

Animal Balance Year-End Report

Saving Lives in 2017!

Celebrating success on Molokai, Hawaii, Kauai and Galapagos.



Saving Lives in Hawaii!

Molokai - 2017 began with a return to Molokai, where we continued the partnership with Molokai Humane Society that began in 2015. Since that first campaign, MoHS has been dedicated to humanely managing the community cat population on the island, and we are happy to report that 50% of the cats that are now being trapped already have ear tips. The program is working, thanks in huge part to the dedication of MoHS Director and our dear friend, Hoala Davis. The February

2017 campaign resulted in the sterilization of another 211 cats and 50 dogs on Molokai. MoHS and the National Park Service are also still working closely together to trap and manage colonies on park property. We are thrilled to see that a successful and sustainable program has been built on Molokai and will continue to support our partners there as needed in the future.



Hilo, Hawaii – Building on the successful programs that have been established on Molokai and Maui in 2015, we expanded our efforts on the Big Island in July of this year. With the goal of developing more sustainable solutions for community cats and colony caretakers on the Big Island, we partnered with local groups Hui Pono Holoholona, Rainbow Friends, Hawaii Humane Society and Aloha Animal Advocates to bring a high-volume, community-based, targeted trapping campaign to Hilo. With the support of Alley Cat Allies, we arrived in Hilo with 50 traps, 50 transfer cages and enough supplies to sterilize 500 cats over course of 6 days. It quickly became clear that this target would be exceeded, with the clinic reaching full capacity by 8:30 am each day. The team was virtually unstoppable and, after a mid-week supply order was placed, ended up sterilizing 683 cats in 4 ½ days, stopping only when they ran out of critical anesthesia drugs.

The campaign garnered the attention of Hawaii Mayor Harry Kim, who has pledged his support for future campaigns. Recent reports from HHS show that the campaign, and the presence of Animal Balance, had a direct and swift impact on reducing intake and euthanasia numbers for cats in the area.

*“There is a steady decline in the number of strays/feral cats being turned in and euthanized at the Kea'au Shelter in an overall view of HIHS 5 month stats from June to October. Also, a decrease in the number killed from June was *381 to October *194. (187 euthanasia decrease)*

In June 2017 Kea'au intake of strays/feral cats was 415. In July, it dropped to 297. I believe this drop of less strays/feral 118 cats being turned in was a direct result of Animal Balance 6-day S/N clinic.

Without doubt Animal Balance 6-day clinic is saving lives, and just by looking at our kill numbers we need more AB clinics.

This major decline in our euthanasia was also brought to the County Council's attention today, basically because of your AB clinic. We also gave credit to our combine local S/N organizations.” – Frannie Pueo, Hui Pono Holoholona

Kauai – September saw the Animal Balance team hold our first high-volume sterilization campaign on Kauai. We also began to lay the groundwork to build a coalition of local organizations on the island, including Kauai Humane Society, Kauai Community Cat Project, KSPCA and Kauai Animal Welfare Society, with the intention of providing humane solutions to managing cat populations on the islands.

Riding the wave of success from the Big Island campaign, the team successfully sterilized 658 animals (446 cats, 212 dogs) in six days. 200 traps and 250 transfer cages were supplied for the campaign, thanks to generous discounts from Tru-Catch Traps and the continued support of Alley Cat Allies. The campaign was held at the KHS building, with the support of KHS staff and their amazing team of dedicated volunteers.



In addition to the amazing work that was done during these campaigns, we are also extremely excited to report that 7 of our volunteer veterinarians were able to obtain their Hawaii veterinary licenses, thanks to funding from Alley Cat Allies and Petco Foundation. This will greatly increase the capacity for high-volume sterilization campaigns on the islands, as now all of these highly skilled surgeons can work independently on future campaigns in Hawaii.

Return to the Galapagos

Santa Cruz and San Cristobal – At the end of October, the Animal Balance team made their annual pilgrimage to the Galapagos Islands, where we have been working for the past 14 years to ignite social change and improve the lives of animals on the islands. Once again working alongside our longtime partners Agencia de Regulación y Control de la Bioseguridad para Galápagos (ABG) we held two-weeks of campaigns, the first week at the ABG clinic on Santa Cruz and the second on the island of San Cristobal. This was an extremely exciting campaign for not only Animal Balance, but for all involved, as it was the very first time that ABG granted permission for the import of life-saving DHLPP vaccines for dogs on the islands. In coordination with ABG, Animal Balance set up sterilization campaigns for both cats and dogs, while the veterinary team from ABG offered vaccination for dogs that did not need to be sterilized. Over the course of two-weeks, 386 animals were sterilized and 541 dogs were vaccinated. Plans were made to continue to bring sterilization campaigns to San Cristobal and Isabela, as the clinic on Santa Cruz is now fully functioning with two skilled veterinarians able to provide sterilization services and basic care to the community.

Although we saw hundreds of animals during our time on the Galapagos, there was one special dog from Santa Cruz that stole our hearts and went on to ignite social change just by being herself. Iris was brought into the clinic by a Good Samaritan after being hit by a car. Something about Iris told the team not to give up on her, and they got to work treating multiple medical issues, including enucleating both of her eyes. Through a stroke of luck and some AB connections, Iris was adopted by local artist Sarah



Darling, and has become a spokesdog for rescue and mixed breed dogs on the island that is seeing a high influx of illegally imported purebred dogs. Without intending, the Animal Balance team and our friends on Santa Cruz have made the next leap into igniting social change for animals on the island by promoting adoption over purchase of dogs, and extolling the virtues of taking in older and/or handicapped dogs. Sarah has sent us several updates on Iris in the months since we left the Galapagos, detailing the ways in which this unassuming street dog has brought joy into her life.

Asia for Animals

Kathmandu, Nepal – Animal Balance rounded out the year with our Directors Emma Clifford and Meredith Hippert attending the Asia for Animals conference in Nepal in December. The conference provided insight into what organizations around not only Asia, but all over the world, are doing to help protect animals. The conference was inspirational and energizing for Emma and Meredith, as they work to plan a big year for Animal Balance in 2018.



Summary

2017 was a landmark year for Animal Balance. With the continued support of our island partners, as well as Alley Cat Allies, Best Friends Animal Society, Galapagos Conservancy, Tru-Catch Traps, Koloa Rum, Petco Foundation, and many individual donors, we have continued to increase our capacity for high-volume surgery campaigns exponentially. The work that we are doing on the Hawaiian Islands, has been important in showing the world that humane population control methods are the best solution for managing community cat populations on the islands. We have seen huge breakthroughs on the Galapagos, having made spay/neuter the norm within the communities, and are now working on the next level of social change, which includes vaccination and adoption! Our volunteer base is stronger than ever, allowing us to employ the skills of several

high-volume spay/neuter specialty surgeons and many licensed veterinary technicians, ensuring that not only is our team extremely efficient, but each patient that passes through our MASH clinics receives the highest level of care possible.

Overall, Animal Balance sterilized 1,988 animals on islands around the world in 2017. More importantly, we continued to empower local organizations to work together and continue this important, life-saving work when we are not on island. We will continue to work hard and ignite social change as we head into 2018.