

16th October is FERAL CAT DAY!

The St. Lucia Animal Protection Society (SLAPS) is today marking Feral Cat Day, and would like people to spare a thought for the poor skinny cats they see in their neighbourhood who have no one to go to for food or a safe place to sleep.

A feral cat is the offspring or descendant of a domestic cat which has been abandoned or left to breed indiscriminately with little or no human contact, living on scraps or by scavenging in garbage bins. Feral cats often supplement their diets with small mammals such as mice or rats and in areas where the food source is insufficient, they can become a threat to bird and lizard populations.

SLAPS, in partnership with International Veterinary Assistance (IVA) and with the backing of the National Trust, last November set up the Eastern Caribbean's first managed feral cat colony at Pigeon Island National Landmark. This work was continued in May this year, in other areas such as Club St. Lucia and Wyndham Morgan Bay (now St. James Club) in an effort to reduce and manage populations of cats which are an asset for pest control, but which can fast become overwhelming if allowed to multiply at their normal rate.

IVA volunteers will be back in St. Lucia in November for the third and fourth clinics in the 3-year SLAPS/IVA collaboration aimed at promoting the humane management of St. Lucia's stray and feral animals.

If you would like to become a SLAPS volunteer, join our growing list of generous sponsors or would just like more information, please call 457-7527, or visit SLAPS' web site at www.stluciaanimals.org

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