

# PET CARE SPECIAL 2024



1st runner up  
**Lunalove Goodgirl**



First Prize  
Winner  
**Amy & Lizzy**



2nd runner up  
**Blacky & Slay**

## CUTEST PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



1st runner up  
**Boris**



First Prize  
Winner  
**Sophie**



2nd runner up  
**Miracle**



# Pets are Paw-some!

Happy World Animal Day and welcome to our fourth annual edition of the Pet Care Special, where we show off and celebrate our furry friends, share useful information on pet health and safety, shine a light on the work of animal organisations, and promote re-

sponsible pet ownership.

As always, we are echoing the calls of the professionals and volunteers that are constantly confronted with the cruelty that comes along with animal neglect and pet dumping, which are far too common: Vaccinate, visit the vet for proper care, consider microchipping, and most of all, sterilise your pets! Sterilisation is the only way to combat the desperate overpopulation of pets on the island which inevitably leads to neglect and dumping.

Veterinary clinics and animal-centred non-profit organisations are working as hard as ever to fight the crisis. In addition to being a responsible pet owner, consider supporting them by donating, volunteering or fostering. On a lighter note, we might have the island's first cat café soon!

Here's to the animals, and happy reading!

Sincerely,  
Special Editions coordinators  
Darlene and Daniella and, of course, office pup Mimi



# PET PICTURE CONTEST

## Sponsored by Prime Distributors

The cuties gracing the front page are winners of the Pet Picture Contest, proudly sponsored by Prime Distributors. Other contestants, all winners in our eyes, are displayed throughout the publication. The contest is a true highlight of this Special Edition, and we hope readers enjoy it!

Winners and runners-up receive Purina brand pet food, kindly provided by Prime Distributors. The winning Dog- and Cat-entries will receive two bags of dry- and two cases of wet-food; first runners-up one bag of dry- and one case of wet-food; and second runners-up one bag of dry-food. Winners will be contacted within a week for arrangements.

Special congratulations to:

- Cat category**  
**1: Amy & Liddy – Owner Rita Kartopawiro**  
**2: Lunalove Goodgirl Hathiramani – Owner Lakshmi Hathiramani**  
**3: Blacky & Slay Villaquy – Owner Zoila Sánchez Contreras**

- Dog category**  
**1: Sophie Goklani – Owner Prerna Goklani**  
**2: Boris – Owner Suzan Aafjes**  
**3: Miracle – Owner Jacqueline Louis**



Your Pet, Our Passion.®

The Pet Care Special 2024 is a Special Publication of



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# NPO Spotlight

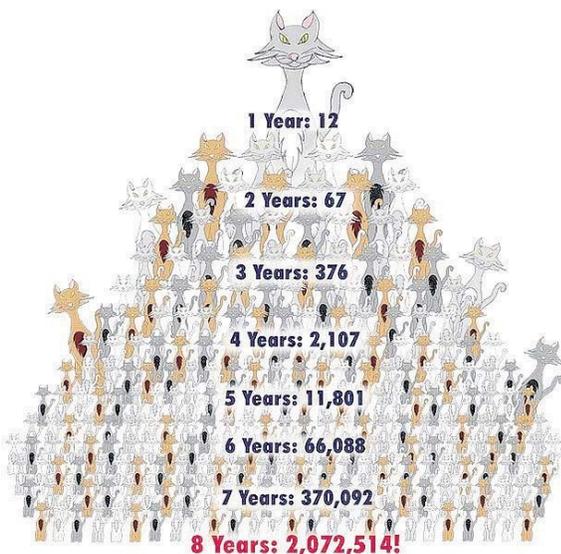
By Foresee Foundation



## AWF celebrates World Animal Day with spay/neuter campaign

St. Maarten Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF SXM) is marking World Animal Day with an initiative aimed at reducing pet overpopulation on the island. Continuing a decade-long tradition, AWF SXM is rolling out its annual spay and neuter certificate campaign, offering pet owners on the Dutch side of St. Maarten an affordable way to have their pets sterilized.

AWF's dedication to curbing the number of unwanted puppies and kittens remains at the heart of this campaign. "This is the 10th year in a row that we've offered this campaign," said an AWF spokesperson. "Our core belief is that it is better to sterilize pets than to have to deal with the unwanted animals that will inevitably be born from unsterilized pets." The organization's proactive approach highlights the importance of population control for animal welfare, as well as the broader impacts it has on public health and the local ecosystem.



"This chart represents one un-spayed female, her mate and all of her offspring, producing two litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter. By spaying and neutering just one male and one female cat, more than 2,000 unwanted births can be prevented in just four years – and more than 2 million in eight years! Prevent a litter, spay and neuter your pets." (Chart and information from North Shore Animal League America.)

This year's campaign will see AWF partnering with four veterinary clinics on the Dutch side of the island, with a total of 40 certificates to be distributed. Each clinic will receive 10 certificates, which pet owners can access by calling the AWF or the clinics directly to schedule their appointments. The foundation asks for a nominal \$50 donation to help offset costs, a small fraction of the regular price for such procedures, which typically ranges from US \$100 to \$300.

Pet overpopulation is not just a problem of stray animals roaming the streets; it carries deeper implications for the community. According to AWF, a single unspayed cat can lead to more than 11,000 descendants within five years. These numbers underline the urgent need for spaying and neutering programs. "Unwanted pets suffer terribly," the spokesperson noted. "They are often dumped or abandoned, and many get sick from lack of proper food and care."

nificant challenges the foundation faces is spreading the word about the availability of these certificates. AWF is calling on the community to support its work by encouraging neighbours, friends, and family to sterilize their pets. "Please talk to your friends, family, and neighbours about sterilizing their pets," urged the spokesperson, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in solving the issue.

Looking forward, AWF has no plans to slow down. Recently, the organization completed a mass sterilization project funded by a Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR) grant, which resulted in 1,150 pets being sterilized over the course of a year. The foundation continues to fundraise to offer free and low-cost sterilizations.

As AWF SXM celebrates World Animal Day, the community is reminded of the importance of responsible pet ownership, and how a collective effort can help address the ongoing issue of pet overpopulation on St. Maarten.

Despite these efforts, one of the most sig-

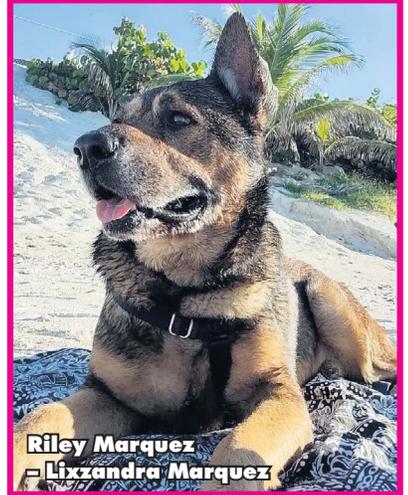
'NPO Spotlight' in collaboration with The Daily Herald offers you a glance into the varied and multifaceted world of Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) on St. Maarten. If you are a NPO and would like to be showcased please visit our website [www.npowersxm.com](http://www.npowersxm.com) to register.



**Sterre**  
- Linde de Bruijne



**Suzi Atwani**  
- Rajesh & Simran Atwani



**Riley Marquez**  
- Lixandra Marquez



**Tinkle van Bosse**  
- Essy van Bosse



**Joey Ajaba**  
- Halima Ajaba



**Layla Premkumar**  
- Yolanda & Rakesh Premkumar



**Mochi Lau**  
- Yin Shan Lau



**Abby the Lab**  
- Marc Smoorenburg



**Mr. Sahbi**  
- M. Phillips



**CeCe the Princess**  
- Marc Smoorenburg



**Niño Boy**  
- Shasa D. Lake



**Buzz Ajaba**  
- Halima Ajaba



**Snoopy Isis**  
- Jamal Isis



**Harley van Hoof**  
- Frank van Hoof



**Ms. Mia**  
- M. Phillips



**Precious**  
- Dionne Kirton-Blackwood



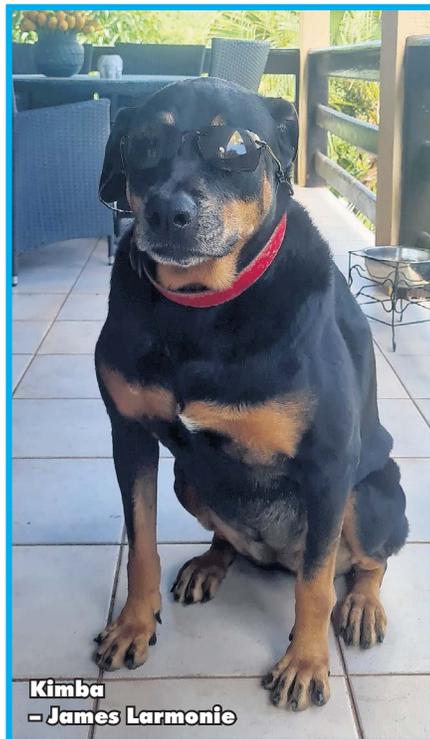
**Goku Isis**  
- Corinna Mc Carthy Isis



**Sparky Teixeira**  
- Doris Teixeira



**Leila & Lola Teixeira**  
- Doris Teixeira



**Kimba**  
- James Larmonie



# So, you're a new pet owner

## Dr. Ruth shares what you need to know

*One way or another, you ended up taking a pet under your wing somewhat unexpectedly – a neglected stray you couldn't ignore, a would-be-homeless pet that belonged to someone who left the island or passed away, or a "gift" by someone who thought they could sell the puppies. Or, maybe, your living situation simply changed and you're now able to take care of a furry friend. The Special Editions team spoke with Dr. Ruth at The Island Vet to find out the most important tips that new pet owners need to know.*

Visit the vet early on, and cover your bases with these five important considerations.

### 1: Anti-parasitics

Parasites, which can be both internal and external, can seriously affect the health of animals: Think of ticks, fleas, worms, and mites. Anti-parasitics are a must for every pet, whether you took one in from the street, or got them from a safer and cleaner environment.

The burden on the island for worms is particularly high. A 2022 study by Joanna Beatrice O'Sullivan and Miloš Halán from the Slovakian University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, along with Dr. Ruth, found an infection rate of a whopping 92.8%. The total co-infection rate, where samples tested showed more than one species of parasite, was 45.9%.

The study was based on the testing of faecal samples of 111 dogs from all over the island, including 70 puppies and 41 adult dogs. The dogs were both strays and roaming-but-owned dogs, and those that were confirmed to have received anti-parasitic medications within the preceding six months were not included.

The most commonly found worm was hookworm, which can cause haemorrhagic diarrhoea. It can spread easily, even with house pets, because all it takes is sniffing poop on the ground, or another dog's behind. There was

also a high prevalence of roundworms and heartworm.

### 2: Vaccinations

Exactly which vaccinations are recommended, and how many will be needed, depend partially on the age of a dog. The clinic will advise, and give new pet owners a vaccination booklet to help keep track of everything. The combined 5-in-1 vaccination is a must – it protects against leptospirosis, distemper, and parvo (collectively referred to as "the big three"), as well as hepatitis and parainfluenza. There are also a few optional extras, such as kennel cough, for puppies.

The big three are the most threatening – they spread easily and have quite a high mortality rate. Parvo is the biggest threat to puppies under a year old. It causes vomiting and diarrhoea, and is usually deadly, especially if the pup is under three or four months old. It's a disease that Dr Ruth and all local vets are constantly faced with.

Distemper affects the respiratory and nervous systems, and can be fatal even with treatment, so prevention is paramount. It is seen in waves – with relative times of quiet interrupted by outbreaks. Leptospirosis is seen in sporadic outbreaks, and is more common than distemper. This disease attacks the liver and kidneys, and has a mortality rate of around 80%. Dogs will refuse to eat (anorexia) and have jaundice, turning their eyes and even gums yellow.

### 3: Microchipping – strongly encouraged

Whether it sounds too new, too invasive, too high tech, or too expensive, microchipping is not at all as common as it should be, at least in Dutch St. Maarten. Microchipping is really none of the above, and is the best tool available when it comes to being reunited with your pet in case they are separated from you – however that happens. On French St. Martin and Saba, microchipping is required by law.

There is always an uptick of dogs found wandering the street this time of year. Some are unsterilized male dogs venturing far from home,

some are dogs that are cared for that became lost, or bolted during a storm. Some have been dumped. What can be observed as a higher "dumping season" coincides with hurricane season. It's difficult for the people who find them to tell the difference, let alone find the owner.

A microchip is simply a small, encased electronic implant that contains a registration number. The chip can be scanned at a vet's office, giving them access to the owners' information. The owners can be contacted directly, no matter where the animal was found, or which veterinary clinic they were taken to. The size of a grain of rice, the microchip is inserted under the skin using a hollow needle, in a procedure that takes about 30 seconds. The Island Vet normally offers this service, along with a free check-up, for just US \$40. During the month of October, the clinic is offering a 50% discount. \$20 for this peace-of-mind is a no-brainer.

### 4: Testing for sickness if they appear unwell

Obviously, if an animal you've taken in appears to be sick, is skinny, or appears to have mange, you should take them in to the vet for testing and treatment. You'll be guided on how to care for them.

### 5: Sterilisation

The issue of pet overpopulation on St. Maarten is nothing short of a crisis, and sterilisation is the only way to stop adding fuel to the fire.

All veterinary clinics and animal-based non-profit organisations are continuously faced with abandoned animals facing the cruel fate of starvation, higher instances of disease (including deadly disease), fighting, and getting hit by cars. SXM Paws – the no-kill shelter run on the same property as The Island Vet – is constantly overrun. While the issue of stray dogs is the most apparent, the same is true for cats. Besides the unnecessary suffering of these abandoned animals, they also contribute to the spread of disease, affecting the rest of the pet population.

Dogs of both sexes and male cats can start to reproduce in just six months – and that's four months for female cats. Owners can find themselves quickly overwhelmed when faced with housing, caring for, and feeding a growing litter. It's not uncommon for entire litters to be dumped, with or without their mothers. Overpopulation obviously translates to oversaturation in the market – so, no, it's not a great idea to delay sterilisation in order to sell pets. Even pets offered for free can't find homes most of the time, and even expensive breeds end up being abandoned.

The average cost is around \$110 for a male dog, \$160/\$165 or a little higher (mostly depending on size) for a female dog, \$110 for a female cat, and just \$55 for a male cat. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. A number of organisations help to offer heavily discounted or even free sterilisations: Enquire



Dr. Ruth (left) and Filippo (right) with two cats available for adoption.

at the clinic.

The Island Vet is located at Tray Drive 2 on Cay Bay Road (second building to the right). It's easy to find once you spot the famous Jimmy Sheik mural. Besides veterinary services, The Island Vet offers food, leashes, toys and other pet products, and pet boarding services (separate

spaces for cats and dogs) which include a great outdoor area. Opening hours: Weekdays from 8:00am to 12 noon, and from 1:30pm to 5:00pm; and Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

For more information, find The Island Vet on Facebook.

## Are your pets vaccinated? OCTOBER PET VACCINATION SPECIAL



**15% off annual vaccination (incl check-up).**

**50% off microchip application.**

Offer valid for dogs and cats in the month of October.



**Dr Ruth Wright**

Cay Bay Road, Cay Bay  
Clinic tel: +1 721 544 0963  
Whatsapp: +1 721 580 0567

Where smart pets bring their people

# TRANSFORMING LIVES ONE CAT AT A TIME

With many dog organizations active on St. Maarten, cats were often overlooked, until the hardworking team at Island Cat Rescue emerged in January. This non-profit is dedicated to spaying and neutering stray cats and finding them loving fur-ever families. The Daily Herald sat down with fulltime cat lover and volunteer Danny to talk all things cats, kittens and rescues.

Island Cat Rescue was founded in January. Its mission is to provide the best healthcare and adoption opportunities for kittens and cats in need across St. Maarten. Fully non-profit, the charity relies entirely on donations, including money, food and litter. Since January, the organisation has successfully facilitated over 100 adoptions and spayed/neutered more than 130 cats.

Whether travelling or staying on the island, new cat parents will find the adoption process with Island Cat Rescue smooth and

supportive, ensuring a loving home for every feline friend.

Island Cat Rescue was created to fill the gap for stray cats on the island, aiming to help solve a problem that previously had no dedicated charity. "For example, there are at least ten charities that do fabulous work for dogs on the island, but none for cats on the Dutch side," Danny explained.

With a staggering cat population issue, Island Cat Rescue stepped in to offer much-needed assistance across the island. "In the beginning, it was just catching cats and spaying/neutering them," Danny said; "because as you know, the cat population on the island is out of control. I don't know if you know this, but two cats, in the space of two years, can produce 2,000 babies."

Danny clarifies that Island Cat Rescue is active on both sides of the island: "If you're on the Dutch side and you call me, I'll come;



if you're on the French side, I'll come. If there is a cat that needs help, I'm coming to get it."

Rescue efforts involve setting traps throughout the island in various locations,

from trees to boats. Older, well-mannered cats are kept and put up for adoption, while cats that are too feral are spayed/neutered and then returned to their habitat.

The number fluctuates, but currently, over 40 cats and kittens are in Island Cat Rescue's care, including those with fosters.

Danny lovingly bottle-feeds dumped kittens every four hours until they are old enough to eat wet food. "Night times are always fun. I'm lucky if I get three hours' sleep – but I love it." When people say he could say no, Danny responds, "Why would I say no? If I say no, they die."

When they are old enough to eat on their own, the cats are fully socialized at Danny's house before he brings them to dedicated fosters, who receive all necessary supplies from Island Cat Rescue. All fosters have to do, is to give the cats their love and time.

Danny finds joy in earning the trust of feral cats,



watching them grow more comfortable around humans. He appreciates their distinct personalities, which often emerge after a few months.

Asked why he moved to St. Maarten to join the Island Cat Rescue team, Danny explains that it was his love for cats that drew him to join the team: "Simply put; I love cats. And it's so rewarding."

His background working at a cat café in the United Kingdom prepared him for this fulfilling venture, as Island Cat Rescue is looking to open a Kitten Café on St. Maarten, a cosy space where visitors can enjoy coffee and interact with the rescued cats, and volunteers can help take care of them. The vision includes several rooms for different ages, an adoption room for one-on-one time with a potential new furry family member, and a homely atmosphere. Island Cat Rescue's handmade crochet cat blankets will also be on sale at the café, along with the cutest merch and cat-made artwork.

says Danny! "If you can't; then foster. If you can't foster; then donate." And remember: "When you see a cat in your backyard, try not to think it's a menace or vermin. They're very clean animals, they do a lot for the island, and they're so emotionally mature and independent."

Kitten pop-ups are held at various locations, such as Sonesta Maho, Dinghy Dock, Buccanear Beach Bar and St. Maarten Yacht Club. But businesses and organisations are encouraged to contact Island Cat Rescue to host their very own pop-up Kitten Hour to promote education and socialization.

Danny would like to thank Dr. Ruth at Island Vet, for her unwavering support and expertise; and Sonesta Maho, for allowing the organization to host kitten adoption events weekly.

For more information on adopting a cat, donating or volunteering, contact Island Cat Rescue on Instagram (@islandcatrescue) or Facebook (islandcatrescue).

Looking to help? "Adopt,"

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# Pet Paradise @ Stefy's Pet Sitting

*At Stefy's Pet Sitting, your furry companions are treated like family. The colourful, spacious, and cosy environment is designed to meet all of your pet's needs. From the moment you walk in, you'll feel confident leaving your pet in Stefy's care, whether for a busy day, an extended trip, or just a grooming session to have your pet feeling and looking their very best.*

Owner Stefy's passion for animals led her to create her pet haven. Already caring for nine dogs, including foster pets, her journey into pet care began after Hurricane Irma when she pivoted from her goldsmith business to embrace her love for animals – and Stefy's Pet Sitting was born.

Stefy's Pet Sitting offers a wide range of services to cater to every pet need at two convenient locations. The new Airport Road facility features a luxurious cat hotel, a grooming centre for both cats and dogs, and a pet store. Meanwhile, the Mary's Fancy location remains the go-to spot for doggie day-care, boarding and grooming.

**Cat hotel**

The new cat hotel offers 12 spacious, air-conditioned rooms complete with toys, swings, and cosy bedding – and, of course, lots of socialisation. Each cat gets their own private

room, and (if they are social) can roam around and play during the day. The comfortable boarding facility ensures that your feline friends are pampered and taken care of while you're away.

**Pet store**

The new pet store is stocked with high-quality kibble, natural treats, toys, and accessories like colourful leashes, cosy beds, and even luxury items such as Coach collars. Stefy's new homemade, non-toxic dog care line, with products like shampoos, perfumes, and ear drops, ensures your pet stays happy, healthy, and fresh.

**Day-care**

Stefy's day-care runs Monday to Saturday, with dogs playing at the Mary's Fancy location, and cats enjoying the cat hotel. Dogs are grouped by temperament and size to ensure a fun and safe experience. Activities include indoor and outdoor play, treats, toys, pools, and air-conditioned rest areas. Stefy also offers complimentary pick-up and drop-off services for select areas for both dogs and cats.

**Dog boarding**

Boarding service ensures that your dog enjoys all the amenities of day-care, plus special meals with cooked ground beef and veggies, air-conditioned rooms, aromatherapy, relaxing



music, and 24/7 staff supervision. Boarding guests can also enjoy beach walks and hikes for some extra sniffs and exercise.

**Grooming & Spa**

Stefy's certified groomers offer both basic and spa grooming services for dogs and cats. From baths and haircuts to deep paw hydration and massages, dogs can enjoy the luxurious Hydra Groomers Line, the products loved by celebrity

pets. Stefy also provides extras like hair dye and nail polish, for dogs looking to add a little flair. Cats can now also enjoy de-shedding and other grooming services at the new Airport Road location.

**Pet relocation services**

Planning an international trip with your pet? Stefy's team can handle all the paperwork, from passports to boarding passes, so you and your pet can travel stress-free. All you have to

do is show up at the airport and enjoy your trip.

**Hydrotherapy**

Not only is Stefy a small pet first aid responder, veterinary technician and groomer; she is also a certified small pet physiotherapist and hydro-therapist, specialising in helping pets with mobility issues through underwater treadmill therapy. This service has made a real difference – for example, a paralyzed dog regained its ability to walk under Stefy's care.

**Home visits**

Prefer your pet to stay home? Stefy offers home visits for all pets, including

dogs, cats, birds, bunnies, and fish. The staff will ensure they are fed, medicated, and given plenty of love while you're away.

**Pet transport**

Need help getting your pet to the vet or other services? Stefy provides transportation to ensure your pet gets where they need to be, from the vet to the dog trainer, without any hassle.

At Stefy's Pet Sitting, every pet is treated like family, including the many foster dogs and cats Stefy has opened her doors to. Whether your pet is playful or prefers quiet time, Stefy offers customised care for all. The day-care and boarding services are open to pets from both sides of the island, provided they are vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and friendly.



For more information or to schedule a visit, contact Stefy's Pet Sitting at +1 (721) 588 9567 or +1 (721) 542 6894, or email [stefy@petworldsxn.com](mailto:stefy@petworldsxn.com). Follow Stefy's Pet Sitting on Instagram @stefyspetsitting and Facebook @stefypetsitting-sxm for updates, helpful information and adorable pet content!



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# The best thing to do for World Animal Day: Stop breeding for the love of animals

By Mercedes from Animal Defenders

*Spaying and neutering is having compassion. Breeding cows is good for the farmers who are in the meat and dairy industry, but not good for the cows. Breeding of wildlife is good for the captivity industry like zoos and aquariums, but not good for the wildlife. Breeding of cats and dogs is good for the pockets of the breeders, but not good for the pets.*

Now let's stick to cats and dogs. There are not enough homes for all the puppies and kittens here in St. Maarten. I have not heard one good reason to breed.

The lousiest excuses I have

heard for breeding the family dog are as follows:

- **Spay/neuter costs too much:** Well, there are places where you can get assistance if you have a low-income.
- **We want our kids to experience "the miracle of life":** Well, bringing the kids to the vet to experience "the miracle of death" as pup after pup is put to sleep. Buy a good book or video to show them how it all works.
- **Our friends and family all want a pup from our dog:** Your friends and family will not show up to collect the puppy and give

you so many reasons why they cannot have a pup now. Traveling, landlord, no time, etc.

- **We want our dog (male or female) to fully develop and mature by being bred:** Well, this is pure nonsense because having puppies does not help a dog settle down; the same counts for people.
- **It's cruel to neuter a male, fix the females:** Well, a fixed male is a better dog than an intact male. Your fixed male will not roam around to chase the females. Fixed males will not get lost when following the scent, contract sexual diseases, get injured in traffic or get into fights with other males for their turn. They will stay home to guard your house and family.

• **We don't want him or her to get fat:** Sterilizing does not make a dog get fat, too much food and too little exercise is the cause of them getting fat.

• **We have full breed dogs and want to sell their puppies:** This is the worst reason of them all, because this clearly has nothing to do with having compassion for the animals – it's all about money. We are not full-breed people either, so stop that nonsense. The tax department should get in-

volved as it should be considered an income to breed dogs. Get a real job and do something yourself. People are not allowed to sell their own kids, so why are they allowed to breed their dogs and sell their kids while there are way too many dogs walking around already? Shame, shame, shame on the breeders, the buyers and the government. Help the strays first. There are some mixed breeds or even "full" breeds as well, but they are all sweet and need a home with a loving family. There are no bad dogs, only good dogs, and some bad people who spoil it all for the rest.

Stop breeding until the stray problem is resolved and then allow a controlled breeding plan for the people who really cannot live without their special breed. Shame on breeders; they should know better – and people who are ready for a pet should not shop but adopt.

The reason why shelters and rescue people keep on complaining about breeding is because we need to rescue all those dogs when surrendered, abandoned, strayed from home, left unattended, dumped, hit in traffic and suddenly have no owners anymore. The pet-unfriendly

landlords are not helping either, but most of all, the people who say they love their animals, but let them down because of selfish reasons – ugly, nasty, horrible reasons.

Taking an animal is a lifetime commitment; it takes responsibilities and love to take care of an animal. If you cannot take care of an animal then you cannot take care of a child or elderly person.

Recently we brought four dogs to the vet, with broken bones and injuries. We cannot afford all those vet bills and it is getting worse. With all those puppies being born in the bushes along the roads, it is getting worse by the day. We are overwhelmed and full; we need the whole community to help with spay/neuter, foster homes, adoption homes, volunteer workers, educating about animal causes and, most of all, we need donations to help pay for boarding and the vet bills for the animals.

*Thanks for your compassion and kindness to spay and neuter all pets. You can donate to the cause via WIB 807 456 09; or call +1 (721) 553-3116 to donate your time or supplies.*



## Cat Overpopulation

From just ONE unspayed female cat, her mate and their offspring, producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

1 year:	12 cats
2 years:	67 cats
3 years:	376 cats
4 years:	2,107 cats
5 years:	11,801 cats
6 years:	66,088 cats
7 years:	370,092 cats
8 years:	2,072,514 cats
9 years:	11,606,077 cats

## Dog Overpopulation

From just ONE unspayed female dog, her mate and their puppies, if none are neutered or spayed, they will produce:

1 year:	16 dogs
2 years:	128 dogs
3 years:	512 dogs
4 years:	2,048 dogs
5 years:	12,288 dogs
6 years:	67,000 dogs

We count on you to make responsible decisions for our welfare. PLEASE don't let us down!



UNTIL THERE ARE NONE · ADOPT ONE!

# What you need to know about mange

*Mange is just about the most recognisable disease associated with neglect – "look at that mangey dog!" It evokes nothing but pity or disgust. Should you keep your pets from getting anywhere near them? If you want to help a stray with mange, do you have to avoid touching them? What is mange, actually?*

Mange is a parasitic skin disease caused by microscopic mites. There are two different types of mange: Sarcoptic mange and Demodectic mange. The demodectic type is far more common, and these types of mange mites live in the hair follicles. The skin disease is actually not contagious, because all dogs, as well as many humans, have these mites on their skin. As long as the immune system is healthy, there is no problem.

Issues arise when the immune system isn't functioning properly – when it's either weakened or immature. That's why it's common in puppies (12-18 months old or younger), very old dogs, or



**The before-and-after images of an abandoned dog severely infected with mange, treated by the St. Maarten Veterinary Clinic in Cay Hill. Blue was taken in by a good Samaritan who cared for him. While the mange was alleviated, the abandoned dog still died of an unrelated cause afterwards. Severe cases of mange plague dogs with low immune systems.**

neglected/stray dogs affected by other illnesses or malnutrition. In other words, mange is not contagious; however, the animal may have other illnesses. Having said that, so do other healthy-looking dogs. As explained in the article "So, you're a new pet owner" in this publication, the burden for worms on the island is particularly high.

When mange develops, it causes hair to be lost in patches. This usually starts on the face, around the eyes. Especially after it is allowed to spread, secondary skin infections may come into play. The skin may turn red and inflamed.

An affected dog should be taken to the vet for diagnosis and treatment. There are many ways to treat it, ranging from topical applications, to oral medications, to injections. Treatment is usually successful; however, it may take long, and the weakened immune system plays a role in the dog's response to treatment and recovery.



# A FEW OF THE ANIMALS LOOKING FOR LOVING HOMES

They are all vaccinated and (to be) spayed/neutered



**Scooby (male, 2 years)**  
@ Stefy's Pet Sitting



**Rima (female, 21 weeks)**  
@SXM Paws



**Jane (3-legged female, 5 years)**  
@ Stefy's Pet Sitting



**Cakey (female, 3 years)**  
@Animal Defenders



**Don (male, 4 years)**  
@Animal Defenders



**Ace (male, 4 months)**  
@The Island Vet



**Blackie (male, 4 months)**  
@The Island Vet



**Amber (female, 1.5 years)**  
@ St. Maarten Veterinary Clinic



**Jade (female, 4.5 months)**  
@ SXM Paws



**Jayden (male, 4 months)**  
@Island Cat Rescue



**Caroline (female, 3 months)**  
@Island Cat Rescue



**Unnamed (male, 2 years)**  
@ St. Maarten Veterinary Clinic

Interested in supporting animal-centred non-profit organisations? This can entail donations, volunteering or fostering. Here are the main players on the island. Find them on social media.

Dutch Side  
Animal Defenders  
SXM Paws  
Animal Welfare Foundation  
Island Cat Rescue

French Side  
Soualiga Animal Lovers  
Collectief Animaux  
I Love My Island Dog

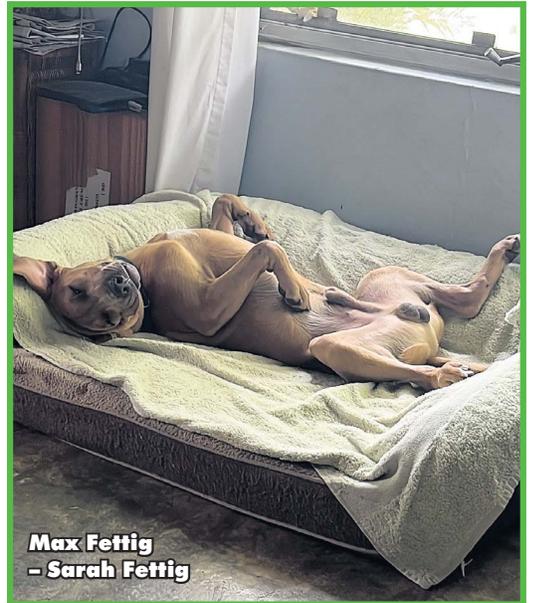




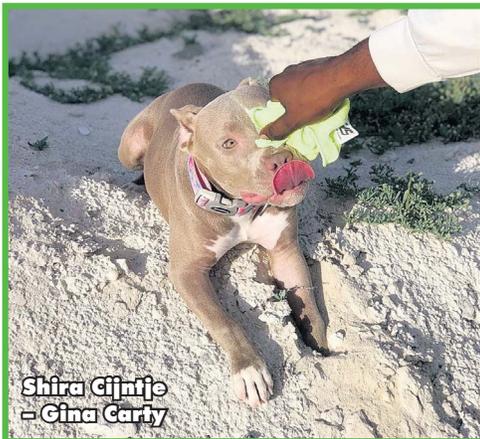
**Lucky Singh**  
- Doris Teixeira



**Leno**  
- Rita Kartopawiro



**Max Fettig**  
- Sarah Fettig



**Shira Cijntje**  
- Gina Carly



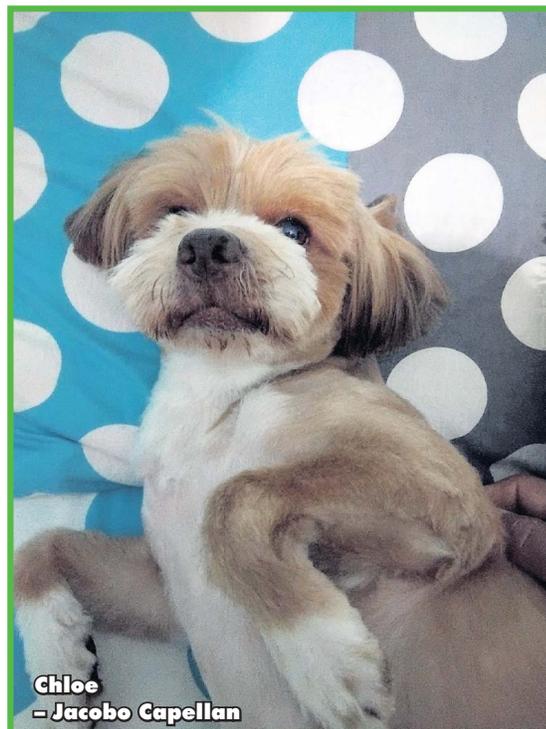
**Mochi Benjamin**  
- Danielle Benjamin



**Littleman Teixeira**  
- Doris Teixeira



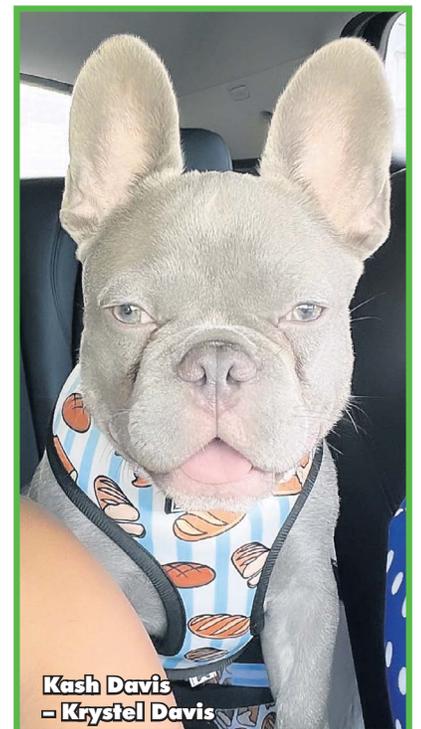
**Honey Teixeira**  
- Doris Teixeira



**Chloe**  
- Jacobo Capellan



**Kigali "Kiki" Dijon**  
- Germaine Dijon



**Kash Davis**  
- Krystel Davis



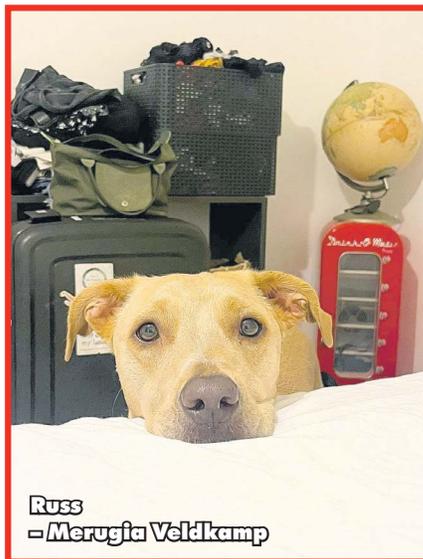
Echo & Charlie  
- Nicole Perez



Franky Boekhout  
- Stephen Boekhout



Mohammed & Asher Moses  
- Judencia Judeska Moses



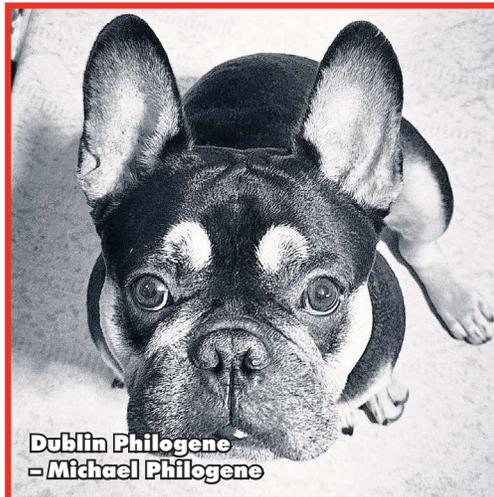
Russ  
- Merugia Veldkamp



Lilou  
- Merugia Veldkamp



Nova & Stella  
- McKenzie Burris



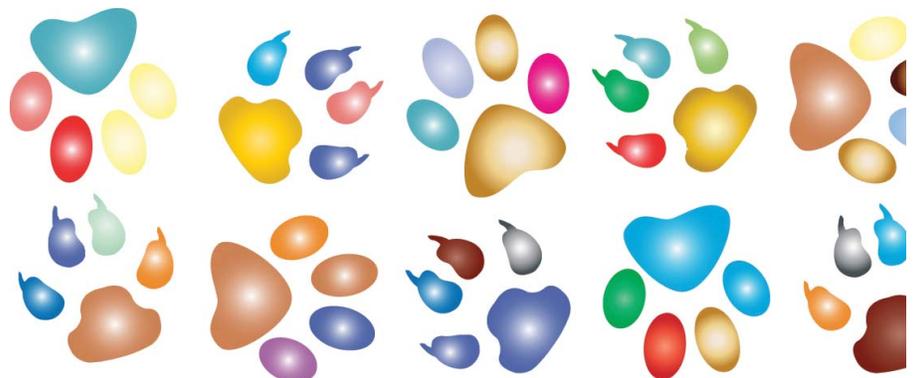
Dublin Philogene  
- Michael Philogene



Princess Phoebe  
- Lisa Marshall



London Ledee  
- Sophie Ledee





### Furry friends & family of *The Daily Herald* (Not eligible for the contest, but we still wanted to share.)



**Junior aka Juny -  
Jacqueline Hooffman**



**Isabel - Cecilia De Windt**



**Disco - Brams Souare**



**Queenie - Lupita Belina**



**Bruno  
- Mary Jane Hellmund†**



**Abby - Lupita Belina**



**Mia & Mochi  
- Moira Marcelle**



**Sicily - Tiffany Ramnauth**



**Lula -  
Margaret &  
Tonca Brooks**



**Sally  
- Margaret &  
Tonca Brooks**



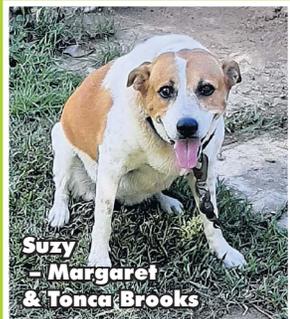
**Pancho  
- Margaret &  
Tonca Brooks**



**Koda  
- Tom & Lisa  
Burnett**



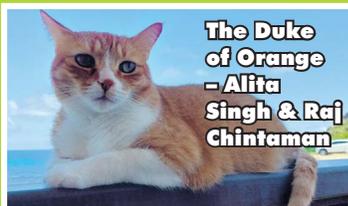
**Moose  
- Alyssa Bartlett**



**Suzy  
- Margaret  
& Tonca Brooks**



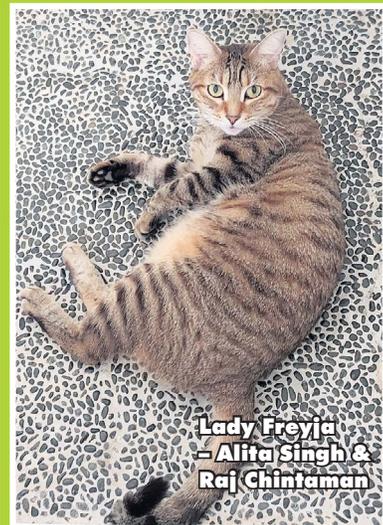
**Lucy - Lupita Belina**



**The Duke  
of Orange  
- Alita  
Singh & Raj  
Chintaman**



**Scout  
- Pip van  
Gelder**



**Lady Freyja  
- Alita Singh &  
Raj Chintaman**