

# FOR VETS BEYOND BORDERS EVERY DAY IS WORLD ANIMAL DAY

Australian based charity Vets Beyond Borders (VBB) says World Animal Day serves as an important reminder of the ways in which animals enrich our lives.

World Animal Day was started in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence as a way of highlighting endangered species. October 4 was chosen as World Animal Day as it is the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals.

Fast forward to 2011 and it is now used to promote all kinds of animal life, celebrated with events internationally.

VBB's Executive Officer, Dr Jenny O'Donnell, is hoping World Animal Day will encourage more Australians to donate to organisations like VBB to ensure the increasingly relevant connection between animal and human health is highlighted.

*"Even though Australia is rabies-free, our region is at various times susceptible to rabies and other types of diseases – many of which are carried and passed on by neglected animals."*

*"VBB has projects deploy experienced volunteer veterinarians and paravets across Asia including China and India, and in the Pacific island of Vanuatu. Without the Australian public's support, efforts to improve animal health, provide veterinary training and regular immunisations cannot be expanded."*



*"It's important to remember that when animals are well cared for, so are the people who share their lives," she said.*

VBB's work also helps local people take care of their pets and community animals:

Hearing heart-warming stories like the monk from a remote monastery in the Indian Himalaya whose male dog, Moti, had been hit by a car two months prior, reinforces why VBB's work is so important. Staff at the VBB clinic in Leh, Ladakh, were forced to amputate Moti's leg, as the infection that had developed in his wound had become so severe it was unable to be salvaged.

The monk was distressed by the situation for the weeks leading up to his long trek to the clinic to seek medical attention for his beloved pet. The smile on Moti's owner's face, however, when he picked up his healthy (and newly castrated) dog was a welcome moment for VBB's volunteers and local staff. (See picture).

Please ensure VBB's work can continue and dogs like Moti don't suffer in silence. Donate or volunteer for VBB today via the weblink: <http://www.vetsbeyondborders.org/how-you-can-help/>

For VBB project photographs and other media enquiries please contact: Mandy Lamkin,  
Phone +61 2 8003 3691 or 0404 104 745,  
Email: [mandy.lamkin@vetsbeyondborders.org](mailto:mandy.lamkin@vetsbeyondborders.org)



From Facebook Vânia Fonseca

On the day of St. Francis, an Italian priest touched the world with this symbolic gesture. "Poor in spirit who sees the animals as inferior and not worthy of being loved and respected!!"