



FOUNDER'S STATEMENT

Puerto Rico is an island of just over 2 million inhabitants. The financial crisis, Hurricane Maria and last year's earthquakes have caused many to leave the island. But the problems they leave without their responsibilities.

Animal abandonment reaches almost half of the inhabitants. Dogs, cats, horses and pigs are left behind by "guardians" with the excuse that they cannot be taken, ignoring laws that prohibit this practice. Laws that are supposed to protect them are not followed by the lawmakers. Organizations and independent rescuers carry this burden with no help. Few volunteers, few fosters, almost no donations creating debts of thousands and thousands of dollars.

Education is another problem. Campaigns are done on radio, TV and newspapers, but there is no radical change in this situation. And animal empathes, suffer the ignorance of those who simply do not want to change affecting the mental health.

But there are things beyond and its violence. Cats and dogs are mistreated in the cruelest ways that may exist. Cats are run over by cars, poisoned, burned, hung, in short, with thousands of practices difficult to mention.

In **Emma Feline Foundation, Inc.** a 501(c)3, registered since 2018, I decided to work mostly with cats, since they are the most mistreated and despised. The job is to control, educate and rescue cats and kittens from the streets of Puerto Rico. For now, the team covers the municipalities of Carolina, Trujillo Alto, San Juan, Bayamon, Caguas, Juncos, Vega Baja and Rio Grande.

Like lots on the island, I grew up believing the myths that were told for years, but after Hurricane Maria, where proliferation catapulted, I recognized all was false, understanding that cats deserve and need our attention and affection. This got me to develop innovative ideas for the island that not only allows EFF to rescue, but to transform minds and misconceptions towards cats.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nésmar A. Hernández".

Nésmar A. Hernández
Founder



THE PLAN: DEVELOP A CIVILIZATION

We recognize this will take many years, but we want to be part of the change the island needs. That is why we have developed certain steps to achieve this.

- I- Birth control and proliferation through TNR
 - a. There are no homes for so many cats and sending these to the United States is too expensive and slow. Therefore, our main focus is to create TNR, mainly in the closest communities until it can cover the entire island. Unlike dogs, whom we also want to do TNR because of their size and difficult to adopt, cats take almost three times to be adopted. Our adoptions are through Petsmart stores & Petfinder
 - b. Healthy colonies: our goal is to create healthy cat colonies to prevent the spread of diseases and, in turn, raise community leaders who care for and feed the colonies. Our TNRs in addition to anti-rabies, carry viral vaccines, antibiotics if sick & microchip. The microchip will help us to proceed legally if something happens

- II- Shelter development
 - a. Our shelter will care three types of rescues: disabled, elders and therapy animals. It will have a low-cost clinic and other programs and services explained below

- III- Job creation
 - a. In 2016 the Puerto Rico SME program presented an investigation reports explaining that in the last decade, nonprofit organizations have been the employment developers. It should be noted that none was animal rescue. Our team wants to dedicate completely to this mission, which is so lacking on the island and that is why we want to develop this organization as a legal employer

- IV- Free clinic for mental patients
 - a. The economic crisis, government issues and natural events have worsened the mental health of the island, and this is reflected in our animals. People discharge their anger with them, which increases violence. In **Emma Feline Foundation, Inc.** we believe that whoever is capable of mistreating an animal is capable of easily abusing a human. There are already studies that proves it. However, from our personal experiences, we know that our animals have the ability to heal the most difficult and deep wounds. Our organization already has five rescued animals identified (few cats and two dogs) for this mission
 - b. In Puerto Rico, there are three psychologists who work with therapy animals, and we already have an agreement with one of them



- V- Empowerment as a return on investment
- a. **Emma Feline Foundation, Inc.** operates with a entrepreneurial vision, since donations, sales, raffles and fundraisers have not worked — for cats
 - b. Puerto Rico is an island full of creative and intelligent people who do not yet know their skills and abilities, and therefore do not know how to maximize it. That is why we want to develop workshops at a reasonable cost to create entrepreneurs that can grow the island economically. With the income that these workshops create, we can sustain our operations without having to resort to the request for donations
- VI- Other programs/services
- a. **The garden:** our shelter will have a garden to grow vegetables that we can sell to continue our commitment to animals. Respecting our cats and living creatures includes our nature
 - b. **Family nights:** the best way to educate individuals about animals, mainly cats, is through family activities. As soon as we recognize that citizens are quite educated, we will open the doors of the shelter to create family nights where they can visit us and enjoy a family atmosphere with movies, food, games, etc., at an affordable price
 - c. **Touristic shelter:** Puerto Rico's the biggest attraction is tourism. The development of our shelter will be eco-friendly where everything that nature promotes is complemented. The shelter will have a cafeteria, gift shop and other divisions to generate income to keep our work. Example: a gym and spa with selected rescues at a monthly cost
 - d. **Care at home:** provide service to families with cats when going on vacation and use that income towards our rescues
 - e. **Cleaning Service:** this is mostly a proposal for Government. Puerto Rico has a high percentage of mental health problems and as we see in the news, there are lots of low-income families with hoarding cases involving cats. We still working on this as it's very difficult to reach the Government. But again, this income will be used to pay to our staff and used towards our rescues
 - f. **Society Education:** TNR, working & barn cats, live along with cats. Starting 2021, our second main effort is to educate society for five years under the campaign, "*Once you go cat, you never go back!*"
 - g. **My Cat @ Shelter:** a program design for those people that wants to be a cat parent but for some reasons as work or housing policies, can't have a pet. If they want to adopt, with a monthly fee, we will take care of the pet and he/she and their family can come to the shelter on weekends to be with the adopted cat. The cat adopted will belong only to the family who pays the fee. They will also cover for veterinarian care when needed
 - h. **Kids & Kitties Club:** a program for kids from 4 to 10 years, under our kid ambassador leader, that will teach other kids how to care for kittens from 6 weeks old (after their first veterinarian protocol) to four months. The purpose of this program is to reach adults through kids to eradicate the discrimination and hate towards cats and develop them as ambassadors and defenders of cats. Although this program is for kids, parents are included
 - i. **D4C:** dogs helping cats. **Dogs4Cats** is a program to help cats through dog adoptions fees. When a dog is adopted through us, we'll educate people about cats to modify their perception about cats
 - j. **Gimnasio & Terapias (masajes)**