

Esterisol™: Working with Mexican Municipalities to Control Overpopulation

C Esquivel Lacroix: Ark Sciences, LLC, District Federal, Mexico

This reports on a multi-agency collaboration, including Ark Sciences, animal welfare organizations, government representatives, and foundations, to educate communities on the importance of responsible pet ownership as it relates to overpopulation and the control of rabies in urban and rural areas where resources are limited or non-existent for rabies post exposure prophylaxis.

In 2009, a joint task force of respected veterinarians, Ark Sciences representatives and government officials presented a plan to the municipality of Mexicali, Mexico, to conduct the largest sterilization campaign to use an injectible sterilant in the municipality's history.

The mission of the program is to coordinate with community leaders to educate the public about the importance of responsible pet ownership as it relates to rabies vaccination and sterilization. Education will be delivered through public service announcements, public forums, and outreach through animal welfare organizations, veterinary associations, and community leaders.

Involving all stakeholders develops a mutual ownership of the project and utilizes the best resources to enable the municipality to have all available information before it expends resources to confront the problem of dog overpopulation. The municipality of Mexicali agreed to the task force's proposal and has purchased an initial quantity of 4,000 doses of Esterisol™. Ark Sciences is training the Mexicali veterinary employees, animal welfare agencies, and veterinarian associations on the injection technique and is assisting in the creation of sterilization centers for pet owners.