



Newsletter No. 63 • June 2022 • www.amigosanimalesgto.org

Thanks to many of you, our online auction raised \$12,816!

Our online auction came to an exciting conclusion at 11 p.m. on May 22. There was fierce competition toward the end, with bids for some prizes exceeding their posted values.

And what prizes there were! One hundred and forty-five of them, including wonderful dining experiences at local restaurants and homes, hospitality at several attractive B&Bs and hotels, numerous beauty and health treatments, interesting tours, some stunning artworks and crafts, jewelry, lessons and services of many kinds, and opportunities to visit places elsewhere in Mexico and abroad—all at attractive prices. Fifty-eight lucky people were winners.



Dinner at El Mestizo Restaurant received a whopping 22 bids



A popular prize was a Moroccan dinner at the Pataky home



A French feast at the Elliott home was another popular item

Our sincere thanks to all those generous businesses and individuals who offered us prizes for the auction. They are too numerous to list here, but their names appear on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. In addition, we had 12 auction sponsors, also listed on page 10.

We thank everyone who participated in the auction, whether you won a prize or not!

Our sincere thanks to all those who helped sponsor the auction and offered us prizes, and to everyone who participated in the bidding.

Special thanks to our auction organizers—Rosemarie Conde, John Denissen, Suzy Thompson, and Sandra Ward—for their hard work.

This was our main fundraising event of the year. We hope to celebrate our 21st anniversary in 2023 with an in-person event after the three-year hiatus caused by Covid-19. We welcome your comments and suggestions for making it an even greater success.

Other recent and planned activities

With the auction and our other activities, we've been unusually busy lately. Here's a summary.

1st Animal Awareness Festival

The city's First Animal Awareness Festival took place in the Cantador Park on Saturday, May 7. There, representatives from the city and various organizations promoted pets' health and welfare. They also provided information about their services, offered dogs and cats for adoption, and displayed pet-related merchandise for sale.

Dr. Ricardo Montes de Oca, one of the veterinarians in our sterilization program and a staff member of the city's Animal Control Center, explained the reasons for sterilizing pets and offered free rabies shots to visitors' dogs.



Dr. Montes de Oca preparing a rabies shot

Julia Salido, our sterilization campaign coordinator, gave a presentation about the culture of pets, focusing on their needs as our companions.



Julia Salido giving her presentation

At our table we answered questions and gave away copies of our coloring booklets for children, lollipops, and dog biscuits. We also sold pet-themed items from Terri's Tiny Tiendita.



Jim Sullivan, Joslyn Lewis, and Mariana García

More than a hundred people attended the festival throughout the day. We hope this event will attract even more people next year. Our thanks to Mariana García, Joslyn Lewis, Vero Mares, Julia Salido, Jim Sullivan, Suzy Thompson, and Sandra Ward for their help at the event.



Many children came with their parents



Face painting was very popular

A training session for our campaign volunteers

On March 5 we held a formal training session for 12 of our sterilization campaign volunteers. Normally volunteers learn their tasks while on the job. This session gave them an



Julia Salido

opportunity to review in detail our procedures for each area of a campaign while not under the pressure of an actual campaign. Another purpose was to cross-train the volunteers to perform most tasks so that, should the need arise, they could be reassigned to help in a different area.

Julia Salido, our campaign coordinator, led the animated two-hour session at the home of Sandra Ward, with help from Sandra and Vero Mares. Using some basic equipment and supplies, they described our procedures for each stage of a campaign: registering the animals, preparing them for surgery, carrying unconscious animals from one area to another, cleaning surgical instruments between cases, attending the animals in the recovery area, and discharging them.

Julia needs 12 or 13 volunteers at a typical campaign. She emphasized the importance of taking seriously a commitment to volunteer at a campaign. One of her biggest frustrations is receiving a call the night before a campaign from people who previously agreed to participate, saying that they cannot come. Although having cross-trained volunteers enables her to make last-minute adjustments, not having a full complement of volunteers makes a campaign more stressful for all of them.

Vero Mares, who routinely prepares the anesthetized animals for surgery, demonstrated her technique on an imaginary dog. Julia in turn demonstrated how to clean surgical instruments between surgeries.

The volunteers asked questions and offered their ideas for handling specific situations. We shared with them revised drafts (in Spanish and English) of our instructions for campaign volunteers assigned to each area. At the end of the session, we offered to send them the sets of instructions and asked them for their comments and suggestions for improving them.

Those present agreed the session was very useful and recommended that we do occasional refresher training for them and our other campaign volunteers. We thank Rosemarie Conde, Carlo Donato, Jann Lee, Joslyn Lewis, Vero Mares, Miriam Pacheco, Ani Rey, Lalo Rodríguez, Julia Salido, Dulce Sandoval, Vicki Sandoval, Suzy Thompson, and Sandra Ward for their participation.



Vero Mares

Recent sterilization campaigns—and a new milestone

In March we held two sterilization campaigns, one in Santa Teresa (64 cases), the other in El Rodeo (53 cases). At both campaigns we had unexpected challenges. In Santa Teresa, Vero Mares was prepping the animals for surgery when she received an emergency call and had to leave. All the other volunteers were occupied. Into the breach stepped two brothers from the community, Héctor and Freddy Gómez. Julia Salido gave them a quick tutorial in prepping, and they took over.



Aurora Verver operating

The campaign at the village of El Rodeo was even more challenging. Dr. Ricardo Montes de Oca was ill and had to cancel just before the campaign was to begin. Normally he brings the sterilized surgical instruments, drapes, and gauze to the campaigns. Julia had to go to his clinic to pick up those items. Until she returned, an hour later, the campaign could not begin. Our other veterinarian, Arturo Rocha, had problems with his car and arrived late. For these reasons the campaign got off to a late start. We were also short two of our advanced vet students, who usually help perform the surgeries.



Carlos Donato prepping a dog

Undaunted, the team got to work and stayed until 7 p.m., sterilizing all the registered cases. Our hats off to the team members, and our thanks to the pets' owners for their patience.



Waiting their turn



Ani Reyna cleaning instruments



Carolina and Holly with their certificate

Despite the challenges at both campaigns, we reached an important milestone in March. Case number 21 in Santa Teresa happened to be case number 22,000 since we began our sterilization program in 2001. She was a poster-perfect dog named Holly, belonging to a young woman named Carolina Riviera, both of whom we honored with a certificate of recognition, photos, and a round of applause.

Our April campaign, in Cerro del Cuarto, went off without a hitch, and 75 animals were sterilized. Another 10 were sterilized during two training sessions for our student vets, held at Dr. Ricardo Montes de Oca's clinic.



Pat Barovetto with helper, washing surgical drapes (later machine-washed and sterilized in an autoclave)



Ready to go home

And on May 22, we held another campaign in Cerro del Cuarto, during which we sterilized 78 dogs and cats. In this campaign we sterilized as many male dogs as female dogs (24 each) and 22 female cats. Altogether, so far this year we have sterilized 531 animals.

Many thanks to the campaign participants for their hard work. Their names appear on page 11.



Two puppies at the April campaign



Dr. Arturo Rocha and Tina Bonini

Two new bus messages came on board in April



Sterilize your female dog at age 6 months

Our two messages on city buses during January through March focused on the health advantages of sterilization to female and male cats. Beginning in April, we began displaying two new messages about the advantages of sterilization to dogs—females and males.

One message says to sterilize your female puppy at six months of age to avoid unwanted litters, ovarian cysts, pyometra, and tumors of the uterus and mammary glands. The other recommends sterilizing your male puppy at age six months to

prevent fights, tumors of the testicles, transmissible venereal tumors, and prostate problems.

These messages will remain on the buses until the middle of June. They are seen by thousands of people each day.



Sterilize your male dog at age six months

Coming up in July: Animal Fest

During the July 2-3 weekend, we'll participate in a celebration of companion animals organized by animal-welfare groups in the city. Amigos will sponsor Super Mestizo, a parade and contest of mixed-breed dogs dressed (or perhaps not) in costumes. We'll be awarding prizes for the most creative pairs. So get ready for the fun!



Two new board members raise our skill levels



Joslyn Lewis and Jim Sullivan

Joslyn Lewis and Jim Sullivan moved to Guanajuato from the United States last year after pursuing early retirement from their respective careers. They recently joined the Amigos board of directors, bringing important technical skills to our organization. And they haven't wasted any time putting those skills to use. Even before joining the board, they were offering us their help in several key areas.

Joslyn Lewis

In Missouri, Joslyn had a career in healthcare as a registered respiratory therapist. Her roles at several medical institutions involved managing medical equipment and training and research in pediatric sleep.

She also volunteered with a refugee group, helping with community events and teaching preschoolers basic English skills.

At the Amigos sterilization campaigns, she monitors animals in the recovery area, making sure they are breathing normally and have no abnormal reaction to the surgery. Besides her work at the campaigns and volunteering at other Amigos events, Joslyn has begun to leverage her unnatural love of financial account reconciliation as our new treasurer. As if that were not enough, she is producing attractive posts about our activities on our Facebook page and other social media sites.

In her spare time, she enjoys taking art classes and playing with her two rescue pups, Greta and Esty. You have probably seen her modeling some of the clothing and accessories on our auction website.



Joslyn Lewis



Jim Sullivan

Jim Sullivan

In his pre-Guanajuato life, Jim Sullivan had a career in military aviation as an instructor, flight test engineer, and project manager. He worked for and volunteered with a few nonprofits over the years. When he wasn't working, he was raising kids, relaxing with his dogs, and playing video games.

A tech-savvy fellow, Jim enjoys using his skillset to improve systems and processes and to enhance the capabilities of individuals and teams working toward a common goal. When he retired and moved with Joslyn to Guanajuato in 2021 to start his post-work life, he decided to volunteer his skills to several nonprofit groups here, including Amigos de los Animales.

He's certainly begun helping us to improve our systems and processes—for example, by redesigning our website, improving our communications, and recommending changes in our online services. He's even formatted this issue of the Newsletter, a chore that used to be a laborious one for the editor.

Jim's become enamored of the city, as he suspected he would. In his new life, his kids don't need much raising anymore, he relaxes with his Guanajuatense perras, Esty and Greta, and, yes, he still plays video games. He's made many new friends, and he hopes to have a positive impact on Amigos. Editor's note: He already has.

Two outstanding Amigos volunteers

Our program could never have continued over 20 years without our volunteers. In this issue, we recognize two of them, Verónica Mares and Carlos Donato, who have provided professional-level support at our sterilization campaigns.

Verónica Mares

Vero Mares has volunteered at our sterilization campaigns for at least 15 years and has served on our board of directors since 2008. She's the person often seen in our photographs of dogs and cats being prepared for surgery.

Once an animal is tranquilized and then anesthetized, she gently pulls its tongue from its mouth so that it cannot swallow it and suffocate. If the animal is a cat, she puts lubricating drops in its eyes because cats do not close their eyes when anesthetized. Next, she shaves the belly if the animal is a female or the scrotum area if it's a male, then gently expresses urine from the animal's bladder. Finally, she wipes the shaved area several times with cotton or gauze saturated with an



Vero shaving a dog



Vero Mares

antiseptic solution to prepare a sterile field for the surgery before passing the patient along to a surgeon.

Vero is always calm, even when faced with a complication, such as vomiting by an animal whose owner made the mistake of feeding it on the morning of the campaign. Such a mistake can be fatal if the animal is not attended immediately.

Each year Vero participates in the city's anti-rabies campaign, vaccinating dozens of dogs in her neighborhood. She is also a rescuer. She and her husband Johnny have rescued many dogs and cats from the streets and negligent pet owners over the years. Currently they have 22 dogs and nine cats, all of them well cared for, vaccinated, and sterilized.

Carlos Donato Sandoval

Carlos Donato began volunteering at our sterilization campaigns in early 2019. He usually works with Vero Mares, preparing animals for surgery by tranquilizing them and, after they are anesthetized, injecting them with antibiotics.

By the time he had spent a year in the United States as a teenager, Carlos was fluent in English—and now also speaks Italian. This spring, he graduated from Guanajuato's Official Preparatory High School. In August he will begin a five-year program at the La Salle University in León to become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.



Carlos Donato Sandoval



Carlos preparing to inject an antibiotic into an anesthetized dog

Even as a child Carlos cared for animals, rescuing injured pigeons and baby birds. Currently his family has several rescued dogs and a rabbit. Recently Carlos and his mother rescued a feral dog and her puppies from a cave. They found homes for the pups after having them sterilized and vaccinated; but the mother could not be tamed, even after being sterilized. So, after several weeks, they released her in the nature preserve where they had found her.

While pursuing his veterinary studies, Carlos plans to continue volunteering at our campaigns whenever his schedule permits. During his final year, when he will begin doing surgeries, he hopes to perform sterilizations under our vets' supervision. After becoming a vet, he wants to work with exotic animals, preferably at the famous African Safari Zoo in Puebla.

With Carlos comes a bonus: his mother, Dulce Sandoval Mendoza, who also often volunteers at our sterilization campaigns.

Your support enables us to continue our important work

We depend upon the donations we receive to provide services to the community. **Our average costs** (in U.S. dollars): campaign sterilization, \$20; bus message, \$85 per month; social media posts, \$150 a month. **Donations in any amount are gratefully accepted and acknowledged.**

To donate through PayPal, click [here](#).

Using Zelle, you can make transfer to our account at Chase Bank at no cost. To do so, go into your bank account online, click on Zelle, and enter our name (Amigos de los Animales de Guanajuato, Inc.) and our email address (amigos@amigosanimalesgto.org) as the charity you wish to support. Chase will notify us of the transfer so that we can thank you.

You can make a donation to our Mexican bank account at Bancomer, No. 0116390749, Clabe 012210001163907490.

You can make a cash deposit to our Bancomer account of up to 1000 pesos at any OXXO store for just 10 pesos. Our Bancomer card number is 4555 1130 0801 2017. Again, please tell us when you make the donation so that we can send you our thanks.

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Questions about making a donation? Contact us at amigos@amigosanimalesgto.org.

Recent donors and volunteers

Auction contributors

Queridos Amigos, Auction Sponsors, Jungle Cats, and Top Dogs: Robin Bram, Rosemarie Conde and David Hester, John Dennisen and Steve Murdock, Ron Mann and Sandra Ward, Bill Merrell and Georgeanne Davis (and Beau), Charles and Terri Rasmussen, Tom Reavley and Guille Amézquita, Jim Sullivan and Joslyn Lewis

Prize Donors: Adriana Passion Estética & Spa, Alfarería Tradicional de Gorky González, Amaxti, Guillermina Amézquita, Dyan Amirault, Gabriel Anaya Barba of Platería Corazón de Plata, Hugo Anaya, Giancarlo Aquilanti, Wayne and Jeib Barnes, Osvaldo Betancourt López, Mauricio Benítez Sánchez, Martine Bilodeau, Robin Bram, Buongiorno Restaurante, Margo and Jürgen Buschek, Cayo Candás Vega, Casa de Colores, Casa de Estela & Virgilio B&B, Casa Estrella de la Valenciana, Casa Museo Gene Byron, Casa San Sebastian, Iliana Cervantes González of Medicina Estética Cervantes, Saúl Cervantes, Dena Chen and Kjetil Hovda, Clínica Veterinaria Can-Cat, Clínica Veterinaria Integral Guanajuato, Club de Golf Santa Margarita, Marsha Coarsey, Alisa G. Cook, Carlos Donato Sandoval, El Mestizo Restaurant, Jack and Jacquie Elliott, Jacquie Elliott, Esas Ruinas Bar, Escuela de Idiomas Falcón, Jeniffer Jazminne Espinoza, Barry Evans and Luisa Rogers, Jolene Gailey, Gabriela García, Julián Gaxiola of Jardines Sustentables, Catherine Gielis, Siwsan Gimprich, Rik Gitlin, Nancy Hager, Pat Heinke, Hotel Casa Encantada, Hotel Villa María Cristina, Huacales, Raúl Jaramillo of Turismo Alternativo en Guanajuato, Nina Johnson, Chandra Rose Kirkland of Panda Luna Culinary, Sarah Anne Kulla, La Bohemia Restaurante y Bar, La Curva Mariscos, La Delicia Pastelería, La Jaula Mariscos, La Trattoria, Don and Arlene Lang, Tim Leffel, Joslyn Lewis, Linda Logan and Jim Edney, Los Campos, Ron Mann and Sandra Ward, Liz Mapelli and Florecer Casitas, Mondavi Puerto Vallarta, Vicky Ann Moore, Vanesa Moranchel of Fiziotec, Miko Mosher, Isaac Musselwhite, Carolyn Napoli, Peter Newman and Renée Bouthot, Ellen Ottoson, Sue Parry, Endre Pataky, Susan and Endre Pataky, John S. Paul, Peccato Di Gola, Marion and Lyle Pritchard, Puscua, Terri Rasmussen, Tom Reavley, Restaurante de los Santos, Karen Ricks, Sabor & Arte, Gilberto Salazar and Juan Jesús Vargas, Fátima Salazar de Estúdio de Belleza, Julia Salido, Miguel Sánchez de Bernardo, Euclides Santiago & Tres Reyes Cigars, Kris Santiago, Susan Santiago, Enaid Savage, Thomas Settel, Michael Severens, Carolyn R. de Solis of Perfect Skin, Austin Starr, Virginia Stotz, Jim Sullivan, Taller Capelo, Terraza Marfil,

Suzy Thompson, Three Cool Cats, Arcangelo Tomasella, Cuauhtemoc Trejo, Uk-UI Café, Juan Jesús Vargas, Dra. Aura Villagómez, Sandra Ward, Alan Wright

Other contributors and volunteers

Sustaining donors, who contribute monthly: Pat Barovetto, Ann Ceraldi, Victor Márquez, Anita Nelson, Isabel Nuñez Ortiz, Jeanne Parrent, Karla Peyton, Charles and Terri Rasmussen, Dianne Romain, Richard Thurston

Other donors and donors in kind: Robin Bram, Mary Beth Canovan, Ri Chan, John Courtney, Mariana Gómez Grobet, Joanne Grieder in remembrance of Chuck Windsor, Joslyn Lewis, Sabine Ludwig, Alejandra Vargas Márquez, Carolyn Napoli, Aaron Redman in memory of his dog Zorro

From the moment of his adoption in 2009, Zorro had so much personality. He would roll on his back to get his belly rubbed or press his head on my hand, looking at me with deep engagement as I conversed with him. He made every place where he lived feel like home. His years in León, Mexico, where he hung out with farm friends, were some of his happiest. Afterward, he lived in Germany for a time before spending his last years in Wisconsin, where he died in April. He will be sorely missed and never forgotten.



Aaron Redman's dog Zorro in Mexico

Board of Directors: Carolyn Black, Rosemarie Conde, John Denissen, Nancy Hager, Saul Helfenbein, Joan Hicks de Romero, Sarah Anne Kulla, Joslyn Lewis, Martín Lozano, Vero Mares, Bill Merrell, Tom Reavley, Julia Salido, Jim Sullivan, Suzy Thompson, Sandra Ward

Sterilization campaigns: veterinarians: Verónica Almaguer, Ricardo Montes de Oca, Arturo Rocha; campaign coordinator: Julia Salido; advanced veterinary students: Daniel Palafox, Laura Uvalle, Aurora Verver; other volunteers: Karla Ahumada, Pat Barovetto, Tina Bonini, Irene Campos, Rosemarie Conde, Carlos Donato, Fran Espinosa, Eduardo García, Freddy Gómez, Héctor Gómez, Abril Herrera, Joslyn Lewis, Beth Lozano, Vero Mares, Jessica Sarai Perez García, María Cristina Perez García, Mayra Paola Perez García, Joel Gaytán Espinosa, Jeff Gimprich, Juana Soledad Mondragón, Cecilia Montiel, Lalo Martínez Murillo, Miriam Aidé Pacheco, Anny Reynoso, Eduardo Rodríguez, María Luz Rodríguez, Dulce Sandoval, Jorge Vargas, María José Vásquez Lona, Mirian Villalpando, Sandra Ward

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Newsletter: Sandra Ward (editor), Bill Merrell and Joan Romero Hicks (translation), Jim Sullivan (formatting and mailing)

Social media: Joslyn Lewis, Mariana García Salido

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