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My husband, Glenn, and I visited the PAW Sanctuary on Caye Caulker, Belize and the sister organization, C.A.A.T.S. in Chetumal, Mexico between 28 November and 7 December 2013.

The efforts of Madi Collins, the founder of both, are highly commendable and our experience was completely positive. I have been in practice for over 30 years and have, during that time, worked as an employee, and as a practice owner in small, mixed and equine practices. I have provided volunteer services in disaster situations and have donated time to multiple rescues in the United States. Our visit with Madi was my first international experience and we plan to return to visit and work at both locations in June 2014.

Madi and her volunteers accomplish so much with so little that any size or type donation of materials, supplies and equipment that we take for granted here in the United States make a huge difference. First on the 'wish list' would be gas anesthesia equipment. At present, all anesthetics are 100% injectable induction and maintenance. Gas anesthesia would be much safer for the dogs and cats being neutered and spayed and would allow a much more streamlined surgery schedule. An autoclave of any size would be extremely useful. Plastic airline crates for housing animals before and after surgery would be wonderful. Re-sterilized disposable goods, such as unused but discarded drape materials from human medicine, surgery towels and sponges, suture packs in sizes 3-0 to 0 dissolvable are always needed.

I strongly urge anyone with an interest in animal care outreach programs to contact Madi Collins and contribute to her valiant efforts on behalf of the dogs and cats of Caye Caulker, Belize and Chetumal, Mexico.
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Sincerely,

Laura m. Harris, DVM
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