



PRESS RELEASE

ST. LUCIA NOW HAS UAN / EMERGENCY ANIMAL RESCUE SERVICES COUNTRY COORDINATOR!

A one-day intensive workshop on disaster preparedness for animals, was held on Saturday 28th June, at the Hampton Inn in San Juan Puerto Rico.

Barbara Tipson, a member of S.L.A.P.S.' executive and survivor of several natural disasters, attended, courtesy of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Pegasus Foundation and a partial scholarship from United Animal Nations.

As is the case in most of the English-speaking eastern Caribbean, St. Lucia does not currently include animals in its disaster preparedness planning.

United Animal Nations' Emergency Animal Rescue Services or EARS has for its goal to "provide animal disaster preparedness education... and ... to ...minimize ... suffering and reduce the number of deaths during all disasters".

This is accomplished by utilizing volunteers trained at EARS workshops and by working with veterinarians, animal welfare organizations and emergency management agencies.

Dawn French, director of St. Lucia's National Emergency Management Office was delighted that S.L.A.P.S. "took the initiative and arranged for a representative to attend this workshop. Animals are not allowed in shelters here for public health reasons, but we hope that with the collaboration of S.L.A.P.S we may be able to provide some kind of assistance in the future".

Ms. Tipson now aims to disseminate the information from the workshop to as many people as possible. "We are hoping to organize our own EARS workshop for both local and regional participants," she revealed, "and look forward to working with Ms. French to achieve this".-----

Picture caption : Ms. Tipson shares workshop information with SLAPS volunteers, Alley Hippolyte and Kendal Boyde.