Pre- Vet Club Alternative Spring Break 2015

The Pre-Vet Club participated in two different trips through an organization called World Vets. More information about this organization can be found at   http://worldvets.org/overview/.

Four students traveled to Granada, Nicaragua as part of a large spay/neuter clinic, where they learned how to prep for surgery, place an IV catheter, place an endotracheal tube, administer shots, and had the opportunity to watch several surgeries on cats and dogs. They also spent some time learning how to trim horse hooves and perform a checkup. Their group treated over 300 animals on their community outreach day, where they went to a severely underprivileged community and treated their animals for free, and spayed 86 cats and dogs at their clinic.

Three students traveled to Roatan, Honduras where they worked at different wildlife centers, the main one being Roatan Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation center at Maya Key. As with the Nicaragua group, these animals were given free medical care that they could not otherwise afford. We learned how to do blood draws, give IM and sub-cutaneous shots, prep for surgery, place an IV catheter, monitor vitals, shoot and prepare a dart gun, do dental works, and about the differences in treatment of different animal species. We treated Spider Monkeys, Black Howler Monkeys, Capuchin monkeys, a Cotimundi, a Peccary, Scarlet and Green Macaws, Margays, a cougar, and a jaguar. We also participated in a coral reef survey where we went snorkeling and recorded the different fish species present and conditions of the coral.

Overall both groups had an amazing time and the club is looking forward to making this an annual trip, hopefully growing in size next year!

This year's participants:
Nicaragua- Kayla Akkaya, Alyssa Pires, Sofia Santacaterina, and Erin Faurote
Honduras- Sarah DePalma, Ashley Russo, Mary Ward

For more information, please contact Mary Ward, the Pre-Vet Club President, at mary.ward@uconn.edu.