

Uganda Rabies Eradication and Animal Welfare Initiative

End of Year Report 2024

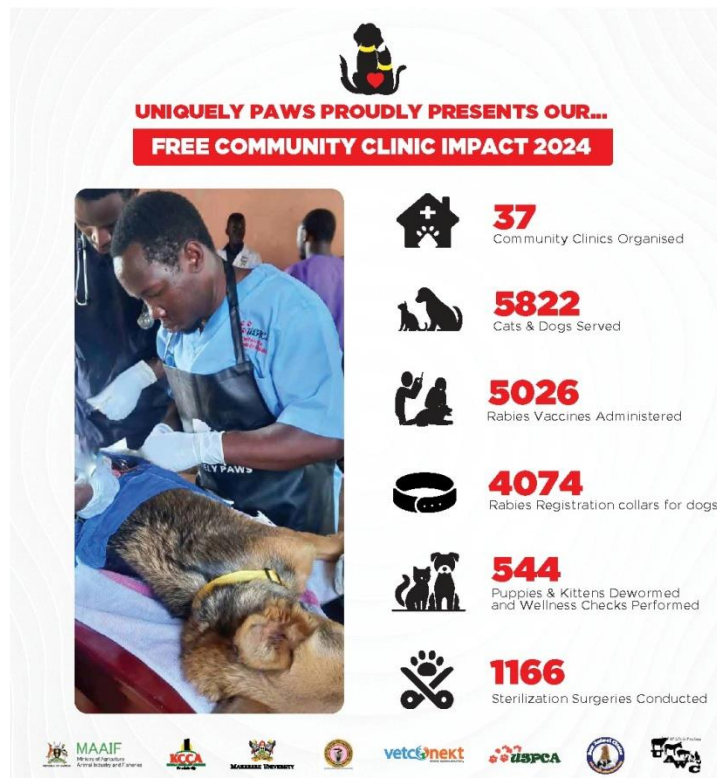
Congratulations to the team for an incredible year. We have far surpassed our goals set in January 2024, and we look forward to strengthening our initiative in 2025 with new partners, sponsors, communities and more.

Please find here a recap our goals and our yearly results:

GOALS 2024:

1. **Eradicate Rabies:** Administer 3,500+ rabies vaccinations to both owned and un-owned (roaming) animals across urban and rural communities.
2. **Population Control:** Conduct 500+ spay and neuter surgeries to manage the owned dog and cat population, with a focus on reducing un-owned roaming dogs that would enter into the population at up to 40 animals every two years from unspayed females.
3. **Education:** Educate 5000 pet owners and school children on the importance of responsible pet ownership, fostering a culture of compassion and safety for both humans and animals.

RESULTS 2024:



Thank you to our local & international donors for your support to help us exceed our goals: Uniquely Paws Ltd, SPCA International, MAAIF, Anna Therese Schoell, Appetite, URUS Uganda Ltd, VSF Germany, & IDI/Resolve.



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A word from our Major Sponsor, Uniquely Paws Ltd:

Uniquely Paws Ltd was started by two women with a love for animals and kismet of being New Yorkers living and loving Uganda. It all started from meeting at a community pet care clinic in Kawempe hosted by USPCA in 2019, and has blossomed into this amazing coalition of animal advocates. We never could have imagined such success in such a short time, and we look forward to many more years with this team as we make our communities in Uganda safer, and our next generation of pet owners gets to feel the love that we as pet owners have also felt all of our lives.

Sue & Meg



Additions made to our Initiative in 2024:

1. Yellow Collars: These collars are locally produced by a women's group in Lubowa offering new employment as a part of our initiative. The collar indicates to the community that this animal is safe from rabies.



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2. After Surgery Pet Care Guide: Ensuring that all pet guardians know how to take care of their pet patients for 14 days after sterilization surgery.



3. Rabies Hero Stickers: Thanking and recognizing the community for getting involved in our program.

4. Online tracking: Our program's community clinic data is now tracking online on GARC (Global Alliance for Rabies Control).



5. Supporting action research: Through this program, students and researchers actively engage in action research, primarily focusing on disease surveillance to better understand the prevalence of diseases, worms, and parasites that can potentially spread from dogs to their owners. In 2024, the program yielded three significant publications: The first paper identified common viruses carried by free-roaming dogs. The second highlighted how community behaviors, such as dog abandonment and poor breeding practices, contribute to the roaming of owned dogs. The third demonstrated how allowing unvaccinated dogs to roam acts as a catalyst for the spread of rabies. These studies provide critical insights into public health and animal welfare. They can be accessed online by searching for free-roaming dogs in Uganda.

Other critical Statistics:

1. Makerere Veterinary Students cross trained:

A total of 100 students from the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources, and Biosecurity participated in the community clinic program. These students, drawn from various programs including the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Bachelor of Animal Production, Wildlife Management, and Biomedical Laboratory Technology, actively engage in the clinics in groups of 15-25 per session.

Through this initiative, students are involved in all aspects of the clinic, including pet registration, vaccinations, treatments, and surgeries, providing them with invaluable hands-on experience. For final-year Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine students, in particular, this program is a vital component of their education. As they are in a lecture-free year, participation in ambulatory clinics is a mandatory requirement, allowing them to build clinical skills and prepare for professional practice.

This initiative not only enhances their learning but also ensures they are well-equipped for the demands of veterinary medicine.

2. Upcountry Veterinarians cross trained in sterilization:

To ensure the sustainability of this program, it is crucial to empower local veterinarians with the skills and passion needed to continue the work beyond the day of the free community clinic camps. To achieve this, we collaborate closely with veterinary officers in the areas where the community clinics are conducted, providing them with continuous professional development in pet sterilization techniques.



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In 2024, we partnered with 12 veterinary surgeons from the Uganda Small Animal Practitioners Association and successfully trained 26 veterinary officers in the various regions we visited. This approach not only enhances the capacity of local veterinarians but also ensures that the benefits of the program extend well beyond the initial outreach, fostering long-term impact within the communities.

3. Press mentions:

The communities we support often face a lack of access to crucial information, and media plays a vital role in bridging this gap. In 2024, our team actively participated in several radio talk shows, including the renowned Radio One Talk, Kisoro Fm, Kasese FM. Back, to discuss critical issues such as rabies control and responsible dog ownership as well as safe dog population control through surgeries “Family Planning”. These platforms allowed us to reach a broader audience, raising awareness and engaging directly with listeners to address their concerns and questions.

In addition to our radio engagements, our initiatives received extensive coverage in several prominent news articles, underscoring the importance of rabies control and responsible pet ownership. Below are some of the articles that featured our work:

1. [Free Vaccinations, Surgeries for Cats and Dogs](#) – Published by *New Vision*, this article highlighted our efforts to provide free vaccinations and surgeries, promoting safe dog population control and preventing rabies.
2. [Busia Rolls Out Vaccination Drive for Dogs, Cats After Rabies Outbreak](#) – *Daily Monitor* covered the vaccination drive in Busia, showcasing community-led efforts to tackle rabies outbreaks.
3. [Rabies: A Deadly Dog Bite](#) – A feature in *Daily Monitor's* Healthy Living magazine that explored the dangers of rabies and the importance of preventive measures.
4. [Vaccinate Your Dogs Annually, Mityana Residents Urged](#) – Published by *New Vision*, this article emphasized the need for annual vaccinations to ensure community safety.
5. [Over 2,000 Animals Vaccinated During World Rabies Day](#) – This *New Vision* piece celebrated the success of our World Rabies Day campaigns, which saw thousands of animals vaccinated.
6. [Minister Kabyanga Promises New Govt Commitment to End Rabies in Uganda by 2030](#) – An article in *The Independent* highlighting the government's renewed pledge to eradicate rabies by 2030, aligning with our mission to create rabies-free communities.

4: School Outreach:

For each community clinic, our team organizes a school outreach program in the area to sensitize and educate children about responsible pet ownership. Experience has shown that community clinics held during school hours tend to have lower turnout rates, as children play a pivotal role in bringing pets for vaccinations.

In 2024, we successfully conducted five school outreach programs, reaching over 500 school-going children. These programs not only help instill a sense of responsibility and care for pets at an early age but also significantly contribute to the success of our community clinics by fostering awareness and active participation among the younger generation.



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Improvements planned for 2025:

1. Improved mobilization at the LC and District level by engaging with leaders at least 45 days prior to an event on the ground. USAPA and Vetconekt to take the lead.
2. Engaging more organizations with a similar mission in order to strengthen our joint efforts instead of duplicating and wasting valuable resources. (ie CAU clinics, Big Fix Clinics, Jinja Rescue, and KCCA Vaccination campaign)
3. Gaining recognition as a public health service provider in order to get free medical supplies for clinics, and forming a registered coalition (if required). USAPA to take the lead (been in progress since March 2024)
4. Create media kits and get more press involved at our events. UP and KCCA to take the lead.
5. Improve cross posting amongst all team members for wider reach. UP to establish guidelines.
6. Get at least 200,000,000 ugx in local sponsorship in order to achieve improved results in 2025. EVERYONE NEEDS TO HELP WITH THIS.
7. Engage with more International Organizations who are providing components of our mission in order to expand our reach (VSF Germany, USAID/CDC, Mission Rabies). Everyone can get involved in this. If you are asked to support a mission, please alert the coalition.
8. Every 2 years, we need to vaccinate dogs against distemper. Right now no dogs are vaccinated, and our death rate is too high. We need to begin to add this vaccine into our mix. Regulators need to look at requirements. KCCA to determine regulation for Kampala, and USAPA and Vetconekt to make recommendations to UVA.

GOALS for 2025:

1. Rabies Vaccination: 7500 cats and dogs (6000 rabies collars)
2. Sterilization: 1500 dogs and cats
3. School Outreach: 5000 students
4. If funding becomes available: 500 puppy cocktail and 500 parvo vaccines
5. 44 Free Community Pet Care clinics throughout Uganda with an emphasis our 5 year program on existing locations to get herd immunity, on rabies outbreak districts in the East, and Wakiso District in order to stop the mass poisoning culture.

Budget 2025

Here is our program budget for 2025, which includes our sales events to raise money and support our women artisans who make animal-themed items for us to sell, our programs of clinics, and our administrative overhead.



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Operating Budget 2025	Uniquely Paws Limited		
Income	2025	Budget	% of funds
Donations- USA		\$ 10,640	11%
Donations- Uganda		\$ 28,210	30%
Donations – Int’l		\$ 5,000	5%
Sales		\$ 8,000	8%
Major Events		\$ 4,500	5%
Major Donor		\$ 9,500	10%
Grant		\$ 29,500	31%
	Total	\$ 95,350	
Expense			
Cost of Sales		\$ 7,850	8%
Program			
	Community Clinics (44)	\$ 44,000	
	Surgical kits/Tables	\$ 1,100	
	Other Animal Rescue Needs (parvo/cocktails)	\$ 2,000	
	Coloring Books/crayons (100 per clinic)	\$ 6,600	
	Printing/Graphics	\$ 2,200	
	Collars/inputs	\$ 10,500	
	Subtotal	\$ 66,400	70%
Admin	Admin/Marketing/Legal	\$ 21,037	22%

\$ 1,509
on
average

Major Sponsorship Opportunities:

1. Hydration Sponsor: Provide water for 30 volunteers at every clinic. Value: 2,700,000ugx
2. Tent Sponsor: Provide 2*100 seater tents and each clinic . Value: 13,500,000ugx
3. Eats Sponsor: Provide lunch for 30 volunteers at every clinic. Value: 16,200,000ugx
4. Medical Supplies Sponsor: Provide all gauze, syringes, sutures, scalpels, etc at every clinic. Value: 44,000,000ugx
5. Medicine Sponsor: Provide all medicine for 1500 surgeries. Value: 20,655,000ugx
6. Puppy Sponsor: Provide all vaccines for 500 young puppies. Value: 40,000,000ugx



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- 7. Collar Sponsor: Every dog which gets a rabies vaccination gets a registration collar. Value: 27,500,000ugx
 - 8. Children Education Sponsor: 100 children pet guardians at every clinic will receive a pet care coloring book to help them learn how to properly care for their pets. Value: 24,000,000ugx
 - 9. Transport Sponsor: Shuttle Vets and supplies upcountry for 15 clinics. Value: 22,500,000ugx
 - 11. Media Sponsor: Media coverage at each of our clinics. Value: 9,000,000ugx
 - 10. Admin Sponsor: Cover allowances for vets and vet techs and provide administrative support for our Event leaders who coordinate every clinic. Value: 42,811,000ugx
- Total Program Value: 262,866,000ugx

It takes a village! And here is our village.... Help us save lives in 2025!



Please feel free to reach out to our leadership team with your questions.

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