

Animal Balance

"Protecting all Species"



Our mission is to create community based sterilization programs on islands where escalating cat and dog population are a threat to bio-diversity, or the local people cannot afford to sterilize their animals.

Understanding the Need

Animal Balance Programs In a Nutshell

We work with the local authorities, government, park service, police, community, NGO's and local animal organizations to organize high volume sterilization campaigns. We work in the Galapagos Islands, Dominican Republic, American and Independent Samoa.

We set up our mobile animal surgical hospitals (MASH) clinics anywhere we can. We have used discos, pizza restaurants, gyms etc. We can set up on the side of volcanoes, beaches, in the jungle, anywhere, even if very remote areas.

We spay, neuter or inject the dogs and cats. Our level of professional care is equal to that of the US.

The team consists of international volunteer veterinarians, animal technicians and helpers. They pay for all their own costs and use their vacation time to help the animals and the communities where they live. They seek adventure and a way to utilize their skills to help others.

We can sterilize 450 animals in one week. All animals are treated for internal and external parasites, any injuries or illnesses are treated to the best of our ability with the supplies that we have.

Components of Our Programs

- High volume sterilization of cats and dogs, owned, stray and in-between!
- Animal Balance Vet to local Vet training programs
- Tech to Tech training
- Dog training programs
- Humane Education programs
- Community events to inform people about pet care
- Assistance and advice for the local group to replicate the program
- To research and utilize the most kind technology to control animal populations
- To lead by example and show compassion for all

Summary of the use of Neutersol and Esterilsol by Animal Balance

- Animal Balance administered Neutersol on 103 male dogs on Isabela Island, Galapagos, Ecuador. May 2004.
- Animal Balance administered Esterilsol on 18 male dogs on American and Independent Samoa. February 2010.



Summary of the use of Neutersol on Isabela Island, May 2004.

103 dogs were injected with Neutersol on Isabela Island.

20 were injected in the field, the others at the temporary clinic in the village.

The clinic dogs were released at the end of the day, the field dogs were released a few hours after being injected.

There was no sign of injection pain. There were 3 adverse reactions.

See Dr. Julie Levy's full report, AJVR, Vol 69, No.1 January 2008.



The Benefits: Easy to transport and use in remote areas of the planet



May 2004, Neutersol being injected into a dog in the highlands area of Isabela Island.

600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, then a 3 hour boat ride, then a 2 hour 4-wheel drive on the side of a volcano to reach outlying farms.

Injection given by Dr. Ruben Aleman, an Ecuadorian vet working for the Ecuadorian Government

4th International Symposium on Non-Surgical Contraceptive Methods of Pet Population Control

The Benefits: No need to pack in huge amounts of equipment.



Animal Balance packs in everything we need for a campaign. We pack everything in dog crates, cat cages or totes. We use 100% of our flight baggage weight limits. We carry oxygen tanks and anesthetic machines on tiny boats and planes to remote islands. This is costly, logistically challenging and sometimes probably a little dangerous!



The Benefits: Large numbers of dogs had to be sterilized in a short amount of time. The Galapagos has a very delicate ecosystem so we had to work quickly.



The Benefits: People do not have the means to provide aftercare, keeping the dogs inside, in a separate room and quiet.



Dogs are often kept on chains. This dog has a piece of tin bent over some rocks for shade. He had water and was given scraps.

The Benefits: In certain cultures the size of the testicles is very important. It is a sign of strength of the dog. Dogs are used for guarding and hunting boar on the Galapagos. Often men would rather their dogs keep their testicles!



The Benefits: Animal Balance has built up trust with the local community and authorities of the Galapagos since 2004, people offer their animals to us for sterilization.



Samoa Islands

- We used Esterilsol on 18 dogs on American and Independent Samoa in February 2010. We sterilized 1,016 animals in just over 2 weeks.
- Samoa is very different to the Galapagos. The dogs were in poor health. They had TVT's, were dehydrated, malnourished, injured and covered in mange. The stray and semi stray dogs live in packs.



Dr. Byron Maas injecting a dog with Esterilsol in Samoa

This dogs scrotum has been attacked by dogs in the pack, emphasizing the need for immediate population control



High instances of transmissible venereal tumors on Samoa show that breeding is exacerbating the situation



This is 'Old Man' who had injuries to his penis, from other dogs. He also had a fish hook in his mouth. We injected him with Esterilsol, fluids and provided supportive care. After 3 days he was much healthier. He would not have been a good candidate for anesthesia and for neuter.



Summary: Esterilsol is a great tool in the right environment.

Galapagos Islands: Allowed us to reach remote areas with few supplies. Able to inject anywhere. Few reactions. Could release a few hours after injection. Culturally appealing.

Samoa Islands: Dogs had high instances of TVT's and pack injuries, therefore there is a huge need to sterilize en masse as quickly as possible. In addition, there are no few animal medical services, both of the islands are very remote and their dog populations are high.

Customs paperwork for the supplies and equipment for all countries is extremely challenging and problematic. Fewer drugs means more efficient projects, which translates into more animals sterilized.



Future of Chemical Sterilization and Animal Balance

We believe in using the most kind methods when forming a strategy to control cat and dog populations. We can reach remote areas if we do not have to carry in large amounts of supplies. We have the capability to sterilize large numbers of dogs quickly and humanely.

In the right situation, Animal Balance will continue to use Esterilsol. We will continue to find out when and where those situations are. We believe this technology is the future for animal management.

We will use it on Isabela Island, Galapagos in August and in the Dominican Republic in October. We will continue to promote it's use.

