

**Founder
Laura's original
Coco - RIP**



Sterilization Clinic in June 2009

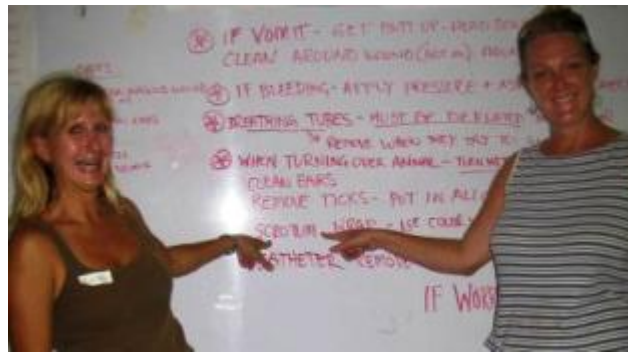
S.P.A.P. (formerly S.P.A.Y.), is an animal charity run by Jen Smith in Akumal. She and the municipio had planned this spay and neuter clinic, similar to the August VIDAS clinic that takes place each year in Playa del Carmen. Because of changing dates that couldn't work for S.P.A.P., Jen asked Coco to take over and run the clinic with the help of Sandra Valdez, the vet from the Playa del Carmen pound (Perrera). Fantastic! Sterilization for cats and dogs is one of our main missions, so being part of this Clinic was very exciting for Coco's. The chosen dates were June 12, 13, 14.

Our mission

Coco's Cat Rescue's 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.

Shortly after the dates were set, Laura heard from the new president of another local animal charity, Malix Pek. She invited Laura to attend their weekly meeting, with the result that the Malix Pek group volunteered and supported the June Spay and Neuter Clinic. They also have some exciting projects they would like to collaborate with CCR and we'll be reporting more on this at a later date.

What an amazing three days, with Coco's and Malix Pek volunteers working together for many long hours. The vets from Playa del Carmen, including Sandra Valdez from the Perrera, and vets who came all the way from Merida were awesome, performing an astonishing **225 surgeries in three days: 93 dogs and 132 cats were sterilized, including 21 feral cats.** As well, well over 100 animals received rabies vaccinations.



Sherry and Cindy provide instructions to the volunteers

The surgery and recovery teams were supported big-time by local business owners, who provided 30 lunches each day. **Huge "thank you"s** to:

Nicola from Tropical Casa Blanca Hotel (www.tropicalcasablanca.com)

Russell from Carboncitos and Hotel Cielo (www.hotelcielo.com)

Michele, local real estate expert and blogger (www.buyplaya.com)

As well, **Claudette** from Royal Palms Condos provided drinks and snacks and local singer **Lisa Orbach** also provided drinks for the crew.

And another huge thank you goes out to all our GREAT volunteers: there were so many that gave so much for so long – THANK YOU!! Here are a few candid shots of some of the workers that day.



TOP: Laura, Claire and Sherry care for a recovering dog. Sherry is cutting out mats of hair from the inside of his ears.

MIDDLE: Founder Laura comforts an abandoned kitten - the "owners" dropped her off and left a fake phone #. She's now at the CCR kitten shelter.

BOTTOM: Libby and Kelley are "tick picking" this recovering dog's ears.

Sweet kitties want homes!

These darling kittens were rescued from Pelicanos, an Asian restaurant at The Royal PdC Hotel on Av 1 and Constituyentes. An emergency call came in to Laura from Lily, who plays the violin there. A team of exterminators had arrived at The Royal and begun collecting the kittens in traps, no doubt marked for death. Lily knew the kittens well, having been feeding them and their mother. Laura was out of town, but she was able to reach Kelley and Sharon, who rushed to the hotel and quickly snatched the kittens, right out from under the exterminator's noses!

Kelley and Sharon were able to trap Mom as well, along with a young gray female who hung out at the main entrance fountain, begging treats from leaving customers. Sadly, they were unsuccessful that day in trapping the grandma cat, but we'll keep trying, for her safety.

Mom and the gray female have now been spayed and ear-tipped. Luckily, the people at the restaurant are happy to have them back, knowing there will not be any future generations, and they are now vet-checked and vaccinated.

Back to these gorgeous kittens! Feast your eyes and imagine them in your own home. When you've got the picture in focus, get in touch at info@cococscatrescue.org and we'll arrange for your favorite to be in your loving arms pronto!



Snowball (adopted)



Buttons



Piggy (adopted)



Ratatouille

Prior to adoption, our kittens are vet-checked for parasites and general health, and we always insist on a future date with you for vaccinations plus spay or neutering.

Coco's Business News:

A few weeks ago, Carlos and I had a meeting with the director of social development in Playa del Carmen. We had been working on a presentation for the municipio over several weeks. At this meeting, we gave our presentation and it went better than expected!

To begin the process to get permission to receive tax deductible donations, Coco's Cat Rescue needed a letter from the municipio. Not only did we get the letter, but we had a great meeting where we were authorized to work with Sandra Valdez, director of the Perrera (Playa del Carmen's animal pound). This provided the official permission to have free surgeries at the Perrera, as long as we provide the materials!

It is great to have the support of the municipio and to know that they are very interested in finding different solutions other than to put down the animals.

We are also working on the permission from the Hacienda to receive tax deductible donations. This is a long process but with this letter we are confident that in a few months we will have this paperwork sorted!

Coco's Cat Rescue is already a legal charity in Mexico and we can legally accept donations and do fundraisers. This permission to receive tax deductible donations will make it easier for people to give larger donations in the future, and help to assure CCR's success continues. We are very happy and excited with these developments, which support our mission to the animals of Playa del Carmen.

A thousand thanks for all your support! ~ ***Laura***

Andale! Bazaar – Saturday, May 31st!

What a fantastic day, people!! We received donations, we sold CCR t-shirts, we re-homed some kittens and we sold a ton of our friends' donated items: Coco's Cat Rescue made over \$4,677 pesos!!



Kittens posing daintily on display



Street strider!



Libby and Maureen taking care of business



This handsome fellow with his face buried is named Shammy and he's always had a real thing for drinking out of glasses.

Hey Shammy, what happens when you get to the bottom and you can't reach, huh? Cat got your tongue?

Shammy is the lucky home companion of Cheri and Tony, owners of the Luna Blue Hotel and Garden and he is 19 years old.

WILL WE EVER SEE NUMBERS LIKE THIS AGAIN?

WHAT A MIRACULOUS MONTH!

STATS FOR JUNE 2009:

12 kittens rescued

13 kittens re-homed

16 feral cats trapped, sterilized and returned

At the 3-day Sterilization Clinic:

80 pet cats either free or donation-supported

93 pet dogs either free or donation-supported

21 feral cats trapped, sterilized and returned

15 kittens sterilized (brought back by owners or still at CCR)

TOTAL STERILIZATIONS IN JUNE:

132 CATS

93 DOGS

AMAZING NEWS! THURSDAYS ARE NOW

COCO'S DAYS **at the Perrera**

Every Thursday, we are now able to have up to 10 surgeries on rescued, feral and adopted cats. Cat sterilizations are a huge part of our mission so we're really excited to have access to this resource:

- ✚ The surgery itself is free to Coco's.
- ✚ Coco's must pay for the supplies such as anesthetic, sutures, and antibiotics.
- ✚ The cost per surgery is \$200-300 pesos, depending on the amount of supplies needed.
- ✚ It's a small amount when you consider the huge benefit, not only to the health and future welfare of the animal, but to the community as a whole.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR ONE SURGERY?
HOW ABOUT SPONSORING A WHOLE THURSDAY?!!**

To sponsor Thursday surgeries, please go to our contact information at the bottom of the page and click on our website to reach the donation link. Include a note to direct your donation to Thursday surgeries. If you want to honor a person, place or pet, or support a special date, let us know.

For some it may be easiest to donate in dollars, but any currency will be gratefully received!

- ✚ To sponsor one animal, donate US\$20.
- ✚ To sponsor a whole day, please donate the equivalent of US\$200.

We will send out a weekly email to celebrate our sponsors' contribution to Coco's mission:

**“this Thursday's surgeries are brought to
you by (wonderful person's name here),
who is making this donation in honor of (pet, grandma,
child, local charity at home, your new Jimmy Choo's, you name it)!!!”**

WE THANK YOU AND THE FELINES AND FAMILIES OF PDC THANK YOU TOO!!

June 6th Fantasy Fundraiser at The Luna Blue Hotel and Garden

*"It wasn't really a fantasy, but Laura thought she was dreaming.
The very first fundraiser,
full of supporters, music, special food and drink,
caricature drawings, raffles of wonderful prizes
all donated by local individuals or businesses ~
it felt like a dream-come-true to her!"*

Here's our special reporter's take on the event, along with some great photos:



*Luna Blue's Tony to Laura's right
and Peanut Pet Shelter's Jen up front*



*Bad Brad from Mojo Zone rockin'
with musician friend Papayito*



*Laura announcing raffle winners
with help from Birdie, Cole and pal*

By Michele Kinnon of www.buyplaya.com, from her "Life's a Beach" blog

Saturday evening at The Luna Blue Hotel, nearly 100 Playa del Carmen locals and visitors braved the oppressive heat and turned out to support Coco's Cat Rescue with its first official fundraiser.

Coco's Cat Rescue is a non-profit initiative in Playa del Carmen dedicated to controlling the feral cat population in Playa with an aggressive trap/spay/release program. They also care for and re-home kittens in need and, in coordination with local vets, provide free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations and basic animal care for the pets of low income residents. In their first 18 months they have rescued 122 kittens, 100 of which have been successfully spayed/neutered and re-homed.

In cooperation with Tony and Cheri, owners of The Luna Blue Hotel, Laura Raikes and countless volunteers organized a fun-filled evening with live music by Bad Brad of the Mojo Zone, hysterical caricature drawings, cool CCR t-shirts, totes and bumper stickers, delicious kitty cupcakes, tropical "Coco Catinis" and an exciting raffle with amazing prizes all donated by local business people and friends of Coco's Cat Rescue! It was a wonderful evening and over \$35,000 pesos was raised, a huge success for this start up non-profit!

We congratulate them on their efforts and give special thanks to everyone who contributed to this event! With this kind of support from the community and animal lovers across the globe, Coco's Cat Rescue will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our local cats and kittens, those who share our homes as well as those who prefer to prowl the streets of Playa del Carmen.



Smilin' Sherry lookin' all official



Rob and Laura sharing a hug



Joe n' Mo with Claire, Judy and Randy



Newsletters will be published at the beginning of every month. If you have a story or information you'd like to share, please send it to:

thepagesmx@hotmail.com Submissions welcome; cat humour, rescues and life-with-a-cat stories will be featured every month!



Contact Coco's Cat Rescue:

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(From N. America, dial:
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E-mail info@cocoscatrescue.org

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

