

GREYHOUND HEALTH AND WELLNESS QUARTERLY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



Photos by [Christopher Zenger](#)

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THE GREYHOUND HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM AT SCOOBY MEDINA SHELTER IN SPAIN

The Scooby Medina Shelter (www.scoobymedina.com), in Medina del Campo, Spain, cares primarily for Galgos (Spanish Greyhounds) rescued from hunters. These Galgos are adopted out to homes in the US, Europe, and Asia. Only extremely ill pets are euthanized, so Scooby is considered a no-kill rescue organization.

The shelter typically houses between 200 and 300 dogs, predominantly Galgos, who are kept in large common patios, where they are grouped by “personality”. For example, the known aggressive dogs are not in the patios but rather in individual kennels. The refuge is manned only by 2 part-time employees, and most of the health care year-round is delivered by volunteer veterinarians, veterinary students, and veterinary technician students from the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, the US, and Spain.



One of the Patios



Exam and surgery room

The kennel facility is quite large, but the exam room/surgery room/pharmacy are housed in a very small (15 X 10 ft) room, that is neither air conditioned nor well ventilated; there is a 20 X 10 ft recovery room/infirmary across the hallway where dogs and cats are transferred after surgical procedures or when they need to be closely monitored. They recently added an air-conditioned trailer that serves as an operating room and recovery area.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MEDINA DEL CAMPO

The facility is located approximately 2 miles from the town of Medina del Campo, a medieval small town (population approximately 15,000) where Queen Isabel, who commanded Christopher Columbus’ trips to the New World was born. Medina del Campo is located in the high plains, approximately 90 minutes North of Madrid. You can reach Medina either by car or by train from Madrid. The temperatures are extreme (for Spain) during Summer (up to 110 F) and Winter (30 F), but very mild during the Spring and Fall; the precipitation is very low.

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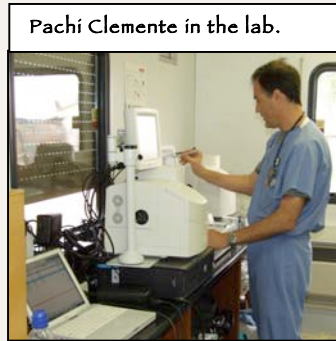
Dr. Couto has been volunteering at Scooby Medina for several years. This year a group of OSU students, consisting of Sarah Nash and Jessica Slack (4th-year students), and Nicolette Bertolone and Heather Kvitko (3rd-year students) visited Scooby between June 17th and June 23rd, 2007, under the supervision of Dr. Guillermo Couto. Additional volunteers for the trip included Kristen and Jason Couto, and Anna Moran (undergraduate students), and Drs. Cathy Klein (Arizona), Pachi Clemente (Calpe, Spain), and Pilar Sanz (Genoa, Italy).



Left to right, Anna Moran, Kristen and Jason Couto making surgery packs



Jessica Slack and Sarah Nash taking a blood sample



Pachi Clemente in the lab.

The days started around 9AM, and finished between 10:30 and 11:00PM. Every day, we split between medical and surgical teams; the medical team would do physical exams on sick dogs and cats, collect blood for analysis, and treat hospitalized patients.

With partial sponsorship from IDEXX Labs, we did CBCs and serology for vector borne diseases (VBD) in 131 dogs; we also did serum biochemical profiles (\pm urinalyses) in 90 dogs. The serum from all dogs was frozen for further analysis, and we made blood smears from all the dogs for subsequent evaluation. Interestingly, we found a very high prevalence of VBD.



Guillermo Couto and Kristen Couto in the lab

Sarah Nash, Jessica Slack, and Dr. Kathy Klein in surgery



The surgical team, performed over 25 surgeries; primarily we spayed and neutered, but we also sutured lacerations, did dental extractions, and lumpectomies. Several dogs had bone fractures that we treated medically with splints and bandages. Part of the surgical team was in charge of anesthesia and recovery room duties.

The experience was a rotund success for everybody involved!

WHATS NEW AT THE GREYHOUND HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

We recently created a Greyhound [Memorial Donation](#) area in our website where you can make a donation to the Greyhound Health and Wellness Program in honor or memory of an animal you have lost.

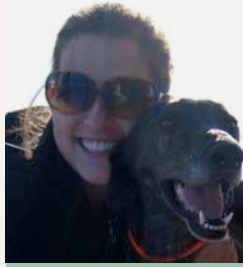
Thanks to your kind gift, we will be able to continue to support the mission of our program, "To help the Greyhounds". Your support allows us to learn more about health issues in the breed, and hopefully prevent or cure some of their common problems.

!THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



By Suzie Collins

OSU STUDENTS: OUR EXPERIENCE AT SCOOBY MEDINA



When I first heard about Scooby from Dr. Couto my first year at veterinary school, I knew that I wanted to go. Little did I know what an impact it would have on me as a person and as a future veterinarian.

You walk into Scooby and see the dogs, mainly Galgos, greeting you with a few barks and bright, wide eyes. It is often said that animals don't know how lucky they are - but these dogs did. They knew they were the lucky ones that had been saved, and they were always at the front of their paddock or kennel begging for your attention. Within my first 10 minutes at Scooby, I met a Galgo who was almost killed by a hammer blow to the head. I met another who had permanent brain damage, and couldn't walk in a straight line. Another was so afraid of people that only the president of Scooby could get near her. Despite their troubled histories, these animals know that they were safe at Scooby, and truly thought they had it all. Talk about appreciation! I knew right away that I had a lot to learn from these animals.

Leaving Scooby was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. I couldn't say goodbye to the four-legged friends that I had made, so I simply told them, "I'll see you later," because I know that I'll be back soon. My experience at Scooby has once again reiterated for me that I have chosen the best career in the world. I think it's safe to say, especially after spending a week at Scooby, that we are saving the world one animal at a time.

Sarah Nash, Class of 2008. OSU



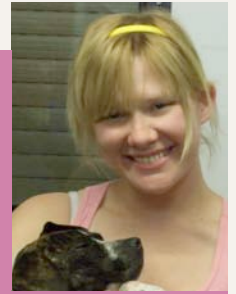
We immediately started treating a morbid galgo puppy with suspected distemper virus which we believe was spreading throughout the immuno-incompetent animals at the camp. This pup would have definitely died had we not been there to treat him.

This was only one of the many dogs we saved that week, including over 25 dogs that we diagnosed with Leishmania, Ehrlichiosis or Anaplasmosis and were started on twice daily regimens of doxycycline.

One of our goals was to neuter and spay as many dogs as possible, especially those that were going to homes and those intact males that were considered "high risk" animals and would otherwise be put down without our efforts.

I have never worked in a situation where we had to "make do" with the equipment, supplies and space as we did at Scooby. But, despite the very limited conditions of those just listed, I am certain that our efforts made a huge impact on the welfare of the Spanish Galgo and others at Camp Scooby Medina! I can't wait to go back!

Nicolette Bertolone, Class 2009. OSU

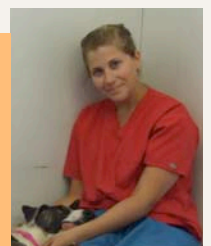


So many of the unique and special animals in Fermin's care came with heart wrenching stories of the human capacity for cruelty. So many of them came with so many problems – medical, behavior, and especially

psychological – that it would be impossible to help all of them in our short visit. I was particularly touched by a simple and eloquent explanation given by Fermin when he was asked about the difficulties he faces in rescuing so many animals in desperate need. To paraphrase, he replied that his job was to ensure all the animals at Scooby were happy, and if that were not possible, to help them have peace and go to heaven. I think that there has been no greater gift to animal welfare in Spain than Fermin and the Scooby Animal Shelter.

More than anything, my experience at Scooby helped to solidify the idea that helping to alleviate animal suffering is not an obligation for the veterinary profession, but is instead a great honor and a privilege. It also showed me that a small group of people can truly make a difference in the world. I wish that every veterinary student could have the chance to experience something as wonderful as I did in my time at Scooby. I'm confident that I am a better person, and will become a better doctor, because of it.

Jessica M. Slack, Class of 2008. OSU



There has not been one day since returning home from Camp Scooby that I have not thought about it, its animals, and its mission. We spent 5 days volunteering our time and services at the Scooby Shelter.

In just 5 short days we were able to accomplish an amazing amount of things and help a large number of dogs. Even though our time was short I was able to form bonds with many of the 300 dogs at Scooby. We began to recognize the differences in personality and were able to spend quality time with animals that were both starved for human attention and some that were slightly weary of it. We loved the animals like they were our own and I now miss them as such. With every Scooby dog that finds a home there are hundreds more and with so many animals the work never stops. This is what makes our time and help so necessary and I look forward to venturing back to Scooby one day to volunteer again.

Heather Kvitko, Class 2009. OSU