



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Thank you, our 2022 partners,**

“Compassion for animals is intimately associated with goodness of character, and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man”

(Authur Schopenhauer)

A deep sense of fulfillment engulfs the heart of many when the words of Authur Schopenhauer are heard.

More is icing on the heart when a stray animal finally realizes that it has a home and a people to call family or downer served with water and food at livestock markets. The show of gratitude in their body language and eye contact brings the real purpose of living to meaning.

The real joy and fulfillment is reached when the wacpaw team sets out into the farms, markets and even abattoirs relief these lovely voiceless animals of very serious pains, injuries and sometimes avoidable deaths.

The West Africa Centre for the Protection of Animal Welfare (WACPAW) proud itself to have a purposeful focus, steady love for people and their culture, and profound love for animals and the environment. Last year was not really a good year for us because we were recovering from COVID 19, we didn't do enough work in the field but that notwithstanding, we were able to train 22 pig butchers on how to use the captive bolt stunner to render pigs on the slaughter unconscious before cutting their throats.

This translated into saving 97 pigs daily from excruciating pains from open wounds in their necks. Another 47 livestock handlers were also trained humane handling of animals during loading and unloading.

These among others were what we achieved in 2021.

WACPAW in the mist of huge challenges of lack of infrastructure, knowledge and skills in the livestock sector thrives to ensure the dignity and welfare of all animals are protected and save guarded at all times.

On behalf of the board members and the entire WACPAW team, I thank each and every one of you who donated their time, energy and financial resources to support the team working tirelessly to help improve the lives of the many animals in Ghana.

If you want to join our in any capacity, please reach out to us.

There is still a lot you can do for us through networking, fundraising efforts and even working with us remotely or virtually to continue to give meaningful lives to the voiceless animals across Ghana.

Abdul-Rahman Safian

Executive Directive.

## Improving Facilities:

As part of efforts at improving the dignity and welfare of animals at the abattoir, WACPAW is not only concerned about the welfare of the animals that are brought into the abattoirs but the condition of those facilities too. That is why WACPAW assisted the Northern Regional Abattoir in Tamale to screed the floor with Terrazzo. The floor hitherto was smoothly tiled and had a big open drain at the entrance. These conditions were not good for the animals as these terrified animals on death row were not spared of injuries from the slippery floor and broken legs and hips from open drain at the entrance.

We got the floor screeded with terrazzo which is a bit rough and covered the drains thereby making movement inside the abattoir easy for the animals.

About 162 animals entering the abattoir was saved from injuries of slippery floor and broken legs and hips from the open drains.

**We are sincerely grateful to Eyes on Animals financing the project.**



The Director of WACPAW interacting with Tamale Metro Coordinator and his team during the handing over ceremony

## Home visits

The WACPAW team periodically visits livestock farmers in their farms or homes to inspect the conditions of their facilities and the welfare condition of the animals and offer practical suggestions and solutions to identified problems and challenges.

The team was in Lamakara a suburb of Tamale for such routine visits and realized that about 12 sheep of one of the farmers could not walk properly and freely due to over grown nails. We quickly set ourselves up to task even though we didn't have modern tools. We managed to clip the nails of all 12 sheep using a machet and a hammer. The farmer was then encourage the farmer to always look out for such problems and try fixing them.



**Director of WACPAW clipping the over grown nails of the sheep**

## INSPECTION OF DOG MARKET IN BOLGATANGA

Bolgatanga is the capital city of upper region of Ghana. The dominant tribes there are Frafras, kasinas and Gurunsi. The people there are mostly peasant farmers and poverty level s there is relatively high. Most of the uneducated young people there are have either traded or is trading in either live dogs and cats or their meat. The Bolga dog and cat market is a weekly business day where live dogs and cats are brought from far and near to be sold to mostly consumers. The cats and dogs are brought in cages without food or water. Their population could



reach 70 on each market day. Our team observed serious welfare challenges including, lack of food and water, rough handling, untreated injuries and wounds, chained all day, most of them were looking very sick and has never been vaccinated for anything and emaciated. We engaged their leadership on how we could help fix some of the immediate problems and work towards finding alternate source of livelihood them and eventually close the market. They were very open and frank with us. It is our hope and believe that the market would be closed in the near future.

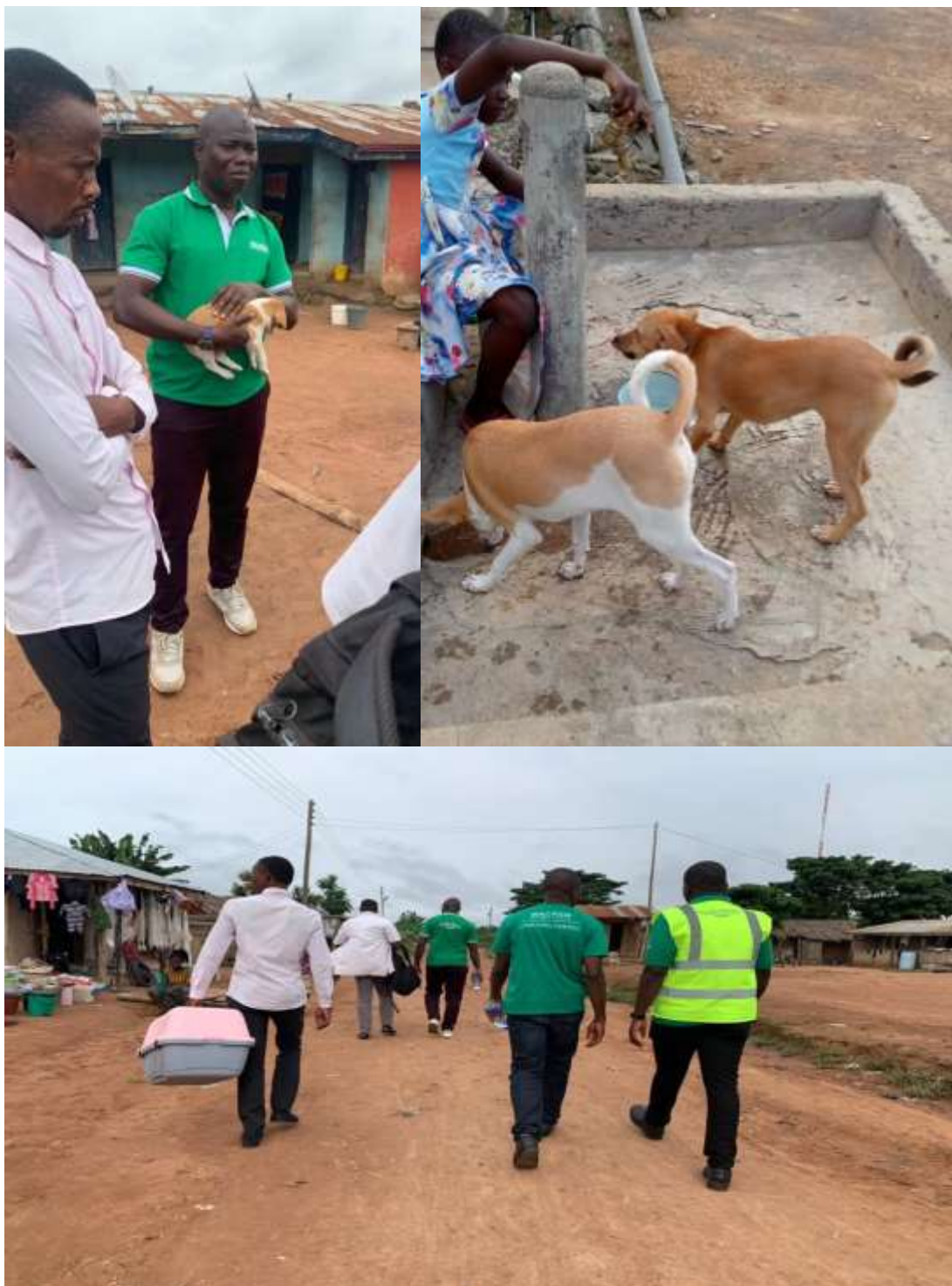


Director of WACPAW at the Dog and Cat market in Bolga.

## **RESCUE OF PUPPIES**

The trade and consumption of Dog and Cat meat in Ghana is reaching an alarming rate. Dog and Cat meat is a delicacy among certain ethnic groups in Ghana and therefore, would not leave anything to chance whenever they have the opportunity to kill a dog or cat for a meal. Wacpaw early in the year started a program called “A friend not Food” which is aimed at educating people on the importance of dogs and cats in the life of humans and the health implications of the consumptions of dog and cat meat. As part of the project, we set up an animal rescue shelter to serve as temporal homes for stray and abused animals. Ananikrom is a suburb of Kumasi where the community members breed and sell puppies and kittens to dog and meat consumers every market day. Wacpaw went there and sensitized them about to need to abhor that habit. After the sensitization, we managed to rescue three puppies who were on their way to the market. We brought them to our rescue centre in Kumasi. They have since been adopted by a UK charity-Home for China Dogs where they will leave and finally find their forever homes.

**Thank you EonA and its partners including Home for China, Coalition for Cruelty Free Africa, Reboundog and Pet-Pardon.**



## **RABIES SENSITIZATION**

The WACPAW team was in Fiapre in the Bono region of Ghana to do a house to house campaign on rabies prevention and control. We visited 35 homes out of which 27 homes had dogs and cats. We could not however carry out vaccination because we did not have funds to do that. It was however very successful as

residents expressed their gratitude to the team to reaching to them about rabies. We also visited a number of radio stations to continue to educate the public about rabies. The radio engagement made us to reach over 5000 audience and helped us to demystify some misconceptions about the rabies vaccine. Many of those who use their dogs for hunting refused to vaccinate their dogs because it was believed that, when a dog is vaccinated, it becomes lazy, weak and would not be able hunt again when you send it out for hunting. Also, it was believed that it is only through dog bite that one can get rabies. That was also explained well enough by the team.



One of our volunteers(Mubarak)educating some residents of Fiapre about Rabies and Dr.Awal and Mr.Safian discussing Rabies at Radio Tamale.

We are sincerely grateful to Dr Awal Fuseini AHDB UK for donating some funds and physically helping in the project.

### **PET DAY OUT-A WALK TO END ANIMAL CRUELTY IN GHANA**

October 4<sup>th</sup> every year is celebrated world as WORLD ANIMAL DAY by animal welfare organizations, animal Rights Groups and Animal Lovers to drum home the need to prioritize the issues of animals in all human endeavors. On this day, a lot of activities are organized to sensitized and advocate for the proper treatment of animals in our daily lives.

WACPAW organized THE PET DAY OUT program to encourage pet owners to come out and walk with them on some of the principal streets of Tamale as form of exercise, get them vaccinated for free and also listen to about pet welfare. About 276 people participated in the walk with only one person coming with his pet. The group walk into an injured dog who we were told was runover by a



speeding motor cyclist. We quickly rescued him with the help of the Tamale Metro Director of veterinary and his team. Unfortunately, we lost it after two weeks of intensive treatment. The walk was a success as participant expressed their excitement for the education they have received from organizers.







### **INSPECTION OF SIMPRICA FOODS**

WACPAW inspected a number of abattoirs to see at first hand the condition of facilities and also train their slaughter men and handlers on humane handling and slaughter and also the use of the captive bolt stunner to render animals unconscious before slaughter.

WACPAW was at SIMPRICA FOODS, a newly established private abattoir in Accra. They slaughter an average of 6 goats, 6 sheep and 30 pigs a week. The owner had heard about our (EonA and WACPAW) work at another slaughterhouse in Accra where we held a training and made major improvements at (Jfamco) several years ago and asked the team if they could come and train his workers too. The butchers were all taught how to first render animals unconscious and insensitive to pain using a stunner. Then they were trained in the humane method of catching and restraining poultry upright instead of held upside down by one leg.

We donated one captive bolt stunner, two knives and one box of cartridges to the plant so that animals will at least suffer much less in the future. We also gave them a monitoring sheet for accountability and proper use of the equipment. A safety and operational guide were also given. The manager was particularly grateful and promised to immediately start using the equipment. **Thank you, Eyes on Animals, for sponsoring this project.**



### **INSPECTION AND TRAINING AT AMPOMAA FARMS**

WACPAW went to Ampomaa farms at the Eastern Region as part its routine visits to livestock farms and abattoirs in Ghana to inspect the facilities and also the conditions of animals at those places. Ampomaa Farms is one of the biggest livestock farms we have visited with over 2000 pigs of different weights and sizes, poultry, turkeys, sheep and goats. They kill an average of 20-35 pig a week. His facility was quiet good except he had Farrow crates for pregnant sows which is not animal welfare friendly, animals were roughly handled, they were also using club to render pigs unconscious before slaughtering which is barbaric and inhumane and the general behavior of the workers was not humane and friendly. We quickly scheduled a two-day training with them during which we train them on humane handling and slaughter especially with the use of the captive bolt stunner to render the pigs unconscious before slaughtering them. Six of the farm workers including the farm manager was trained in the presence of the owner. We also donated one captive bolt stunner, one box of cartridges and two slaughter knives to the owner to be used under the supervision of the farm manager. All the animals that are now going to be killed would be stunned before to reduce stress and pain.





#### OLIVES PIG ABATTOIR-GBAWE.ACCRA

The Olives Pig abattoir was constructed by the Weija Gbawe Municipal Assembly in 2021 with funds from the European Union. It is a multipurpose facility which has a breeding centre, feed mill, the abattoir, an office space and a storeroom. The director is a retired veterinary Doctor. He invited us to come and train his butcher and handlers on Humane handling and slaughter. He is familiar with animal behavior and welfare and wanted to work by example hence his request. We went there in October to do our initial inspection and prepare them for a three day practical training on humane handling, slaughter and the use of the captive bolt stunner which is used to restrain the pigs and keep unconscious before slaughter.

As usual of all the pig slaughter houses, they were using clubs to restrain the pigs before slaughter, no ramps to unload incoming pigs and the general welfare condition of the pigs were not too good.

We went back there in December with our partners from the Netherlands and Uganda and train 12 of the workers including 10 butchers and handlers and two slaughter men on humane handling and slaughter. The skills and knowledge they acquired would help to reduce injuries, stress and pain on animals during handling at unloading and slaughter.

We shall continue to monitor them to see the impact of intervention.

We donated one captive bolt stunner, one box of cartridges, two slaughter knives and a manual knife sharpener. We also assisted them to construct a wooding ramp to help with free movement of pigs from the trucks during unloading.

The workers and the management were very cooperative through out the training period and promised to implement what they have learnt from us for the betterment of the animals.

On behalf of myself and the all the volunteers of West Africa Centre for the Protection of Animal Welfare(WACPAW) wish to say a big thank you to especially Eyes On Animals(EonA) for being our main sponsor of our programs, Compassion In World Farming, Home China Dogs, Reboundog, Pet-Pardon, Animal Advocacy Africa and all others who supported us in diverse ways to achieve our objectives for the year.

We wish to encourage you to continue to support us to do more the for voiceless animals.

THANK YOU



