

Founder
Laura's original
Coco - RIP



May 5, 2010

Newsletter No. 13

OUR MISSION

We are a non-profit organization with a no kill policy, dedicated to reducing and controlling the cat population in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. We achieve this via our TNR (trap, spay/neuter and return) program for feral cats, and our rescue, treat, spay/neuter, and tame program for kittens under three months. We aim to find a permanent loving home for all the rescued kittens in our care.

We are also committed to education which encourages responsible pet ownership and challenges negative associations with feral cats and consequent cruelty. We provide free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries and basic pet care to those on a low income. Our long term mission is to greatly increase the number of animals that we are able to assist and expand our model to embrace other local areas in need of our services.

We are thrilled to announce, with the help of ViDAS, Coco's Cat Rescue will be opening a permanent spay and neuter clinic in Playa del Carmen! This has been our goal since the very beginning and we could not have dreamed we'd be at this stage of our crucial project only one year after Coco's was founded.

Coco's has received a US\$10,000 grant through ViDAS, which enables us to kick off our permanent spay and neuter clinic. As always, we will continue with our cat sterilization program, however due to this permanent facility, we will also be able to assist dog owners or organizations in need of dog sterilization. All dog surgeries will be for a low cost fee covering materials and medications.

As if that weren't enough good news, SPAP, an Akumal animal charity, has provided an additional US\$1,000 specifically for dog surgeries! This will enable us to help those who cannot afford the estimated \$300 peso costs for supplies such as anesthetic, sutures and antibiotics. With these additional funds, we will be able to sterilize up to 40 dogs at no additional cost. This will allow Coco's Cat Rescue donations and support to continue be used *solely* for CCR's original cat mission.

ViDAS and SPAP will also be lending us some equipment so that we can start the clinic. Having a permanent spay and neuter clinic is the culmination of the dreams we have all shared over the past 12 months! For spay and neuter services for your cats or dogs, please contact us using the information at the end of this newsletter.

How can you help?

VET SALARY SPONSORSHIP IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY RIGHT NOW!

Our first essential need will be our resident veterinarian's salary, which we anticipate will require approximately US\$1,000 a month for full-time services.

Unbelievably, we have already received commitments of US\$600 per month! First, \$300 per month has been pledged by our long time ally and team member, Rob Sulzmen of Dallas, Texas. As well, \$100 per month has been committed by another supporter and good friend of Coco's, Michael Walsh. Chip, a new volunteer with Coco's, has pledged another \$100. Sherri Jones from Dallas has committed another \$50 and her company, TKL Interactive, is matching it!

To complete this part of our project goal, we are reaching out to you for the remainder of US\$400 per month. No amount is too small to consider as a monthly donation towards this fundamental necessity.

Remember, Coco's Cat Rescue is completely non-profit and our organization is staffed entirely by volunteers. For the most part, our ongoing core of volunteers are part- or full-time residents of Playa del Carmen and the majority of us have time and talent, rather than money, to give.

For those who don't live here but want to support our work, money is the ultimate in volunteering!

Can you help with a monthly pledge towards our vet's salary? Please let us know through e-mail at info@cocoscatrescue.org or call Laura at 984 120 0572. (From N. America, dial: 011 52 1 984 120 0572).

We are very fortunate to have found our resident vet, Edgar Godínez Calderón. Our part-time clinic has now opened, currently out of the MEDIVET clinic on a part-time basis; Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm until the clinic building is ready.

Oh, did we not mention? Things have been moving so fast! *We have already acquired our clinic building west of Highway 307 in Playa del Carmen and will open there in about 30 days!* As soon as possible, all the rescued kittens can be housed there prior to adoption and one of the rooms will be set aside for both cat and dog surgeries.

The building is actually a three-bedroom, three-bath house with a small yard. Coco's has always arranged any necessary segregation for purposes of taming feral kittens, keeping newborns apart, and separating any contagious kittens. But now the number of rooms will make all that so much easier to accomplish! As well, having plumbing throughout will make clean conditions easier to maintain and the back yard will be a play area.

**We wouldn't be where we are today without the help of ViDAS.
Today, we're taking the liberty of quoting from their website
to remind our readers about the PdC clinic this year:**

"We have set the date for the 2010 ViDAS clinic in Playa del Carmen. The clinic will be held from July 17-22, 2010. The exact location is still to be determined. We will post the location as soon as we have one.

Please contact us at volunteer@vidas.org if you would like to:

- * join our Playa del Carmen US crew (vet, vet tech, vet student or other medical volunteer)
- * volunteer at the clinic (local or non-medical)
- * help us with meals or supplies during the clinic
- * are traveling to the area and would like to bring supplies from our wish list

Please consider donating to ViDAS today to help us purchase the supplies we will need for this clinic. Consider 'sponsoring' a veterinary student so that they may gain the global experience of helping animals in need in an impoverished area of the world.

Please click on the donation link for more information. Thank you!"

ViDAS (Spanish for LIVES), is a non-profit organization made up of veterinarians, veterinary students and other animal lovers dedicated to improving the lives of animals and people through veterinary medicine and education. For further information on the ViDAS organization, go to:
www.vidas.org

Coco's Pet ID Tag Program

You may recall in our February newsletter, we announced every Coco's adopted kitten will go the 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. As we said then:

"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."

But we've got a problem here in Playa ~ the safety snap release collars cost about US\$14! We know they are available in the U.S. and Canada at a much reduced cost from stores such as Pet Smart. Please, since they are so small and easily transported, buy a handful before you fly down on holiday and donate them to Coco's. It's a small thing and yet so incredibly important.

We hope you can help! Here's a link for Pet Smart's collars FYI:

<http://www.petsmart.com/product/index.jsp?productId=3951259&lmdn=Cat>

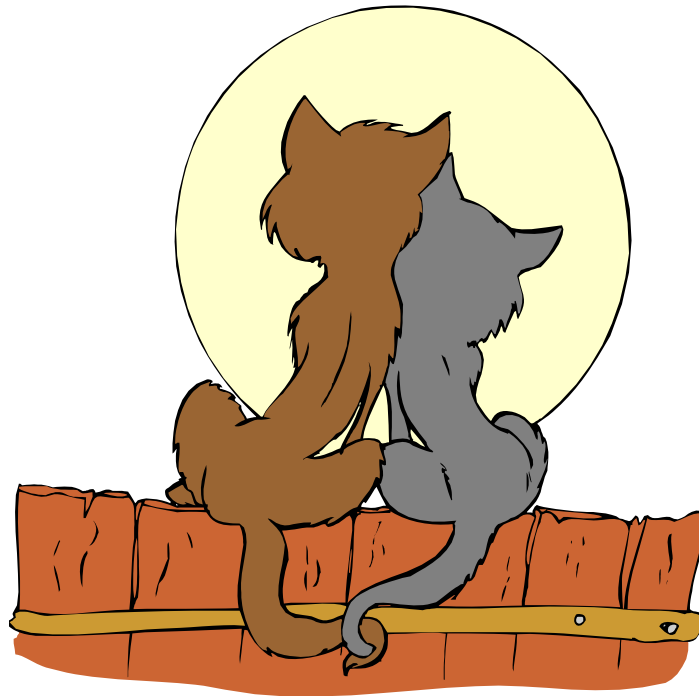
Andale Bazaar Coming Up!

Coco's will be participating in the Andale Bazaar again on May 16, 2010, with a stall selling donated items to raise money. We'll also have some adoptable kittens on display. If you have books, clothing, toys, DVDs, bikes or anything else you'd like to donate for Coco's Cat Rescue to sell, please contact us and we'll pick up whatever you wish to donate! Thank you so much!

More sweet kittens are available for adoption!

Is your new pet in this group? Have a good look and when you can see a kitten or two in your home, just get in touch with us and we'll bring you and your new pet(s) together. Cross border adoptions are easy to arrange, so if you're in the U.S. or Canada, you too can choose a Coco's kitten!

Never forget, two or three kittens playing and living together are even happier than one! And so darn cute too ... See our adoptable cuties starting on the next page!



It's not romance, it's companionship!





**Mario, Maribella and Opal
1 male, 2 female, 6 wks**



Elizabeth, female, adult



Tabata, female, 6 wks



Dolce, male, 4 wks



Gabana, male, 4 wks



Grampy, male, 4 wks



**Juan, male, 4 mos
(he looks like a lover to me!)**



Mayana, female, 4 wks



Chanel, female, 4 wks



Milo, male, 6 wks



Pacino, male, 4 mos



Larry, Curly and Meow, 2 males, 1 female, 4 wks





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. When they are returned to their current environment, they have been sterilized, vaccinated and treated for parasites. This produces a non-reproducing, stable and healthy population. The noise of fighting and copulation then ceases. (On the other hand, relocation of a colony of ferals would open the territory to invasion by unhealthy and reproducing cats.)

Adult feral cats are generally very fearful and do not socialize well enough to live with families. However, kittens can be trained 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@cocoscatrescue.org



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

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



Newsletters will be published one or two times a month, except December. We love to get stories and information from our readers, so please send to: thepagesmx@hotmail.com

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



Coco's April Stats

22 kittens rescued

19 kittens re-homed

7 cats TNR

2 pet cats sterilized

5 Coco's kittens spayed/neutered