

Dog Days at the Health Clinic

Many readers of the newsletter will already know that Jill Winegardner is a friend of all dogs, large or small. Jill writes:

“On July 14, I arrived at the barrio to see a crowd of people lined up at the Clinic door, each with a dog on a rope leash, in a basket, in a shawl, or cradled in their arms.

Every year the call goes out and hundreds of dogs line up to receive a rabies vaccination and anti-parasitic drugs. I was lucky enough to arrive on this Dog Day, sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Clinic.



240 dogs were seen, but there remain another 250 dogs who were turned away when the vaccine supply ran dry. People in the Barrio have dogs as pets, but also often as watchdogs to improve their security. Keeping the dogs healthy also improves the health of their owners.”



Do any readers want to sponsor treatment for these dogs? Each treatment costs just under \$5. Sadly, their owners can barely feed themselves, much less afford veterinary care.

The global economic crisis has hit Nicaragua especially hard. The cost of the “basic basket” of 53 food, housing, and clothing products, needed for a family of six to survive for a month rose to US\$442.04 in the first 10 months of this year. The minimum wage is only US\$96.30. This means that workers can cover only a fraction of the cost of their basic necessities.

This Christmas for the first time, the staff of AMUCOBU can’t afford to buy the basic “Christmas basket” of necessities for their families. Not to worry, our project will make sure they all get their baskets. Please be as generous as you can in this year of hard times for all.