



West Chelsea vet assistant Crechelle Oliveira lends her expertise overseas

★ CAN I VOLUNTEER WITH WORLD VETS?

Are you looking for a way to combine your love of animals with your love for travel and adventure? A World Vets trip may be just your answer! As a non-government organization providing veterinary aid to 34 countries on six continents, World Vets coordinates hundreds of lifesaving trips per year and has many opportunities for those without a medical background to get involved as veterinary assistants. If you're unable to volunteer your time but still want to help out you can also donate supplies or money so that necessary supplies can be purchased. Learn more at www.worldvets.org



A Lifesaving Mission

+ When West Chelsea Veterinary's Crechelle Oliveira found herself assisting in a surgery on Negrita, a senior dog with a very serious heart condition, while in Ecuador this past fall, she prayed the beloved dog would make it through his surgery without any complications.

"Negrita's family really, really loved her," says Crechelle. "They stayed with her the entire time and helped to wake her up from surgery. They were so thankful she made it through safely."

This is just one of many heart warming stories Crechelle remembers from her recent trip to Ibarra, Ecuador with international animal aid organization, World Vets. As a veterinary assistant at West Chelsea Vet currently studying to become a veterinary technician, Crechelle was looking to expand her skill set and found World Vets through a news article.

"I had been looking for something to do with my time that would tie in with my studies, and since I had previously worked at an animal shelter, I was eager to return to that environment," she notes.

Crechelle, along with six veterinarians, a veterinary student, a veterinary technician and four veterinary assistants, traveled to the area of Otavalo, Ecuador in November 2011, where they spent three long days performing surgeries on 180 animals. As the surgical float nurse, Crechelle's main job was to monitor all patients throughout the surgical procedures and to help

recover the more critical patients after surgery, often monitoring up to six patients at once with just basic equipment available.

"The people I worked with were very hard-working and caring individuals. Everyone worked above and beyond for long hours," says Crechelle.

While one day of surgery was dedicated to helping out the local rescue group, PAE-Ibarra, the second two days were open to anyone in the community who wanted to have their pets spayed or neutered.

"The families that showed up on those days truly cared deeply about their pets. Many people stayed all day and helped recover their animals after surgery and were so grateful and kind to us. Many people told me stories about their pets and how much they loved them. This deeply inspired all of us to do our very best."

Crechelle plans on continuing to give back to the animal community throughout her career, both abroad and right here at home. The team at West Chelsea Vet, including Crechelle, provide veterinary care every day to the cats and dogs rescued by locally based, grass roots, adoption and rescue groups like City Critters. And Crechelle hopes to make another trip abroad to help animals in need in the future.

"It was such an incredible experience and everyone was so grateful for the care we provided."

Patients and their owners line up for care



The entire volunteer veterinary group



HAPPY NEW YEAR

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West Chelsea Veterinary!