



Dear Kids4Dogs-Team, Since you unfortunately don't have the opportunity to fly to the Dominican Republic and see it for yourselves, here is my report about what we were able to achieve thanks to your generous donations.



After two weeks of castration campaigns in Las Terrenas and the vicinity, we travelled to the little village La Yagua with our mobile animal-clinic (an old ambulance), vet Nina, the op-tent, all of our materials and 12 of our 15 dogs as well as 2 cats.

La Yagua is on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, between Gaspar Hernández and Rio San Juan.

It is a very poor village because tourists do not go there and there are therefore no hotels in which the Dominicans could work to earn money. The people of La Yagua mainly make a living from farming – i.e. Livestock breeding and agriculture.



Many dogs and cats live in La Yagua and the people treat their pets well, but it is very important that the dogs and cats get castrated, so that they don't breed uncontrolled and to secure that there is enough food to eat for all the animals.



Women fetch water from the river with their donkeys, because there aren't any water pipes in the houses. Their dogs accompany them.



On the way from Las Terrenas to La Yagua we found a little female cat that had been abandoned. She was thin and full of fleas – so we took her with us to castrate her and treat her medically. We found her a home with an animal-loving Haitian, who works for us. Of course we pay for her food. The Haitian gave her the beautiful name "Manuschka".

Manuschka after castration. Still very tired, but soon she will be all well again!



After we had set up the op-tent, Buschi (my husband) drove off with the ambulance to fetch the animals from their owners, because hardly anybody in La Yagua has their own car. Some people even went the long distance by foot.

Our op-tent, so that we can work sterilely

The female dogs and cats were admitted by me at the "reception", i.e. each animal got a note, on which its name and the name of its owner was written down, that way we could be sure not to mix the animals up in the end ;-). Afterwards the dogs and cats were put into crates, where they could wait their turn in peace and quiet.

Children with their dogs • Waiting for the op



It is very hot over here and so it was very hard (and sweaty) for vet Nina to operate. Since there were just the three of us (Nina, Buschi and me), Buschi dealt with the op-preparations such as placing vein catheters, giving narcotics, injecting medicines etc. I took over the after care – overlooking the animals while they woke up from the narcosis, pulling the vein catheter out again and especially important: explaining to the owners what they would have to pay attention to after the operation and how they could maybe treat their pets even better than before. Education work is so crucial for the Dominican population, because only by working together can we reach a better togetherness between humans and animals.

Nina castrates a she-dog

Buschi places a catheter • I pull it • Freshly operated she-dog, before waking up from the narcosis



Since Nina is a great and competent vet, who performs 4,000 castrations every year, we also castrate very young dogs and cats. This is important, because sometimes female dogs over here get pregnant with as young as 5 months, early castrations can prevent this.

The owners fondly look after their she-dog and her two female puppies, all three of them were castrated by us. Only when the animals are completely awake and we see, that they are fine, people can take them home.

When we started our work here in the Dominican Republic 7 1/2 years ago, there weren't many cats around. But since then people have realized that cats can be lovely pets as well and that they can be very useful for example for catching rats. Now there are many cats around and we try to castrate as many females as possible.

3 female, young cats that we castrated



This little tiger-cat isn't really awake yet...





Thanks to your great donation we were able to castrate

**19 female dogs
2 male dogs
8 female cats!!!**

in La Yagua on 5th and 6th June 2011

This will prevent a lot of suffering and misery and spare many animals the experience of being abandoned in the streets, because their owners just don't have enough food to keep them all.



A couple of days before we came to La Yagua, a female dog that still had a lot of milk (means: she had had puppies) got thrown out of a car onto the street. Ruben, a Dominican who had witnessed this, brought this dog to us to be castrated and afterwards we could convince him to keep her. She is now called "Mariposa" (Butterfly) and lives with Ruben, his wife and their children and with a male dog and a tom-cat and is doing very well.

Ruben adopted Mariposa

This boy very caringly looked after this little she-dog, although she didn't even belong to him....



I tried to get as many female animals for the castration as possible, for that purpose I went to the people in the village and talked to them and explained to them the advantages of a castration.



Unfortunately I couldn't catch a female stray dog that had just had 8 puppies, she was too shy. But we will keep on trying and maybe next time we will succeed in catching and castrating her as well.

Some of the 8 puppies



We - Nina, Buschi, I and the animals and people from La Yagua - thank you very much for your support. It would be great if we could go on working together that well.

Best wishes and love from the Dominican Republic

Yours,
Miriam

