

Slow down for dog's sake

May 13, 2010

The Esther Honey Foundation animal clinic is pleading to the public to slow down on our roads.

Vets at the clinic have been working round the clock to help save an alarming number of family dogs that have been run over on the roads.

“The rate at which they are now coming in is astounding,” clinic director Gregg Young says on the number of dogs being run over and coming into the clinic.

“We had to put two dogs down at the weekend that was hit at the same time by the same car.”

Young is pleading to the public to slow down to avoid hitting dogs on the road.

And while some will argue that the best solution is to tie up dogs, this method is inhumane and Young adds that for many, their family dog is part of the family.

And you don't tie up your family members.

“I really want to get the message out there that these animals are loved by people and often become one of the family.”

“I've seen many people here, locals and expats, crying over their animals. They really love them.

“I can tell you of another case where a gentleman was willing to take a plate out of his own arm to save his dog's leg.”

“I guess that's the message I really want to send out to the public, people love their animals as part of their family and slowing down and giving the benefit of the doubt to the dog will save the anguish that is felt by these owners, not to mention the suffering felt by the animals themselves.”

“The island is a small enough place that it doesn't take too long to get anywhere.”

Apart from the suffering to both owners and animals is the expenses created for the clinic and the amount of time vets spend in trying to save the animals from their injuries.

“I know they (the vets) will be working late this afternoon working on two dogs which have been hit by cars trying to save an older dog's leg while having to amputate a puppy's.”

Esther Honey has, since the beginning of the year, received more than US\$60,000 worth of drugs, supplies and equipment for treatment of cases such as these.

Young says that normal veterinarian practices for an operation to fix a dog's leg would be up in the thousands.

"We do run totally on the support of donations as well as time by the volunteers who come out here to help on these cases."

The message is clear, slow down, it's a small island and you will get to where you need to be without running over innocent family pets. - MW