

Island Dog launches raffle incentive for sterilisation

MARIGOT-I Love My Island Dog Association has launched a novel and fun way to encourage owners to sterilise their pets. Sterilise your pet at a reduced rate and be automatically entered in a raffle with wonderful prizes.

Association president Ursula Oppikofer announced that the exclusively French-side sterilisation and identification campaign had begun September 1 and would continue through October, with the grand raffle to be held in November.

From now until October 31 owners will be able to take

pets to any of the participating vets on the French side and pay 55 euros per animal for a sterilisation. The reduced fee includes identification and an automatic entry to the raffle, a big saving for owners as the normal cost for a sterilisation is 150 euros plus about 50 euros for the identification chip.

Thanks to a subvention from the Collectivité vets will be reimbursed by the association for their outstanding cost. The association expressed its sincere thanks to the vets for their cooperation.

"This campaign is really designed for low income families who might otherwise not be able to afford the regular fees," noted Oppikofer. "When the pet is returned to them by the vet it will have a chip number and this number will be entered into the raffle."

Oppikofer reminded pet owners that under French law all animals, including farm livestock, must be identified. It is also against the law for animals to roam on public roads, hence the work of the dog pound. However, animals that are identified by an implanted chip can be saved from ending up in the dog pound and being put down.

Among the prizes are return air tickets to Guadeloupe with Air Caraïbes, a training programme valued at 600 euros from MCF Consultants, a one-year subscription to *The Daily Herald*, wine from Vinissimo, a dinner for two at Captain Oliver's, Pedigree dog food from Divico, and gifts from Cosy Home, Minguet Art Gallery, and artist Mounette Radot.

Any other businesses that consider it a worthy cause to motivate people to sterilise their pets are very welcome to sponsor prizes for the campaign, she added.

"The objective of this campaign is really to put the dog pound out of business," she said. "The pound recently put down 20 dogs, but that is not the solution to control the dog population. The only way is by sterilisation.

"We are making the effort, but it is only going to be successful if people cooperate with us. Nobody likes to see stray dogs, especially tourists. Strays spread sickness, are a danger on the roads, and a big nuisance to farmers."

For more information about the campaign contact Ursula at tel. 544-3464 or (690) 50.34.07.