

The following is a list of proposed changes to the Belize cruelty to animals Act Chapter 115 & the Dog Act Chapter 153

P.A.W. believes that these changes will address a long term sustainable solution to reduce the domestic animal population on the island of Caye Caulker and in the country of Belize. We all have created this problem through a lack of foresight and responsibility, and the solution ultimately lies with education and enforcing responsibility. Allowing this to continue to happen only continues to damage the image of our island and our country and could have an effect on our economy.

Lets all take responsibility for solving this problem the right way. The rationale behind these ideas is if you don't take part to help better the problem we have with our animals, you don't get to contribute to the problem, either.

Number one relates to the entire country of Belize

1a) A Mandatory national sterilization of all domestic animals must be put into place. This is the only way to humanely and efficiently control animal population. Research in Europe and in the US has proven that it's the best form of control. (Statistics show that one unaltered female cat and its off spring can produce an estimated 420,000.00 cats in 7 years and in 6 years a female dog and off spring produce 67,000.00 puppies).

b) Any form of abuse and neglect of animals should not be tolerated. There should be a thorough investigation of all cases and higher fines should be paid along with incarceration if found guilty.

c) A ban should be put in place regarding the sale of animals. No store or persons should be allowed to impregnate their animals solely for the purpose of selling pups for an income. There are more than enough sick and homeless animals roaming the streets of the entire country of Belize, why allow more animals to suffer? High fines must be paid for breaking the law.

THE FOLLOWING RELATES TO THE ISLAND OF CAYE CAULKER

2) After calculating how many animals should be on the island, a ban must be put in place for bringing new animals ashore. Anyone bringing an animal must have a license to bring that particular animal.

3) Tourists can bring their pets on the island for the duration of their stay only if they purchase a permit that helps support these programs. Their pet must be required to wear a collar that will help them to get their animal back should it get lost on the island.

4) All animals must be licensed by paying a license fee, and must be up to date on all necessary vaccinations. The animal will be provided with a collar that must be worn at all times and the owner will be provided with a picture ID of self along with their animal showing ownership of that particular animal if authorities request proof. The fees should go toward supporting others animal related programs. This is extremely important as many tourists have been bitten by free roaming dogs who have never been vaccinated.

5) If you want to have more than one dog you must show proof that you have a fence yard to keep them secure and have the resources to take care of more than one dog.

6) A leash law must be established and dogs must be walked on leashes at all times. If dogs are caught roaming unaccompanied for the first time, the owner will be held accountable and pay a fine which will be used in combating the animal population on the island.

If the dog is caught unaccompanied twice, a higher fine will be paid and if owner refuses to pay fine, he must complete mandatory community service which will be assigned by the Police Department or will be incarcerated.

If caught unaccompanied the third time the dog could be taken away and owner must pay to have him housed until adopted and also pay an additional fine.

7. Dogs must be kept indoors or in a fence yard in a shady area. If no fence is provided the dog must be kept on a leash long enough allowing the animal to move freely and be provided with food and water at all times.