

# FAAN-Facts: Did You Know?

As a Liaison for our Donors and Volunteers, I'm often asked about how we really can and will make Cuenca known as the "City that Cares" about Animal Welfare.

I won't kid you. It's a daunting and sometimes overwhelming challenge that was reinforced at the FAAN team's attendance at last week's International Conference on Humane Dog and Cat Management.



No, Ecuador is not alone in the world, in our challenge and dream of Healthier Pets and a Healthier Community. This is a journey bringing a smile from ear to ear on those days when we have found a fur-ever home for one of the dogs in our shelter. We hold back tears when we learn that an animal has been abused, neglected, or abandoned on a Cuenca street corner.

There will never be enough money in the world to warehouse abandoned animals without tackling the underlying conditions and changes in behavior that is required.

So, in this article, five FAAN Facts about how we're meeting this challenge head on with the help of people like you. People who not only just love dogs, but who are sharing their time, talent, and treasure as FAAN supporters and volunteers.



**FAAN has a holistic and strategic approach to improving animal welfare.** In existence for nine years, our organization initially began as a sanctuary for the most vulnerable dogs and has evolved into an organization tackling the underlying conditions and behaviors of animal abuse in Cuenca.

This includes rescue, shelter, adoption, evidenced based prevention strategies, and community education.

It's the only way we will get out of a never-ending warehousing of dogs with no end in sight.

Our research team has investigated what works and doesn't work around the world and we're bringing best practices to Cuenca.



**FAAN is Volunteer-powered.** From the writing and production of our magazine and education materials to the daily and loving care of our dogs at the shelter, we are 100% volunteer driven with both Ecuadorians and Expats dedicated to having the first US standard animal shelter



**FAAN receives no governmental funding and relies on community support.** While we were very successful in our recent matching campaign for funds to purchase the land for the new shelter, having raised over \$70,000, we're still a long way from the over \$100,000 needed to complete phase one for the land purchase.

Additionally, we need sustainable funding for the shelter infrastructure as well as supporting daily shelter operations.

Your donations through our events, monthly Dog-Parent sponsorships, Heir of the Dog legacy giving, and The PAWS Circle will help us to initiate the major change that is needed in animal welfare.

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FAAN is a Legal non-profit in Ecuador and is affiliated with our sister 501-c-3 Amici Cannis in the United States. This status and partnership with our sister foundation in Cotacachi offers charitable tax-deductions for US citizens and provides FAAN with an increased capacity to apply for grant funds and other non-profits supports.

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FAAN's Future Plans include a roaming street dog population census to measure our impact on animal welfare, FAAN-affiliated vets and a robust community educational curriculum for children and adults focused on sustainable behavior change. Love and kindness with our fellow humans and their pets is at the heart of our work.

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*Of far more value to organizations working to improve the outcomes for companion animals is an understanding of why humans behave the way they do, with the intention to build strategies that change human behavior sustainably. Knowing that humans are motivated by factors that are far stronger than simply doing the right thing is a powerful wakeup call for those of us needing to promote responsible ownership. The truth is that we can change the behavior of others in an instant, and the attitudes will follow, if we build our campaigns with people at the heart of them*

International Animal Welfare Conference  
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Battersea Dogs and Cats Home  
Humane Society International

So, thank you to all FAAN supporters, volunteers, and adopters. You are exactly what is needed to make Cuenca known as “The City that Cares.” *You are the heart of FAAN.*

Rosemary  
FAAN Advisory Board