

Dr. Steve Purdy's August 2009 Update

August 2009 trip to Nunoa, by Steve Purdy, DVM

Cheryl DeWitt, DVM and I were accompanied by two veterinary students: Lena Rosen from Tufts, and Erin Stout from the University of PA, and one Pre-Vet student, Abby Mulligan, who worked for me at the UMass three summers ago and is doing research at Columbia. They were all very good. Also, Meagan Mazzarino from UMass traveled with us. She is a PhD student in geology studying the effects of glacial shrinkage on water supplies in the Nuñoa area. She was invaluable as a translator but Erin also did a very good job when Meagan was not available.

We had a meeting with the Nunoa mayor, and we now have a conveyo, or written working agreement to support each other with the following three priorities:

1. Casa de los Niños (The new Children's Home)

The Nunoa Mayor will provide trucks to haul in adobe material (already purchased) for the perimeter walls and building, and to level the property. We must pay \$330 for the fuel to run the trucks and grading equipment. He will hook up electricity and water for free.

2. Enterotoxemia Vaccination Program for Camelids

We are paying for vaccinating the 500 females and crias at Mamaniri Farm this fall. I offered to help any other area farmers get the vaccine from San Marcos University in Lima.

3. Doctor Visits

We visited the Nunoa doctor and he was very open about his needs. They need OB-GYNs, EENTs, ophthalmologists, and pediatricians. They have a brand a new hospital building but they don't even have a cardiac defibrillator there. He is also anxious to receive training for himself and his staff from US doctors. The hospital is in use although under equipped. He will let us and any visiting doctors stay there in the hospital dorm rooms when we visit.

Mamaniri Farm

The microscope and centrifuge donated by Jay Ward of Light Livestock Equipment that we brought with us was left in the lab at the Nuñoa Hospital where hospital and farm personnel can use them.

We worked for two days at the farm; met all the families and saw their homes. They need adobe buildings instead of stone (much warmer especially with wood floors), and more of them (one shepherd alone has 8 children there). Also they need wells to drink from instead of streams shared with livestock. The main farm building has possibilities for expansion. They do not have electricity, but they do have a working outhouse.

Next steps at Casa de los Ninos:

1. We are in the process of purchasing the 2 lots adjacent to our building site for animal and garden space at a cost of \$2,000.
2. We will then begin the site work:

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Removal of rocks from the lots (10 people for 1 month) \$2,000
Fuel for use of heavy equipment \$330

Our next trip to Nunoa is tentatively planned for early January 2010. Work to be done on that trip will include, neonatal, breeding, dentistry and skin disease work at the farm, along with continuation of work at Casa de los Niños. We hope to have US doctors visit during this trip as well.



LEFT: Farm and medical staff at the Nuñoa hospital with the author with new equipment donated by Light Livestock and Nuñoa Project.

RIGHT: Looking at the casa de los Niños building plans on the property in Nuñoa. The site has been cleared and leveled and is awaiting funds to begin construction.