

# Paws and Ponder

Save a Life: Sponsor our Adoptions Programs!

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 13, 2008

## Inside this Issue:

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	1,4
NEW LOOK & MORE	1
FEATURED CAT: TOM CRUSE	2
PARADISE SUCCESS:	2
JUNE: ADOPT A CAT	3
ADOPT-A-THON WRAP UP	3
CAT OWNERSHIP	3



## Adoption: Saving Lives

Executive Director, Dr. Stacia Boswell, V.M.D.

Most people do not realize just how many homeless animals enter our island animal shelter each year. **On average 3,000 to 4,000 dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens per annum.** Of these, only about 600 or so are successfully adopted into good homes through our local and off island adoption programs. There are simply not enough homes for all of the homeless animals on St. Croix!

Where do all of these homeless animals come from? Some are surrendered to the shelter because their owners can no longer care for them, or have just decided that they do not want them anymore. Perhaps the owner has too many other animals at home. Perhaps the dog has a spot of mange or the cat soiled the rug. Some animals are found lost on the side of the road injured or starving and are turned into the shelter by a good Samaritan. Some of the animals are strays like feral cats that individuals in the community trap or rescue from their backyards. Some of the animals are brought in by the boxful as puppies and kittens, often with their nursing mom, by owners that cannot care for all of them once they are born.

*Continued back page*

## Upcoming Events:

Aug. 16  
National Homeless  
Animals Day

Sept. 06  
East End Doggie  
Wash, Cheney Bay

Sept. 22  
Pledge Party  
The Buccaneer

## Our Organization

### Board of Directors

- Jeff Buckley, president
- Jennie Parish, vice president
- Rett Boswell, treasurer
- Mike Evans
- Clifford Goodman
- John Merlo
- Karen Poates
- John Schuster

### Senior Staff

- Dr. Stacia Boswell, V.M.D. executive director and staff veterinarian
- Moises Carmona, director of animal care operations
- Liz Castro, director of adoptions
- Therese Donarski, humane education coordinator
- Holly Drummond, development director
- Anna Loizeaux, pets from paradise coordinator
- Gretchen Sherrill, communications director

## New Look, New Logo, New Faces

Our shelter facility has undergone a much needed make-over and reorganization resulting in more exterior space. A storage building has been converted to a suite of offices providing essential work space for staff. Our newly painted front office now doubles as a display space for the winning designs from Humane Education's poster contest.

We have a new logo as well,

designed by staffer Anna Loizeaux. Our new logo and tag line (featured above) will solidify our organizational identity and aid in our outreach and development efforts, which will be spearheaded by our new development team. Holly Drummond, development director, and Gretchen Sherrill, communications director who joined the AWC staff in March. They have taken on the task of raising awareness and

funding for St. Croix AWC. We're undergoing changes and growing and our commitment to our mission is paramount. Adoption gives our animals a new lease on life. Come see what's new at AWC, meet our staff, and fall in love with our animals. Adopt today. One of our cats or dogs is waiting to give their heart to you.

# Paws and Ponder

## Featured Cat: Tom Cruise...by Anna Loizeaux

On a typical Sunday morning while the shelter was closed, we had just finished cleaning the puppy and cat room and everyone was quiet with contentment. I noticed a little light colored blob in the corner of my eye. A kitten! We trapped the feral beast and put him on the surgery schedule. Why not Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)? It would mean he could live happily in his wild environment but not create any more homeless kittens. So, we let him go the next day... neutered, a little groggy and quite unhappy with people. He fearfully ran off, but was right back looking for food from us. We fed him every day and watched him grow to a handsome pre-teen. He became needy for

attention and decided to climb up the screen of the Free Roam Cat Room to be next to the cats... hanging there with all of his might, like a spider. He was still a little uneasy with people and hissed when we approached, so our kennel technician, MacKenzie, decided to spare his little paws from clinging for attention and created an outdoor perch. Every day this kitten would climb up to his perch and sit next to the cats all day long. MacKenzie and Annibel, our cat kennel technicians, found out that they both named him something different. MacKenzie was calling him 'Cruse' while Annibel was calling him 'Tom.' In no time his perch held a name tag for 'Tom Cruse.' He was so happy up on his perch and

noticed that the other cats weren't afraid of people, he was the only one! With a little time we got closer to him and soon he allowed us to pet him.

Finally, we let him in...now he is the happiest cat who loves cats *and* people! He is the king of the castle in the Free Roam Room... literally, he sits on top of the cas-

tle! He is such a love bug and truly needs a loving home, preferably with cats!



## Adoption Success Story: Buster Finds a Home Thanks to Pets from Paradise



the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) in Hampton, New York.

An elderly poodle mix, Buster is now adapting well to life in New York state with his new family and their dog Helga (Buster left, Helga right).

Senior dogs are difficult to place, but Pets from Paradise (PFP) helped Buster find a new home. Thanks to our partnership with

### Program Overview

PFP works with partner shelters and rescue groups in the U.S. mainland that often experience puppy and small dog shortages.

### Be a Travel Companion

We depend on travelers from St. Croix to be flight companions for dogs. St Croix AWC staff meet travelers at the airport with the pets and complete all necessary paper work. Partner shelter staff meet travelers at the destination airport and pick up the pets. All fees are covered by St. Croix AWC.

### Contact PFP

To learn more about PFP, volunteer to be a flight companion, or sponsor a flight, contact coordinator, Anna Loizeaux at 778-1650.

## June is Adopt a Cat Month

<p>St. Croix Animal Welfare Center (AWC) is celebrating the American Humane Association's national Adopt-a-Cat Month this June.</p>	<p>long.</p> <p>Microchipping is a technology that identifies your pet. Tiny chips are permanently implanted under a cat's skin and therefore never come off or get lost. Chips contain the owners contact data and aid in reuniting lost pets with owners.</p>	<p>Adoption fees include necessary vaccines, deworming, and spay or neuter surgeries prior to adoption. Shelter staff and volunteers work to socialize the animals, give them proper exercise, pet care and, of course, love and attention.</p>
<p>Special promotions include 2 for 1 adoption fees, a half-price discount on adopting adult cats and free microchipping (a \$25 value) all month</p>		



## Benefits of Owning a Cat

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Having a cat reduces your blood pressure and helps prevent heart disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cats are comfortable in small spaces like apartments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cats are easily house trained</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Having a cat fights depression and loneliness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cats are very clean; they bathe themselves!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Spayed/neutered cats live long lives and can provide years of companionship</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A cat's mere presence will ward off unwanted mice and pests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A cat's purr is instantly calming and relaxing</li> </ul>	<p>Adopt a cat and save a life!</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Just 15 minutes of play will satisfy a cat</li> </ul>	<p><small>*benefits from American Humane Association</small></p>

**Visit our cats and kittens in need of a forever home at our shelter facility located at #32 Clifton Hill.**

**Hours: noon-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and Sat. from noon to 4:30.**

**For more information call St. Croix AWC adoptions director, Liz Castro at 778-1650.**

## Adopt-a-Then Wrap Up

<p>St. Croix AWC joined the world wide Adopt-a-Then this year.</p>	<p>our shelter facility and off site adoptions held at our flea market facility at #18 Orange Grove and also at Gallows Bay Hardware.</p>
<p>For 14 years the North Shore Animal League America in Port Washington, NY has coordinated this event and invited shelters to join the world's largest adoption extravaganza.</p>	<p><b>Ten animals were adopted during the promotion!</b></p>
<p>St. Croix AWC reduced adoption rates for the weekend of May 2-4 and greeted crowds at</p>	<p>Thank you to board members, volunteers and Gallows Bay Hardware and adoptive families for helping make this a successful effort.</p>



RR 2  
Kingshill, VI 00850

p: 340-778-1650 f: 340-778-2867  
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  
sponsored by  
A Better Copy,  
Inc.  
52 Company St.  
Christiansted, VI**

*(cont. page 1)* And some of these animals are picked up by our animal wardens who respond to calls for help with injured, stray, sick, starving, and aggressive, feral, unwanted animals each day. The commonality is that they are homeless, with no human family to provide for them, to house them, to feed them, to give them shelter, to give them medical care, to play with them, to love them. ***They are homeless and the animal shelter adoptions program is their only chance at finding a home.***

The staff at the AWC is currently working hard to stop pet overpopulation in it's tracks and put an end to the sad reality of too many homeless pets on St. Croix. The solution to the pet overpopulation problem and hope for a better future for our animals here on St. Croix lies in the combined efforts of the Low Cost Spay Neuter, Animal Control, Humane Education, and Adoptions programs at the SCAWC. Through the combined efforts of our signature programs, we ARE actively working toward and achieving lasting and tangible progress in the community. Our adoptions team is doing a great job of as-

sisting the public and ensuring that all of the animals adopted out of the AWC are spayed/ neutered prior to adoption, are properly licensed, have an up-to-date health record, and are bathed the day of adoption. Please consider adopting a pet from the shelter and saving a life. Our adoptions team will go out of their way to assist you in choosing the right pet for your family and lifestyle.

Additionally, the Pets from Paradise Program is gearing up for a busy summer travel season. If you or a family member or friend will be travelling to the States this year, please call us at the shelter to see if you are travelling to one of our Sister Shelter locations where our Crucian dogs get a second chance at adoption. You might find yourself with a fun travel companion and help save a life along the way! Again, our Adoptions department and Pets from Paradise program work together to place as many adoptable animals as possible into good homes. Your support of our Adoptions department is much needed and much appreciated.

**Adopting a pet from the St. Croix Animal Welfare Center = Saving a Life!**