

Several kittens 'stuffed down a drain'..... Stray pets abandoned at Willowbrook center

By SUSAN FRY

Dozens of stray animals are regularly abandoned by their owners and turned loose on the grounds of the Willowbrook Developmental Center, according to several employees at the institution.

One employee who referred to the situation as a "heart-reaker," said she has already sheltered more than 30 cats and

kittens in her home while looking for permanent homes for the animals. She has successfully placed 20 and now takes care of 39, 16 of whom are Willowbrook strays.

The employee requested that her name not be used because experience tells her that tomorrow she would find "all kinds of cats on (her) door."

"I just can't take care of any more," she said.

Another employee has taken home a dozen cats and a dog where she will keep them until they find a permanent residence.

"I won't give them to ASPCA, where they might have to be killed, or to anyone for use in scientific experiments," she said, adding that

she has placed in the Ad- vance some times been successful in finding homes. Contending that

Willowbrook staff is unable to care for the animals, one employee said emphatically, "We're trying to solve one problem here (at Willowbrook) and we certainly don't need these animals, abandoned by insensitive owners, added to our problem."

Both employees have worked with members of the Staten Island Chapter of Save Our Strays, a non-profit organization established to provide care for

ill and abandoned animals.

They are now organizing in an attempt to set up an independent organization serving only Staten Island pets. They want to find a suitable shelter, which would include a spay and neutering service, and to kick-off fund-raising events in the near future.

In the meantime, pet owners who are unable to keep their animals are encouraged to write to the Save Our Strays main office at G.P.O. 1286, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202.