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BEACH RESORT AROBA

STIMAMI, STERILISAMI SPAY AND NEUTERING PROGRAM WINS MAJOR CARIBBEAN AWARD

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – June 27, 2018 – The Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association recognized <u>Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort</u> with an award for Social Responsibility at its annual CHIEF Conference in Miami. The Eagle Beach resort considers the community, particularly the beloved furry four-legged members, to be the true winners since the award recognizes the resort's successful spay & neutering program, <u>Stimami, Sterilisami</u>.

In January 2016, Bucuti & Tara introduced the community outreach program providing subsidies for the sterilization surgeries along with microchipping for island dogs and cats. Teaming up with the island's veterinarians, to date, more than 7,000 pets have been sterilized and microchipped.

Since the program's implementation, Bucuti & Tara has donated more than AFL 475,000 (US\$265,000) to Stimami, Sterilisami. By the end of 2018, the anticipated total surgeries is 9,200. The projected unborn puppies and kittens over five years is 107,000,000 — a feat for the tiny Dutch island of just 100,000 residents.

As the program has grown, sponsors have joined Bucuti & Tara's efforts. Contributions from the Aruba Tourism Authority and Aruba Tourism Product Enhancement Fund have helped increase the resort's support of the foundation allowing more cats and dogs to be sterilized in a shorter period of time.

"Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort wants to help reduce the population of abandoned animals and promote responsible pet ownership on Aruba," says Ewald Biemans, CEO and owner of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. "Stimami, Sterilisami spay and neutering pet program provides an ethical solution allowing island dogs and cats to thrive in a healthy manner helping to curb the heartbreaking lives so many have faced."

This latest CHIEF Award joins Bucuti & Tara's previous wins for Environmental Sustainability and Social Responsibility. As an eco-pioneer in the region, the resort's commitment to sustainability continues to include both the property and community endeavors.

To learn more, visit <u>Bucuti.com</u>.

Image

Caption

Bucuti_CHIEF Award – Social Responsibility-2018 (I to r) Frank Comito, CEO and director general, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association; Ewald Biemans, owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort; and Patricia Affonso-Dass, president, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association