

The Star, St. Lucia - Wednesday, 27 March 2002

SLAPS organises second stray dog and cat clinic

The St Lucia Animal Protection Society (SLAPS) and the International Veterinary Assistance, Inc (IVA) will hold three volunteer assisted spay and neuter clinics for stray cats and dogs here this year.

Building on the successful launch of the first clinic in November 2001, additional clinics are planned for May, September and November. During each clinic, lasting between one and two weeks, a group of four to six international volunteer veterinarians and nurses will travel to St Lucia.

During each clinic, it is expected that over 100 strays will be trapped, sterilised and treated for fleas and mange, before being homed or released by SLAPS' volunteers. This initiative, which is supported by Drs Jenny Cenac and Keith Scotland, aims to treat up to 1,500 stray animals over a three-year period and was approved by the Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture.

The organisation is inviting persons interested in volunteering time, donating hotel accommodation for one to two weeks to host the international veterinarians arriving from the UK, providing a foster home for an animal, or hosting the volunteers for dinner or another event to contact SLAPS.

SLAPS is the only such society on the island and was registered in 1998. The mission of SLAPS is to alleviate suffering, promote the proper care and humane treatment for animals throughout the island, provide a rescue service for abandoned and abused animals and reunite lost animals with their owners.

Key sponsors from St Lucia include the tourism and hospitality sector, particularly the Hyatt Regency, LeSport Resort, Drive-A-Matic Car Rentals, Jambe de Bois Cafe, Tropicana Bar and Restaurant, Capones Restaurant, Spinnakers Restaurant, The Captain's Cellar, D's Restaurant, Razmataz Restaurant, Caribbean Springs, and The Reef Bar & Restaurant.

International sponsors include the World Society for the Protection of Animals (traps & cages), Pfizer Inc (veterinary drugs), and IAMS (donated pet food). Funding was provided by the Pegasus Foundation, the Abbott Laboratories Fund, and individual supporters and animal lovers.