



Paw-fect Mews: The CARA Philippines Newsletter

1st and 2nd Quarter, 2010

New Year, New Activities, New Goals

The year is half way through, and the first two quarters have been busy. CARA kicked off the year by attending the Animals for Asia Conference in Singapore from January 15 to 19. Gia Robertson and Nancy Cu Unjieng joined 11 other representatives



Fundraising chair Totelle Dimson tees off at the first Golf Cup held March 19 at the Ayala Greenfields Golf Cup.

from the Philippines. Some of the goals discussed included ending the dog meat and wild-

life trade, making spay/neuter programs a government policy, and ending greyhound racing.

February was a busy month for CARA. February 24 was Spay Day at CARA's new clinic. Local low income families brought in their cats and

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New Officers for 2010 Elected

With the advent of the new year, new officers were elected to lead CARA throughout 2010. The jobs went to six dedicated volunteers: Tanya Guerrero was elected treasurer; Puja Madiath became secre-

tary; Barbara Greenwood fulfilled the vice president role; and Nancy Cu Unjieng took over as president. Two trustees, Vera Lim and Trace Tuason, were also appointed. With their leadership, CARA strives to

fulfill the goals of employing a vet in the CARA clinic, increasing adoptions, making CARA more visible to the public, buying a mobile spay and neuter unit, and making the clinic financially self-sufficient.

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ABOUT CARA

CARA was formed in 2002 to improve the lives of animals in the Philippines. It is a private non-profit organization that relies on donations and is a member of the Animal Welfare Coalition. Objectives include reducing pet overpopulation through a low cost spay/neuter clinic, to promote Trap/Neuter/Return, to provide veterinary consultations for low income pet owners, to educate citizens about animal welfare, to prevent animal cruelty, and to provide good homes to rescue animals through adoptions.

CARA's New Clinic Opens in Malate

Providing the local communities with low cost spay and neutering options and trap/neuter/return programs is a cornerstone of CARA's main objectives, and CARA was fortunate enough to begin the new year with a brand new clinic in Malate, which replaces the Guadalupe Clinic. The new clinic was donated by a benefactor and was able



Cats recuperate from their surgeries. CARA also has a boarding facility for cats. Owners traveling can leave their cats at the clinic for 200 pesos a day. The cats will be taken care of by the staff.

to open in December 2009. CARA will use the clinic to pursue its goal of providing easy and low cost access to spay and neutering for pets of people with little means.

The new clinic allows people to bring in any local or rescued animal of at least 6 months of age to have the spay and neuter procedure. However, animals must be healthy and well fed. Male and female cats can be spayed or neutered for 500 and 700 pesos, while male and female dogs can be neutered or spayed at 1500 and 1700 pesos. CARA neutered or spayed around 1263 cats and 52 dogs in 2009. As of June 2010, CARA fixed 353 cats and 16 dogs and will likely increase the number once a full time vet is hired.

As of right now, numerous hurdles still face the CARA clinic.



Volunteer veterinarians operate on a local cat. Surgeries are by appointment and depend on when the vet is available to perform it.

For one, the clinic does not pay for itself, so money that could be spent on spaying and neutering is instead spent on daily expenses and wages. CARA also would like to find a good vet to work in the clinic, rather than rely on volunteers. These objectives are still on the process of being met, but CARA is working to fulfill them by the end of the year.



CARA Expands its Sponsorship Program to Include Dogs

CARA does not have a shelter to house the animals its members rescue, so the group decided to offer a sponsorship program that allows compassionate people unable to adopt a pet a chance to still contribute to the needs of rescued animals. So far 14 cats have found sponsors to help with their food, vaccinations, and medical care, but now CARA has also opened up sponsorship for dogs as well, so dog lovers who might not be able to adopt another dog can participate in helping them. As of

now, 20 cats and one dog are available for sponsorship. The first dog available, Bowie (shown right), was hit by a car and has several injuries including fractured front paw and pelvic and dislocated hip. He is 2-years-old and known for his good nature, even after the trauma he has endured. Although he walks with a limp, he would make a good pet for any dog lover.

Interested petlovers can also contribute to the faith fund



Bowie is available for both sponsorship and adoption. Barbara Greenwood rescued Bowie.

to aid rescues, so that more dogs and cats can be sponsored.

Volunteer Spotlight: Rebecca Tieng

When Rebecca Tieng sees a dog in need on the side of the road, an all too common site in Manila, she doesn't just pass by but stops to pick up the dog to take to the nearest vet.

Although born and raised in Manila, Rebecca lived in Dubai and Canada for 13 years, only returning to Manila in 2008. She has had dogs all of her life but began to rescue them when she lived in Dubai, where she says pets are "left in the desert to die, left in apartments or villas by foreigners who there and finally, when their contract is up, they go back to the UK, etc...the pets are left behind or set free on the streets to fend for themselves." Rebecca decided to take action. Due to the nature of her job as a flight attendant, she was always away and could not adopt dogs herself, but she would care for the dogs she found and then give them responsible owners.

When she moved to Canada, Rebecca's work with dogs continued. She set up a mobile dog grooming business and would pick up strays and care for them. However, her real work be-

gan when she returned to Manila and was, as she puts it, "horrified to see the conditions of dogs and cats." Wanting to help, she contacted a well-established organization who "just wished me luck on my rescues," she says. However, she then read about CARA in *Animal Scene* magazine and contacted them. "I immediately got a reply from Ms. Nancy and Ms. Vera (who are really heaven sent), and from then on, they have helped me [with my rescues] a lot," she explains.

Rebecca, who has five Yorkshire terriers and one rescue dog (shown at right), works six days a week as a manager of furniture manufacturer and importer. Despite this busy schedule, limited funds, and a young son, she still finds time to rescue the dogs that need help. She also feeds street animals, educates people about proper animal care, and talks to owners who neglect their pets. Rebecca estimates that she has rescued 20 to 25 dogs, but



Rebecca's dog Zittie, who she found tied under a truck and starving. "From being treated as nothing," Rebecca says, "she thinks and feels like a million dollars now."

she readily admits she couldn't have done so without CARA's help. "There are thousands of animals that need help. Without CARA, I would not and will not be able to as many animals as I want and need to. CARA supports me by giving medications, contact numbers of other people who could help, temporary shelter and food, advice, and so much more," Rebecca says.

Despite all of her efforts, Rebecca doesn't feel that she has made a difference in animal welfare, because "there are thousands of animals that need help." Although such a number may sound impossible to overcome, Rebecca does have advice for anyone devoted to animals and interested in improving animal welfare in the Philippines: "Common civilians must be made aware that there are laws drafted against animal abuse. Posters and advertisements would increase awareness...I would like

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Beneficiaries from Rebecca's work. These two dogs belong to a street dweller named Jun who lives behind Rebecca's office in Quezon City. When she first encountered him in January, his dogs suffered from mange (left photo). He wouldn't part with them, but Rebecca gave them some Advocate, and two months later (right photo), they show a lot of improvement. Their owner has now agreed to put them and his cat up for adoption. Interested parties can contact CARA for more information.

CARA Moves its Adoption Venue to Eastwood Mall

With the rainy season in Manila in full force, CARA has found a new location to hold its monthly adoption events: Eastwood Mall in Quezon City, which replaces the former location of Hobbes and Landes in The Fort. "We felt we have saturated the interested adopting market at the Fort, so it was time for a location change," CARA adoption organizer Kristin King explains. "Eastwood seemed a good place to try, especially since it offered us an indoor location as the weather changes to the rainy season. The mall is newer, clean, and modern. It draws animal lovers and families. The staff are very animal friendly and helpful."

The upscale Eastwood City, where the mall is located, describes itself on its website as a "world-class city experience," and it is considered to be one of the most pet-friendly locations in the Philippines. It not only allows dogs to come in the mall, but even provides pet stations that supply owners with tissue to pick up after their dogs and a trash can to dispose of waste.



Harry, a male cat that Barbara Greenwood fostered, found his forever home with the Lopez family.

The mall also works with animal welfare organizations to educate pet owners on proper pet care and holds pet-related events, such as the Pet Blessing in October. King said that these policies are what attracted CARA to the location. "The location itself is in an established housing community, which is really up and coming for young families and yuppies (young urban professionals) alike," in addition to pet owners who are attracted to the area because of its pet-friendly attitude.

The pet-friendliness of the mall also meant that they were more considerate to the needs of CARA and the adoptable animals. "Ian Frayco [from the Marketing and Events division] worked closely with me to design our adoption event at Eastwood and was able to get the mall administration to accept our application and allow us to set up our booth for free—the mall prefers to have events where they can charge a 10% fee for all proceeds generated so wasn't enamored with our proposal—Ian got it approved for us," King says.

The first event was held June 6, and the mall made numerous accommodations for CARA. In addition to letting CARA rearrange the event tables as they saw fit, the mall also worked with them to turn down the air conditioning, as the temperature was too cold for the cats. "The mall allowed us to



Several shoppers take a moment to check out the cats available for adoption at Eastwood Mall. Although only one cat was adopted during this event, a more strategic location will hopefully increase traffic in future events.

bend many of their standard event rules," King says. Rather than have the cats present at mall opening, "we were able to bring them in at a more reasonable time."

With one cat adopted, the event was, as King says, a "good trial run" but hopes to have more cats adopted at the next event. In the future, King hopes that it will be possible to move to a "more populated and warmer" location and plans on advertising the week before to raise awareness.

2010 Adoptions

January: 15 cats

February: 7 cats and 2 dogs

March: 3 cats

April: 4 cats

May: 9 cats

June: 4 cats

Activities: Cont'd

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dogs to be spayed and neutered for free. Staff used this event as a way to educate the owners about the program. CARA spayed and neutered 39 cats and two dogs.

On February 28, CARA took part in Free Vaccination Day. Using donated vaccines for rabies and other common diseases, veterinary students administered much-needed vaccinations to 165 dogs and cats from the nearby area in Malate.

The first CARA Golf Cup - Putt Fur a Cause was held on March 19. 66



Dogs checking each other out during the Daddy's Pet event at the Mall of Asia.

players competed at the Ayala Greenfields Golf Club, resulting in CARA exceeding their fund targets. The winners were Peping Nepomuceno, Leo Jabeguero, and Rosalie Heo.

CARA participated in the Metro Dog Run on April 17. The Run for a Cause aimed to raise awareness for animals in the Manila Area. All dogs over one-year-old could participate, and CARA received a portion of the registration fee.

The Forbes Furry Fiesta took place on May 22 and was held in the residential community of Forbes Park. CARA ran several activities, including a dog show and exotic pet display of snakes, turtles, and more. Children could get their faces painted, jump in the inflatable castle, and color.

On June 27, CARA partici-



Children attending the Forbes Furry Fiesta have their arms painted.

pated in the Daddy's Pet event at the Mall of Asia. Activities included obedience training, a dog salon, and crafts. In addition to a speech that Nancy gave about animal welfare, CARA had an cat adoption booth. Although no cats were adopted, CARA received a 10,000 peso donation.

As 2010 progresses, CARA has even more activities planned to raise animal awareness.



Rebecca Tieng: Cont'd

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to ask every reader to do their part. Be compassionate. If you know someone whose dogs are tied up or caged 24/7, speak up. If you see animals on the streets, feed them. If you see sick animals, call your local vet or animal

advocacy groups and ask for help, or better yet, bring them to the vet yourself. If you know of any animal abuse going on, report it to your *barangay* and animal rights groups....I'm not rich, I live pay check to paycheck but this doesn't stop me from doing what I can

for these poor animals. I ask for help from CARA and other people. At the end of the day, I take a deep breath, my conscience is clean because I didn't ignore a person or an animal in need. I feel good and say: Thank you Lord for helping me help others.... "