



CARA CLINIC

Our CARA clinic in Makati was literally bursting at the seams. One room measuring only 22 square feet and very soon, we didn't have enough space to perform surgery and house our ever growing number of rescued animals. We had at least 25 cats in this space and the maximum we were allowed was 10. With limited resources, we couldn't afford rent on larger facilities, so it seemed we were caught in a vicious circle.

However by good fortune, a lady came along who was willing to let us convert part of a property she owned for use as a clinic. She generously agreed that we could stay there rent free for 5 years. The only downside was that it would take a considerable sum of money to renovate the area, leaving us with very little reserves. However this was a risk we had to take.



After months of construction, CARA moved to this new spacious facility in December 09. We now have a small reception area, surgery room and a large terrace area to house our rescued cats. There is a garden area which, in the future finances allowing, we plan to cover and make a wonderful environment for our cats waiting to be adopted. We are very proud of our new facility although it has drained our finances considerably.



In August 2009 we received notice from our vet that she was leaving to concentrate on her own clinic in Cavite. This was very bad timing as we needed spay & neuter fees to cover our day to day expenses; without a full time vet this would be very difficult. Thank goodness we have had help from volunteer vets, which at least enabled us to be open for spay/neuter surgery a few days a week. At present we are still looking for a vet. It is extremely hard to find compassionate and well trained vets in the Philippines. It is even more difficult to find one trained in quick spay and neuter. Fortunately senior vets from nearby clinics are willing to train any applicants. We sincerely hope a suitable candidate applies soon.

Spay & Neuter Figures:	2006: 282 cats & 10 dogs	2008: 1097 cats & 50 dogs
	2007: 747 cats & 15 dogs	2009: 1263 cats & 52 dogs

EDUCATION

The main long term hurdle we fight on a daily basis is the widespread lack of understanding about animals. Children learn from their elders, and the elders view animals in a very poor light. Cruelty and abuse of the animals is, sadly, a daily occurrence. Through our children's education program we aim to cultivate in children a spirit of peaceful co-existence, if not kindness, to animals.



Ultimately, our goal is to empower students to speak up for animals and not be passive, uncaring observers to their abuse. Instilling such a foundation in children will make them kind and compassionate individuals in every respect. Schools who participated this year: German European School, Esteban School and the British school.

ADOPTIONS & RESCUES

Our main focus is, and will always be, spay and neuter to control over population. However we can't turn our backs on animals in need that we see on the streets.

At present we have 216 cats and 6 dogs for adoption. The majority of these animals are kept in our own homes as we do not have a shelter. This doesn't even include the animals who are sick and need special care.

In 2009 we knew we had to somehow reach out to the public and promote an adoption program. Therefore we arranged with the Mall of Asia and Hobbes & Landes at Serendra, to hold regular adoption booths. This was new ground for us, finding good caring homes for our cats was the highest priority.

This project was very successful because not only did we find good homes for several of our rescued cats, we also promoted spay/neuter and correct pet ownership.

This year we had **84 cats and 4 dogs adopted.**



Our second adoption project was to promote the local cats as being worthy of good homes. In the Philippines they are generally thought of on the same level as rodents. Many Filipinos only want purebreds as pets. We wanted to show the local people that “native” cats are just as lovable and deserve a chance.

An opportune meeting with Alamea Rowan, an Australian next top model contestant, brought this project to realization. Luckily for us, she adores animals and is keen to promote animal welfare. Models and celebrities in the Philippines are really looked up to, so who better to promote the local cats.

Fortunately on our CARA team we have a member with a photographic studio and husband who is a photographer. The only thing then needed was a cat to pose with her – we have 100's of those! Here is the advert we hope to promote far and wide to make Filipinos look at their native cats in a different light.

RESCUES

CARA does so many rescues each year; on nearly every street corner in the Philippines you will find an animal needing help. However our most memorable case this year has to be Gomer; the courage and kind nature of this dog touched us all.

Gomer, named after singer Rick Springfield's rescued dog, was "living" in Taguig. He was by The Strip where there are lots of upscale restaurants. So many people passed him by on their way to their expensive meals, but no one gave him a second glance where he lay suffering under a bush. Luckily for Gomer a CARA member did stop and look closer.



2 months after his rescue; Gomer already looks like a completely different dog

ANIMAL RELIEF

In 2009 devastation hit the Philippines in the shape of typhoon Ketsana. The destruction was unimaginable; thousands of people lost their homes and many were killed. During this stressful time CARA helped some of the often forgotten victims - the animals.



1,534 anti-rabies shots were given
900 collars and leashes distributed
Countless bags of cat and dog food distributed
Hundreds of medical cases treated

This project was made possible with the support of the International Fund for Animal Welfare
www.ifaw.org

2010 Aims and objectives

Now established in our new larger clinic ,we are looking optimistically to the future but there is still a lot to be done. Below are CARA's top 9 Aims for 2010.

1. CARA clinic vet - employ a vet and train him/her in quick spay and neuter.
2. Increase adoptions, we still have 200+ cats in our care.
3. Get CARA on the map; we need to work on better media coverage.
4. Promote our Educational Module on responsible pet ownership and awareness of the Animal Welfare Act 8485. We now have a member heading this program, therefore lots of opportunities.
5. Funding – the four aims listed below will not be possible without external funding. We need to find sponsorship and/or support from abroad; within the Philippines it is very hard to get monetary assistance. Lack of finances holds us back every step of the way; to date we have no regular source of financial help.
6. Purchase of important equipment for the CARA clinic A) An Anesthetic Gas Machine - this is less invasive for the animals and the recovery time is much faster. B) An Autoclave machine – at the present time we boil our surgical instruments.
7. A Mobile Spay and Neuter Unit. Whilst doing animal relief work we literally saw puppies and kittens everywhere, generally not in good condition and the mothers equally so through lack of good nutrition. We really need to address this problem by holding free spay and neuter clinics in the poorer areas.
8. Make our clinic self sufficient. At the moment worrying about daily expenses and wages is a continual problem. If the clinic could support itself, more funds would be available for rescues and enable us to offer more free spay and neuter operations.
9. Trap/Neuter/Return program. Subject to finding a good vet we need to promote this program more and find a team of dedicated members who will run it, especially a member with a vehicle for transporting the cats to the clinic. To do this program successfully we need to be able to offer the spay and neuter operations free, getting associations to pay for the operations as proven very difficult, verging on impossible.

It is unlikely we can achieve all these objectives in 2010 but it is important to have Aims, every animal we help along the way makes our work worthwhile.

CARA – Compassion And Responsibility for Animals

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