



GOBIERNO PARROQUIAL "SEIS DE JULIO DE CUELLAJE"

Fundada el 05 de agosto de 1964

Decreto Ejecutivo N°. 1894. RO/ 421 de 27 de Septiembre del 2001.

Cuellaje 14 febrero 2020
Oficio. 234 GADPR6JC

Dr Nancy Shaffran
EagleyCondor Foundation

Dear Nancy

This is to express, on behalf of the people and animals of Intag and especially Cuellaje, our deep gratitude for the work done by the team of Eagle y Condor between 8th and 12th of february of this year. I lost count, but it was clear that more then 300 dogs and cats were speyed, castrated, vaccinated, de-wormed, de-flead, assisted with medecines, and generally operated on to heal or prevent a wide variety of illnesses.

All of this took place in an atmosphere of friendly professionalism under difficult circumstances that so obviously appealed to the animals' owners, who are used to being seen as "second-class citizens", and on this rare occasion were given red carpet treatment. The cats and dogs seemed to understand that they were in good hands too.

14 years of residence in this corner of Ecuador, and 9 years of marriage to a local woman, have shown me that local people are unlikely to express their appreciation of the Eagle and condor team's amazing work vocally, or in any other easily discernible way. You told me right at the start that you already knew this and it was not an issue. However, what happened during those days was so unusual for local people that I can't just let this go by without saying something, however unnecessary it may be!

- Few foreign people come to intag because it is off the beaten track and therefore frightening to most people.
- Those that do tend to come individually or in family groups, as tourists and volunteer teachers and farmhands. I can't recall a single organised visit by professionals such as you.
- This is important partly because "professionals" in Ecuador usually means proud, overbearing, rude and expensive, and such people are viewed either with undeserved reverence or fear and mistrust. This is not healthy, and actually sometimes leads to tragedy. The visit of Eagle and Condor showed clearly a happier way for anyone with eyes to see.
- In their turn, and possibly for similar cultural and historical reasons, cats and dogs are viewed by many local people as "second-class citizens", dispensable items. The Eagle and Condor foundation put a question mark over this attitude, and so



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speeded up the pace of change to a slightly more caring attitude towards animals (and humans) .

- Finally, we are in a mining conflict here, and this implies a lot of rough, unsavoury behaviour, fuelled by international mining corporations and the natural tendency towards greed. Legal disputes, inter-familiar fights, violence, and polarised views and behaviour are a few of the well-documented consequences of controversial mining activity in local communities. As a parish council that firmly rejects mining activity on our territory we are "punished" in a number of ways by those authorities and individuals who favor mining activity. The first time in almost a year of administration that I felt that such differences were put aside, and people were almost unanimously content, with everthing swept away in a tide of good energy, was during your veterinary event.

I would like to wish your team and you all the best, and please come back one day to have a better look around the área. Angel Flores, the council president, asks me to say very many thanks, and to all and any of the Eagle and condor team, come and stay as our guests.

Yours,

Ned Cresswell
Vicepresident of the Cuellaje Parish council



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