Working Equine Health & Welfare Camp March 24th to March 27th

The Working Equine Health & Welfare Camp was jointly organised by WVS Ooty and the Kodaikanal Society for Protection & Care for Animals (KSPCA) in collaboration with the Kodaikanal Municipality, Dindigul District Administration, Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary, Palani Municipal Corporation, and the Animal Husbandry Department.

The camp was conducted from 24–26 March 2026 across working equine areas in Kodaikanal, followed by an outreach programme in the Palani region on 27 March 2026.

The camp provided comprehensive veterinary healthcare services to working horses and ponies used for tourism and agriculture, focusing on preventive healthcare, emergency treatment, owner education and improving equine welfare.

Equine Vaccination & Deworming

A four-day Working Equine Health & Welfare Camp was conducted by WVS Ooty and KSPCA in collaboration with the Kodaikanal Municipality, Dindigul District Administration, Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary, Palani Municipal Corporation, and the Animal Husbandry Department from 24–27 March 2026.

A total of 122 working horses and ponies across the Kodaikanal Hills were vaccinated against Tetanus and dewormed with 1% oral ivermectin suspension. On 27 March 2026, a further 47 working equines were vaccinated in Palani Bus Stand and surrounding areas, bringing the overall total to 169 equines vaccinated.



*Working ponies returning from work in **Poondi and Kilavarai, Kodaikanal**. These ponies carry hill garlic from farms to the town markets.*

Vaccination Coverage

24 March 2026

- Lake Side – 23 equines
- Golf Club – 5 equines
- Pine Forest – 4 equines
- Pamparpuram – 2 equines

Total: 34 equines

25 March 2026

- Poombarai – 23 equines
- Mannavanur – 15 equines
- Poondi – 19 equines
- Kilavarai (ATR) – 20 equines

Total: 77 equines

26 March 2026

- Pannaikadu – 5 equines
- Machur – 6 equines

Total: 11 equines

Grand Total – Kodaikanal Hills: 122 equines

27 March 2026

- Palani Bus Stand and surrounding areas – 47 equines

Overall Total Vaccinated: 169 working equines

Major Veterinary Cases Attended

* Surgical removal of excessive granulation tissue from a horse that developed complications following castration, with successful recovery.

* Treatment of a senior rescued horse with a large pectoral haematoma caused by trauma.

* Treatment and follow-up care for a pony with a barbed-wire injury.

* Dental floating performed on tourist riding horses to correct sharp enamel points.



* Hoof trimming carried out for horses with overgrown hooves.



* Treatment of two horses that sustained injuries following separate bison attacks.





Owner Education & Awareness

Interactive awareness sessions were conducted for horse and pony owners on:

* Glanders awareness and current government regulations.

* Biosecurity and disease prevention.

* Nutrition and the importance of quality forage.

* Dental and hoof care.

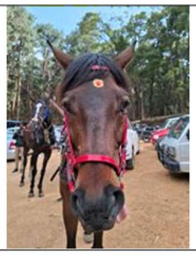
* Responsible ownership and welfare of working equines.



The collaborative initiative strengthened partnerships between government departments and animal welfare organizations while improving the health, welfare and preventive healthcare of working equines across the Kodaikanal Hills and the Palani region.

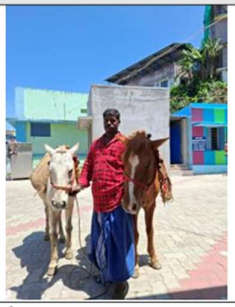






Tourist riding horses and their owners from ***Kodaikanal town****.*





Working ponies and their owners from ***Poombarai, Kodaikanal****.*




















A horse with a bison attack injury was attended. The incident had happened a month ago but the wound had not healed completely. Upon examination, a purulent exudate was found oozing. The wound was flushed and cleaned. A course of systemic antibiotics and anti-inflammatory were initiated.