

Humane Society of Grand Bahama
MEDIA RELEASE
February 9, 09

Successful clinic again in Pinders Point

The fourth major field spay/neuter clinic in the HSGB's ongoing project was held February 2-6, 2009 at the Church of the Good Shepherd's Parish Hall in Pinders Point, Grand Bahama. This clinic topped all others held thus far, with a total of 277 dogs and cats sterilized. This figure includes 237 dogs and puppies, 39 cats and kittens and one raccoon! It does not include the 8 additional surgeries performed on already sterilized animals, which included a bladder stone removal, a leg amputation, several eye surgeries and various wound repairs. It also does not include minor treatment of an additional 20 dogs or puppies for various ailments or basic deworming and vaccinating of pups too young or small for surgery.

Many thanks are owed to Reverend Ambrose, Anne Penn, and the kind parishioners of the Church of the Good Shepherd, who understand the need for this important community service, and turned over their parish hall to this project for the second time in 15 months.

As always, all the dogs and cats received flea/tick preventative, vaccines if needed and deworming, which will lead to a healthier overall pet population. They also had their nails trimmed and ears cleaned while in recovery. Pet owners received educational information on how to better care for their pets.

Some of the animals sterilized also required further surgical attention; such as hernias and wound abscesses. Some of the animals were in poor physical condition to begin with, yet thanks to the dedication and skill of the volunteer veterinary team, none were lost, and these animals will no longer have to go through the trauma of bearing litter after litter of puppies or kittens. It is the hope of the HSGB that more pet owners will provide better overall care for their pets in the future. It is a shame when a three year old dog has the appearance and health deterioration of a dog much older due to poor care and lack of attention.

At least eight dogs were also treated for Transmissible Venereal Tumors. This is a sexually transmitted disease, very common on Grand Bahama, spread entirely through sexual contact. It causes painful tumors to form in and about the genitalia of the dog; which, untreated, continue to grow and abscess and will eventually kill the dog. Dog owners should be aware of the prevalence of this disease, and are urged to spay and neuter their pets before they reach sexual maturity, to prevent the spread of this deadly and highly contagious disease.

10 dogs and puppies were surrendered to the HSGB during the clinic. 8 critical care patients remain under the care of the HSGB until they are healthy enough to return home.

All services provided during this clinic were provided free of charge to the public. The goal is to reduce pet over-population on Grand Bahama, as well as achieve a healthier pet population in general, and encourage and educate pet owners in being more responsible and better pet care-takers for the future.

This clinic was funded by The Pegasus Foundation (www.thepegasusfoundation.org), The Kohn Foundation (www.thekohnfoundation.org), a private individual from the U.S., and Amigo's Fund (www.amigosfund.org). The HSGB is seeking funding for the next clinic, scheduled tentatively for November, and hopes that local corporations, government, and individuals will support this project, which thus far has been funded largely from abroad. Grand Bahama's pet over-population is a local and civic issue, and the HSGB (a private NGO) is the only organization on this large island working on it.

This clinic was staffed by an expert team of 15 U.S. volunteer veterinarians and technicians: Chief vet and organizer Dr. Robin Brennen, NYC, Dr. Bridget Barry, Ithaca, NY, Dr. Leo Egar, Phoenix, AZ, Dr. Deborah Sonnen-Campbell, Boston, and Dr. Karen Iovino, Virginia, Dr. of Pharmacy Elaine Lust, Nebraska. Veterinary Technicians and assistants were Angela Cherry, New Mexico, Austin Figueroa, Arizona, Chris Slowiak, Illinois, Tracy Darling, California, Gregory Carastro, New York, Dee Curran, Florida, Kate Finneley, Illinois, Andy Raduechel, Nebraska, and Heath Grone, Nebraska.

Invaluable local volunteers and supporters who assisted with intake processing, animal handling, recovery care, discharge, instrument cleaning and sterilization, providing breakfasts, lunches and dinners, accommodations, and transportation include Beth Hatfield, Caraline Myatt, Gloria McGlone, Ivy Elden, The Grand Bahama Port Authority, The Crithfields, Dottie Cox, Barb Stollery, Bev Hall, Liz Franklin, Jeff Morasco, Bill Grimmer, Judy Rose, Susan Taylor, Mary Ann Samsell, Missy Aiello, Judy Zuber, Ashley Murphy, Linda Sawall, Maureen Ross, Bev Clifford, Beverly Hall, Richard & Monica Bates, Silk Café, Agave Restaurant, Colleen Davies, Aggie Biswanger, Martha Cartwright, Melanie Darville, Vicky Stafford, Martine Carey, Jacqueline Laker, Chris Johnston, Erika Gates and Tiffany Dennison.

The goal of this project remains an island with no roaming, diseased, starving dogs and cats and it is within reach, with the support of the entire community. For information on how to sustain and support this vital and successful programme, please call the HSGB at 352-2477. Pet owners who missed this clinic should know that the ongoing voucher programme is also free and available to them year round.