

MONTSERRAT ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (MAPS)
PRESIDENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2007

It has been a busy year for the Montserrat Animal Protection Society. In January 2007 when the volcano was very active, MAPS worked with the Emergency Disaster Team to ensure pets were not forgotten in the emergency response preparations. The government survey added on a section to their questionnaire to find the number of pets in the potential evacuation zone that may need to be accommodated. During this time we also contacted The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) who promised support in an emergency. WSPA also donated to MAPS 10 dog crates. We also had promises of support from a number of other organisations including the Ross University of Veterinary Medicine on St Kitts.

Throughout 2007 MAPS has taken forward work in the following areas:

The Animal Shelter at Cavalla Hill

A small group of dedicated volunteers have twice a day, every day cleaned the kennels, fed, played with and exercised the dogs. The main volunteers include Carole Milne, Rupert Brown, Rachel Tanner, Sheena Oliver and myself. Tony Simpson and Steve Price have done a great job repairing the kennels. A shelter clean up day was also organised with volunteers.



Shelter volunteer



MAPS Kittens



Puppy with new owner

Kitten Shelter

It was felt that small kittens need too much care to be housed at the shelter. An architect in his spare time drew up designs for a portable kitten shelter, which will enable us to keep the kittens at MAPS members' homes while awaiting adoption. The wood has been donated and a MAPS member has volunteered to build the shelter within the next few months.

Pet adoptions

So far this year:
14 dogs and puppies have been rehomed.

2 kittens have been rehomed
4 kittens were hand reared and rehomed.
22 dogs and puppies have been rescued or supported in owner's home while waiting to be adopted.
8 dogs have been fostered and 3 more are about to be fostered.

A house inspection is undertaken for every pet adopted. At the beginning of the year we also completed the MAPS adoption policy with the assistance of the Michigan Humane Society. We also provide follow up support for owners that have fostered or adopted dogs.

Communications

This year the maps website www.mapsmontserrat.ms has been completed and is being regularly updated. The MAPS telephone hotline (496 MAPS) has also been set up and is monitored 24 hours a day by the MAPS Secretary Rachel Tanner. A MAPS shelter update is produced and sent to members every month with information on the dogs currently at the shelter. A MAPS social is organised once a month for members to meet up and to find out what we are doing. Dog adoption posters are regularly created and distributed around Montserrat.

We are continuing to look at ways of promoting MAPS. In January we wrote an article on MAPS to be published in the WSPA magazine. A photo of a MAPS dog in front of the volcano with the MAPS website address was submitted to the Montserrat Volcano Observatory and uploaded on to their website. Visitors to the animal shelter are introduced to the dogs and told about the work of MAPS. We also have visits from members of other animal shelters in the region that come to exchange ideas with us.



Halloween party



Spooky stories with turtle



Face painting

Fund Raising Activities

MAPS is constantly trying to think of new ways to raise funds. Earlier this year MAPS placed a large dog collection box at the airport which has been quite successful. We have sold 36 Maps T-Shirts and a number of Linda Henderson CDs. We have also produced another MAPS Christmas card from a painting of a kitten by Linda Green. We are also creating key rings to sell with photos of shelter dogs in them.

Two new places have been found to sell MAPS products – Royal Palm Club gift shop and Tropical Mansion Suites’ gift shop.

We organised five fundraisers during the year.

- In February we held a cake/book/T-shirt sale at the MAPS shelter which raised EC\$352.00
- In July we had a stall at the Queen’s Birthday Party selling books and painting children’s faces. We raised a total of EC\$85.45
- In October we held two funding raising events and a raffle: The Annual Halloween Costume party held at Gourmet Gardens and an evening of Spooky Stories on Woodlands Beach (that ended up turtle watching!). We raised a total of EC\$1865.00
- The Annual Christmas Auction held at the Goodlife Restaurant raised over EC\$7,195.80

MAPS made a request to the Montserrat Government for an exemption from customs duty, which was eventually approved. MAPS has also been very fortunate to have a growing number of overseas supporters that fund raise and send pet items.

Public Education

Throughout 2007, MAPS has continued its work on public education. We have been actively encouraging children to help at the shelter, teaching them about animal care and training their puppies. We have written to the leader of the Girl Guides and Scout groups offering to organise the pet care badges. A public education note was produced in collaboration with the Government vet on pet care during the holiday season. This note was read out on Community Diary and by Rose Willock on her show. We have plans to collaborate with the Government vet to produce pet care notices once a month on community diary and the Rose Willock show. We also have plans next year to organise a Christmas card competition in the schools and talk about animal care at the same time. We also ask our local members to keep an eye open while visiting friends and family for dogs and cats that could be better cared for and then to help them improve their animals’ living conditions.



Lesson in dog care



MAPS Clinic

Animal Health.

MAPS is committed to ensuring Montserrat has good veterinary care for its animals. Early in the year MAPS facilitated the recruitment of the Government vet by helping to advertise the post, and by being asked to join the interview panel. While waiting for the Government vet to start, MAPS assisted the Montserrat Government in organising the visit of a temporary vet – this included cleaning out the MAPS hut and buying a fridge so it can be used by the visiting vet as a clinic, advertising the vet’s visit, arranging bookings and assisting with patients.

MAPS is working closely with the new Government vet, Dr Nicholas Waldron. We agreed with Dr Waldron that he could use the MAPS hut as a veterinary clinic to operate a private practice, so long as he provides a free veterinary service for the MAPS shelter animals (including spaying and neutering). This has worked out very well.

MAPS has been concerned about the length of time the Montserrat Government is taking to build an abattoir. A letter has been written to the Department of Agriculture which will be followed up.

MAPS is reporting cases of animal neglect to the Government vet, who then checks the animal and talks to the owner. Most of the time we find the owner just needs some advice and support with flea and worm medication or provided with a bag of dog food. In severe cases of animal neglect MAPS committee member Jean Kelsick will ring up the animal’s owner and talk to him about caring for the animal and the animal cruelty laws. We are in the process of talking to the police about how we can work together to combat animal cruelty and dog fighting. We are going to request a contact in the police to whom we can report cases of animal cruelty, as a number of people who abuse their animals can be violent individuals or have mental health issues.

MAPS has organised it’s 2007 free animal Spay and Neuter programme for up to 30 animals



Snoop dog before.....at the shelter.....now in foster care

Challenges for 2008

MAPS main challenge for 2008 is to build a new animal shelter by July 2008. MAPS has been having talks with the Department of Agriculture and the Disaster Management Coordinating Agency (DMCA) since January 2007 to supply land to house evacuees pets. The Minister of Agriculture has offered MAPS a piece of land at Barzeys for the MAPS shelter and kennels for evacuees pets. MAPS now needs to discuss lease options for the land with the Government of Montserrat. In the mean time a committee member, the DFID Engineering Sector Manager and the Director PWD will meet to confirm that the proposed site is suitable for the shelter.

Another challenge will be to raise enough money to build the shelter by July. We are currently thinking up new ways of fundraising - any suggestions will be accepted with thanks.

I wish to thank the committee for all their hard work during the year. Finally, I wish to thank everyone for coming this evening. We really appreciate your continued support, without which MAPS could not function. Thank you

Liz Harmer

Liz Harmer
President
Montserrat Animal Protection Society (MAPS)
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