**SALUTATION IN LETTER**

To Whom it May Concern

A group of veterinarians and veterinary students from Oregon State University in the United States of America will be traveling to Ometepe Island for 10 days to work with Alvaro Molina providing quality veterinary care and promoting sound animal husbandry techniques to local citizens. There is limited access to veterinary care on the island of Ometepe, yet there is a great need. The overpopulation of domestic dogs on Ometepe pose a public health risk to the indigenous communities by increasing the animal-to-human transfer of diseases, such as toxoplasmosis and leptospirosis. In addition, there have been recent reports of an increase in giardia-related illnesses among locals and tourists. Additionally, large populations of nuisance feral animals have a negative impact on tourism, a critical source of income for many people on Ometepe. These communities also depend heavily upon the wellbeing of their domestic livestock and working animals to help sustain their lifestyle, especially about transportation, agriculture, and food.

We (see attached list of participants) will be traveling to Ometepe Island on Dec 13th (see schedule attached). We will be able to offer basic preventative health measures to dogs, cats, horses, cows, pigs and goats on Ometepe Island. We also will be able to provide basic veterinary care such as treating bacterial infections, abscesses, minor wounds, and similar basic veterinary issues. Additionally, we will offer a limited number of spay and neuter surgeries to clients requesting them. All functions of the veterinary clinic will be overseen by US licensed veterinarians with students taking an active role in performing these functions. All services provided to the community will be organized and conducted with the help of Alvaro Molina, a Nicaraguan citizen and Ometepe resident.

We intend to continue to make this trip a yearly occurrence which will help foster a connection between the students and faculty of Oregon State University and the citizens of Ometepe. We also hope to foster a connection between the veterinary school in Managua and the Oregon State Veterinary School in the coming years. We hope this trip is the beginning of a long, successful program on Ometepe Island. See attached program goals for more information.

To successfully meet our goals and provide adequate veterinary care to the residents of Ometepe island we need to bring specific supplies with us. To make this clinic a success, our group will need to bring our veterinary kits, with the medicines and supplies (such as bandage material, instruments) into Nicaragua. Attached to this letter is a list of the supplies we would like to bring with us. Without bringing these supplies we will not be able to perform the veterinary duties described above. All medications and supplies will be used by our veterinarians and students while we are in country. Alvaro Molina, our local counterpart, will supervise our activities to ensure that all community assistance provided is in accordance with Nicaraguan laws and regulations.

Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully,

Brianna Buechler, DVM

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