

Paws & Ponder

Winter 2008



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Annual Gift Help Support the St. Croix AWC

Please mail your
gift in the
enclosed
contribution
envelope. We
appreciate your
support!

Log on and Give

Visit
our website
StCroixAWC.org
And donate to
help the animals
today!

Shelter: a refuge from hunger, thirst, neglect, cruelty. More than 30 years ago, a group of concerned citizens inspired by the need for a haven of safety and care, founded the St. Croix Animal Welfare Center (AWC). The efforts of those pioneers of St. Croix's animal welfare community, who witnessed the need and took on the responsibility, have flourished.

In the past three decades many others have stepped forward to help bear the burden of caring for the animals. Community leaders, volunteers, veterinarians, animal care technicians, area merchants and students, the next generation of St. Croix, joined that initial group of concerned citizens and have built upon that early mission.

As 2009 approaches, a look back at the past year brings to mind the great achievements by the dedicated staff at AWC. Humane Education is reaching a record number of students each year. This year more than 500 animals have been adopted either on island or stateside via our Adoptions and Pets from Paradise program. The Low Cost Spay Neuter clinic provided service to just under 1,000 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens.

I would like to thank all those, past and present, who have contributed to the achievements of the organization that is the St. Croix Animal Welfare Center. But we must remember that our success is due not only to the people that make up our membership, staff and board of directions. Our success is in the steadfastness of the organization—the whole that is more than the sum of its parts—and our future depends on you.

While I am fully aware of the trying economic times that we all are facing, I am compelled to relay the fact that the AWC is still in need of your financial assistance. The AWC receives funding from the Virgin Islands Government that accounts for a mere 20% of our operating budget. The remainder must be derived from AWC programs, services, and the generous contributions from members of our community. As we usher out 2008, I would ask that you keep the AWC in your thoughts and consider a year-end monetary donation so that we can continue to provide for the animals of St. Croix.

Although my term as President of the Board of Directors has come to a close, it makes me proud to leave an organization in the hands of a well qualified staff and a devoted Board of Directors. Change is inevitable, but the mission to promote the humane treatment of animals in the St. Croix community through education, encouragement and enforcement remains a constant driving force for AWC.

Seasons Greetings,
Jeffrey D. Buckley
President, Board of Directors
St. Croix Animal Welfare Center

SILENT WITNESS



ABUSE, VIOLENCE, CRIME ANTI-CRUELTY CONFERENCE

Hurricane Omar forced the postponement of Silent Witness, but our Territory-wide conference on animal cruelty is back on for Jan. 30.

AWC encourages policy makers, law enforcement, and concerned citizens to join us as one voice against violence in the Territory. So often, the first victims of domestic violence are pets, who have no voice to protest.

Studies have shown that in 88% of homes with domestic violence, pets were also abused. Animal Cruelty is a felony crime in the USVI.

Speakers from the American Humane Association and the College of the Bahamas will discuss the link between animal abuse and domestic violence and the criminal prosecution of animal abuse crimes. A discussion panel of local leaders will wrap up the conference.

When: Jan. 30 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Divi Carina Bay Resort

Fees: \$30 includes breakfast, lunch and afternoon coffee.

Deadline: Register by Jan. 15.

Call 778-1680 or visit us online to learn more:

www.StCroixAWC.org

**BE A VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE
IN THE TERRITORY**

Sandy Claws Annual Wish List & Gift Drive



St. Croix AWC asks for your generosity this season. Throughout the month of December, AWC is hosting a Sandy Claws drive. We are in constant need of basic supplies such as litter, cleansers, collars, leashes and bedding for our animals.

AWC's animal control contract provides less than one quarter of our operating expenses and we must raise funds to meet daily needs. Please help us this year with a monetary contribution or choose an item from our wish list to drop off at our donation sites.

Thank you for your kindness and charity.

Wish List

Chew Bones	Paper towels
Toys	Toilet paper
Dustpans	Dish soap
Buckets	Bleach
Metal buckets	Anti
Bungee cords	bacterial hand
Fixaflat	soap
Bug Spray	Garbage bags
Abrasive scrubbers	Squeezers
Hand Sanitizers	Garden rakes
Sponges	Work gloves
Spray bottles	Dog Shampoos
Collars	Leashes
Office supplies	Raised dog beds

Sandy Claws has left collection bags at the following locations:

AWC Flea Market

#18 Orange Grove behind Pueblo

Wed-Sat from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AWC Shelter

#32 Clifton Hill

Mon-Sat from 8 am. To 5 p.m.

Share the joys and blessings of the holiday season with our staff and animals.

Teaching Responsibility—AWC Humane Education

Their eyes widen and some fail to hold back sighs and exclamations despite their teacher's warning to remain silent because the appearance of a puppy in class is too wonderful a distraction from the drill and practice of multiplication tables. The students know, however, that another lesson is about to begin—a lesson perhaps more exciting and certainly funnier than times tables, but no less serious. The AWC Humane Education team has arrived to lead students in a discussion of pet care, pet safety, and most importantly, responsibility.

In School Presentations

Humane Education visits roughly 30 schools per year, both public and private to provide grade appropriate presentations. In addition to meeting a live puppy as part of the lesson, students explore the content standards of life sciences such as making observations, learning about organisms, and basic investigation. Lessons cover topics such as animal behaviors and dog bite safety; endemic diseases spread by parasites that lead to tick fever and heartworms; and how to keep pets safe from illnesses. Humane Education also focuses on social studies tenets such as community relationships—challenging students to consider themselves as responsible parties in the health of our island community.

A benefit of Humane Education presentations is the “real world” examples brought into the often times insular classroom environment.

“The principals value our program and understand the importance of it, especially the connection between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence” said Humane Education Coordinator Therese Donarski.

Another bonus for schools is that AWC, unlike other educational outreach presenters, provides presentations at no cost to educators.

“Our schools struggle economically and are grateful that our supplemental lessons add educational value free of charge,” said Donarski.

After School Program

AWC conducts a very successful after school



(Therese Donarski, Humane Education Coordinator)

program for students ages 12 and up. Students work at the shelter facility to help socialize animals to make them more adoptable, and provide basic kennel assistance such as grooming and exercising. Students work under the supervision

of humane education staff and adult volunteers and animal care staff. As participants in AWC's after school program, students gain community service credits—a requirement for graduation.

In addition to learning valuable job training skills—to be punctual, to follow direction, to work as a team—students learn responsibility.

“Students take on the role of care givers: they learn first hand the reality of overpopulation and what that means,” said Donarski.



Humane Education After School Students (l-r) Rosa Morales 8th grade Hannah Coughin 7th grade

Healthy, Safe, Happy

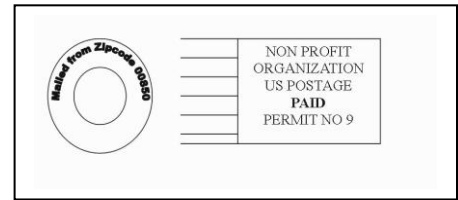
Reaching the next generation is one of the crucial steps in turning the tide for St. Croix's animals. If today's students learn to be better stewards of the island's companion animal population then all citizens reap the benefits. Pet overpopulation, cruelty and neglect are social problems affecting community health, tourism and investment. AWC Humane Education is dedicated to sowing the seeds of stewardship with the goal of continuing the program into the junior high and high school grades targeting that essential time frame when children begin taking on adult responsibilities. But the goal of expansion needs your support.

“We need funding and the constant support of volunteers in order to continue to make a difference,” said Donarski.

Their Hearts are in Our Hands

Humane Education—making a difference for the future of St. Croix.

St. Croix
ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER
 RR2 #32 Clifton Hill
 Kingshill, VI 00850



www.StCroixAWC.org

Our mission is to promote the humane treatment of animals in the St. Croix community through education, encouragement, and enforcement.

St. Croix AWC works to improve the safety and quality of life on St. Croix by increasing compassion and respect.



Paws and Ponder is sponsored by
 A Better Copy, Inc.
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Become a Member Today!



St. Croix AWC works diligently to be the voice of the hungry, hurt, homeless cats and dogs of St. Croix, but we need your support. Consider becoming a member today. In order for our small staff to work as efficiently as possible, we have transitioned to an annual renewal process.

- All memberships begin January 1 and end on December 31
- Individual-\$35, Corporate-\$100
- Membership benefits include newsletter, bumper sticker, and election vote at our annual meeting
- Join online via Pay Pal at www.StCroixAWC.org
- Mail membership to RR2 Kingshill, VI 00850

Join us to support our mission as a haven for the animals of St. Croix.

AWC Board of Directors

Jeff Buckley, president
 Jennie Parrish, vice president
 Bernadette Sanzja, treasurer
 Karen Poates, secretary
 Mike Evans
 Clifford Goodman
 John Merlo
 John Schuster

AWC Senior Staff

Moises Carmona, director of animal care operations
 Liz Castro, director of adoptions
 Therese Donarski, humane education coordinator
 Holly Drummond, development director
 Gretchen Sherrill, communications director

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

AWC needs
 volunteers!

Contact

info@stcroixawc.org

or call 778-1650