

Founder  
Laura's original  
Coco - RIP



February 2010

Newsletter No. 9

***KITTEN CHAPERONES NEEDED!*** We're currently looking for a chaperone to Dallas. Our wonderful supporter Rob Sulzman has offered to pay all costs and will place kittens in good homes in Dallas. Coco's will make all the arrangements. Please help by chaperoning a kitten on your flight home! Contact us at [info@cocoscatrescue.org](mailto:info@cocoscatrescue.org) for details.

**IT'S COCO'S 1ST ANNIVERSARY  
COCKTAIL PARTY AND YOU'RE INVITED!**



Coco's presents yet another opportunity to have too much fun! The Blue Parrot has generously offered their venue for Coco's First Anniversary Cocktail Party, which be sometime in March. Watch this newsletter for more details coming soon!

We want to include a totally gorgeous and interesting silent auction and are already collecting donations from our fans, friends, and family. PLEASE consider donating one of your BEST treasures!

We'll pick up, or come to Laura's new house to see the kittens and drop it off. Just e-mail Laura at [info@cocoscatrescue.org](mailto:info@cocoscatrescue.org).

Don't forget, if you'd like a copy of Coco's annual report,  
please e-mail your address to us at:  
[info@cocoscatrescue.org](mailto:info@cocoscatrescue.org)

## VIDAS Spay and Neuter Clinic in Bacalar

*by Laura Raikes*

Sherry, Libby, Carlos and I went down to Bacalar for the weekend to volunteer at the VIDAS spay and neuter clinic. The clinic started on January 8th and finished on January 17th. There were eight vets and 10 vet techs working all day spaying and neutering cats and dogs. Many locals turned up to volunteer. So many people came with not only their own pets but their neighbour's pets too! It was so nice to see everyone helping each other out.



Carlos registering incoming pets for surgery.



Laura at Bacalar.



Puppies ~



... looking for comfort.



Recovery area for dogs.



Laura and Carlos at Bacalar.

You can help in many ways at a VIDAS clinic like the one scheduled to start in Playa del Carmen on July 17, 2010. They will need food, water and other refreshments for all the volunteers, housing for the vets, and many supplies.

Go to VIDAS's website for more details:

[www.vidas.org](http://www.vidas.org)



Young cats awaiting surgery – in a birdcage!



Sherry with recovering dog.



Libby and cat-in-a-bag! You can just see one eye shining like a marble.

## *Our mission*

*Coco's Cat Rescue is a rescue charity in Playa del Carmen, Mexico focusing on the spaying and neutering of feral cats and the care & re-homing of kittens in need of rescue. We provide free or low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to low income residents, as well as vaccinations and basic animal care. We are also committed to education which encourages responsible pet ownership and challenges negative associations with feral cats and consequent cruelty.*

# Community comes first!

by Nicola Inwood, Hotel Tropical Casablanca

Mexico is no different from any other country on the planet; community support is a critical aspect of all thriving cities and is a basic requirement for fulfilling and positive living. Without community and a focus on sharing and caring for others, life is just, well, blah ...

What makes a community strong are the people, businesses and other groups who participate in the daily operations, the 'stuff', the sometimes mundane dealings of life. Those who participate in filling the needs of their communities make it strong, and in Playa del Carmen we are lucky to have some added benefits to the daily routine: the Mexican Caribbean; the beach; an international face to its community; travelers who have great stories to share; and some pretty incredible places to live, shop and have fun. This is our community and those are reasons why we have chosen this area for retirement, for our businesses, our vacations, or for a day trip.

But what makes Playa del Carmen a very special city are the people who work every day to make it a community, a neighbourhood, a place to call home, and a home that we all enjoy.

Coco's Cat Rescue is one of these community builders. Coco's works to make our community a happy place to live, a place that reaches out to people, animals and vacationers. It is not a hotel or restaurant providing rooms or food; it isn't a shop or a bar. Coco's Cat Rescue is not even a business. But it is an organization that builds a happier and better community each and every day.

As Playa del Carmen has been growing as a city with more businesses contributing to the community pot, it is the inclusion and dedication of community organizations like Coco's Cat Rescue that puts the icing on the cake for all of us, making Playa not just a city, but a community. And that, folks, makes a world of difference to our experience of life here.

Community focused work for the sole sake of community is hard work. It starts out of a love of something, in this case a love and respect for animals that deserve quality of life. Other community organizations focus on extraordinary medical needs, community harmony, community safety or community happiness. Community work results in a better community for all, something that is hard to measure and may seem intangible to most. But in truth, community work is one of the most tangible resources we have. Without the efforts and dedication of

## URGENT NEEDS THIS MONTH

- 📌 *Kitten milk for newborns*
- 📌 *Cat safety collars*
- 📌 *Soft sided cat carriers*
- 📌 *Synthetic absorbable sutures (size 2-0 or 3-0)*
- 📌 *Profender de-worming treatment*

### CALENDAR COORDINATOR

*This is computer-only work that can be done at home in any location. Do you have a couple of hours a month? PLEASE volunteer for this important work.*

community workers and organizations, where we live would be different. Our quality of life would be different, our meaning of community not as cohesive, and most of all, our experiences not as positive.

As a local business owner, I believe it is important to participate in the community; but the reality of time constraints and business demands make it hard to be a part of community organizations. These barriers have not stopped our participation; it just makes us think of different ways to participate.

If time is of the essence then we look within our business and find ways to assist the community. This can be as a financial donor, a service donor, a donation of space for a fundraiser, a donation of food for volunteers, a donation of something that is easy for us to contribute and enables the work of non-profit agencies to continue.

Coco's Cat Rescue is one of the community organizations with which we have fostered a relationship. We have used their services to capture cats and have them fixed. We have donated food and drinks for volunteers who work at the clinics and help the community look after their animals. Some staff members have adopted, some staff members have donated their time. We have donated hotel items for resale so that the money can be used to purchase important supplies. This was easy for us but invaluable to the organization. Everyone won. And that is what it is all about, building a win-win situation for all.

We take our hats off to the people who focus on making our community a better place to live and work. We thank Coco's Cat Rescue for having a vision to improve our community and for working around the clock to execute that vision. We commend you for caring about the community and continuing your services for those of us who, at the moment, cannot.

Without community-focused individuals, where would Playa del Carmen be? To all the volunteers, vets, and dedicated visionaries who make up Coco's Cat Rescue and all other community-focused organizations, we thank you for your invaluable contributions to this city we call home. For us your work is tangible and we see the difference you are making. Your work is a necessary, no, *essential*, part of our communities.

What have you done for your community today? The question is yours to answer; you will decide how you can make Playa del Carmen or your own community a better place to live.

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## COCO'S NEW PET ID PROGRAM



# FYI!!

*TNR = trap, neuter, return (to current environment).*

*This approach works best to stabilize a population of feral cats who are surviving where they live now.*

*Adult cats are not easily socialized for adoption and TNR means the population will not increase. Any kittens are taken for socialization and future adoption. Healthcare is provided to all.*

*If you have any questions about CCR's operations, please e-mail us at [info@cococatrescue.org](mailto:info@cococatrescue.org)*

Coco's Cat Rescue is proud to announce our new Coco's Pet ID Tag program. Effective immediately, every Coco's adopted kitten will go to their new home with a **safety snap release** collar along with an **ID tag** bearing the Coco's phone number, logo and unique pet ID number.

Many people in Mexico allow their cats to live both inside and outside, with the result that many are lost, stolen (or even "rescued"! ). With the kittens having safety collars and tags, if anyone finds a lost kitten, they may simply call Coco's number and give us the ID number. The unique ID number will allow us to tell straightaway which kitten it is and to whom it belongs.

As a general rule, anyone who has outside cats should ensure their cat is wearing a cat safety collar and an ID tag. Local Playa cat owners, please note we are also working on a big TNR (Trap Neuter & Return) program for feral cats all over Playa del Carmen. If the cats have one of our collars we will know not to trap them. The collars are available at the Mundo Animal pet store in the Centro Maya at a cost of about \$140 pesos. We recommend that you remove the bell as the noise can irritate the cat.

We do our best to ensure that all kittens are re-homed to good responsible people and spend a lot of time interviewing each person that wishes to adopt. All people who adopt are asked to pay an adoption fee plus fill out an adoption form, and each re-homed kitten will now have this special collar and ID tag. This new program will help us ensure that our kittens stay safe in their new homes.

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Muling for CCR – easy job if you're coming down on vacation and don't mind carrying a couple of traps. These are urgently needed for ongoing TNR operations:

<http://www.animal-traps.com/>  
Heart of the Earth Animal Equipment  
#30 Light Duty Deluxe trap

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!**

**FOSTER PARENTS** to provide a temporary home for young kittens, from a few days to as much as a few months.

**DRIVERS** needed on **THURSDAYS** to drive cats for surgery to the perrera at 10 am and pick up at 2 pm.

Also **WEEKLY** to Sam's, Mundo Animal or the hospital shop to pick up food and supplies (money provided).

**WEEKLY** to deliver litter, medicines and other supplies to foster parents.



Laura will buy the traps and have them shipped to your home. She will also supply a letter which Mexican Customs will accept if you happen to be searched.

Since they don't fold down, if you carry them in the cardboard box, you may need to rig a handle, which according to our friends Beth and Scott is easy if you're handy with duct tape! See them muling two traps at this link:

[Beth and Scott's Trip Report on Playa.info](#)

*Thanks Beth and Scott!*



### **Contact info for Coco's Cat Rescue:**

**Cell phone: 984 120 0572 (From N. America, dial: 011 52 1 984 120 0572)**

**E-mail [info@cocoscatrescue.org](mailto:info@cocoscatrescue.org)**

**Information regarding our financials, municipal and tax status is available upon request**



**Newsletters will be published once or twice a month (except December). If you have a story or information you'd like to share, please send it to Caroline Page, Editor at: [thepagesmx@hotmail.com](mailto:thepagesmx@hotmail.com)**

**Submissions welcome; cat humour, rescues and life-with-a-cat stories will be featured whenever available!**