



ANNUAL REPORT 2016





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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that it has been two years since we launched our small but ambitious organization. In this short time, we have managed to build two programs in three countries, with the expansion of a third program in Africa in 2017. We laid the groundwork to build an Asian Elephant Veterinary Care Program in Thailand by officially partnering with the Zoological Parks Organization, a Thai government entity under the patronage of H.M. the King. The program consists of two Mobile Elephant Clinics servicing 200 elephants at the Surin Elephant Kingdom, on the Cambodian border, and a baby elephant research project focusing on Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV) surveillance. Once contracted, the virus can kill babies within 72 hours, so it is imperative we identify the positive cases before it's too late. We also funded an impactful education program teaching empathy and responsible pet ownership to children in Latin America with our partner, the Global Alliance for Animals and People (GAAP), as well as operational support for the Todos Santos Rabies Project.

We expanded our initial Board of Directors to include Treasurer Chris Petrozzo, CPA, and board member Maude Davis.

On August 11, 2016, VI celebrated its second year at our Trunks of Love gala at the Baker House, East Hampton with 130 guests in attendance. Emmy-nominated actor Dwayne Hill hosted the event along with chairs Antonella Bertello, Cornelia Guest and Georgina Bloomberg. The honorees were elephant advocate Christie Brinkley and elephant expert Richard Lair. I am proud to announce that we raised \$130,000 this year with no staff, enabling the majority of funds to go directly to our programs.

As globalization and dependence on animals increases, the work of VI becomes ever more important. Kindness and compassion to animals is our message, and ensuring their health and welfare is our responsibility. We thank you for enabling us to achieve our mission, and together we are helping animals and healing the planet!

With gratitude,

Dr. Scarlett Magda
Founding President

ABOUT US

Veterinarians International is a network of dedicated professionals who share a common goal: to reduce the illness and suffering of animals in underserved regions while enhancing the well being of people. Since over 60% of human diseases come from animals, our work directly benefits both animals and people. We create or support programs that provide sound veterinary expertise and training, and collaborate with local groups to educate communities about replicable and sustainable solutions.

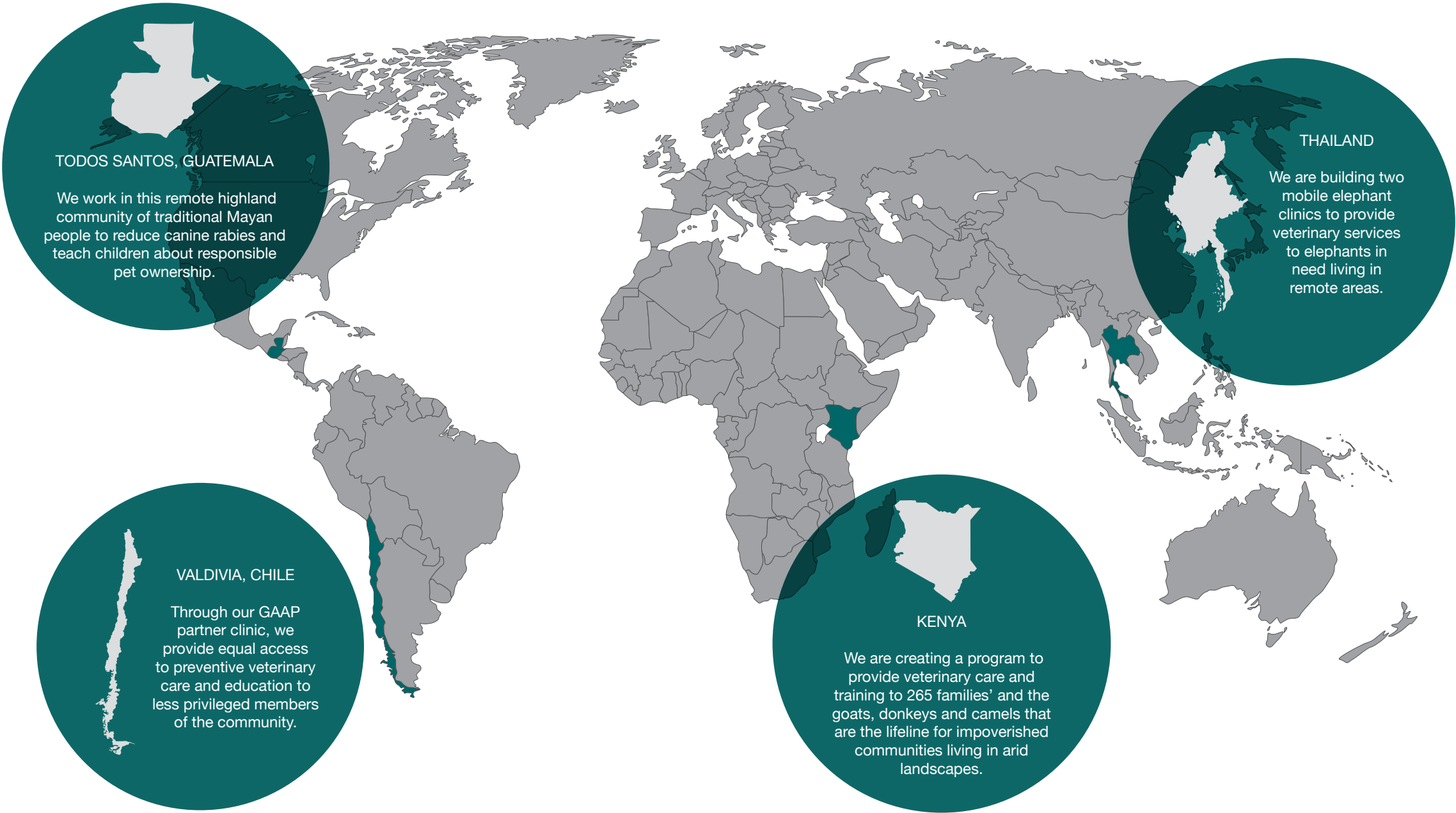
HOW WE WORK

The model of VI is to identify, train, and support strong leaders native to the countries where we work, so they can be more effective at disseminating knowledge and resources to their community. We collaborate to conceive culturally appropriate solutions to some of the greatest health challenges these communities face, and do so from a position of empowerment rather than opposition.

OUR MISSION

To enhance the health of humans, animals, and the environment through the use of sound veterinary care and expertise.

WHERE WE ARE



OUR PROGRAMS

HEALTHY PETS PROGRAM THE ISSUE

Having equal access to veterinary care and responsible pet ownership education is paramount to keeping both people and animals healthy. In marginalized communities there are millions of dogs roaming the streets, resulting in serious issues for public health, the economy and animal welfare. Not being able to afford veterinary care poses risks not only to pets, but also to people, because many diseases, called zoonotic diseases, such as rabies and hydatid disease, are transmitted from pets to people. Hydatid disease results from a tapeworm, *E. granulosus*, that is transmitted from sheep to dogs to people through fecal-oral transmission. Cysts form in the liver and lungs of the infected person, costing thousands of dollars to treat, but pennies to prevent.

-Dr. Elena Garde, Program Director, The Global Alliance for Animals and People

THE SOLUTION

*Global Alliance for Animals and People
Veterinary Clinic, Valdivia, Chile*

For the second year, Vets International has partnered with the Global Alliance for Animals and People (GAAP), a registered charity in Chile that works with marginalized, remote, and often indigenous communities and families. The foundation of the organization is a veterinary clinic whose philosophy is to offer subsidized preventive medicine services and use these opportunities to talk to owners about human-dog relationships and needs. The goal is to create closer bonds between people and their pets and promote animal welfare. The services are provided on a sliding scale basis according to household income.



The GAAP Clinic's objectives are to:

1. Keep dogs healthy.
2. Reduce the collective reproductive rate.
3. Increase the human-animal bond.
4. Extend these services to those most in need.

In 2016 Veterinarians International

- Supported the GAAP's rural spay/neuter campaign which spayed and neutered 66 dogs and cats in rural Chilean communities
- Sent a veterinary nurse to provide technical training in anesthesia, veterinary care, and monitoring to GAAP staffSent a public health expert to Chile to assist in strategic planning
- Funded an education grant to provide materials to children, teaching responsible pet ownership and empathy



Rural spay/neuter campaign, Chile

Photo credit: The GAAP



Nurse Feliza Lopez reviewing
anesthesia theory with GAAP staff,

Photo credit: The GAAP



Photo credit:
Eylem Cantadarucu

EDUCATION

Understanding how to interact with and care for animals is critically important, especially in Latin American countries where people and animals are interacting on a daily basis in both rural and urban settings. Unfortunately, animals are still legally considered “objects” or “property,” and many believe that they cannot feel emotions or pain, and are therefore not entitled to having their basic needs met, including access to food, shelter and veterinary care. Sadly, animal health and welfare is often not a priority, and these societal beliefs are perpetuated in the next generation.

In an effort to shift this tragic cultural perception of animals, VI has provided the GAAP, our Healthy Pets Program partner, with a grant that offers fun educational opportunities and events to children and their families in several rural and urban settings in Chile, as well as to Todos Santos, a small indigenous community in Guatemala. The GAAP recognizes the important links between education, poverty, and human and animal health, and the need to address all three in the struggle to secure future livelihoods and elevate families from the throes of illiteracy, unsustainable living, and illness.

Says GAAP Director Dr. Elena Garde:

“During the educational events, responsible pet ownership is used as an entry point for educating children about being caretakers of each other, the earth and its natural resources. Ultimately, when children learn about how to care for animals, they are learning about how to care for the health and wellbeing of their community as a whole. We receive ongoing feedback from the communities we serve that the children deeply enjoy the educational events, and that it can have a big impact on their relationship with their pets, as well as siblings and parents. We are increasingly asked to participate in public events and/or visit additional communities but we often do not have the resources to do so and unfortunately have to decline.”

These materials were used to begin a discussion with children about dog behavior. In Guatemala, dogs are the main reservoirs for canine rabies, and in Chile dogs are responsible for an overwhelming number of dog bites—mostly directed at children. Children were taught to pay attention to posture and specifics such as the mouth, ears, and tail to “read” their body language. (cont.)



Photo credit: Eylem Cantadarucu | 3



OUR PROGRAMS

TODOS SANTOS RABIES PROJECT, GUATEMALA

The Global Alliance for Animals and People (the GAAP) has been operating in Todos Santos, Guatemala since 2010. The original request for help in this community was to assist with the reduction of human-directed aggression and the prevalence of rabies in dogs. Educational activities have greatly expanded over the years, and take place in the schools and the public town square for children, youth, and adults. There is also a campaign focused on sterilization, rabies vaccination, general health, and welfare exams, and most recently an animal handling and restraint course for animal health care workers. Veterinarians International has been supporting the GAAP with an annual grant and veterinary expertise to help run the project.



Shakira pictured here with her best friend looking happy and healthy a year after we spayed her.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Veterinarians International sent 4 veterinarians, 3 veterinary nurses, a photographer and videographer to join the GAAP in Todos Santos, Guatemala in March 2016 for the annual rabies prevention/population control program.

In total, 34 volunteers from 6 countries worked together during the 5-day campaign.

We spent 2 days focusing on community education of responsible dog ownership and rabies prevention. The following 5 days involved running a cat and dog clinic offering veterinary services, rabies and distemper vaccines, and spay and neuter surgeries.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Provided age-appropriate messaging about child safety in the face of dog aggression and attacks, basic sanitation, humane animal education, and responsible dog ownership using various teaching models to students aged 5 to 17 in the public school system

Reinforcement of above messages for all ages via community activities in the town square

We sterilized 221 animals:

- 63 male and 105 female dogs
- 20 male and 33 female cats

We vaccinated nearly 1,000 animals:

- 732 dogs and cats against canine rabies
- 100 puppies against parvovirus and distemper
- 100 kittens against feline viral diseases



OUR PROGRAMS

ASIAN ELEPHANT VETERINARY CARE PROGRAM

THE ISSUE

Once used in warfare and the logging industry, the Asian elephant remains central to the cultural and religious identity of Thailand. A little over a century ago, there were over 100,000 elephants. Today, they are endangered; their estimated number is 3,500 to 5,000. Ivory poaching, illegal logging, and elephant camps that overwork elephants threaten their survival. Surin, is an elephant kingdom in Northeastern Thailand, designated by His Majesty the King, to allow elephants to live in more natural settings with access to forests and a balanced diet. Up until a few years ago, elephants were forced to beg in the streets of Bangkok where their welfare was severely compromised. The Surin elephant kingdom was created for these elephants to live in harmony with their mahouts and families through a government-sponsored program. The Zoological Parks Organization looks after 200 elephants but, currently, only has the capacity to conduct health checks twice a year.

Boon Lott's Elephant Sanctuary (BLES) in Sukhothai is a safe place where injured or ill elephants are rehabilitated and live a life of rest and relaxation, free from having to work or entertain. Since established in 2007 BLES has not had a full time veterinarian.

OUR GOAL

Our goal is to improve the welfare and living conditions of captive Asian elephants.

OUR SOLUTIONS

Veterinarians International has provided veterinary medicine, supplies, and special foods for sick or injured elephants at BLES. We were proud to have been able to support BLES for the past two years, to help improve the welfare and living conditions of captive Asian elephants.



VI has also partnered with the Zoological Parks Organization (ZPO) to create two mobile elephant clinics (MEC) for the 200 elephants in Surin province. Thanks to the generosity of Penni Ludwig, we have purchased these trucks and are excited to get them into the field in 2017!



Dr. Scarlett Magda handing over the two mobile elephant clinics to the Zoological Parks Organization.



LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM
SAUTI MOJA: WOMEN, GOATS AND PEACE



Last July, VI sent Senior Livestock Advisor Dr. Beth Miller to Kenya to create the humble beginnings of our livestock program. The goal is a reduction in extreme poverty in targeted pastoral communities and access to sustainable livestock health services. Dr. Miller was referred to Sauti Moja, which is a Community Based Organization (CBO) working in Marsabit County, Kenya, dedicated to enhancing the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable women and children. The county is in the arid area of Northern Kenya, where there is too little water to grow crops, but animals such as goats or camels can survive by grazing the pastures and shrubs. There are large numbers of destitute female-headed households (mostly widows) unable to provide adequate food and other basic needs for their children due to loss of their livestock. The Sauti Moja project provides widows with livestock (goats or camels) as a “loan” plus animal health and management training and veterinary medicines. To repay her “loan,” each woman passes on the first female offspring of the animal to the next most-needy household, so this will directly impact vulnerable households, and more than doubles the number of households that benefit.

VI has created a complementary project which will enable 240 households to access vet drugs, vaccines, and improved livestock management practices, which will increase the health and productivity of livestock, resulting in improved food security and ability to withstand climate or violence-based shocks. This project is part of a wider existing Sauti Moja Marsabit project of supporting pastoralist communities through wildlife conflict advocacy, human health training, and related programs. We are looking forward to launching this project in 2017.

HELEN FICALORA PARTNERSHIP

HELEN FICALORA



We have partnered with *Helen Ficalora* who created an elephant cut out charm for us. This is a Charity Charm with 25% of the proceeds from the 14k Yellow, White and Pink Gold Elephant Cutout Charm and 100% of the Sterling Silver Elephant Cutout Charm going to Veterinarians International.



AUGUST 12, 2016

SECOND ANNUAL TRUNKS OF LOVE GALA

130 individuals attended Veterinarian International’s “Trunks of Love,” hosted by award winning actor Dwayne Hill this past August 12th at Bakers House in East Hampton, NY honoring Christie Brinkley for her passionate humanitarianism, animal advocacy, and leadership in championing the cause of elephants. A Lifetime Achievement Award, designed by esteemed artist Alexis Rockman, was presented to Asian elephant expert Richard Lair, who travelled from Thailand. Guests enjoyed champagne by Louis Roederer, whiskey by Clyde May’s, music by DJ Dodge, exquisite cuisine by Best Chefs of America Chef Maurizio Marfoggia, Chef Elisabeth Johansson Swedish Culinary Summer, Mecox Dairy and a special champagne pairing course by local award-winning food writer and chef Jodi Moreno of What’s Cooking Good Looking. All food was sustainably sourced. Also on-site was Helen Ficalora selling her Vets International elephant charms where 100% of the proceeds of the silver charms went to the elephant Veterinary Care Program.

We are extremely grateful to Gloss studio for donating beautiful prints and display materials.



2016 Vets International Presidential Award recipient Christie Brinkley with Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Richard Lair at the Baker House, East Hampton

Photo credit: Rob Rich/Society Allure



Antonella Bertello, Maude Davis,
Maurizio Marfoggia, Christie Brinkley,
Dr. Scarlett Magda, Dr. Billy Karesh

Photo credit: Rob Rich/Society Allure



Dwayne Hill, Chrsitie Brinkley,
Dr. Scarlett Magda, Jill Rappaport

Photo credit: Rob Rich/Society Allure

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Photo credit: BLES

2016 DONORS

Veterinarians International would like to acknowledge and offer our appreciation to our generous donors – the individuals, foundations, corporations, and small businesses who contributed to our Trunks of Love gala, the Asian Elephant Program, Todos Santos Rabies Project, and Dollars to Spay campaign. Your ongoing support makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission of helping animals and healing the planet.

\$25,000 - \$50,000

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OBJECTIVES FOR 2017

- 1. To fully fund and operate our Asian Elephant Veterinary Care Program consisting of two mobile elephant clinics and a research project focused on Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus
- 2. To set up a veterinary training and education program between GAAP and VI
- 3. To create a livestock health and food security program in Kenya
- 4. To raise \$500,000 seed money for our programs
- 5. To set up a monthly giving program and obtain ongoing sponsorships

STAY IN TOUCH

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