

Please help.

Checks can be made out to the Guanacaste Province Animal Welfare Fund (a tax-deductible 501(c) 3 charitable organization in accordance with US Internal Revenue Service regulations).

Thank you in advance for making a difference in the tragic lives of these innocent and helpless animals.

Please check appropriate box(es).

I am enclosing a check in the amount of _____ made out to the Guanacaste Province Animal Welfare Fund.

I would like to be kept informed of upcoming events.

Please return to:
Judy Reisman, Chairperson
1840 Mt. Ephraim Rd.
Adamstown, MD 21710

judyreisman@mindspring.com
www.costaricananimals.org

Name

Address

Email

Phone



It was too late to help Thea,
but you can help others avoid her fate.

***Guanacaste Province
Animal Welfare
Foundation
In Costa Rica***

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***“Every pet
deserves
our loving
care.”***



Little Evie was lucky to be abandoned near people who fostered her until a forever home was found.

There is one dog in Costa Rica for every four people.

Costa Rica's natural beauty and biodiversity are legendary. Ticos, as the country's inhabitants affectionately call themselves, are rightfully known for their friendliness and kindness.



A sloth hanging out and doing what comes naturally

But Costa Rica is a developing country and financial resources are scarce. People who can barely stretch their limited incomes to feed, clothe and house their families cannot afford the luxury of giving their pets the same quality of care that most Americans are used to giving their companion animals.

Even low-cost vaccinations are beyond the means of many people, as are medications to treat common ailments such as mange, flea or tick infestations or parasites. Only five percent of dogs in Costa Rica have been neutered or vaccinated against rabies. In some areas eighty percent are infected with Ehrlichiosis, a tick-borne blood parasite similar to Lyme disease.

Where money is not the issue, culture frequently is. Many ticos see their pets not as beloved family members, but as household "employees" with the duty of protecting property or keeping it cleared of vermin. If the animals fail to perform these functions, they are often

simply turned out onto the streets to fend for themselves. As a result, there are an estimated one million dogs in the country, 35 percent of which barely survive, scavenging from trash cans, gutters and town dumps, at risk of being run over by a careless driver or succumbing to disease. Unwanted newborn puppies and kittens are often abandoned by the roadside or, worse, drowned or have their necks broken. When overpopulation levels become a public nuisance, municipalities often put out poison and these animals, unwanted through no fault of their own, suffer lingering and painful deaths.

Federal and municipal governments have so many more pressing needs that they have not built a single animal shelter in the entire country. The sole shelter is privately financed and operates with donated funds. And it is much too far away for all but those who live near the capital.



Sunset in Quepos near Manuel Antonio National Park

How we're trying to help

In response to this dire situation, the Guanacaste Province Animal Welfare Foundation (G-PAW) was established in northwestern Costa Rica in 2006 to make neutering available to homeless

animals and to those from low-income homes. During its first year, in addition to providing public education about responsible pet ownership, G-PAW neutered 300 cats and dogs. A large percentage of funds raised has been allocated for the purchase of a mobile clinic to serve a greater number of rural communities and to assure proper conditions for surgeries.

But this project cannot be carried out without help from people like you.

You can be part of the solution

Please use the form on the next panel if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation or if you would like to receive reports on our progress and information about upcoming fund-raising events. ALL donated funds go directly to the animals. G-PAW members donate their time and cover incidental expenses such as printing of educational materials from their own pockets (which is why you may be receiving this brochure in electronic form).



Lake Arenal, in Guanacaste Province, with one of the world's most active volcanoes in the distance