



REPORT on SPOTT Project October 16-18, 2008

We have completed the first component of the SPOTT Project in Tobago. This was the first free clinic to spay/neuter dogs as part of a 3 year plan in which TSPCA (Tobago Branch) partnered with the Humane Society International and the Pegasus Foundation of the USA.



We set up our Registration Camp at Store Bay Facilities and the photo, in front of the Spott Banner, shows Mr. Henry, Manager of Store Bay with some of our Volunteers, without whose help the Clinics would not have been possible. On 16th October we collected information from the owners and recorded data and gave appointments for the clinics which were held on the 17th and 18th at Hone Farm



Kimberley one of our Junior Volunteers, in the center photo with Poppy, whom you can see if you visit Tobago, he lives on the Beach at Pigeon Point and we have Neil another SPOTT volunteer together with the owners of Haley and Diamond awaiting transportation to the Clinic. Some of the dogs got acquainted while waiting.

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Thanks to our volunteers we had 'trucks' and 'vans' as our mode of transport. The Clinics were held at Hope Farm, some miles away from our Registration Camp. Photo shows the entrance to Hope Farm. Roger shows Kelly O'Meara, Director of the Humane Society International, around the facilities at Hope Farm



We are grateful to our local veterinarians who performed surgeries at the clinics. First photo shows Dr. Barrow Smart and Dr. Downes, two of our local Vets, and the second and third photo show Dr. Gwen Davis from HSI and Dr. Rebecca Ferrier from Trinidad who worked tirelessly at the clinics. In the two days 60 dogs were either spayed or neutered.



The Recovery Room, and again we must thank all our volunteers, who helped to watch over the dogs, from the time they entered the clinics until they were transported back to our camp at Store Rav



One dog found a place of his own to rest. Angie, and Roger who helped out all day every day. At the end of the last clinic we can be seen waiting for the last dogs to be returned to our camp from the clinics. So at 9 pm, tired but happy to have concluded a successful project, we went home.

The SPOTT programme would not have been possible without the hard work and special efforts of the Project Team, who got together, to get information into the Communities on the benefits of spaying and to advertise the free clinics. Meetings were held with the Village Council in the area, a visit was made to the local school, flyers advertising the programme were posted in shops, bars and community centres. Banners were put up before and during the clinics. Presentations were made on radio and TV.

We are very grateful for the assistance we received from The Divisions of Agriculture and Tourism. From Channel 5 our Local TV Station and Radio Tambrin, our local Radio station and the Tobago News.

A special thanks to Avion Hercules, of Tourism, who helped with all our advertising needs and gave us encouragement to continue despite all odds.

We also wish to thank Conrado Beach Resort for hosting our visitors from HSI during their stay in Tobago.

This is just the beginning of our efforts to solve the stray dog problem in Tobago as although the 60 dogs who were operated on were 'owned' dogs, most of the dogs are allowed to breed continuously and many of the unwanted pups become 'stray dogs'. The interest in the project and the free clinics demonstrated to us that many of the Tobagonians are interested in the welfare of their animals.

We are embarking on a programme in the schools to educate our children on Humane Welfare and respect for animals and the need to vaccinate, worm and provide basic treatments for our pets.

Mary Soodeen

Project Coordinator