



April 2018 UPDATE

www.TheBigFixUganda.org

Our Mission:

To alleviate the suffering of animals, to improve the health and welfare of people and animals, and to promote good human-animal bonds.

HELPING UGANDA'S DOGS



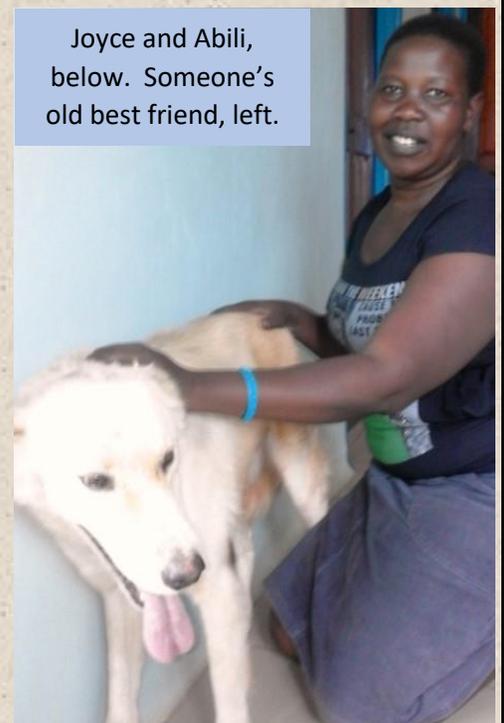
The BIG FIX's Dr. Jimmy helping a puppy in the village.

In Northern Uganda, a region home to more than 2 million people, there is only one veterinary hospital: The BIG FIX. Every day, dogs (and other animals) are brought by people who love them to the BIG FIX Hospital or our field clinics. These dog guardians have little or no money to pay for veterinary services or needed medicines. The BIG FIX helps them all, but only because donors like you financially support this lifesaving work.



Joyce and Abili, below. Someone's old best friend, left.

Joyce and her family have two big beautiful dogs they take excellent care of: 3 year old Abili (which means "Police") and 2 year old Tiger. Joyce wanted her beloved dogs to be neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, and treated for fleas and ticks, but she could only afford 10,000 shillings (about \$2.78) so that is what she paid for all the services rendered to Abili and Tiger at the hospital.



HELPING UGANDA'S DOGS

Lillian brought her little 3 year old female dog Anga Ngeyi to the hospital to be spayed. Anga had given birth to two prior litters of puppies and Lillian and her family saw Anga suffer and nearly die due to that hardship. They wanted a better life for her. For about \$1, all Lillian and her family could afford, The BIG FIX spayed, vaccinated, de-wormed, and treated Anga for fleas and ticks.

Snoopy is a 4 month old male dog who is the cherished best friend of a little girl in Rashid Ochola's family. The family wanted to make sure Snoopy, their beloved family member, had the best chance for a healthy and safe life, so they brought this little dog to the hospital to be vaccinated, de-wormed, neutered, and treated for fleas and ticks. And as with all the other dog guardians, Rashid paid what he could afford, about \$1.

Parvo virus still claims the lives of the majority of puppies in Northern Uganda today. The hospital regularly admits patients with parvo virus, a condition that is very difficult to manage with no diagnostic equipment/testing and no quarantine area. However, we are very proud that most of the parvo patients brought to us survive thanks to the treatment the hospital is able to provide. The photo to the right shows just one example of these precious young dogs who would have died without The BIG FIX Dog Hospital.



Joyce and Tiger (top),
Lillian and Anga Ngeyi
(middle), and
Rashid and Snoopy
(bottom).

The Hospital is open 7 days a week to care for the animals and our field educators are on call at all times to respond to dogs in distress or in need of rescue.

Please take action to help us continue this life-saving work.

NUMBERS SERVED

In January and February 2018, The BIG FIX Uganda held field clinics **in 7 villages, treated 1,549 animals, and performed 227 surgeries** (including 219 spays and neuters).

Our field educators also exchanged **1,409** unsafe dog neck restraints for collars or ropes and taught **1,099** dog guardians how to wash and groom their dogs.

SCHOOL OUTREACH TEAM



(Left to Right): Beatrice and Wangala, Legatek and Kura Abal, Filda and Lok Oroma, Susan and Watmon, and Lucy and Sadik.

These five beautiful and amazing dogs have transformed the lives of their guardians in ways many never imagined was possible. To say that these courageous people are war trauma victims does not begin to convey the nightmare that each of them lived through. They survived but did not thrive due to the debilitating effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Each of them had severe symptoms including flashbacks, nightmares, hypervigilance, anxiety, depression, and a host of other paralyzing effects that most of us could never begin to understand. Today, thanks to The Comfort Dog

Project and these canine companions, these survivors are virtually free of their PTSD symptoms.

Looking someone in the eye or speaking in front of a group were impossible before but now these Comfort Dog Project guardians are a loud and effective voice for animal welfare in Northern Uganda.

During February and March, our CDP Training Team visited 18 schools and communities. Their program, with our Animal Kindness Clubs, has educated thousands about the importance of caring for our animals as family members, and has created awareness about the positive impact of human-animal bonds.

Beatrice recently lost her husband and her gentle giant dog Wangala kept her from entering a realm of complete despair. She talks to people about this and how a dog's love can heal all wounds and allow us to find joy where we thought there was none. Legatek and his disk-catching marvel Kura Abal thrill and entertain crowds and inspire people to engage in play with their own dogs. Filda and Lok Oroma demonstrate how tuned in a dog can be to a beloved guardian and show that training a dog using only praise and love can produce incredibly satisfying results. Susan and Watmon demonstrate more of what a dog can do – including shaking hands – a trick that children especially enjoy seeing. And Lucy and Sadik educate people about animal cruelty. (Sadik was beaten by a neighbor and has partial paralysis in his back legs.) Her compelling narrative about the impact Sadik has had on her life, and the trauma caused when he was attacked, cannot be forgotten.

The Comfort Dog Project has been recently featured by the BBC and Voice of America, and will be featured in the upcoming issue of *Dogs Monthly* magazine.

A new class of dog-guardian teams will be starting The Comfort Dog Project in April. We still need sponsors for these dogs so please, consider sponsoring a dog or help us get the word out about this project and the need for sponsors. The total cost of rescuing, rehabilitating, placing, and training a comfort dog is \$500. These dogs receive a lifetime of free veterinary care from The BIG FIX Uganda.

FOR YOUR NEXT VACATION, DO SOMETHING

AMAZING AND UNFORGETTABLE.

VISIT THE BIG FIX UGANDA.

JOIN THE WORLD ANIMAL DAY VOLUNTEER TEAM



Dear Friends,

Attached to this Update is the program itinerary for WORLD ANIMAL DAY IN UGANDA – 2018. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to be part of our team for 8 days to help promote the status and welfare of animals in Uganda. The program is limited to 8 volunteers and if you accept this invitation, the experience will change your life, and give you fresh eyes – a new perspective on the world.

You will be working hard, but if you love animals and have an adventurous spirit, this will be the vacation of a lifetime. We will provide hands-on help to animals in need at the dog hospital and in the villages, we will work alongside The BIG FIX field educators and teach people in the village to care for and groom their dogs, we will carry out an amazing graduation celebration for The Comfort Dog Project, and we will work closely with the students in our Animal Kindness Clubs – these bright and hopeful young people who are the future leaders of Uganda. On World Animal Day, you will march with hundreds of kindness club members, Comfort Dogs and their guardians, and community members, as we remind all of Northern Uganda that *ANIMALS MATTER*.

There are opportunities for post-program touring in Uganda, “the pearl of Africa”, a truly magnificent county which is not overrun by tourism.

The program fee is \$995 per person. (Note: one half of the program fee covers the cost of your transport, meals, accommodation, and other costs of the trip and one half of the fee will help support The BIG FIX Uganda’s programs. Our goal is to have 8 volunteers, which will cover the cost of all our programs and services for one month.)

Please join this program if you can and, if you can’t join us this time, please help us get the word out about World Animal Day in Uganda 2018. We need volunteers and we need sponsors for the World Animal Day activities.

You can also visit The BIG FIX Uganda at any time of year and a customized itinerary will be prepared for you. Whenever you come, you will be lending a big hand to the animals of Uganda, and the people who love them. Thank you.



A special THANK YOU to our monthly donors Kara Donahue, Chris Eckerle, Kaitlyn Gagnon, Alexandra Gruskos, Erin Hoerig, Kelly Lyons, Posh Paws Petcare (Bonnie Ladwig), and Sharon Rickard!

We sincerely appreciate all who made donations to us in February and March 2018: Anonymous donor in Northern California, Allison Laurel, Carolyn Scotton, Andre Vasconcellos, Paul Rohrbeck, Melissa Housley, and donors in memory of Karl.

Thanks also go to those who assisted with our supply donation efforts: Project V.E.T.S., Dr. Ellie Newcomb/Paradise Ridge Pet Clinic, Le Sniff Collars, Dr. Rachael Amono, Dr. Mary Margaret Gross, Thurston County Joint Animal Services, Brennen Halvorson, and Dr. Brenda Forsythe/Orcutt Veterinary Hospital.

You are all part of The BIG FIX Team and we could not help the animals without you.



The BIG FIX Uganda is a project of Central Valley Coalition for Animals, an IRC 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID # 30-0019352. The BIG FIX Uganda is also registered as an International NGO in Uganda, registration number 0658. In the U.S., donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information, contact Sarah Schmidt, Project Coordinator, The BIG FIX Uganda, 8927 Sherman Valley Rd SW, Olympia, WA 98512; e-mail: SAS4dogs@outlook.com; telephone +1 (360) 259-9149.

WORLD ANIMAL DAY IN UGANDA – 2018



Program Itinerary

Wednesday, 26 September.

Arrive in Entebbe, Uganda.

You will be met at the airport and transferred to a very comfortable guesthouse in Entebbe, a short walk from the Lake Victoria waterfront, where you can enjoy dinner at a number of different restaurants.

Included: airport reception and transfer to your guesthouse, lodging at a 4-Star Guesthouse in Entebbe (double accommodation).

Not included: your flight to Uganda, dinner. (Note: many flights arrive after dinner.)

Note: If you would like a private room, the additional cost will be \$35. If you arrive earlier than 26 September, we will help you arrange for lodging and airport pick up, at your cost.



Thursday, 27 September.

After a lovely breakfast at the guesthouse, you will depart Entebbe in a private vehicle in the morning. Lunch en route at a local restaurant, and enjoy the scenery as you travel to Northern Uganda, crossing the Nile River at the spectacular Karuma Falls where you will meet baboons who sit along the roadside waiting for handouts from the passersby.

Arrive at The BIG FIX Uganda mid-afternoon and be warmly welcomed by The BIG FIX staff and received your official World Animal Day polo shirt. Settle you're your room, unpack, and enjoy a welcome dinner of local Acholi specialties. Take a tour of The BIG FIX Dog Hospital, Dog Lodging, and dog training area, and see our garden where we grow our own fresh vegetables for guests (human and canine).

Included: breakfast, lunch, and dinner; private car and driver to take you and the volunteer team to Gulu with a lunch stop; shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).



Friday, 28 September.

Today is **World Rabies Day** and you will have the chance to help on the front lines at our community vaccination clinic held in a local village. We will expect to help hundreds of dogs and their guardians today.

After breakfast, we will travel to a local village and meet our field team. We will provide rabies vaccinations, de-worming, flea/tick treatment, and treat any wounds, injuries, or other conditions we find. Our field educators will lead us in teaching the community about animal welfare and care and we will make sure that all dogs have a safe neck restraint. We will also help guardians to wash and groom their dogs. No experience is necessary to be a contributing member of our team! Everyone is needed and you will have plenty to do. All that is needed is an open mind, a flexible attitude, and a desire to help.

You will meet amazing people who, despite living in extreme poverty, are positive, friendly, and welcoming. You will work alongside the devoted Big Fix team members and at the end of the day, feel pride knowing that you helped to make life better for hundreds of dogs and other animals in one day. Back at The Big Fix Guesthouse, enjoy a nice dinner and time to relax and reflect on the day.

Included: breakfast, packed lunch, dinner; transportation to/from the field activities, shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).



Saturday, 29 September.

Today will be unforgettable as we host the 2018 graduation of the Comfort Dog Project dog-guardian teams who have completed 20 weeks of training and passed certification testing. You will help make the day memorable for our dog-guardian teams and enjoy a day of celebration including demonstrations by the dog-guardian graduates, and presentations from some of Northern Uganda's top leaders.

Rejoice as our CDP guardians (now 35 in number) and Big Fix staff bring out the local drums and enjoy teaching you some of the Acholi dances and songs as the sun sets in this beautiful village setting!

Included: breakfast, lunch, dinner; shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).



Sunday, 30 September.

After breakfast, enjoy a day in Gulu. We will visit the Gulu Main Market, where you can buy everything imaginable including shoes made of tires, all types of fruits and produce, beautiful African cloth, woven baskets, delicious *odii* (a paste made from roasted peanuts and sesame), and local products you may need help to identify! We will buy supplies at a local store and visit people who are struggling to make lives for themselves in post-war Northern Uganda. You will meet a group of inspiring women who were formerly imprisoned in Uganda and are now creating beautiful clothing and crafts. You will meet a teacher and learn about the challenging lives of people who work in this noble profession in Uganda.

We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and then visit with several of our Comfort Dog Project guardians (who also serve as Big Fix Field Educators) at their homes. You will have a chance to see how local people live, to visit with them in their homes, and to see the challenges that they face in their everyday living.

In the evening after dinner at the guesthouse, we will begin preparing for the World Animal Day celebration, or, you can relax or take a dog for a walk!

Included: breakfast, lunch, dinner; transportation and guide, shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).



Monday, 1 October.

After breakfast, you can do what interests you most: help comfort patients at the dog hospital, accompany the dog rescue team on calls, take a dog for a walk, or assist with World Animal Day preparations.

This afternoon, participate if you wish in The BIG FIX's weekly radio program on Mega FM. We will also have the chance to meet with the Officer in Charge of Criminal Investigations for Gulu District, who has been instrumental in helping to educate the public about animal cruelty and the criminal penalties associated with it. We will have dinner in town and visit some of the local artists and their work. There will be time to shop for unique souvenirs!

Included: breakfast, lunch, dinner; transportation and guide, shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).



Tuesday, 2 October.

After breakfast at the guesthouse, we will visit a local primary school and one of The Big Fix's Animal Kindness Clubs. The students will show what they have been doing to help create awareness about The Five Animal Freedoms and to improve conditions for dogs in their area. You will meet the school's head teacher and learn about the challenges that schools face. It is most likely that the school you visit will be an unfinished brick building with dirt floors and few seats for the students to sit on. The students rarely have pens or paper, but we will bring a good supply for our visit and also bring food for the children, many of whom have nothing to eat all day long. The children will be absolutely overjoyed with our visit and you will never forget any of them.

After lunch, we will attend the finals of the debate competitions hosted by The Big Fix with the topic *Resolved that those who commit acts of cruelty or neglect against animals should face significant criminal penalties*. The top two schools from regional competitions will face off in what promises to be a lively debate. Volunteers will help to present awards to the top schools and individuals and we will host a reception for the participants. This will be your opportunity to talk one-on-one with these engaging young future leaders of Uganda.

Included: breakfast, lunch, dinner; transportation, shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).



Wednesday, 3 October.

After breakfast, choose your World Animal Day preparation work: you can help paint a mural at The BIG FIX, bathe dogs who will be marching in the parade, volunteer in the dog hospital, prepare goodie bags for the children participating in the celebration, or engage in other preparation activities at the World Animal Day event venue in Gulu. It will be a busy day with smiles, laughter, and excitement for the celebration ahead.

Included: breakfast, dinner; shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).



Thursday, 4 October. WORLD ANIMAL DAY.

We will arrive at the parade staging area early and help to assemble the parade participants as they arrive. The parade will include police dogs, a lively marching band, more than 200 Animal Kindness Club members, the Comfort Dog Project dog-guardian teams, and community members marching with their animal companions. We will let all of Gulu town know that it is a day for recognition of the importance of kindness toward animals.

A special luncheon celebration will occur after the parade and we will enjoy entertainment by superstars from our Animal Kindness Clubs, and local cultural groups. District and regional leaders will make presentations to recognize the importance of the day.

Included: breakfast, lunch, dinner; transportation, shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).



Friday, 5 October.

A relaxing day of reflection and relaxation at The Big Fix culminates in a farewell dinner for guests. Opportunities for local sightseeing are available.

Included: brunch, farewell dinner; shared accommodation at The BIG FIX Guesthouse (double or triple).

Saturday, 6 October.

Travel back to Entebbe and enjoy a final night near the waterfront before your flights home. Optional post-program tours are available including: Murcheson Falls National Park for wildlife viewing and/or chimp tracking, Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest for gorilla tracking, white water rafting on the Nile River, See See Island Trips, Ngamba Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Uganda Wildlife Education Center, Rwenzori Mountains for high altitude trekking, or one of the many other amazing national parks in Uganda for wildlife viewing such as Lake Mburo (zebras), Queen Elizabeth National Park, or Kabale National Park.

Included: breakfast, lunch, a snack for the trip, private car and driver to take you and the volunteer team to Entebbe, with lunch en route; overnight at a 4-Star Guesthouse in Entebbe (double accommodation).

Note: If you would like a private room, the additional cost will be \$35.



Saturday, 7 October.

Return flights home.

Included: breakfast, airport transfer.

Program Costs: \$995.00 per person

A \$200 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking. The balance is due 30 days prior to arrival in Uganda. Not included in the program costs: airfare, meals not indicated in the itinerary, laundry, beverages such as soda/water, incidentals and items of a personal nature, souvenirs, Uganda visa fee (\$50).