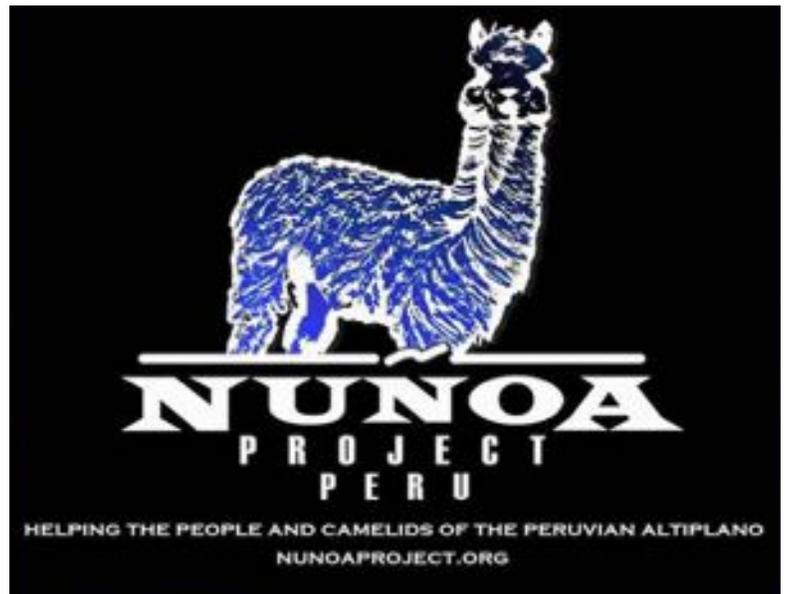


Nunoa Project in Peru July 2012

This trip covered the period July 21 to Aug 1, 2012. Members of the veterinary team included Steve Purdy, DVM and Gisela Marcoppido, DVM, PhD from the Nunoa Project, veterinary students Fiona Whitten from UC Davis, Kelsey Paras from Ohio State, and Alison Dicks and Danielle Katz from Ontario Veterinary College, and pre-veterinary students Kaitlin Anderson and Christina Baker from UMass. Members of the public health team included David Buchanan, director of the UMass Institute for Global Health, Laura Price MD, Rossana Salazar a Peruvian nurse and UMass public health PhD, and Rosanna's son Rodrigo.



The public health team presented a seminar on resuscitation of neonates to workers from the Nunoa hospital and local health clinics, and explored avenues for collaboration with health professionals in Nunoa. The public health people from UMass Amherst Global Health Initiative including David, Laura, and Rossana will be working in Nunoa. Rossana is working on a PhD in public health and will work in Nunoa.



Rosanna and Laura conducting a seminar on neonatal resuscitation in the Nunoa Health Center.

Members of our teams marched in the Peruvian Independence Day parade holding a Peruvian flag along with the newly formed officials of the Proyecto Alpacas Nunoa from the municipality. This group was formed by the mayor in March 2012. They will be coordinating the enterotoxemia vaccination program we introduced to the district and are working with us on our alpaca reproduction improvement program. We were recognized in the parade and our veterinary and public health people also were interviewed on the radio.



Team members marching in the Peruvian Independence Day parade in Nunoa.



Nunoa Project team members speaking with members of the Proyecto Alpacas Nunoa.



Gisela and Steve and Rossana, David, and Laura speaking on Radio Nunoa.

Dr. Gisela Marcoppido from our veterinary team and I plan on producing a manual on alpaca reproduction management for the campesinos in Spanish and Quechua. Our previous work revealed that improvements in basic management such as improving breeding genetics, increasing cria and wool production, and preventative health programs are the cornerstone of improving wool and meat production and thus increasing income for the Nunoa District farmers. We will continue to hold seminars with producers on each visit as we did this July.



Gisela conducting a producer seminar for alpaca farmers in Nunoa.

Plans are in progress for the Juntas Program which will provide meals for seniors and children in need. This will be built by the municipality on Father Paul Habing's property along the Nunoa River starting in fall 2012. The local priest and bishop are interested in reopening Sarepta Wasi, the children's home started by Father Paul, which has been closed for 4 years. We can play a major role ongoing financial support. This is the project which first inspired us to form the Nunoa Project and it has come full circle and the children will be supported again! It provides food, shelter, clothing and very importantly education for children who would otherwise not have it.

The animal science and veterinary students on this trip were all excellent as in past trips. Our plan is to have two students working in Nunoa from January through April 2013 implementing the alpaca reproduction improvement program and collecting data was enthusiastically supported by the municipality. The PAN people will work with our students and provide transportation to the local farms. They will stay in the Casa de la Coutura in Nunoa where we stay on each visit when they are not on the farms working. The plan is to collect data on semen and reproductive behavior in working herds, perform fecal testing for gastrointestinal parasites, develop cria growth rate and dam body condition score data, collect cria mortality data and identify causes of death, and work with local farmers to establish production records and breeding herd selection criteria.



The veterinary team at Mamaniri Farm in Nunoa.



The district seal for Nunoa emphasizes alpaca production.



Fiona, Steve, and Gisela speaking to farmers at Diego Tampara, Nunoa Peru.



Steve, Alison, and Gisela performing ultrasound pregnancy exam for farmers at Salcaccanacha, Nunoa Peru.

We established a connection between a textile organization in Cusco and the knitting/weaving cooperative in Nunoa. The Cusco people loved the samples we showed them and the Nunoa folks were thrilled to have the introduction. The two of them will be taking it from here.



Members of the Nunoa Mother's Club who produce beautiful woven and knitted goods.

Overall it was a very successful and productive visit. We continue to move forward. I think that our collaboration will continue in a very positive direction.

We are in need of ongoing financial support for the Nunoa Project and to support the alpaca breeding improvement program and to offset the high travel expenses for team members to get to Nunoa to work twice yearly. Our immediate financial need is to support the students and veterinary team who will be working with Nunoa officials on the next phase of the Nunoa alpaca herd improvement program starting in January 2013. Please contact me for more information.

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