



The ITGEL Foundation

Protecting Mongolia's Cultural and Environmental Legacy Through Grassroots Projects

Press Release: For Immediate Release

For more info or to set up an interview, contact: The Itgel Foundation
Morgan Keay, Executive Director
(303) 448-9115
morgan@itgel.org

Reindeer on the Front Range!?

International non-profit gets help from friends of Santa's helpers right here in Colorado!

Reindeer may seem an odd occasion to bring Colorado based non-profit The Itgel Foundation, and national interest group the Reindeer Owners and Breeders Association (ROBA) together in Parker, Colorado this month, but amazingly enough, reindeer are the reason for this noteworthy event.

International non-profit The Itgel Foundation, which conducts cultural preservation work with a small reindeer-herding population in Mongolia, will be presented with a substantial donation of veterinary supplies and medicines from the North American-wide Reindeer Owners and Breeders Association this week in Parker. ROBA board members and Parker-area residents, Ethel Evans and Debbie Coyle will provide Itgel's Morgan Keay with a year's supply of the medicine Ivermectin, which is used to treat parasitic infections in various species, including reindeer.

The donation represents an integral part of Itgel's multi-year project to revitalize the health of the southern-most indigenous reindeer population in the world. Only if this is accomplished, will the Tsaatan ethnic group of Mongolia, which depends upon these deer for subsistence use, have a chance at survival.

Due to widespread slaughters and neglect of the reindeer during Mongolia's communist occupation in the 20th century, the Tsaatan's reindeer now suffer from decreased herd sizes, debilitating infections, and potentially severe inbreeding. As a result, the nomadic Tsaatan people literally struggle to survive. Sick reindeer mean sick, poor, and starving people.

But with the help of ROBA's generous medical contribution, The Itgel Foundation, which was founded after Keay lived with the Tsaatan people and their reindeer in 2002, will help to ensure that this unique culture, and their interdependent deer endure for future generations.

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