



PAW MADAGASCAR

NEWSLETTER 2011

Objectives of a 10 year project at Beza Mahafaly Special Reserve and surrounding areas:

Year 1: Commences July 2011

Mission: Local Assessment and Local Testing

1. Humane feral dog and cat population management plan.

Year 1:

Assessment of the range of different humane feral dog and cat population management plans with local Mahafaly people and other stakeholders. Discuss options, test options, and select. The benefits of population numbers control was agreed in the 7 local villages in July 2010.

Test - capture methods and desexing techniques to see which works best in the Beza Mahafaly area.

Years 2 to 10:

Implement the agreed population control plan, manage and monitor progress using the base line information established in the first year.

We aim to set up a sterilisation program with a local infrastructure that will enable volunteer vets and nurses assist the local Malagasy team on a regular basis. Our volunteer list is growing with veterinary students and qualified professionals, among others, showing great interest in the project. We aim to have at least two visits per year.

2. Maximise local involvement in this project, introduce training programs and build local capacity to carry it on alone in the future.

Understand local and volunteer skills required for the project and identify training methods that would be suitable and implement training programs.

3. Contributing to wildlife conservation efforts at Beza.

Contribution by limiting feral dog and cat impact on the Beza Mahafaly Special Reserve.

4. Build local animal ownership awareness through education and advocating responsible pet ownership.

Commence with animal health information using leaflets/books/drawings according to suitability. Highlight zoonotic diseases and conservation aspects.

5. Minimising the occurrence of zoonotic disease infections in the local population.

Year 1:

***Assess** the local occurrence of zoonotic diseases (for example rabies).*

***Test** parenteral and oral vaccination methods for the area to see which works best. Assess the feral animal's willingness to eat a placebo oral vaccination treat. This method of rabies vaccination has been very successful in the USA, Canada and Europe.*