

2014 Progress from Darwin Animal Doctors

Galapagos

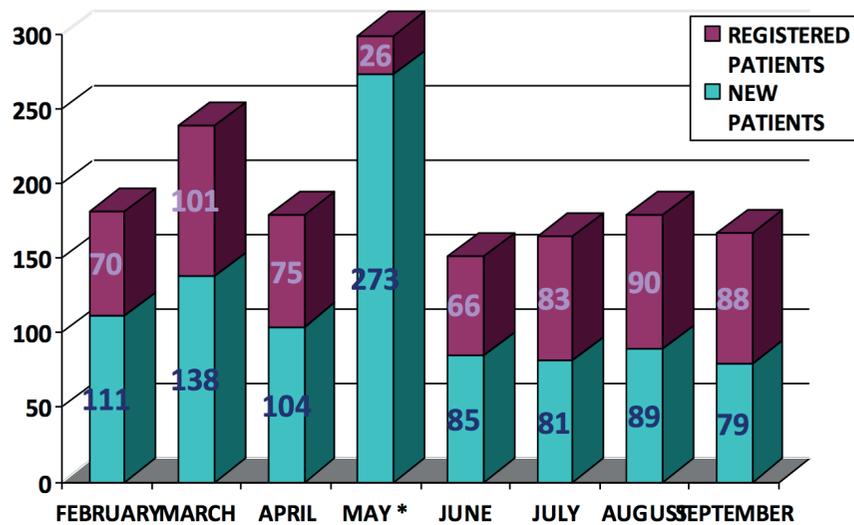


**Darwin
Animal Doctors**

Through our clinic, we treated over **2000 patients** this year.

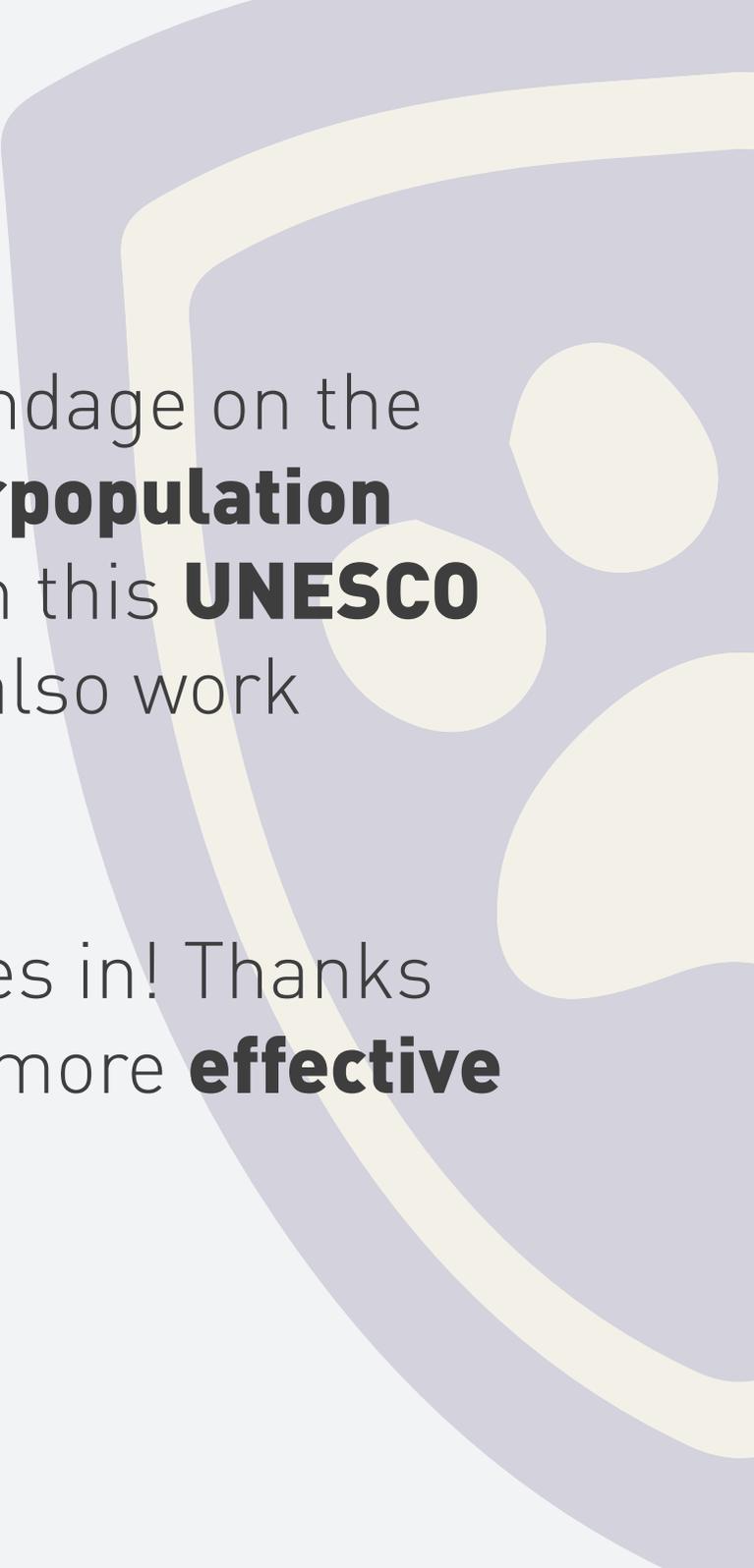
We **sterilize** animals, provide **preventative medicine** and **life-saving emergency surgery**. We even treated an **owl** that the Galapagos National Park brought to us.

GRAPH 3: NEW PATIENTS (960) VS REGISTERED PATIENTS (599)



* Sterilization Campaign.





All that work would simply be a bandage on the problems of **domestic animal overpopulation** and associated **biodiversity loss** in this **UNESCO World Heritage Site** if we did not also work towards **long-term solutions**.

This is where the **Charity Pot** comes in! Thanks to **LUSH**, our programs have been more **effective** this year than ever!

Education



We started the year with a **formal education program**, which was hailed as **very successful**.



Education

Afterward, instead of updating our formal program to visit more schools, we wanted to use what **we learned** through these education programs, and apply it to the **entire community**.



Education

We used the **Charity Pot** grant money to create a more engaging, entertaining, and general audience education program than we had before. We worked with locals to create a program that would **connect with everyone** in the community. More than reaching just the children, we wanted to reach the **entire family**.



Our locals who crafted and wrote this **new program**, showed it to the **government** in Galapagos and they invited us to do **outreach events** with them **every two weeks!** We are now able to **reach a new corner** of the Galapagos twice a month, and we can **teach a community** that would not normally get **humane education**.



Education

We began working directly with **classes of children** in the community. We brought **school classes** to the DAD clinic, and taught them what it's like **to be a vet** and treat animals. The children were **inspired** and some wanted to become vets after these sessions



Education

We invested even more time into the young people of the Galapagos.

A few youth formed **their own humane education group**, and disguised it as a free dog-walking service, to **reach more pet owners**. We supplied the kids with **free leashes, collars**, and most importantly, **biodegradable poop bags and poop bag holders**, which they gave to their clients.



Edu

Until this program started, **no one** picked up their dog's poop on the streets, which is how **deadly invasive diseases** like Parvo, spread so fast and so widely on the islands. Such a horrible, yet completely **preventable problem!** Our **kids have been teaching adults** how to stop the spread of disease, and giving them **free tools** to do so, thanks to **LUSH!**



Edu

We built **professional eye-catching banners** for our education events (starring our humane education mascot: **piggytale.com**), to get the kids' attention and gave them activities like coloring **cartoon calendars**.



The coloring calendars taught kids the schedule of when to give their animals **check-ups, baths and de-parasite treatment**. We did activities with families and their children, and began using another part of our **LUSH funding – de-parasite medicine!**

Education

De-Parasite Medicine



In our education outreach events with the government, we **treat around 50 to 60 animals in a single day** for parasites. Going into the community regularly to do this preventative measure, and stemming the tide of invasive parasites, is an essential piece of **saving the islands** that we were not able to do until now. Now, we can do so, while always being armed to **treat all the animals that come to our events!**



De-
Med

In the past year, **before getting LUSH funding**, we have had to limit the number of de-parasite treatments we do per month, one month doing as few as **twenty-five**.

After LUSH funding, we have been able to treat **more patients** than ever with crucial de-parasite preventative medicine, treating **more than 110 every month!** With **increased education programs** in the community, we can meet the increasing demand for de-parasite treatments.

De-Parasite
Medicine

Disease Testing



We have been able to **diagnose and save a lot more animals from deadly diseases** like ehrlichia, thanks to **LUSH's grant!** We received a donation of **sophisticated laboratory equipment from IDEXX**, but thanks to the LUSH Charity Pot, we have been able to **acquire the snap tests and sample sticks** that allow us to use these machines to diagnose patients **better than any other facility in Ecuador**. And that makes huge inroads into solving the disease problem!



Di

Before we received LUSH funding this year, we have often **not been able to diagnose** any cases of Parvo and/or Distemper, unless it was at a later stage of infection where symptoms were severe. A later stage is too late a stage when it comes to those **deadly diseases** which can **decimate an ecosystem**.

After we received LUSH funding, we have been able to **accurately diagnose** BOTH Parvo and Distemper **every month since the funding**. And on top of that, we have been able to **diagnose and treat FOUR TIMES** as many cases of deadly ehrlichia disease **every month** than before!

Disease Testing

Antibiotics for Disease Eradication



For the first half of this year, we treated an average of **less than four patients a month** for the potentially **fatal disease** ehrlichia. This is such a small number of our patients, but still a **large load on our monthly budget**. If we wanted to make a dent in the spread of such an invasive deadly disease in a **precious ecosystem**, we would have to treat a higher percentage of our patients than that.



Anti
Dise

Once we received the grant, we have been able to treat an average of **15 patients per month**. That's a huge, huge improvement! And if we target the most at-risk populations that we can reach, that will make a **much better impact** on stemming the spread of disease.



Anti
Disease

Case Management

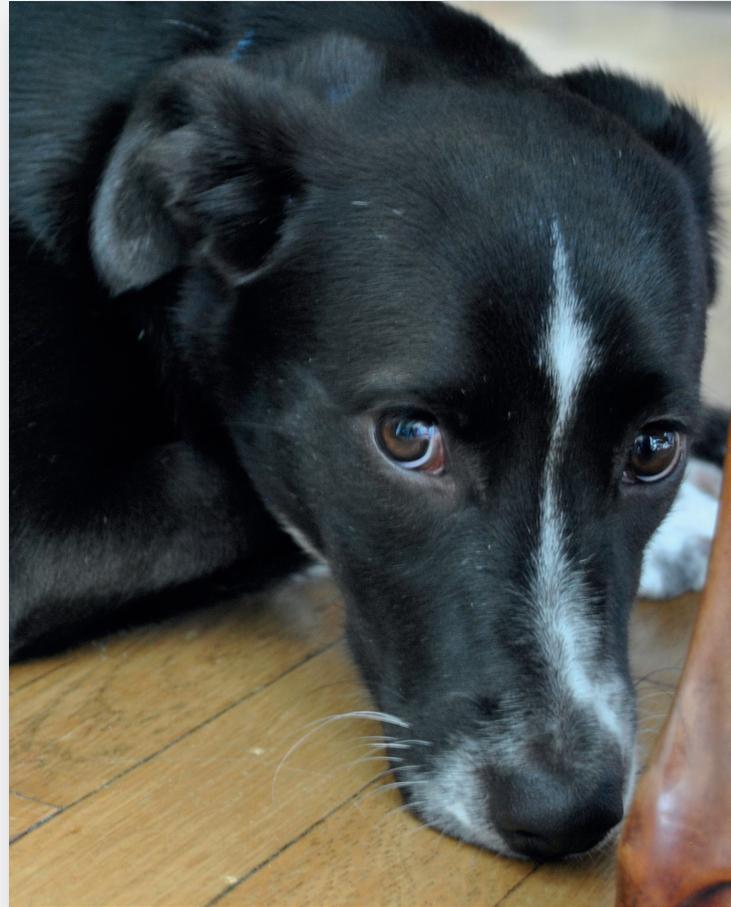
Why is this so important? **Ehrlichia can also be transmitted to people** via ticks. And the local human doctors have recently shown interest in the overlap **between animal and human health**, and brought domestic animals in for treatment.

The government, the locals, our veterinary professionals, and all of us at DAD, are **extremely thankful** and cannot express our gratitude enough to **LUSH!**

Antibiotics for

Disease Eradication

ZUCA's story: The story of one lucky dog who received treatment with the **LUSH Charity Pot**



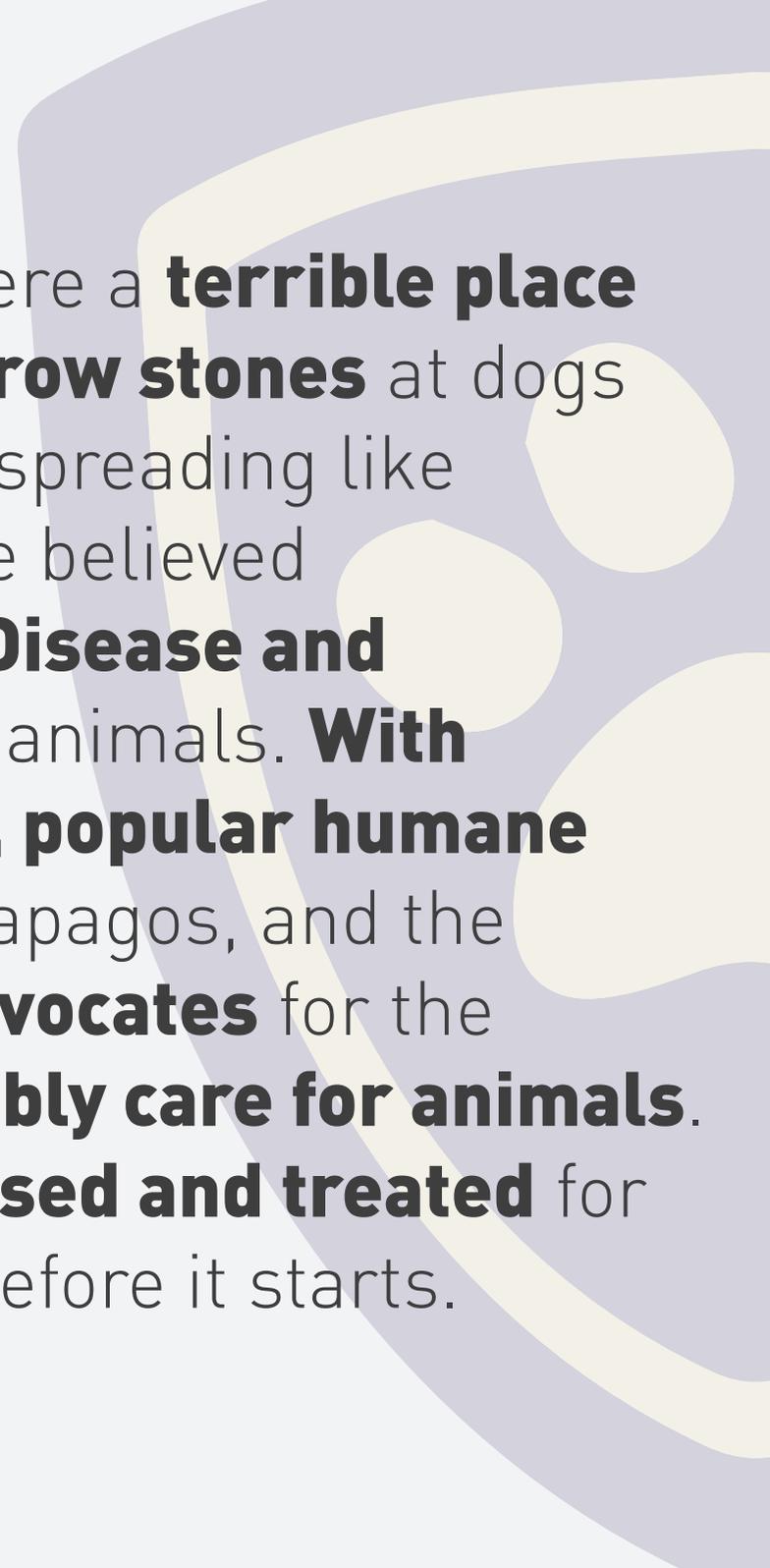
by Patrick Gritt, DAD Volunteer and
University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Student

The story of **Zuca's adoption** began long before her trip to the United States and was only made possible through the **collaboration of many selfless, caring people**. Zuca's life began **lonely on the streets** of Puerto Ayora. Several children found her alone late one night in June and out of concern for her well being **brought her to Darwin Animal Doctors** where they knew she would be safe. Dr. Ainoa Claudín and several veterinary student volunteers **spayed** Zuca and provided the excellent **medical care** she needed to restore her to **full health**. Then, Mayra Alvarez and Rene Heyer **opened their doors and lives to Zuca** and showed her the **love and compassion** she needed to trust humans and reveal her **true, beautiful, playful, loving personality**. As a veterinary student volunteer, I, like all those before me, immediately fell in love with Zuca. Every time our paths crossed, I was greeted with a **wagging tail and endless kisses**. Her goofy antics with her big sisters, Yara and Candy, had me constantly laughing and at the end of each day, once her puppy energy was exhausted, she would cuddle up beside me and warm my soul. I knew Zuca would be the perfect fit in **my family** back home and by the end of my two weeks at Darwin Animal Doctors, I was willing to do whatever it took to make that happen.

It took several months to arrange, with a few setbacks, including Zuca falling ill with a **tick borne disease**. Thanks to Mayra, Rene and the Darwin Animal Doctors, she was **nursed back to full health**.

Zuca has **adapted wonderfully** to her life here in the States, although I know she will never forget all of those at Darwin Animal Doctors who **saved her life**. I am forever grateful to all those at DAD who made this adoption possible. Zuca (who currently sleeps at my feet as I write this) has brought my family, Cinder and I so much **happiness and love**. She is the perfect addition to our family. She also serves as my **motivation** to continue pursuing my education to become a veterinarian so that I can **give back** to all the deserving animals in my community. In closing, Zuca is the perfect example of what Darwin Animal Doctors represents, which is the **collective effort** of many people to give back to the deserving animals in our communities and to the environment that give so much to us, and ask for so little.





Before LUSH got involved, the islands were a **terrible place** for animals all around. Children would **throw stones** at dogs and cats for fun. **Illegal dogfighting** was spreading like wildfire as a popular activity. Many people believed sterilizing their animals was not macho. **Disease and parasites were pandemic** to the islands' animals. **With LUSH's involvement**, there are **effective, popular humane education events** every two weeks in Galapagos, and the children are now the **best and loudest advocates** for the animals, teaching adults how to **responsibly care for animals**. More and more animals are being **diagnosed and treated** for invasive disease, **stopping the problem** before it starts.

LUSH Charity Pot is allowing us a **unique opportunity** to make **critical progress** to one of the most important **UN World Heritage Sites on Earth!**

THANK YOU LUSH!

