



HUMANE SOCIETY OF GRAND BAHAMA  
PRESS RELEASE  
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The first inaugural spay/neuter clinic of the **BARC-ANEW (Bahamian Animal Rescue Committee - Animal Neutering Education & Welfare)** project was completed last week in Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama. The project is a joint effort between the Humane Society of Grand Bahama (HSGB) and The Kohn Foundation (TKF).

Thanks to the generosity of Father Cooper and the parishioners of St. Stephen's Anglican Church, their parish hall was transformed into a literal field hospital for the week. The original plan called for six days of surgery, but as the church needed the hall for an event on Sunday, the plan was adjusted and five full days of surgery took place. In those five days, **253 dogs and cats were sterilized**, thus preventing thousands more unwanted puppies and kittens from being born in the coming years. Leg amputations were also performed on three dogs, with the consent and gratitude of their owners, none of whom could have afforded the surgery. Those three dogs would likely have been euthanized without these life-saving operations.

The animals at the clinic whose owners do not have a regular veterinarian were also treated to basic preventive care such as deworming, flea and tick preventatives, nail trimming and ear cleaning while they recovered from surgery. This will help to ensure an overall healthier pet population which lessens the risk of infection to humans by certain parasites and skin conditions.

Several volunteers visited all of the schools in the Eight Mile Rock settlement during the week and handed out informative fliers and educational materials. As a result the afternoons often saw an influx of interested schoolchildren at the clinic doors, and they were given tours of the clinic and talks on responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of animals.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed the volunteers, who not only paid their own travel expenses and in many cases, took their own vacation time, but donated their expertise. These amazing professionals worked 12-14 hour days tirelessly and cheerfully. Dr. Robin Brennen, from New York, was the head veterinarian for this clinic, and worked very hard over the past four months overseeing the logistical aspects. She was joined by

Dr. Leo Egar, Arizona, a Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) veterinarian, Dr. Bridgett Barry, Dr. Heidi Franco, New York, Dr. Kelly Sattman, Ft. Lauderdale, and Dr. Jack Gleason, New Hampshire. Veterinary technicians were Gregory Carastro, New York, Suzanne Rodenhiser, Massachusetts, Judith Blanchette and Michelle Ronayne, New Hampshire, and Liz Yohn, Wisconsin. U.S. volunteer assistants were Debbie Shields, Royal Palm Beach, Leigh Burdett, Jacksonville, Paul Greenhow and Mary Kelly, New York, and Kathryn McDonald, California. Veterinary student Martine Carey of Nassau flew in and spent the entire week assisting.

HSGB staff were assisted all week by wonderful local volunteers who donated their time to help with everything from picking up animals to working the intake table to cleaning kennels. This clinic could not have happened without the generosity of local supporters, HSGB board members, and volunteers who provided housing, extra vehicles, delicious lunches, snacks and beverages.

The Humane Society would like to thank the people of West Grand Bahama for their willingness to participate in this clinic, thus doing their part to reduce our pet over-population problem. Plans for the next clinic are already in the works. Those pet owners we missed may call the Humane Society at 352-2477 to inquire about sterilization through our ongoing local spay/neuter program, or to be put on the list for the next clinic.