

Escapee Builds Shelter in Mexico

People laughed and said it was impossible to build a dog shelter near Monterrey, Mexico, but Fiona Animal Refuge (FAR) opened its doors April 13, 2013, as one of the first free clinics in northern Mexico.

I was on the ground holding a small dog in my arms and knew in two hours this little girl would be destroyed. The reason? She was old. In Mexico, young dogs have a tough time, but old dogs are usually put out on the street to die.

I have spent my retirement dealing with this kind of problem. At age 45, after dealing cards in Vegas for many years, I took up rock climbing and made my first trip to El Potrero Chico. There are no beaches or hotels in Hidalgo, just rock and a lot of starving dogs. Only 250 miles south of Laredo, Texas, the area is in crisis. No jobs, no money and no hope.

But, Fiona Animal Refuge is not discouraged. Begun in 2011 with a dream, the facility has received its 501(C)(3) public charity status (tax ID number is 45-2428179) and the refuge now has 19 kennels, an office and surgery available. One vet, 30,000 dogs and no medicine, flea and tick collars or dog food are available.

FAR believes in miracles, and we are committed to education, spay and neutering and free medical care for all dogs. Last spring we treated 900 dogs and spayed 80. That was before we opened the clinic. We hope to have a second vet and Fiona #2 in a few years. I know my golden years will be working on the streets to make life a little better for the dogs of Hidalgo. What could ever make you feel as needed? You can visit us on Facebook or at our Website www.potreropups.org.

Dottie Cross #86243



Dottie Cross #86243 at Fiona Refugio Animal shelter near Monterrey, Mexico. Photo by Ann Ramsey.