

Passports system for dogs to be introduced

By Vivian Tyson
SUN Associate Editor

The Ministry of Health and Human Services will be moving to introduce a pet passport system, as part of a thrust to stem the threat of importing animal diseases such as rabies in the Turks and Caicos Islands, especially from countries where those diseases are rampant. The proposed measure was announced by Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Dr. Lillian Boyce, while addressing reporters at a media conference at the New Media headquarters on Providenciales last week.

According to Minister Boyce, the animal travel document, which, for the most part, would apply to dogs, would be similar to that of human passports, as the animal's photograph would be affixed and details about him or her contained in the book. She noted that under the passport regime, dogs would be subjected to similar immigration procedures as their human counterpart.

"We are proposing the introduction of a pet passport scheme for dogs. We know that dogs are very dear pets to most of us and many persons want to travel with them. They would have a passport similar to us, with their pictures and leaflets. And they would be stamped in and stamped out (at the immigration counter), as long as it (passport) is accompanied by a health certificate," according to Minister Boyce.

The Health certificate with which the Minister speaks will also be a new pet importing system for the Turks and Caicos Islands. According to her, as a result of the threat of rabies, animal owners will be required to obtain an application and condition of importation for their pets, especially from countries which are dogged by such diseases.

Minister Boyce was however, quick to point out that while the passport system would be required for dogs imported from every part of the globe, the rigorous condition of importation measure would not apply to pets imported from the European Union (EU) countries, Russia, Canada and the United States. She said persons importing pets from those countries need only to have a health certificate for the animal.

One of those countries to be most affected by the condition of importation certificate system will be the Dominican Republic, since dogs from that country and their neighbours Haiti are laced with rabies. While importation of dogs from Haiti into the Turks and Caicos Islands is almost nil, the same cannot be said about the Dominican Republic, since persons travel to that country on a frequent basis to purchase dogs to bring back here.

While, stating that the health certification restriction could be introduced soon, Minister Boyce did not give a date as to when the passport system would be introduced.



Island Grill- serving up something special in the Bight

There is new hot spot in the Bight which is creating a lot of attention, while adding to the already expansive Grace Bay strip.

The Island Grill and Sports Cafe, located on the Lower Bight Road, before the Caicos Oil gas station is an outdoor restaurant where locals and visitors alike can stop in for cold beverages and sample tasty island foods ranging from fish, chicken and ribs just to name a few, served with fries, rice and other side dishes.

The rustic wooden setting appeals to its casual and relaxing atmosphere as customers enjoy the open air and indulge in a game of dominoes or checkers.

The deck of the restaurant can also be booked for parties and other functions as management has told The SUN, and the response has been very encouraging thus far.

Although still in its infancy stages the restaurant has plans of expanding its menu and having a possible larger screen television to entertain the guests, complementing the soft local and Caribbean music that is played at times on request.