

CANADA FEATURE

Why We Serve

By Dr. Taylor Huber

My name is Taylor Huber. I am a 2024 graduate from UCVM and I have the pleasure of reporting on our recent mission trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Our Canadian team consisted of 2 DVMs, 3 third year DVM students, 2 second years, and an animal health technician. Various Mexican veterinarians, veterinary students, and general volunteers played instrumental roles in surgery, anesthesia, and communication with the community members attending the clinic with their animals. Our clinic was hosted in the most beautiful location that He could have provided for us. Our gracious host welcomed us into the garage, courtyard and office spaces of her personal home which allowed us to have 5 simultaneous surgeries (once or twice we ended up with 6 happening if we were able to fit 2 cats onto the same table!).

Over the 3 clinic days, we performed a total of 112 sterilization surgeries, consisting of cat neuters, cat spays, and dogs spays. Surprisingly, we did not have a single dog neuter walk through our door.



Mexico 2026 ready to work

Our team felt Jesus' presence and support not only in the successful surgeries, the connection with the local people and the growth in each of the veterinary students surgical confidence; but also in the way He led us through some key challenges.

On our second mission day we were interrupted by immigration officers who wanted to verify our veterinary licenses and ensure no illegal work was being performed. Through the grace of God, our passports were efficiently verified, they accepted our ABVMA registrations, and we were allowed to continue with the clinic without any major delays. We continued to share Jesus' love for the remainder of the clinic!

Perhaps much more importantly, God's love and mercy was felt by the entire team on our last day together. As many of you may have heard in the news last month, a major cartel leader was killed while in Mexican police custody, causing politic unrest in the Puerto Vallarta area- this unfortunately did result in threats of violence in the city in which we were based. Many thanks to Rene, our mission host, for getting us safely and briskly home from the market, and hours later, for driving us safely to the airport to catch our scheduled flight home.

This incident was a sobering reminder to our mission team of why we serve. It was through Jesus' love that we were able to touch the lives of people and pets through our clinic, and it was through His Mercy that we can continue to serve in His name back home in Canada. May He continue to bring peace and love to the people and pets affected by violence and political unrest in this world.



Set up in the office



Two cats share the table