



## Baark! Clinic Report for Mangrove Cay Andros March 15th - 17th 2013

Baark!'s (Bahamas Alliance for Animal Rights and Kindness) outreach to the Family Islands continues with the most recent clinic being held in Mangrove Cay, Andros on the 15th-17th of March 2013. On the heels of extremely successful "Operation Potcake" in January this year, Baark! continued its efforts to provide quality veterinary care (spay/neuter) to the animals, both owned and stray in the Family Islands by advancing their spay/neuter program to Mangrove Cay.

This specific clinic came about when in January, during "Operation Potcake", the Chairman of Baark!, Laura Kimble, was approached in the area of the East Street Clinic by Mr. Lionel Rolle of Mangrove Cay who informed her of the animal overpopulation in Mangrove Cay and asked for assistance. The seed was planted and Laura Kimble was convinced that the possibility of traveling to Mangrove Cay needed to be explored. Since Baark!'s clinics in Fresh Creek and Cargill Creek, Andros had already proven successful, traveling south to Mangrove Cay seemed the most logical next step and was a perfect fit to Baark!'s continued efforts in Andros.

The logistics and planning began immediately: A scouting trip was planned and executed, the clinic location was identified, lodging was arranged, transportation was acquired, volunteers were identified. During the scouting visit it was confirmed that overpopulation of roaming dogs and cats, both owned and stray truly did exist in Mangrove Cay and Baark!'s focus and effort would make a difference in the communities of Mangrove Cay. The community was engaged, flyers were posted and distributed during that visit. It was determined that there should most definitely be a clinic in Mangrove Cay, Andros.

For accommodations, Joan and Mickey of Seascape Inn, generously donated four of their five cottages and Cheryl Bastian of Swains Cay Lodge donated a room at their lovely resort. The logistics of transporting the Baark! Vehicle and supplies was answered with a generous donation of Capt Bernard King of the m/v Lady Katherina for passage of the vehicle and supplies from Nassau to Mangrove Cay. Mr. Jeff Jolly, a prominent resident of Mangrove Cay was instrumental in the success of this clinic in that he was an on Island focal point for planning, logistics, temporary storage of vital supplies as well as arranging for ice

for the Clinic and additional transportation for the Team. The Jolly family also provided donated lunches for the Team during the clinic's three days among other things. Ms. Liz Bain of the Mangrove Cay Club graciously covered the cost of the van rental for the team and provided ice for the clinic. Ms. Rose Belasco of the Catholic Sister's Center made the Center available as the clinic location without which, the clinic could not have occurred.

On 15 March, Baark! traveled to Mangrove Cay, Andros to carry out the spay and neuter Clinic in the Little Harbour settlement of Mangrove Cay. Seven volunteers from New Providence, including 2 veterinarians, flew from Nassau on Friday morning and met two other Andros based members of the team in Mangrove Cay. By 10.45 am that morning, the first patient was on the table, one day ahead of the planned/advertised clinic start date.

The goal, 60 spay/neuters was impressively exceeded with a final tally of 101 procedures, with still much more work to be done in Mangrove Cay.

Dr. Dorsett of Nassau Pet Clinic was very pleased with the results, "On Friday we spayed and neutered 43 dogs and cats, Saturday was 37 and Sunday 21. In total we spayed and neutered 101 dogs and cats."

Rick Goodlander shared, "It is so great putting together these clinics and seeing the community members come together". Everyone gave what they could.

One of the most wonderful side effects of spay and neuter clinics is the educational aspect. Dr. Smith of Marathon Pet Clinic, "People spend a lot of time with us at the clinic, observing what we do. It's great when the kids of the community come down and check out what is going on. It is a great opportunity for them to learn about animal care and having compassion towards dogs and cats."

Joshua of Mangrove Cay, who adopted a puppy that we had found over the weekend told us "watching you guys throughout the weekend, and seeing the love you all have for the animals has changed my point of view." He also thanked us for coming to help the community and the people in Mangrove Cay, saying, "This is the best thing to happen on Mangrove Cay for a very long time".

Baark! Is continuing its Family Island spay/neuter campaign outreach with clinics in Eleuthera and San Salvador in the coming months.