

Saving Kittens and Cats with Limited Resources: Paka Clinic Zanzibar

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Session Description: The Zanzibar archipelago in Tanzania, East Africa, has a high street cat population and resources are very limited. Many cats are severely affected by preventable viral diseases, malnutrition, and over-population. There is a high mortality rate and blindness is common because of lack of access to early treatment.

Paka Clinic Zanzibar is the only specialist cat clinic in Tanzania. The clinic has a small team run by Dr Goodluck Gaudence and includes three assistant veterinarians. There is no state funding and the clinic relies entirely on donations. Paka Clinic is not a shelter, but it does provide care for cats until they have finished treatment and can return to the street. The clinic runs a trap, neuter and return program and monitors the health of several colonies. It also offers a free veterinary clinic for local communities to ensure Zanzibar's high poverty rate is not a barrier to accessing veterinary care.

This presentation will explore the challenges of neonatal kitten rescue, community cat care and population management in a resource-limited environment. It will offer veterinarians the opportunity to learn how to maximize the efficacy of TNR programs, such as targeting female cats. It will also offer veterinarians the chance to see how real impact can be achieved with scarce resources, for example when small-animal medications and supplies are hard to come by and when special neonatal resources such as kitten milk replacer and warmers are not available.

Speaker Bio: Goodluck Mwangawa Gaudence (DVM) is Chief Veterinarian at Tanzania's only specialist cat clinic: Paka Clinic Zanzibar. He works alongside three Assistant Vets. He is responsible for organizing all veterinary activities at the clinic. Dr Goodluck Gaudence manages the Trap Neuter Release and cat colony monitoring programs, and he leads all veterinary care for street kittens and other sick cats around Stonetown, Zanzibar. He also provides veterinary services for Zanzibar's pets, mostly cats.

Dr Goodluck Gaudence has been at Paka Clinic since late 2019. Before that he was a private Vet Practitioner in Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions in Tanzania, providing medical assistance to different cases from different species. He graduated from Tanzania's Sokoine University of Agriculture as a Veterinary Surgeon Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) in 2018, where he was ranked the best student of Fifth Year in Veterinary Medicine.