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LOCAL

Dog registration for TCI

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In a thrust to establish a proper canine management system in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Environmental Health Department is embarking on a drive to have all dogs in the country registered.

According to Dexter Gordon of the Animal Management Unit of the Environmental Department, the dogs being targeted are those residing permanently in the country and not those that are brought in on short visits by guests.

According to that department the programme is aimed at:

- establishing a database of all resident dogs with detailed information pertaining to breeds, vaccination status, and population total;
- collecting information which will guide the unit in decision making relevant to disease surveillance, procurement and management of animal health supplies including medication and vaccines and;
- strengthening the capability of the Animal Management Unit to provide improved services to the local dogs and their owners.

The dog registration is done under the Dogs Ordinance 2005, under this ordinance only three dogs are allowed per household. As a result, the Environmental Health Department said it will only register three dogs per household. Upon completion of each registration, the photo of every dog will be taken and a registration certificate issued to the applicant or owner.

According to the Environmental Health Department, those seeking to register their animals would be required to bring all dogs to the office to be registered, noting that persons who are unable to do so may make a formal request for the process to be done at their home.

The department said applicants may obtain a Registration Form from the Environmental Health Department Office. The applicants would be required to fill out the application independently or with the guidance of an officer.

Following registration, a tag would be issued for each dog registered. Each tag will have a unique, identification number, with which their owners are required by law to affix to a collar, which must be worn by the dog at all times.

Persons who are desirous of having more information regarding dog registration are asked to contact the Environmental Health Department's office located at Butterfield Square, Providenciales.

Gordon told The SUN that the drive started back in April, where adverts were placed in the press, but noted that the response has not been encouraging, and as a result, the department will be embarking on another drive to sensitize the public about the exercise.

In a recent news conference, Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Dr. Lillian Boyce, noted that Providenciales was experiencing a wild animal problem, and her ministry was taking steps to address it. Gordon said such plans would be put into gear soon.