

Fundacion Familia Amor Animal

December 2023

FAAN





## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT FAAN! (FUNDACION FAMILIA AMOR ANIMAL)

Because of YOU, we have so much to celebrate! In 2023, we were able to raise the funds needed to purchase permanent land for our modern animal shelter in Tarqui and we were able to start building! PAWSOME

We also have dreams for dramatically improving animal welfare in Cuenca through our mission of shelter, prevention, education, and adoption.

So, in this year-end issue, we want to both celebrate our progress and look to 2024 as the Year of Transformation.

Here's what you'll read about in our Holiday Edition:

- Gala FAAN-TASTICA! Wow, what a PAW-TY
- Adoption Success—Stella!
- An Update from our Building Committee
- FAAN Advisory Board Update
- For Pet Owners, what to do with a Reactive Dog?
- What to Do about the Dog—Our Interview with Yapa Tree
- How to become a FAAN Amigo Secreto/Secret Santa
- Cool Cats Come Out to Play at Cosecha Concert & Wine Tasting
- Volunteer Spotlight and Volunteer Positions Available in 2024



Dennis feeling the holiday spirit

It is our hope that you and your pet family have a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Rosemary, Ryan & Annika



# What's Happening

“The dog is a gentleman; I hope to go to his heaven not man’s.” – Mark Twain



Yuna is curious about the contents  
of this magazine

## NEWS

- Gala FAAN-Tastica 04
- The FAAN Building Committee 05
- Happy Endings

## EVENTS

- FAAN’s holiday party, concert & wine tasting 14
- Wine to the rescue 15
- Become a Amigo Secreto / Secret Santa to a shelter dog of FAAN 17

## CARE

- So there’s this dog... 06
- What can you do with an emotionally reactive dog? 07
- Something missing underneath your tree? 12

## INFORMED

- Volunteer Spotlight 10
- FAAN Advisory Board Update 10
- What We Do 20
- Four Ways To Donate 21

# GALA FAAN-TASTICA! IT'S A WRAP!

A FAAN-TASTIC shout out to all our individual donors, businesses, musicians, artists, and guests who made GALA FAAN-TASTICA an absolute tail-wagging success! Your generosity has truly unleashed endless possibilities for our furry friends.

At FAAN, our dreams are no longer just a “pawsibility”. We're embarking on the construction of our brand-new shelter. In this very special night in October, Cuenca turned out and raised almost \$30,000 to start building the new home for Cuenca's abandoned and most vulnerable dogs.

You Saved the Date, You Marked your Calendars and you got your tails wagging because on Saturday, October 7th, we celebrated our progress and dedication to our four-legged pals. Save the date for GALA FAAN-TASTICA II coming in 2024!

If you missed this year's Gala look at our video highlights here!

PS: Gala Feedback: We want to hear from you

- 1) Would you like to see the event at Estancia Rosario again or at a different location?
- 2) What did you like about the Gala? What should we consider for next year?
- 3) Would you be willing to serve on one of our FAAN Gala Committees for 2024?

From the Auction to Media/Publicity to Arts and Décor, this is a time-limited volunteer assignment beginning from June to October and we need both in-person and virtual volunteers to make it all happen.

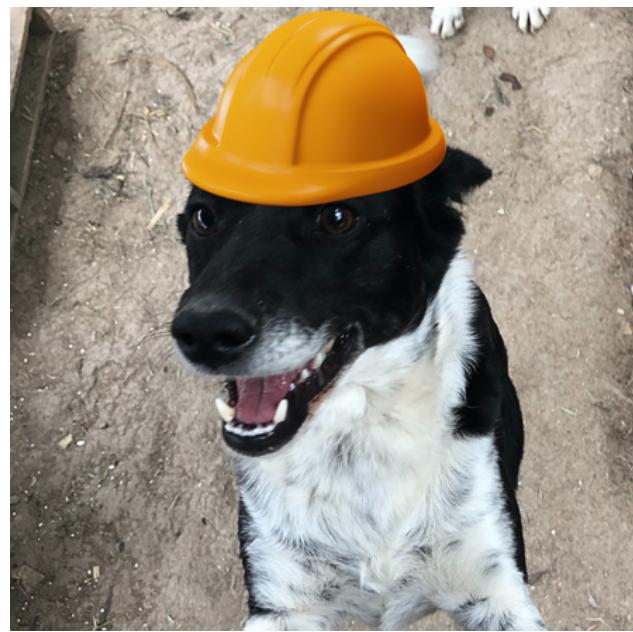
Write us at [Info@FAANcuador.org](mailto:Info@FAANcuador.org)



# THE FAAN BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee has been working steadily since we purchased the land in Tarqui to secure all permits and create a design for Phase One of the Shelter. This includes not only the architectural design following modern shelter standards, but the sourcing of materials locally and looking for ways to reduce our initial building costs through both donated materials and labor, eco sustainable materials, and even the potential use of shipping containers for outbuildings.

We are racing the clock with El Nino i.e. past and potential new landslides at the upper shelter combined with imminent eviction from our landlord who has provided a temporary extension from our original December 31st deadline. We are hoping we have until April 1 between the landlord discussions and raising needed funds so that when we move the dogs, we will move them to the modern shelter, we envisioned. We have also prepared the dogs for their re-location with complete grooming and flea treatments.



Judy is already excited for starting  
the construction!

Phase one includes shelter and runs for 150 dogs, a kitchen, storage area, bathroom, caretaker and meeting/adoption space with an enrichment area for the dogs. There is fencing and other pieces of infrastructure being put in place as well.

Barry Rein, Shelter Design Committee Chair notes we need approximately \$50,000 in additional funding to complete phase one of the shelter project. Can we do it? According to Barry without a doubt! "No one thought we could possibly raise funds to purchase the permanent land for FAAN's dogs and yet we did it within 12 months. Never underestimate the love and generosity of animal lovers who both live in Cuenca and/or have visited our World Heritage City and love it.

We hope you will consider joining us as a founding member of the new shelter through the Paws Benefactor Circle with your donation from \$100 - \$5,000 +.

We also invite you to join the Shelter Design and Transition Team as a Volunteer. Watch for news of a volunteer minga and a visit to tour the new property and the current shelter on January 13th!

Visit us at [FAANecuador.org](http://FAANecuador.org) or write us at [info@FAANecuador.org](mailto:info@FAANecuador.org) and join us.



# So THERE'S THIS DOG...

ANIMAL SHELTERS AREN'T THE FIRST SOLUTION



FAAN sat down with John Olson and Yapa Tree to discuss what to do if you see a dog in distress or come across a dog or dogs in your neighborhood.

Read John's Article and of course, celebrate with us the very happy ending for the author when he followed the intervention steps that were recommended. Hint: Her name is STELLA!!!

Many folks don't realize that an animal shelter is often the last resort in most instances; FAAN has strict protocols and other interventions used when we receive calls about an abandoned dog. As you'll read in John's article, many dogs are not abandoned but are roaming or community dogs, quite different from the US or European countries.

According to the FAAN Advisory Board "Individual responsibility becomes key and we work with caring community members who can follow the guidance of assessing and photographing the situation, bringing a dog in distress to a vet (FAAN has discounts with specific vets we work with) and potentially fostering while we advertise the dog for adoption. We also report cases of abuse."

Most shelters in Cuenca as in most of Latin America are at total capacity, so the answer lies not in warehousing dogs but in prevention along with intervention strategies. This includes spaying and neutering campaigns, building a culture of adoption and community education such as FAAN's "Be Kind Campaign and Curriculum".

FAAN's strategic plan includes a holistic approach to animal welfare in Cuenca providing both the new, modern, animal shelter with proven prevention and intervention strategies.

To learn more about us visit [FAANcuador.org](http://FAANcuador.org)

[click here to view John's article!](#)



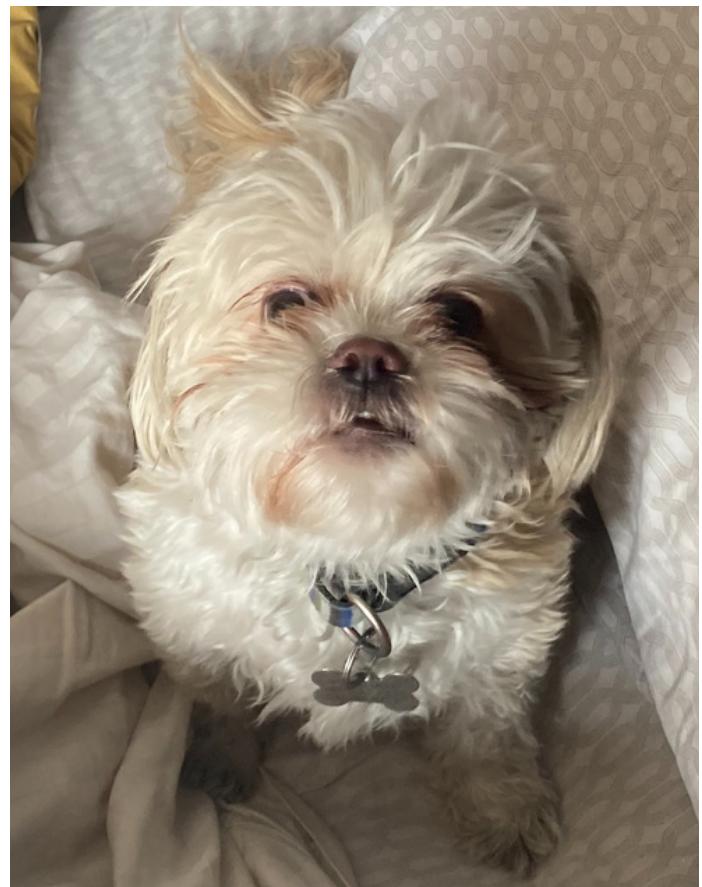
# WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH AN EMOTIONALLY REACTIVE DOG?

I know what you're going to say, those who can do, those who can't teach. I'm no expert but I have been studying what to do with my rescue, Mr. Peabody. We rescued Mr. Peabody, when we first moved to Ecuador. The first thing we did was re-name him. Barry and I knew immediately he was no "Einstein" but when we answered an ad in Gringo Post, he was very excited to greet us.

His owner explained that she was teaching English online and had to lock the dog away all day while she was teaching; this was not fair to him. That should have been our first clue. When we leave the house now, Mr. Peabody won't leave the door, giving us the stink eye as we dare go without him.

Yet, our soon to be best friend in our adoption meet and greet made a great first impression with soulful eyes and happiness that made us feel like a million bucks.

Fast Forward three years later and Mr. Peabody shakes uncontrollably with any thunder, fireworks and power outages. He still greets all guests and us with tail wagging enthusiasm but quite unexpectedly can turn on the dime with "The Elvis Lip" and a low growl warning everyone he's in no mood. We've had four or five bites, mostly when we have unexpectedly disturbed him. (There is really something to the saying "Let sleeping dogs lie.") and two of our guests have experienced the shock that such a nice boy can go all Cujo.



on the hunt for the reason of Peabody's behavior

In under a minute, Mr. Peabody's behavior is followed by a walk of hound-dog shame and his attempt to lick his way out of trouble. We have and are following these steps in addition to warning all guests that our Elvis may still be in the building.

## Steps to Take with an Emotionally Reactive Dog

1. Identify Triggers: Pay attention to what sets off their reactions. Is it certain sounds, sights, people, or other animals? Understanding triggers helps you to manage situations better.
2. Create a Safe Environment: Establish a safe space for your dog at home where they can retreat when feeling stressed. This might be a cozy crate or a quiet room.
3. Positive Reinforcement Training: Use positive reinforcement techniques to teach your dog new behaviors and responses. Reward calm behavior and gradually expose them to triggers in a controlled, positive way.
4. Desensitization and Counterconditioning: Gradually expose your dog to their triggers in a controlled setting while pairing these exposures with positive experiences (like treats or toys) to change their emotional response.
5. Consistency and Patience: Consistency in training and patience are key. Progress might be slow, but it's important to remain calm and supportive throughout the process.
6. Seek Professional Help: Consult with a certified dog behaviorist or trainer experienced in handling reactive dogs. They can provide personalized guidance and create a tailored training plan.
7. Reduce Stress: Ensure your dog gets enough physical exercise, mental stimulation, and proper rest. A tired dog is often a calmer dog.
8. Use Management Tools: Tools like head halters, no-pull harnesses, or calming aids (like pheromone diffusers or calming vests) might assist in managing your dog's reactions while training.
9. Avoid Punishment: Punishment can increase fear and anxiety in reactive dogs. Focus on positive reinforcement rather than scolding or punishment.
10. Stay Calm: Dogs can pick up on your emotions. Stay calm and composed when working with a reactive dog, as your demeanor can influence their reactions.

We have read all the books and are following the intervention process below as well as testing other remedies such as ....

## Possible Relief with a Bull Penis?

We also just picked up a possible remedy from our neighbor and are investing in “Bully Sticks” which you can buy on Amazon with the holder (local number below\*). According to our initial research this occupying doggie treat has nutritional value so we will have to ignore what it actually is. “Dehydrated Bull Penis” So Amazon here we come, although we should be able to get a farmer in Ecuador to make our own Bully Sticks at a fraction of the delicacy/import. Maybe a FAAN profit center? LOL

\*Someone provided a WhatsApp phone number for Bully Sticks locally – 096-325-4233.

\*The American Kennel Club recommends using bully sticks as a safe and healthy treat for your dog. Unlike many other types of dog bones and stick-like treats, bully sticks do not splinter, which eliminates the risk of broken pieces causing internal problems. Note: Do your own research. There are conflicting recommendations that for example caution on the possible underestimation of calories. For us, we decided it's worth a try to give our boy some relief for his anxiety.

Remember, every dog is unique, and what works for one might not work for another. Tailor your approach based on your dog's personality and needs, but don't hesitate to seek professional help if you're facing challenges.

Share your experiences in working with your emotionally reactive dog at  
[info@FAANecuador.org](mailto:info@FAANecuador.org)

Rosemary Rein



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ANNIKA SCHOETT

Every year at FAAN we are fortunate to have a volunteer from Germany who works with the Foundation. Annika Schoett is our current volunteer in residence, working part-time at the shelter and in marketing. Annika has been instrumental these past three months in supporting FAAN events including the Gala and adoptions. We are fortunate to have her time, talent, and love for dogs for the remainder of her one-year assignment with us.

When you see FAAN's Amigo Secreto Christmas Cards, that's Annika's hard work in photographing each of our dogs and writing a little dating profile about each one of them.

Thank you, Annika, for being a core member of the FAAN volunteer team. If you are reading this magazine, Annika is our Lead Designer.



## FAAN ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE FUELED BY LOVE AND VOLUNTEERISM

As this year comes to a close, we wanted to share with you how proud we are of the incredible volunteer dedication that fuels our Foundation's work.

Many of you have heard about the tireless dedication of FAAN's President, José Gomez who has made FAAN animal rescue his vocation and mission for ten years. José has without pay or expectation driven up the mountain every day to feed and care for up to 150 dogs which we have in shelter or in foster care. He has also donated his own funds for food and medicine when quite frankly the shelves were bare. It is this "Servant Leadership" that keeps the Volunteer Advisory Board moving forward to do what quite honestly many thought could not be done.

While José tends to the daily needs of our dogs with volunteers and one part-time employee, in 2023, the Advisory Board has focused not only raising needed funds but putting in place standards and processes so the organization can run as an effective, trusted, and sustainable non-profit. As we open and move to the new shelter, we will be focused on adherence to standards of care for our animals and increasing our adoption flow through rate. However, hand in hand with the shelter, our eye is on the prize (prevention, education and creating a culture of adoption).

We won't lie, it's an ambitious 2024 roadmap and we can't do it without you. Fortunately, many of our volunteers bring a wealth of experience from business, marketing, construction, education, animal welfare and project management fields and who dedicate countless hours of their time to FAAN projects. To these volunteers, we express our deepest gratitude.

And we have an invitation for those of you who have not yet become what we lovingly call a "FAAN-ATIC." If you have even a few hours a week to dedicate to the Foundation either for in-person or virtual projects, we hope you will consider joining us as a FAAN Volunteer. Not only will you be helping Cuenca's dogs, we can guarantee you will meet some pawsome people, learn some new skills and enjoy your affiliation with our organization dedicated to care and kindness of both people and animals.

With grateful hearts,

The FAAN Advisory Board, we need you.



FAAN President José Gomez has dedicated himself to caring for the shelter dogs every day



our shelter heroes working in Tarqui



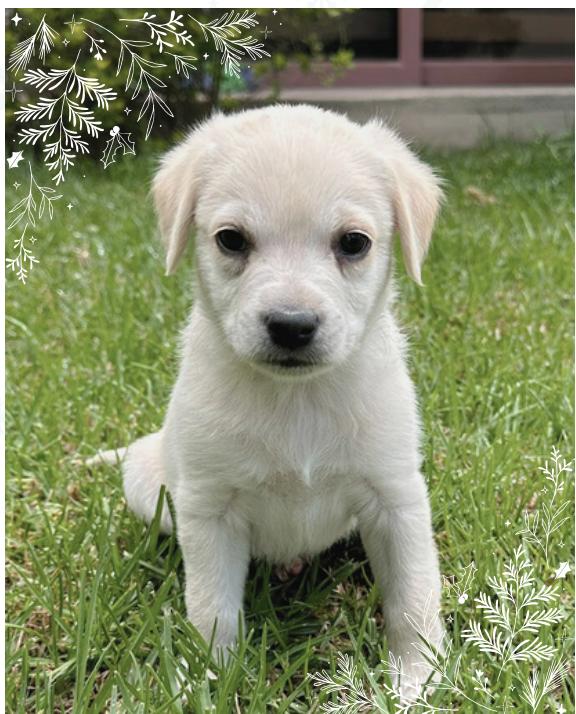
# SOMETHING MISSING UNDERNEATH YOUR TREE?

how about a new family member to brighten up your holidays?

## Noche



## Estrella



My foster mom calls me Noche because I'm black like the night. I was very small, fragile, and sick when she found me with my mom, brothers and sisters. At half the size of my siblings, I almost didn't make it. But my foster mom took care of me and now I am small but mighty! I'm not as strong as my companions so I don't have as much energy but that doesn't stop me from tackling and playing with them! I have been living in a house with four young kids and I am very used to being handled and love love love cuddles! I am a male, small-to-medium sized short-haired mix breed dog. I am dewormed and have had my first vaccine. I am 8 weeks old now and am looking for my forever home.



My foster mom calls me Estrella because I'm as white as a star. I am full of energy and love to eat! I am the biggest of all my brothers and sisters. My mom was abandoned with all seven of us and when my foster mom found us we were all very sick. She nursed us back to health and gave us a safe place to grow up. I am a male, small-to-medium sized short-haired mixed breed dog. Now that I'm 8 weeks old I'm ready to find my forever home and a human to call my own!

# Dulce



My foster mom calls me Dulce because I'm just as sweet as can be. My sister and I were the only two females in a litter of seven. My sister has been adopted and now I'm looking for someone who will love me and give me a safe and fun place to live out my life. I'm not quite as crazy as my brothers but I still like to play and I always make my foster mom laugh because I have a funny way of running. She thinks it's cute. I am a female, small-to-medium sized short-haired mixed breed dog. Now that I'm 8-weeks old I'm ready to find my forever home and a human to call my own.

If you are interested in adopting one of these adorable puppies and bring yourself and them some joy, don't hesitate to contact us today!



# FAAN's HOLIDAY PARTY, CONCERT & WINE TASTING

Join us for a night to taste and bring home FAAN and Cosecha's "Wines to the Rescue" while enjoying music and dancing to the amazing tunes of Gatos Negros.

You can order dinner of course as we celebrate the holiday season at this very special FAAN fundraiser specifically for building the new shelter in Cuenca. All proceeds from wine sales and the event support the dogs of FAAN.

Federico Proaño y Honorato Loyola (esquina), Cuenca, Ecuador

Reserve Your Tickets at [reservas@cafeyvino.ec](mailto:reservas@cafeyvino.ec)





## WINE TO THE RESCUE—MEET OUR WINNING CONTESTANTS AND THIS YEAR'S 2023 WINE LABELS

The FAAN volunteer team was completely amazed at the number of entries we received to be the face of FAAN's 2023 Wine bottles to benefit the building of the new shelter.

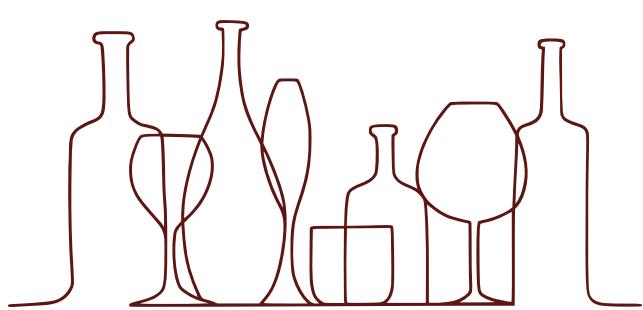
It was an impossible task for the judges due to the amazing dogs (and one cat) so we created this holiday media so you can meet and congratulate all of our amazing contestants.

[click here to view!](#)

“Wine to the Rescue” sponsored by Cosecha is an example of how business leaders can partner with FAAN to both support the foundation’s work and attract new animal loving clients. Our immense appreciation to Javier Sanchez and Cosecha for both your generosity and innovation.

Order your Chardonnay and/or Cabernet and help the Dogs of FAAN while enjoying a Grape Season!

[info@FAANcuador.org](mailto:info@FAANcuador.org)





# Wine to the rescue

Chardonnay: \$15  
Cabernet: \$20

Buy now

## COSECHA

 Luis Moreno Mora y  
Nicanor Merchan (esq)

Or send us a message to  
transfer and pick it up at the  
nearest point



# Vino de rescate

Chardonnay: \$15  
Cabernet: \$20

Adquierelo en

## COSECHA

 Luis Moreno Mora y  
Nicanor Merchan (esq)

O envíanos un mensaje para  
transferencia y recógelo en  
el punto más cercano

# BECOME A SECRET SANTA / AMIGO SECRETO TO A SHELTER DOG OF FAAN

The holiday season often brings to mind images of joy, generosity, and the warmth of giving. While we exchange gifts with loved ones and share moments of togetherness, there are furry FAAN friends eagerly awaiting their own dose of holiday magic.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the holidays, many of these dogs are still searching for their forever homes. However, there's a beautiful way to make a significant difference in a rescue dog's life by becoming their Secret Santa or as we say in Ecuador an "Amigo Secreto" or "Secret Friend".

Imagine being the guardian angel to a furry companion, providing them not just with food and medicine but also with the gift of hope and care during their time at the shelter. When you sponsor a rescue dog, you're becoming a rescue dog's secret Santa, offering them a lifeline while they wait for their forever family.



You can contribute food, flea medicine, toys and interactive activities that keep our dogs healthy, happy, and ready for their forever homes at locations in Cuenca or sponsor your secret friend with your financial contribution.

And when you donate during this holiday season, our dogs have a special surprise for you. They have created individual Christmas Cards with their name and picture. In January, you can even meet them at the shelter if you wish. All Secret Santas will also be entered into our New Year's Raffle with some pawsome prizes donated by FAAN-ATIC volunteers and businesses.

The beauty of being a Secret Santa to a FAAN rescue dog lies in the transformative power of your generosity. You're not only changing a dog's life but also contributing to the greater cause of animal welfare. Each sponsored dog represents a story of hope, resilience, and the unwavering spirit of companionship.

To donate online visit our online giving page and mention you are a Secret Friend!

<https://amicicannis1.ddock.gives/?givingPageId=0de68f40-2abb-47ab-a8b5-f7c53dfffb1f7>



**PUNTOS DE RECOLECCIÓN AMIGO SECRETO**

**Vetlife**  
Coronel Guillermo Tálbot y Gaspar Sangurima  
Horario: 8h30am a 18h00pm  
(Lunes- Viernes)

**Cosecha , Café y Vino**  
Luis Moreno Mora Y Nicanor Aguilar esquina  
Horario: 10h00am a 20h00pm  
(Lunes- Viernes)

**La Yunta**  
Av. Primero de Mayo entre Av. de las Américas y Fray Gaspar de Carvajal  
Horario: 8h30am a 18h00pm  
(Viernes 1 de diciembre)

**El Mercado**  
Chaulabamba  
Horario: 10h00am a 2h00pm  
(Sabado 9 de diciembre)

**Kaizen**  
Av. de las Américas y Luis Cordero edificio Torre las Américas  
Horario: 9h30am a 12h30pm  
(Lunes- Viernes)

**Oliver Líder de la Manada**  
Mariscal Lamar y Octavio Cordero  
Horario: 8h30am a 18h00pm  
(Lunes- Viernes)

**Lirondo**  
Benigno Malo 9-55 Simón Bolívar (Frente a parqueaderos Iosi)  
Horario: 7h00am a 21h00pm  
(Lunes - Sabado)

**Sabatino's Garden Restaurante y feria**  
Roberto Aguilar y Av. 3 de Noviembre  
Horario: 09h00am a 14h00pm  
(Sabado 16 de diciembre)



# Volunteers

are the heart of FAAN

come join a fun filled group of FAAN-atics  
we have a need for all kinds of talents,  
interests and "Super Powers"!



Want to chat about Volunteer opportunities?  
Send Rosemary an email at [info@faanecuador.org](mailto:info@faanecuador.org)



# Be a FAAN-atic Dog Supporter!

*The dogs of Cuenca thank you!*

## FAAN Benefits the Community

*Education* - Reducing abuse and raising awareness

*Spay & Neuter* - Working with a Network of  
Community Veterinarians

*Adoption, Shelter, Refuge* - Getting at risk, senior and  
medically challenged dogs off the streets and into  
forever homes

*Care* - Through improving nutrition, medical  
treatment, training and a large dose of Love



Join Us and be a  
FAAN-atic  
Supporter Today!

- Volunteer
- Adopt
- Foster
- Donate
- Share Our Mission

We believe all animals including those of  
pet owners, community dogs, and street  
dogs deserve to be respected and cared for  
by the collective Community.

*We are helping Cuenca become known as  
the City That Cares.*



# Four Easy Ways to Donate

We have a variety of ways to donate to FAAN which you can find on our donations page.

<https://www.faanecuador.org/donations.html>

**1. In Cuenca: Secure Cash Pick-up by a FAAN Volunteer**

**2. Deposit in Banco Pichincha.**

Fundacion Familia Amor Animal

\*Cuenta: 2208541490

RUC 0190443035001

**3. To receive a US Tax-Deduction,**

make your check payable to our umbrella US 501-C-3 organization  
(Notate FAAN Shelter) located in the United States

Mail to:

Amici Cannis USA

1008 Centre Avenue

Ft. Collins, Colorado 80526

Indicate: Your donation to FAAN/Shelter

Account 1000-817-9654

FEIN# 46-5202586

**4. PAYPAL Button on our Donations Page**

Important: after clicking on the PayPal button...and even though you are on an English page, PayPal may be in Spanish.

Change the PayPal language on the bottom of the PayPal page after you agree to the cookie consent message which may appear.

For Help and Questions  
Contact Rosemary  
[info@FAANcuador.org](mailto:info@FAANcuador.org)



Fundacion Familia Amor Animal

# FAAN

We believe all animals including those of pet owners, community dogs, and street dogs deserve to be respected and cared for by the collective community.

We are helping Cuenca become known as the City That Cares.



# FAAN

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