

tending this year's Expo. A dentist with a passion for animal behavior, Chua began volunteering about a decade ago at the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)—the only shelter in Manila—which three years ago invited him to become its shelter manager. Chua says the small PAWS staff faces many challenges in the Philippines, a Third World country plagued by pet overpopulation, irresponsible dog owners, and a belief among some residents that spaying and neutering is “like a taboo.”

During his internship, Chua sat in on consultations with people having trouble with their dogs, went out with officers doing rescues and investigations, and tried to observe all the new animals at the shelter. While Marin Humane's staffing and technology are “far beyond” the PAWS shelter in Manila, Chua says he gathered some ideas for ways to improve procedures back home, such as how to deal with aggressive, older dogs who have been abandoned. “I learned a lot about how to approach things,” he says. “Hopefully older dogs that are abandoned in our shelter can be adopted, and can be evaluated properly so they can find a new home.”

Mohamed Shehata Fayed, a veterinarian with the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends, interned at the Mississippi Animal Rescue League, where he learned about different spay/neuter techniques to reduce the incidence of infection. He says he found that while the facilities are different, the animal welfare issues in the two countries are largely the same.

“Attending the Expo is a great experience. It's awesome, because we can learn about the work around the world,” adds Roberto Herrera Silva, who interned at the Humane Society of Broward County in Florida and works as fundraiser and creative director for Fundacion ASOGUAV Proteccion Animal in Venezuela. After attending Expo last year, he brought a new vision for how to do an animal census to his organization, which is involved in two large sterilization projects. “Here,” he says, “we can learn how to do the right things.” AS



Jeffrey Chua of the Philippines chats with Nancy Peterson, feral cat program manager for The HSUS, during a reception for international interns during Animal Care Expo in Orlando. MICHELLE RILEY/THE HSUS

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