included 24 dogs with maggot wounds. Sadly, 8 dogs/puppies had to be euthanised as their injuries were too severe. Other cases included RTA's, severe mange, eye injuries, flea anemia and poisoning. A few of the rescue cases are shown in Figure 13.

As the teams rescue work is increasing, they have started to collect donations which will enable Mission Rabies to continue to help animals across Goa particularly out-of-hours when most of the NGO's and veterinary clinics are closed. During December 2018, the teams collected a total of 7500 Indian rupees - (84.65 Pound sterling). 3000 rupees was kindly donated by Helen Stringer, Daniel Saite and Angie from the UK. They were in Goa on holiday when they noticed a paralysed dog dragging herself along the beach and hiding under one of the beach shacks. The dog was severely injured and the only option was to euthanise her. They were so upset over the dog, yet extremely thankful we were able to help. A further 2000 rupees was given by Linda – also from the UK, who alerted the team to a beach dog with a prolapsed eye and another 1000 rupees was given by a family in Satari for the team to transport a stray dog with an infected, maggot infested ear to WVS Hicks ITC for treatment (Figure 14).

In addition to the rescue cases, 16 dogs were released back to their original locations following treatment at local NGO's (Figure 15).

*Thank you to our partners at WVS Hicks ITC and South Goa Welfare Trust for Animals for helping us with so many rescue cases again this month!*





Figure 13. A total of 41 animals rescued during December 2018



Donations  
received



Figure 14. Tourists and locals donated towards the animal rescues



Dogs  
released



I am back friends



his friends



Figure 15. A few of the animals being released following treatment



## Other News

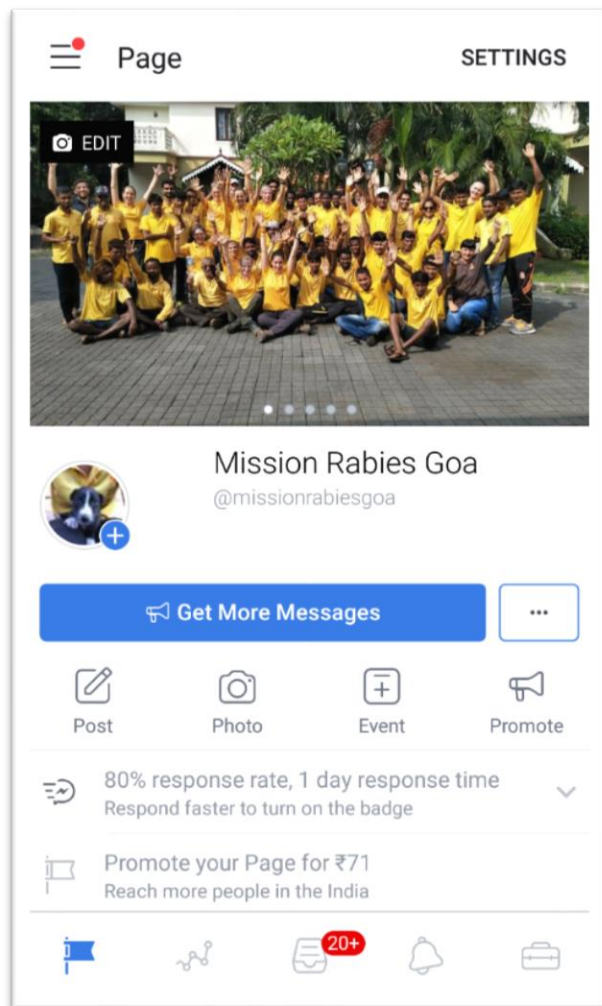


Figure 16. Mission Rabies Goa Facebook Page



The Mission Rabies Goa Facebook page was set up earlier this year and in December 2018 the page reached over 1000 likes (current total 1142 likes and 1149 followers).

The page (Figure 16) has been a great success and is a useful way for Mission Rabies to interact with the local Goan community. Not only are stories and cases shared directly from the field; regular updates are given regarding the team's movements and areas for vaccination.

The page will continue to be developed and we look forward to sharing more stories with all of our followers throughout 2019!

The final batch of WVS participants for the year, accompanied the Mission Rabies teams for a morning session of vaccination on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The participants helped with administering vaccinations, data collecting, writing vaccination cards and handing out emergency hotline cards to members of the public (Figure 17). The exchange program has been a great success and Mission Rabies is looking forward to welcoming more participants in 2019!





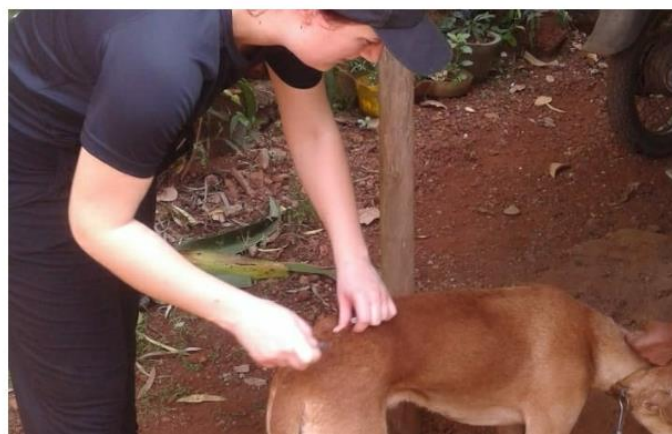


Figure 17. The final batch of WVS/MR participants for 2018



On the 24<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Christmas Eve, the vaccination teams were encouraged to join in the local festivities by entering the Mission Rabies Goa Christmas photo competition. The winning team, for the most creative photo, was 'Leopards' led by Frank Fernandes (Figure 18). Some of the other entries are shown in Figure 19).



Figure 18. Team Leopards were the photo competition winners

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***Finally,***  
***the Mission Rabies Goa team would like to***  
***wish everyone Merry Christmas and a very***  
***Happy New Year!***



Merry Christmas!



Figure 19. Christmas photo competition entries



## Mission Rabies Goa Project Full Vaccination Summary

Year	Vaccination Total
2013	5,767
2014	24,306
2015	56,681
2016	51,294
2017	96,033
2018 to date	97,000 + (exact figure to be confirmed)

*Thank you to all our supporters!*

