



# IN AWE International Animal Welfare Education

5 - 16 YEARS AGE RANGE

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Tsunami Animal people alliance (TAPA) was initiated in 2005 in the aftermath of tsunami destruction in Sri Lanka. Through their determination, TAPA has successfully averted mass killings of the neglected dogs in the tsunami affected communities by offering an alternative solution to manage stray dog population and control rabies, and ultimately to achieve a stable healthy population of dogs that are safe for humans.



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Together with its CNVR program (Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release), TAPA runs its education programme which aims to prevent dog bites and promote responsible pet ownership and animal welfare through increasing general public awareness. The education officer and veterinary surgeons carry out the programme through presentations and dissemination of pictures and leaflets. They also advise how to overcome the stray dog problem through animal birth control.

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Since children represent the majority of the dog bite victims, TAPA targets them with information on how to avoid dog bites and protect themselves from rabies. TAPA also approaches other levels of the community, conducting education programs for teachers, villagers, police and military officers, and other relevant authorities in the country. Evaluation is carried out before and after the training sessions to gauge how much the audience has absorbed the messages that TAPA wants to convey.

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TAPA has successfully conducted about 60 education events since it started, directly addressing more than 8000 participants. TAPA believes that education is playing a major role in reaching the final goals more efficiently and effectively. This assists Sri Lanka's short and long-term recovery from the tsunami by improving the linked welfare of people and animals in the tsunami zone with the change of attitudes.

With WSPA's support, TAPA is about to launch their new education program to target younger children in primary schools and kindergartens, believing that the change comes with the next generation. Best of luck to them!