



VETERINARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS
VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES



Todos Santos, Guatemala & VWB/VSF Canada: A partnership in canine health and population control

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Our mission

To work for, and with, communities in need to foster the health of animals, people, and the environments that sustain us




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Why Todos Santos?

- Request came from community
- Safety, rabies, other zoonoses
- Tourism was being affected





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Why a problem?

Food Resources
No veterinary services
Free roaming- no ID




Female: male ratio skewed (1:3) – where are the females going? (ratio differs with owned vs unowned)








Owned dog



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Pre-implementation Phase




- Field investigations (household surveys, mark-recapture), community meetings, stakeholder analysis, educational campaigns, training on EsterilSol™, call for volunteers and fundraising

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Implementation phases

- 488 dogs presented for physical exams, deworming, flea control, and vaccination for rabies (in conjunction with the Guatemalan government rabies control program).
- 158 male dogs (59.2%) were chemically sterilized by injection with EsterilSol™
- 44 female dogs (42.1%) were surgically sterilized by ovario-hysterectomy.


CAMPAÑA DE ESTERILIZACIÓN DE PERROS (PERROS) INCLUYENDO A TRAZADECOS CONTRA LOS PRASITOS (MACHOS Y HEMBRAS)

1 2 3

1. ESTERILIZACIÓN CON LA INYECCIÓN DE ESTERIL SOL™
2. VACUNACIÓN DEL PERRO CONTRA LA RABIA
3. TRATAMIENTO DE LOS PARASITOS (MACHOS Y HEMBRAS)

ATENCIÓN: EL PERRO NO PUEDE COMER DESPUÉS DE LAS 18 HORAS NOCHE ANTES DEL DÍA DE LA ESTERILIZACIÓN

PARA COLOCAR PRESERVA COMO SE MUESTRA



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Our protocol for EsterilSol™
Some key points


1. Selection criteria
2. Trained/experience veterinarians
3. Education and consent
4. Sedation
5. Marking (tattoo)
6. Recovery and safety
7. Pain protocol
8. Written discharge instructions
9. Availability for checking on complications
10. 72 hour re-check (in-person if needed)






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Some Brief Results – 1 year in.....

1. Complication rate with EsterilSol™ injections: 1.3% (2/158) (one required scrotal ablation and one required a topical treatment + anti-inflammatory)
2. Population of owned dogs – from 382 in May 2008 to 292 in January 2010 (30% reduction)
3. Satisfaction of owners with chemical sterilization – 98% of respondents
4. Behavioural changes – 8.1% of respondents
5. Willingness to pay – 88% of respondents (\$2-6 USD per dog)




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Future Directions


1. Analyse data and identify future areas of investigation
2. Continue with implementation on annual basis
3. Looking for sustainability at local and governmental level in Guatemala (work on building local capacity)
4. Responsible pet ownership and bite prevention education in schools
5. Waste management and public health
6. Implement a fee program for sterilization
7. Fundraising – unable to go forward without this
8. Hope to expand to bordering communities (request already there)



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Aim to be the Best

To lead people, walk beside them ... As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The next best, the people honor and praise. The next, the people fear; and the next, the people hate ... When the best leader's work is done the people say, 'We did it ourselves!'



Lao Tsu




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We believe there are some key factors that may have led to our low complication rate with EsterilSol™ and high owner satisfaction:

1. Communication with clients and follow-up
2. Sedation and pain control
3. Permanent marking
4. Well trained veterinarians
5. Selection criteria of patients





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Further clinical and field research needed with respect to EsterilSol™:

- Universal and permanent identification protocol
- Studies on peri and post-injection pain;
- Behavioural changes with emphasis on sexual and aggressive tendencies, human bite incidence and territoriality. **** Data is presently being evaluated on some of these points from household surveys in Todos Santos 2009-2010;**
- Studies on testicular size and consistency changes post-injection

