

## **APS BEGINS BIGGEST EVER DESEXING CAMPAIGN THIS WEEK!**

The Animal Protection Society is gearing up to begin its biggest ever desexing campaign, with the 3-week long project due to begin this Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. The APS will be joined by 18 volunteers from the international animal welfare organisation Animal Balance, with some volunteers traveling to Samoa from as far away as the Caribbean.

The project marks the inaugural visit from Animal Balance, who signed a memorandum of understanding with the APS, the Samoa Tourism Authority, the Ministry of Health, National Health Services, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment and Samoa Police early in 2009 to hold an annual desexing campaign in Samoa. It is hoped that the project will be as successful as previous Animal Balance campaigns in the Galapagos Islands and the Dominican Republic, where dog over-population and its associated problems have been reduced to manageable levels within just a few years of campaigning.

During this first campaign, it is estimated that over 500 dogs and cats will be desexed in an attempt to control these animal populations in an effective and humane way, with previous culling campaigns proving unsuccessful at long-term control. All the animals that are desexed will also be treated for intestinal worms and external parasites like fleas, which will help to prevent infections in humans with dog worms. And for the first time ever, the volunteer team will be capturing and desexing stray, roaming dogs around Apia, as well as owned dogs that are brought to the clinics.

The project has taken months of planning and fundraising efforts, with STA contributing one third of the overall \$10000USD in running costs required to cover the cost of all medical supplies. While all other funding has been organised overseas by Animal Balance and all the volunteers are funding their own travel costs, there are many individuals, businesses and organisations within Samoa who have also given their time and money to support the campaign.

The project will begin at midday on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at the APS clinic in Avele, located within the MAF compound. It will then continue every day (except Sundays) from 9am to 3pm until Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at the following locations:

- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February: Moata'a
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February: Siumu
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February: Magiagi
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March: Vaialele
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Fagali'i
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Apia (behind Samoan Tourism Authority fale)
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March: Faleasiu
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March: Moto'otua (Tapua Tamasese Meaole Hospital) and Avele (APS clinic)
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March: Fagali'i and Vaimoso
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March: Matatufu
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March: Avele (APS clinic)
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March: Siuniu
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March: Tafagamanu Lefaga

As all the services will be offered free of charge, no appointments will be taken and animals will be treated on a first come first served basis, or at the discretion of the head veterinarian. If anyone would like more information on any aspect of the desexing campaign, they should contact the Animal Protection Society.

**WANT TO ADOPT A PUPPY OR KITTEN?**

The APS currently has several gorgeous, healthy puppies and kittens available for adoption. For a small fee, you can become the proud new owner of a healthy little creature that has been given a full health check by a veterinarian, treated for worms, fleas and ticks, and has/will be desexed so you don't have to worry about any more unwanted puppies or kittens! If you are interested in adopting a puppy or kitten, please contact the Animal Protection Society.

#### **HOW TO CONTACT THE APS**

The APS clinic is located on Cross Island Road, Avele, in the MAF compound. Telephone 8422403 or 22403; or email [aps.samoa@gmail.com](mailto:aps.samoa@gmail.com).

Throughout the campaign the APS will be offering only limited clinical services and will not be fully staffed. People with sick animals or emergencies should call the APS emergency number on 7777-APS (7777-277) to arrange to see a vet.

The APS gratefully acknowledges their major sponsors: NZaid, IFAW, WSPA, NPI, VIDA, US Peace Corp, AQM, Aggie Grey's Hotel, Digicel, Lesa's Telephone Services and MAF livestock division.