



VIEQUES
**HUMANE
SOCIETY**
—
& animal rescue, inc.



**VIEQUES HUMANE SOCIETY EXPANDS & UPGRADES OUR LONG-STANDING
VETERINARY CLINIC THANKS TO A GRANT FROM
THE BANFIELD FOUNDATION®**

February 2021 — **VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO** — When the COVID shutdown occurred early in 2020, all island fundraising events were canceled for the rest of the year, and VHSAR additionally lost five weeks of clinic revenue, while still requiring a full staff to maintain our shelter animals and additional expenses for personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. Interestingly, once COVID safety protocols were enacted, and our community clinic could safely reopen, we noticed an increased interest in animal wellness care. Coupled with our current focus on animal-wellness education, VHSAR anticipates this trend will continue. Be assured, we're there for you and our island's animals whenever you need us most!

“For over 30 years VHS has made the best of faulty, aging, and limited clinic equipment. But that never curbed our passion and dedication to successfully operate the only low-cost veterinary clinic with regular service hours on the island,” notes Cate Johnston, VHS Executive Director. “Now, thanks to a COVID-19 Rebuild grant from the Banfield Foundation some of our big dreams are coming true!” New equipment purchases funded by Banfield support a new direction and future strategic plans to bring a sustainable, more full-function clinic to the island in a way that makes it possible to accomplish two goals: 1) handle more complicated medical cases that require involved surgical procedures such as mass removals and traumatic injury repairs; and 2) serve our most under-resourced island community members, the majority of whom are unable to travel to the main island to seek vet services that are not donor-subsidized.

The important work we do at VHSAR to control animal population through low-cost and free spay/neuter efforts will continue, but it's now supported by a new anesthesia machine and oxygen concentrator, underwritten by the Banfield Foundation grant money. With two functioning anesthesia machines, we can bring in volunteer veterinarians to work alongside our part-time contracted veterinarians and host periodic mini spay-a-thons. This essential effort alleviates animal suffering by controlling the birth of so many unwanted animals.

Other purchases through the grant include a Littman Stethoscope and Nikon Eclipse E100 Halogen Microscope for more accurate diagnoses, and a Schein Ultrasonic instrument Cleaner and Electro Cautery Unit 300w to support expand on-island surgery services.

VHS has always done whatever is needed for our island animals, from veterinarian services for both abandoned and owned animals, to rescue, sheltering, and a strong transport and adoption program to ensure every adoptable animal finds a special, loving, forever home. Now more than ever, the need to expand our clinic services and have functioning, updated equipment is apparent and essential. It's happening!

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About Vieques Humane Society and Animal Rescue, Inc.

VHS is a not-for-profit organization offering the only animal shelter, active high-volume adoption program, and low-cost veterinary clinic with regular service hours on our small island. In 2020 VHSAR provided care for 267 shelter animals and 1,162 owned animals. Between January 1, 2021 and February 20, 2021, we already provided care for 13 new shelter animals and 254 owned animals.

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About the Banfield Foundation

At the core of the Banfield Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the belief that all pets deserve access to veterinary care. In support of this belief, the foundation funds programs that enable veterinary care, elevate the power of the human-animal bond, provide disaster relief for pets, and advance the science of veterinary medicine through fostering innovation and education. It also leverages the expertise and passion of Banfield Pet Hospital associates to care for pets in need. At the Banfield Foundation, we are committed to making a better world for pets because they make a better world for us.

<https://www.banfield.com/banfield-foundation>