

Animal Welfare is top of the class in Fiji

World Society for Protection of Animals

December 18, 2007

WSPA funding has enabled hundreds of excited Fijian primary school pupils to learn about animal welfare from Animal Planet's Australian celebrity vet, Dr Julie Summerfield.

Dr Summerfield's education session, run at a school in Nadi, Fiji's third largest town, is just one part of a program designed to humanely control stray dog numbers throughout the island nation. The program is backed by WSPA and run by its Fijian member society, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

With your help, the SPCA has been working throughout Fiji to humanely control stray dog numbers through a neutering, adoption and education program. There are around 250,000 stray and owned dogs living on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, Fiji's two main islands.

"The way dogs and all animals are treated in Fiji in the years ahead will be in the hands of children just like those we visited, so it's essential they learn about caring for animals and pass this knowledge on to their friends and family," Dr Summerfield said. "We taught the children how important it is to treat animals with kindness and respect, and we gave practical tips on how to behave around dogs to avoid the risk of dog attacks and injury."

Dr Summerfield also covered animal health issues such as disease and parasite control, and responsible pet ownership. WSPA Programs Manager Emily Reeves, who worked with the Fiji SPCA for eight months last year, says there is very real progress being made for the country's stray dogs.

"There is still a lot to do, but there is certainly a much brighter future ahead for these stray dogs and for the communities they live in," she said. "Fiji is a great example of the real impact WSPA supporters can have on the lives of animals now and for years to come."

Retrieved December 18th, 2007 from www.wspa.com.