



**Founder
Laura's original
Coco - RIP**



SEPTEMBER 2013

NEWSLETTER #35

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CCR Mission Statement, revised 2013

Coco's work in Playa del Carmen and the Riviera Maya has evolved over the past four years. Our new mission statement, developed by Laura and Caroline, reflects this and has been unanimously approved by our Board of Directors.

Coco's Cat Rescue is dedicated to reducing and controlling cat and dog populations in Playa del Carmen (PdC) and the Riviera Maya (RM), Mexico, through our permanent clinic facility and mobile spay and neuter clinics throughout the region. Low cost or free sterilization is provided for pets, street dogs and cats, and animals rescued by local rescue groups.

We work with families and communities, providing on-site spay and neuter, or transporting animals to and from our clinic, for those without the means to do so. Control of feral cats is achieved through TNR (trap, spay/neuter and return) programs in local neighborhoods and includes implementing the Cat Café program in hotels and resorts, providing TNR for their feral cats, with annual follow up to ensure the health of their stable, non-reproducing populations.

Although our kitten space is limited, whenever possible we shelter, treat, tame and sterilize kittens less than three months. Our objective is to find adoptive homes for all Coco's kittens in our care. When kittens are rescued by other people, we offer free vaccines, de-parasite, kitten milk, sterilization, and general medical care, helping the rescuers who take responsibility for adoption of kittens in their care

We are committed to education to ensure responsible pet ownership and challenge negative attitudes and behaviors towards feral cats and street dogs. Our long term mission is to greatly reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats in our mission area, and to continue to expand our model.

in memoriam

Coco's has had many friends and supporters over the years, but we are truly saddened to have lost two very special people this past summer.

Lynn Earle

Lynne Earle has been involved with Coco's work since the beginning and her passing is a tragic loss to all her friends and family. Lynn was a big part of Coco's and many other rescue organizations and always volunteered at spay and neuter clinics. She worked tirelessly to help the animals of the region in whatever way she could. She was the world's best tick picker, a true friend and a real hero.

We will miss her bubbly, happy and outgoing personality. Lynn will be missed by all.

Lisa Ohrbach

Lisa Ohrbach passed away at her home in San Miguel de Allende. She moved there from Playa to gain a more temperate climate and conditions for her horses, so dear to her heart. Everyone speaking of Lisa always said she was larger than life and that her heart was the biggest part of her. Lisa helped Coco's in countless ways over the years and she will be sadly missed by everyone who knew this woman of unbounded kindness.

Thank you for writing this blog, Michelle Kinnon, and for helping us all remember our very special friend.

[Michelle Kinnon's blog about Lisa Ohrbach](#)

Urgent salary need

As many of you know, our super vet Dr. Edgar has been with Coco's for three years and, quite honestly, we could not manage without his guiding hands and skills. It is time for him to have a raise in his salary of US\$100 or more per month. Is there a donor or team of donors out there who could commit to a monthly donation to cover this? Coco's really needs Dr. Edgar! If you can help, please let us know as soon as possible!

ViDAS 2013

During six days, August 9-14, 2013, the ViDAS team and local Playa del Carmen volunteers and vets spayed and neutered 1,210 animals! It was a new record for this remarkable group that visits every August, with the help of local animal groups including Coco's Cat Rescue, and even visitors who take their vacations to be part of the effort. There are no words to describe the value of such a dedicated effort!

Thanks go especially to Cryss and Rossy, two CCR volunteers, who organized the location and promotion this year and then ran reception. As well, recovery was organized by Gillian and Lisa, who flew down to Mexico especially for the clinic and did a fantastic job.

Thank you to Russell Granger, Sharon Lee, Lorraine Reynolds, Siobhan Bowers, Jen from Turtle Bay Café, Olga from Banquetes and to Paula and Honza for cooking delicious food for all the vets and volunteers! Also, thanks go to the people who provided snacks and drinks.

Thank you to our local vets Edgar, Lety, Erika, Lupita, Mauricio, Efraim, Memo and Roxana who came and helped and to each and every one of the local volunteers who showed up to support! Thank you to Playa Animal Rescue for sending all their volunteers, lending cages, and collecting towels and drinks! We so appreciate all the support from the local community. In fact, we had more volunteers this year than ever before, some of them having flown in just for the clinic!

Last but not least, special thanks go to Jurgen and everyone at Mom's Bar for the amazing after-party. A very good time was had by all!

Dan Dobrila and his mom Evi Pover take vacations in Playa to coincide with working at the ViDAS Clinic every August. His grandmother Yvonne has also participated, but Dan and Evi were on their own this year. Here are some great photos Evi shared with us, with captions from her descriptions:

We will never forget our friend Lynn Earle, a huge part of past clinics, taken from this world too soon earlier this year. The image below is from a T-shirt produced in her honour. "There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story." RIP Lynn"



Dave and Roz, hard at work.
We love them!



Dan's new hero, Laura, who took so much time with him this week to show and explain veterinary procedures. Not to mention the cool red bandana she gifted to him.



Dan, doubling up on duties in the recovery room.

Dan loves being around animals all day. He reminds me so much of my grandmother, who I used to jokingly call "Snow White" because of all the animals that flocked around her. My grandmother would have loved the clinics too!

This year Dan was even invited into the surgery room to help!

**Dan and Jake, cleaning instruments in surgery.
Yes, that is a toothbrush!**



**Holding puppies is a tough job but someone
has got to do it.**



The absolutely incredible Lina Chapa (left) with two of her volunteers. She brings dogs from Tulum (south of Playa) to the clinics, and she also works to educate families about proper pet care and adoption. Awesome work, Lina and friends!



Vets hard at work in surgery



The reception area is always very busy each morning— with Coco's own Laura Raikes.



Gian and I picked a LOT of ticks together on the last day. What an awesome kid - he was such an active part of the recovery process, and so patient and loving with the animals. Funny how you make friends over ticks, but in the recovery room, that tends to happen!



We so love VIDAS because it is a group of people coming together to solve a problem. Six days later, our hearts are full. Thank you to all the volunteers, members of the communities of Playa, Cancun, Puerto Morelos, Tulum, Akumal, and Bacalar, and all of the amazing veterinarians who made this week possible. It's not goodbye, it's "see you next year."

- Thank you Evi Pover for the photos and comments!

Three Women and a Kitten



During their stay at a resort in Cancun, three women noticed a little black kitten living in the bushes next to one of the buildings. Unseen by the others, each woman brought the kitten food, coaxed her out, petted her each time they passed, but mostly, each felt terrible about what the future would likely hold for a stray kitten in Mexico.

One night, Heather spotted Holly with the kitten someone had by now named Midnight. She walked over and, as they talked, realized they had both been caring for Midnight. A trap had been out earlier that day and now the trap was gone. Holly shared with Heather that she had complained about the trap to the the manager and the front desk earlier but no one would answer her: where will this kitten go after it was trapped? The true answer was ugly. After stray cats are trapped, they are often discarded in the swamp where they will face a very grim demise: drown or be eaten by alligators.

Both women wanted the kitten rescued, and scoured the internet to find a solution. The next day Heather got a response from Laura at Coco's. She said "I've been talking with a Holly at a resort. Is this the same

kitten?" The answer was "YES!" - and it was urgent. Heather was leaving that morning to fly back to Philadelphia; she wanted to adopt her, but Midnight had no papers. Could someone bring her to Heather in Pennsylvania?

Enter Sandy. Holly discovered Sandy, also an animal lover, had been sneaking Midnight fish from the buffet. Sandy had a three hour layover in Philadelphia before heading to her final destination, so she could deliver Midnight to Heather.

Coco's was able to supply a carrier and produced the necessary paperwork for Midnight to be allowed into the U.S. So they could find her the next morning, Sandy's husband brought Midnight into their room overnight. It was probably the first time Midnight had ever been indoors and she was terrified. They corralled her in the bathroom and Sandy slept in there with her to keep her calm.

From Pennsylvania, Heather placed a quick call to Sandy at the resort on Saturday morning and the last thing Sandy said was, "I'm nervous but I'm going through with it". The two had no means to communicate from the moment Sandy left the resort until she set foot in Philadelphia.

Waiting in international arrivals, finally the text! They had arrived; Sandy and Midnight would be there as soon as they cleared customs and immigration.

And then, through the glass doors, these two women who had never met, brought together by Holly and a kitten, spotted each other by the clothing each had described to the other. They bonded over this beautiful black kitten whose life would be forever changed. The sigh-of-relief-email went to Holly and Laura letting them know that the mission was accomplished!

Midnight was finally home and safe with a new big brother, Garfield, also a rescue. She adores him!

With thankfulness for the help from Coco's Cat Rescue, Midnight was renamed Coco. Without CCR and the three women, little Coco wouldn't be here to have her story told!

Heather expresses how her life has been changed: *"From sleeping under a bush to sleeping on my neck! I love Coco more than I ever thought. She is such a sweet kitten that loves to be held like a baby and kissed! There isn't a day goes by I don't wonder where she would be today, if we all hadn't worked together to save her."*

Heather's Catertainment Tip:

"Download free videos of birds and fish and let your cat watch. Coco loves them!"



Coco watching a video, fascinated by the birds .



Coco takes a catnap, feeling loved and safe.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Coco's brand new website is under development by our longtime friend Leasa Hachey, who resides in British Columbia, Canada. She is an expert website designer and we're thrilled to have her working on behalf of Coco's Cat Rescue!

**There is a special place in heaven
for animal rescuers! The entrance
is at the rainbow bridge, where all
the furry friends we've lost are
waiting to be reunited with their special people!**

Coco's kittens available for adoption!

Whether you are living or vacationing in the Riviera Maya, Coco's beautiful kittens can be yours! They are healthy, vaccinated, de-parasited and sterilized. They are also socialized to cats, other kittens and people. Kittens have been adopted to the U.S., Canada and even to Europe!

As you know, Coco's is not a shelter and we need room to rescue and heal more kittens! We hope you can help us place some of these sweet and healthy kittens and cats.

**WEEKLY KITTEN
CUDDLE DAY
EVERY FRIDAY
FROM 2 – 4 P.M.!**

**Please send an
email to**

**info@
cocoscatrescue.org**

**and we will send
you a map and
directions on how
to get here. Taxis
from town cost 30
pesos and it's easy
to find. Then taxis
pass by all the
time so it's easy to
get back to town.**

**THE KITTENS
WOULD ADORE
YOUR LOVE AND
ATTENTION!**

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME!**



Meet Wyn, a special needs male cat about a year old. Wyn is very shy and he needs a home where people will be patient with him. He is gentle and enjoys other cats. He just needs a quiet environment with less hustle and bustle than Coco's! Can you help this sweet boy?

Come meet Wyn at Coco's Kitten Cuddling every Friday – details at left.

**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES!**

FOSTER PARENTS to provide a temporary home for young kittens, from a few days to as much as a few months.

Also **WEEKLY** to Sam's, Mundo Animal or the hospital shop to pick up food and supplies (money provided).

WEEKLY to deliver litter, medicines and other supplies to foster parents.



Uriel, male five weeks



Yoyo, male six weeks



Magna, female three months

Donations

Your donations are so important and a little goes a long way! Here are just a few options if you are considering donating to CCR every month:

Fluffy Kitty (\$10)

This will provide a parasite treatment for one kitten every month.

Meowing Kitty (\$25)

This will feed and de-parasite one kitten every month.

Purring Kitty (\$50)

This will pay for cat milk for a newborn kitten for one month or spay/neuter two kittens every month.

Fat Kitty (\$100)

This will feed and de-parasite, including coccidiosis and flea treatment, PLUS spay or neuter a kitten every month.

(figures in U.S.\$)



Yaki, female four months



Luigi, male four months



Yoko, female two months



Yoshi, male four months



RESCUES - CACHITO FUND DOGS

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Shaggy is between eight months and a year and is a sad reminder of how dogs are sometimes treated here in Mexico. Found by Cryss tied to a tree with no food, water or shelter, Shaggy was severely emaciated. He is a distemper survivor and currently on a number of medications. Although he's still pretty skinny, he will be healthy soon. Shaggy is being cared for by Cryss, who administers the Cachito Fund. Is yours the right home for this sweet boy?



Left, Shaggy when he was first rescued. Below, he's on the mend!





This poor boy was hit in the eye by a very bad person. His luck changed, though, because he was found by Cryss! He is between eight months and a year also, and his name is Onix. Sadly, the eye had to be removed, but he is making a remarkable recovery post op!

Laura says: "Onix is seriously the cutest dog!". Both dogs are safe with Cryss now and they will be ready for adoption very soon.

Please get in touch if you're able to give a home to either of these lovely boys.



Coco's Stats

June, July & August 2013

JUNE 2013 SPAY AND NEUTER	#
Feral cats	68
Pet cats	69
Coco's kittens	2
Dogs	182
Total sterilizations	321

JUNE 2013 KITTENS	#
Rescued	5
Re-homed	1

JULY 2013 SPAY AND NEUTER	#
Feral cats	67
Pet cats	234
Coco's kittens	4
Dogs	320
Total sterilizations	625

JULY 2013 KITTENS	#
Rescued	10
Re-homed	10

AUGUST 2013 SPAY AND NEUTER	#
Feral cats	14
Pet cats	42
Coco's kittens	5
Dogs	85
Total sterilizations	146

AUGUST 2013 KITTENS	#
Rescued	2
Re-homed	6

Treated, non-intake kittens

JUNE 2013 NON-INTAKE PROGRAM KITTENS	#
Free milk, bottles, consults, de-parasiting, 3 vaccines and spay/neuter	8

JULY 2013 NON-INTAKE PROGRAM KITTENS	#
Free milk, bottles, consults, de-parasiting, 3 vaccines and spay/neuter	30

AUGUST 2013 NON-INTAKE PROGRAM KITTENS	#
Free milk, bottles, consults, de-parasiting, 3 vaccines and spay/neuter	23



Contact info for Coco's Cat Rescue:
 Cell phone: 984 120 0572
 (From N. America, dial: 011 52 1 984 120 0572)

E-mail: info@cocoscatrescue.org

Information regarding our financials, municipal and tax status is available upon request.



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Your newsletter stories, photos and art are always welcome!
Please send to Caroline Page: caroline.b.page@gmail.com

