



Unidos Para los Animales

Guatemala United For Animals

Annual Report



2024

The year 2024 was one of changes for *Unidos Para los Animales* (UPA). We are still going strong, but it is a much different organization from what it was a few years back. For years, one of UPA's main activities was running a shelter in Guatemala where many a rescued dog was rehabilitated, trained and adopted out to wonderful families in the US. The CDC ban on importing dogs from Guatemala put a stop to that in 2021. Not long after, founder and main force behind the organization, Linda Green, moved back to her home country Canada. By that time, our mobile sterilization clinics were already getting bigger and more frequent. Our group of volunteers in Guatemala was more than willing to keep them going. Difficult decisions were made: we closed the shelter, we said goodbyes and now we mainly focus on bringing down the number of free-roaming animals through sterilization clinics and education. In 2024 we streamlined our activities, expanded where desirable and improved where needed.



Linda Green

Meet our team in Guatemala!

These are the people who make it happen on the ground!



Catherine Corry



Francesca Luissi



Noreen Durkin



Tessa de Goede



Luís Velásquez



Flori Batt



Carin Steen





Mobile Sterilization Clinics

Free-roaming animals are all too common in Guatemala. Some of them have owners, some don't, but unaltered, they all contribute to overpopulation, resulting in unwanted litters, abandonment and abuse. Even if veterinary care is available, the vast majority of the Guatemalan population can't afford it. That's why we provide low-cost but high quality spay/neuter and vaccination services to communities in and around Antigua Guatemala.

2024, Month:	Community:	Total:
January	Comalapa	75
February	Santa Ana	94
March	San Pedro las Huertas	85
April	Jocotenango	62
May	Santa María de Jesús	31
May	Santa Ana	105
June	San Martín Jilotepeque	99
July	Comalapa	103
August	Santa María de Jesús	85
August	Parramos	72
September	San Juan del Obispo	99
October	San Bartolomé Becerra	29
November	San Gaspar Vivar	17
November	Jocotenango	103
November	Comalapa	60
November	Parramos	63
November	Jocotenango	62
November	San Martín Jilotepeque	112
December	San Gaspar Vivar	83
December	Comalapa	98
Total cats & dogs:		1,537



We work with a team of excellent local vets and techs. We have great contacts within the communities who help with the logistics, sign-ups and in case of street dogs, their trapping and recovery.

In 2024 we organized 20 mobile clinics in which we spayed/neutered a total of 1,537 dogs and cats. At least 200 of them were animals without owners.



1,724 Animals
sterilized in
2024!!!

Trap Neuter Vaccinate Release (TNVR)

Whereas our mobile clinics cater primarily to pet *owners*, another target group are the dogs on the street for whom nobody take responsibility. Our volunteers have been able to catch, sterilize and release no less than an additional 187 animals! These dogs (and a few cats) received surgeries at local vet clinics. This brings the total to 1,724 sterilized animals in 2024! That's about 200 more than we did in 2023 but not nearly as many as we hope to do in 2025. Our goal is to get at number 2,000!



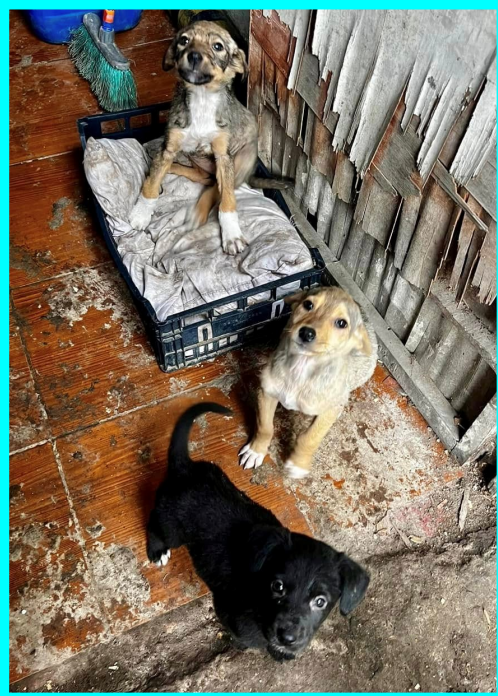
Trapping isn't easy. It often takes days, sometimes even weeks for dogs to trust us enough to come close. Finding a foster home where they can safely recover isn't easy either, but by far the hardest part is to release the dogs back to the streets. Only on rare occasions do we find them a proper home. Although the dogs seem happy enough to be out of the crate and back at their old stomping ground, for us, having to let them go is heart breaking.





Vaccinations and other medications

All our patients receive a multiple and a rabies vaccine. But we vaccinate many more animals than the ones we get on our operation table. We are regularly contacted by low-income families whose dog just had a litter and they don't know what to do. We can help them with the first step, by vaccinating them.



Last May, two local rescuers found no less than 26 puppies and their moms at an abandoned farm in Santa Ana, near Antigua.

They miraculously managed to provide a safe space for them and even found most of the pups a loving home. We were happy we could help with vaccinations, medication and sterilizations.

Not long after, we were asked to help a litter that lives in an abandoned house in Santa María de Jesús. A woman from the community was feeding them and again, we helped where we could. Although we can't help every animal that crosses our path, at least we can help some.

Panorama Vet Clinic

In August, two of our board members and volunteers, Noreen and Luis, opened their own vet clinic in Panorama, a suburb of Antigua. It has become a great asset for our organization, because now we can bring in many more dogs to get spayed/neutered. It helps a lot with our TNVR program, since it is hard to schedule *when* to catch a street dog. Our agendas don't always sync with theirs! The clinic is also available for medical emergencies and for any potential complications after surgeries at our mobile clinics.





Fundraiser

At least once a year we try to organize a fundraiser in Antigua. Because we need donations, of course, but also because we want to share our experiences and achievements with the community. This year, Restaurant Aqua generously offered to host an event on June 30th. It was a spectacular happening with a delicious luncheon, auction and raffle. And successful too! We raised enough to sterilize another 400 animals!



Vet Visit

In November, Thanksgiving week, we were once again very happy to receive Dr Jim Bader and his colleague Dr. Laureen Bartfield for week-long whirlwind of clinics! Linda Green came down too and all in all we managed to spay and neuter 420 animals!





Rainbow Bridge

Alas, our pets don't live forever... This year we sadly said goodbye to some of our rescues who were lucky enough to have lived wonderful lives with their adopting families. So long Margarita, Otto (AKA Cooper), Sissy... You were loved...



Educational programs

In 2023 we published our activity book *¿Cómo cuidar a mi chuchito?* Since then, we have been handing out the book to people who bring their pet to our clinics. In November we distributed an additional 350 books among students in Jocotenango after attending a talk about animal welfare in their community. In November, our board member and artist Carin Steen painted a mural in the town of Parramos, right next to the place where we usually have our clinics. The theme was, of course, sterilization and our shared responsibility for the care of animals.



Recues

Since the closure of our shelter, we don't rescue dogs anymore, because we don't have where to rehabilitate them, nor where to put them up for adoption. That is, in theory. There are cases that just break our heart and sometimes there is just no way we can leave a dog on the street, much less when they are puppies and they're injured. Here 's just one of them, Tribilin. A story with a happy ending!





Spotlight on Cristy

Cristy Velasco is a marvelous woman who singlehandedly cares for hundreds of dogs in the town of San Martín Jilotepeque. She has a shelter with 70+ dogs, feeds dozens on the street and tirelessly battles to have dogs vaccinated, sterilized and adopted. What we do as a team is nothing compared to what she does all by herself! That's why we decided to try to help Cristy to raise some much-needed funds. After a campaign on social media, we were able to transfer her \$800.



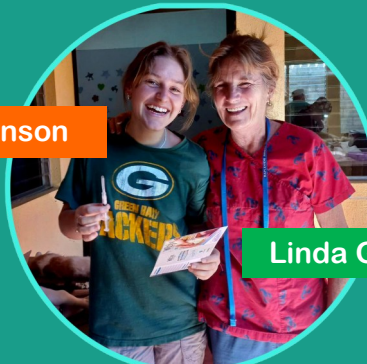
Volunteers

We are an organization that runs 100% on volunteers. From a distance, Linda Green is very much involved in UPA. Dr Jim Bader is always available for veterinary consultations and Keri Peyton is our meticulous treasurer. In Guatemala, our board members form an active and dedicated team. And then there are the local rescuers and volunteers who help us at our clinics. Here a few faces of frequent volunteers in 2024!



Elisa de Callejas

Carlisle Jonson



Linda Green



Jimmy Mattrel



Jackelinne Castillo



Nancy Rue

Patricia Dykema



Luís Callejas



Ellen Christenson & Irene Saletan



A special thanks to Cat Langley! She was our much-appreciated volunteer and fellow board member, but left Guatemala in August to go back home to the UK along with her faithful pal Leo. Thank you for all you hard work Cat, we wish you and Leo well!



Thank you!

We do what we do with passion. It is wonderful to achieve a that a dog stops being a breeding machine, to help an injured cat to heal, or to prevent families from being burdened by unwanted puppies. We realize it is very much a joined effort. We couldn't do it without our volunteers, pet owners, fosters and our contacts in the communities. And of course, without our sponsors we would be nowhere. To everyone involved, a heartfelt THANK YOU!

Click [HERE](#) to donate!

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