

## Dr. Angel Velasquez – Full-time Veterinarian

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Story and Photographs by Jody Aston Most pet owners on the Rio Dulce know there are two very capable veterinarians who come to Rio Dulce from Guatemala City two or three times a month, Dr. Wer and Dr. Andrade. Many do not realize, however, that we are lucky to have an accomplished veterinarian, Dr. M. V. Angel Velasquez, "Dr. Angel," who has a full-time practice right on the outskirts of Rio Dulce. Dr. Angel is experienced in all types of veterinary care and treats farm animals and horses, as well as domestic pets. He is caring and gentle with our beloved furry or feathered friends, and provides a full range of services, including medical exams and consultations, vaccinations, de-worming, dental care, surgeries, hospitalizations, and boarding. He also has a good supply of medications and food products for sale in his clinic. When Dr. Angel begins the examination, it becomes obvious that he is a competent veterinarian. He thoroughly examines the pet for any signs of problems. He says there is a high incidence of ehrlichiosis, a tick-borne bacteria, in this area. Commonly called canine hemorrhagic fever, or dog AIDS, it can damage the liver or kidneys, cause anemia and attack the immune system. In severe cases, the dogs can die. Â Â

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Â Preventing exposure to the ticks that carry the disease is the best means of preventing ehrlichiosis. Dr. Angel wants pet owners to know they need to be diligent about applying monthly parasite preventatives (such as 'Frontline') and tick collars. They should check their dogs daily and, if present, remove the ticks immediately. In a preceding story in Rio Dulce Chisme-Vindicator, Dr. Angel was recognized for his generosity in providing reduced-rate spays and neuters for the local animal welfare group, Freddy's Friends. He has also gone out of his way to help in emergency situations. Like many of his clients, Freddy's Friends think Dr. Angel has a very appropriate name! Dr. Angel can be reached at his office: 4718-9075 or mobile: 4529-2199. His email address is angelstuardo99@gmail.com (He is learning English, and comprehends a lot. If you know a little Spanish, he talks slowly and is easy to understand.) Go on the main street of Fronteras, Rio Dulce, past the Shell service station for half a kilometer. When you see the big yellow sign for Carlos, the welder, on the left, turn there and go down the hill then all the way up to the top of the hill. You will see Dr. Angel's clinic on the left. Â Â Â Â Â Â