

PARTNERS for a Humane Juarez

Creating Humane Solutions to the Juarez

Dog and Cat Overpopulation Crisis

The following is an informational overview of a three-year project that aims to bring humane reform for the dogs and cats in the impoverished border town of Juarez, Mexico. The project, which will be coordinated by Compassion without Borders along with Asociacion Pro-defensa Animal (APRODEA), is supported by a large coalition of both U.S. and Mexican animal protection organizations.



Who We Are

Compassion without Borders is an international animal welfare organization that has been working to reduce companion animal overpopulation in Mexico for the past several years through rescue, spay/neuter, and humane education.

APRODEA is a large Mexican animal protection organization founded in 1989 by a passionate group of local advocates in Juarez. Their mission to alleviate the suffering of animals in Juarez through rescue, adoption, spay/neuter and community education.



Project Partners

The Partners for a Humane Juarez project is supported by a diverse array of organizations and foundations including:

- the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights (AVAR)
- Paws Across the Border
- Animal Place
- Citizens for Animal Protection and Education (CAPE)
- SNAP-MEX
- the Summerlee Foundation
- Small Dog Rescue

The Problem

Juarez, like most regions of Mexico, is in the midst of a tragic dog and cat overpopulation crisis. Animals roam the streets by the thousands –nearly all hungry and frightened, many also diseased and malnourished. Animal control efforts consist of one central impound center or "Antriabico", where animals are housed in large groups without food for several days and are ultimately killed by electrocution or by injections with strychnine.



The Solution

The only way to decrease the number of unwanted dogs and cats in Juarez is through organized, citywide spay/neuter efforts and through an intensive humane education and responsible pet ownership media campaign.

The current method of animal control being implemented in Juarez, (the killing of thousands of unwanted animals annually), while appearing to provide a "quick fix", has zero impact on the overall overpopulation problem -- for every one animal killed, hundreds more are born.

**KILLING THE ANIMALS MERELY MOPS UP THE MESS.
Sterilization truly turns off the faucet.**



Ciudad Juarez

Human Population: 2 million

Estimated Numbers of Homeless Dogs/Cats: 200,000

Number of Residents Living Below the Poverty Line: 700,000

Number of Municipal Animal Control Facilities: 1

Average cost of spay/neuter in private veterinary clinic: \$100-\$200

Current Method of Killing Unwanted Animals: Electrocution, strychnine poisonings.

What has Been Accomplished to Date?

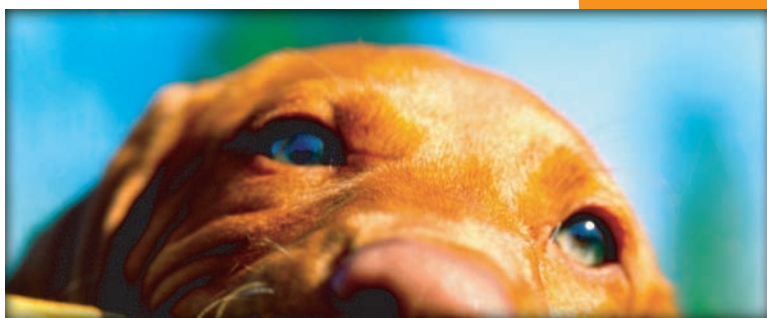
Over the past sixteen months, Compassion without Borders and APRODEA have held four massive, week-long sterilization clinics in various low resources regions of Juarez. The clinics, which are staffed by volunteers from both the United States and Mexico, have provided free spay/neuter, vaccinations, de-worming and flea/tick control to over 700 dogs and cats. These four clinics have resulted in:

- An estimated value of \$105,000.00 in donated services to low income families in Juarez. [1] ←
- Preventing the birth of over 50 million dogs and cats over the next 7 years! [2] ←

A Three Year Road to Change

Our comprehensive three-year plan strategically targets all areas of the overpopulation problem in Juarez. Each project represents an important piece of the solution. Take a look at what we have planned:

1. Stationary Spay/Neuter Clinic
2. Humane Euthanasia Program
3. International Rescue Effort
4. Feral Cat Trap and Release Program
5. Community Dog Program
6. Humane Training / Shelter Partners
7. Week-long, massive Sterilization "Camps"



1. Stationary Spay/Neuter Clinic

Start Date: January, 2005.

The sterilization clinic will operate three days a week, providing free spay/neuter services to over three thousand animals annually .

The clinic will be open to U.S. veterinarians who will have the opportunity to rotate through, volunteering their time and surgical expertise while learning firsthand about the problems facing companion animals South of the border.

THREE-YEAR FORECAST:

- 2006: Clinic will begin community service rotations and surgical training for local graduating veterinary students.
- 2007: The government (Department of Health) will be asked to take over some of the cost for this community service.
- By 2008 the clinic will have sterilized nearly 10,000 animals and have offered free services to low income families of Juarez totaling an approximate \$1,500,000.00 [3]. ←

2. Humane Euthanasia Program

Start Date: March, 2005.

Conditions at the local "Antirabico" in Juarez are atrocious and the current method of killing the animals via electrocution or strychnine poisoning is unacceptable. Our humane euthanasia program will ensure that:

- All animals are killed via a humane injection of intravenous euthanasia
- All animals are given fresh food and water daily
- Diseased or injured animals are euthanized immediately

THREE-YEAR FORECAST:

- 2005, 2006: Trained veterinarians and members of APRODEA control all aspects of euthanasia at the Antirabico.
- In 2007: Begin integrating local officials and government into the humane euthanasia program
- 2008: Government regains control of the Antirabico, adhering to the humane model that has been put into place.

3. International Rescue Effort

Start Date: August, 2004.

Compassion without Borders will visit Juarez six times annually with the specific purpose of rescuing dogs destined to be euthanized at the Antirabico and bringing them back to California where they will be adopted out through local rescue groups and shelters.

THREE-YEAR FORECAST:

250 animals will be successfully rescued and adopted into loving homes by 2008.

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4. Feral Cat Trap and Release Program



Start Date: Summer, 2005.

Feral cats are a part of any city's companion animal overpopulation problem. This program will bring the trap and release solution to Juarez. A week-long feral cat sterilization project will kick off the program in the summer of 2005 and ongoing efforts will be organized through the stationary sterilization clinic.

THREE-YEAR FORECAST:

2005: Feral cat colonies and caregivers identified, begin trapping at a few sites
2006, 2007: Ongoing trap and release at identified sites

5. Community Dog Program

Start Date: Summer, 2005.

This program is an alternative to picking up dogs of the streets and euthanizing them.

"Community dogs" are animals that are currently healthy, being fed and watched over by members of the community, but are not "owned" by any one person. They are very common in Mexico. This project will involve targeting these animals and identifying and educating their caregivers. Community dogs will be sterilized, vaccinated, and identified via an ear clip. Local animal control will be working in conjunction with this project and will guarantee that identified animals are not rounded up and killed.

THREE-YEAR FORECAST:

2005: Identify key sites with community dogs and responsible caregivers. Begin education campaign about the project for community members, caregivers, and government.

2006-2008: Continue sterilizations of community dogs. Evaluate success of the project by tracking survival rates, conditions, etc.

6. Humane Training / Shelter Partners

Premier shelters from the United States participating in our rescue program will send staff members to train APRODEA and other interested locals about different aspects of shelter work and management and animal behavior.

THREE-YEAR FORECAST:

By 2008 APRODEA will open a new shelter/adoption center in Juarez.