

## **The Waggin Wagon gives Mexican street dogs a second chance in Portland**

**Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, MX**—On June 21<sup>st</sup>, approximately 30-40 adoptable dogs who previously knew only hunger and fear on the streets of Mexico will be starting a journey to Portland looking for loving homes. They're coming here on board [The Waggin Wagon](#), a large passenger van retrofitted to carry dogs and driven by former Portlanders Jen and Ellie Hanson.

The dogs are expected to arrive in Portland on or around June 28<sup>th</sup>. A few of the dogs are already spoken for, but the rest will be taken into foster care by volunteers and partner organizations [Oregon Dog Rescue](#) and [Family Dogs New Life Shelter](#) in Portland.

The lucky canines on board—mostly short-haired mixed breeds of about 25-30 pounds—have been rescued by the Hansons. The couple donated land in Puerto Escondido then built a temporary shelter where at any given time, 60-100 street dogs are safely cared for, sterilized, and given their basic vaccinations.

The Hansons retired to Puerto Escondido three years ago after selling their successful canine daycare and boarding business, Dogs Dig It. While running the business, the couple fostered dogs for several shelters in the Portland area.

"Mostly we thought we'd retire and stare at the ocean," says Jen. "But the need here to help with the dogs was just too big a pull."

And help they did. In addition to volunteering countless hours at the rescue in Mexico, they are also volunteer and fundraise for [Snip Sisters](#), a low-cost spay and neuter organization in their new hometown.

The Waggin Wagon idea was conceived and created by the Hansons after they quickly realized that there were simply not enough viable homes in the Puerto Escondido community for the dogs being cared for at the rescue.

The couple flew to Chicago and purchased the van, drove it back to Mexico, and have done extensive work on the vehicle to get it ready for what they hope will be the first of many journeys north. The Waggin Wagon project, including the temporary shelter in Puerto Escondido, is funded by donations from friends, family, area veterinarians, and mostly by the Hansons themselves.

In Puerto Escondido, as in most parts of Mexico, conditions for dogs are extremely poor. They rarely get any kind of veterinary care and canines living on the street are often beaten, hung, poisoned, drowned, and even fed to crocodiles. The lucky ones are used as cheap security and spend their lives chained or tied to trees and posts and fed scraps and garbage. They are rarely considered to be family members.

Jen and Ellie are hoping for a much different life for The Waggin Wagon dogs, who Jen lovingly describes as “tall, skinny, with gorgeous coloring and these fantastic wide ears where they look like they'll fly off at any minute.” You can see pictures and videos of some of the dogs that will be making the trip on [The Waggin Wagon Facebook page](#).

Anyone interested in adopting a dog from The Waggin Wagon is encouraged to fill out [this online application](#) in advance of their arrival so you could meet your prospective pet as soon as possible when they arrive.

Donations are still very much needed to fund The Waggin Wagon and this first trip to Portland. Any amount is welcome, and donations can be made [online at this link](#).

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For more information and interviews, contact:

Jen Hanson: (503)310-0769

Ellie Hanson: (503)310-6038