



PRESS RELEASE

As part of the ongoing IVA / SLAPS, spay and neuter initiative, SLAPS' executive would like to hear from farmers who are experiencing rat damage to their crops, and would be interested in having some cats relocated to their farms.

Several hotels and institutions on the island are experiencing problems with rapidly expanding feral cat populations. SLAPS proposes to trap, treat and sterilize as many of these cats as possible. A manageable number of cats can then be maintained at the original location to deter others from colonizing the area. The remaining cats will be available for relocation.

In order for these cats to control pests as effectively as possible without affecting wildlife, the farmers concerned would have to undertake to feed the cats, so that they will be hunting rats for fun, mostly at night, and once fed in the morning, will leave the birds and lizards alone during the day.

For further information and advice on spaying or neutering your cat, please call SLAPS at 457-7527 or 452-0456.

Note to Editor:

The St. Lucia Animal Protection Society (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. For further information, please visit SLAPS' website www.geocities.com/slapss or contact Ms. Jane Tipson at Tel.: 758-452 0456.

The **International Veterinary Assistance, Inc.** is a nonprofit organization. Its mission is to promote the humane management of stray and feral companion animals abroad. For further information please visit IVA's website www.DVMassist.org

The 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 Café, 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.

