

# Idaho Humane Society will host interns from Egypt, Saint Martin next week

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The Idaho Humane Society will play host next week to a veterinarian from Egypt and a shelter official from the French West Indies, both of whom will be visiting the Boise area as part of an international internship program of Humane Society International.

The interns will spend a week in Boise before heading down to Las Vegas for Animal Care Expo 2009, the annual conference of the Humane Society of the United States.

While in Boise, the interns will observe daily operations at the Idaho Humane Society's shelter in Boise and visit at least one other regional shelter to get a sense of the variety of facilities and services offered.

"Whenever I go someplace, I always try to take a little time to visit a local shelter to see if I can learn something. In fact, I almost always do," said Idaho Humane Society Executive Director Jeff Rosenthal said Friday.

Rosenthal said one of the things the visitors will see is how strong Americans' bond is with their companion pets.

"Dogs and cats have a very strong place in our culture, and it's growing," Rosenthal said. "That awareness of the value of companion animals then expands to the rest of the animal kingdom."

Local shelter officials expect to learn some new things from the visiting interns as well.

Here's a little about them:

Dr. Ahmed Hesham, the veterinarian from Egypt, is an expert on donkeys. Hesham, who works for the Egyptian Society for Mercy of Animals, has treated more than 500 donkeys in Egypt's rural areas. He has participated in a large trap, neuter and release program for 200 stray dogs. Learn more about Egyptian Society for Mercy of Animals: <http://www.esmaegypt.org/>

Francisco "Tito" Webster is vice president at I Love My Island Dog on the French West Indies island of St. Martin. Learn more about the group online: <http://www.ilovemyislanddog.org/index.php?page=home>