

QUICK READS

In Search of the Chupacabra

A short story by Cooper Baltis



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Part One

My name is David Rocco. I am a journalist. I arrived in Santa Maria, Puerto Rico six days ago. My job was to interview people about recent chupacabra sightings. The first time someone saw the chupacabra was twenty years ago. Now, there are sightings all around the world. The first person I interviewed was Hector Torres, a thin farmer with a mustache. Here is what Hector said:

‘I usually get up at five o’clock in the morning. I like to get up before my wife, so I can drink my coffee alone. One morning, I think it was about two weeks ago, I was drinking my coffee when I heard something outside. I stood up and looked out of the window. I didn’t see anything, so I started drinking my coffee again. Maybe five minutes later, I heard the sound again.

Something was moving outside my window, where my goats usually sleep. This time, I quietly walked to the front door of my home.

‘I was about to open the front door, when my wife called to me from the bedroom. ‘Hector!’ she said, very angrily.

‘What are you doing? Come back to bed!’ I called back to her, ‘Rosa!

I am just drinking my coffee. Go back to sleep!’ I opened the front door, and walked around my home. Somewhere, not far away, I heard a growling sound. I thought it was the wind, or possibly my angry wife.

'I reached the back of my house and was very surprised. One of my goats was dead! It was Isabella, my favorite goat! I looked up at the moon and screamed. 'No! Isabella!' From my house I heard my wife shouting. 'Hector, stop screaming about your goats and come back to bed!' she cried.

'But I was not ready to sleep. There was a monster out there. Somewhere in the bushes nearby, whatever killed my goat was watching me. I walked over to the bush and the growling sound became louder. I am a very brave man, so I wasn't scared of the sound. 'Come out of there!' I shouted at the bush. Then I saw a pair of glowing red eyes look back at me. Now I was scared, I turned and ran back into my house. It was a chupacabra, I just know it.'

Part Two

Hector told me to interview his wife's friend, Gloria Barea, about her recent chupacabra sighting. Gloria lived a kilometer away from Hector in a small house. She was a nice old woman with gray hair. She had a chicken farm, and made me an omelet after I interviewed her. Here is what Gloria said:

'Oh, I usually see the chupacabra at night. It has a long tail and scaly skin. Its ears are pointy and it has bright eyes. Most people around here are afraid of the chupacabra. When my granddaughters visit, they always sleep in my room because they are so afraid. I tell them, 'Do not be scared of the chupacabra. It won't come inside the house.' What my

granddaughters don't know is that I give the chupacabra food twice a week.

'Since my husband died, the chupacabra has become my pet. It never lets me see it during the day. I think it is about the size of a sheep. I can't say for sure. The chupacabra usually makes a soft growling sound when it sees me. Sometimes I give it eggs from my chickens. Twice a week, I give the chupacabra meat from my kitchen. One time, I forgot to give the chupacabra food. That was a very big mistake.

'I was sleeping that night, when I heard loud sounds coming from the chicken coop. I got out of bed, grabbed the broom and went outside. The chicken coop was shaking, and chicken feathers were on the ground. The door burst open and I saw a gray creature running on two legs. Chicken feathers were sticking out of its mouth. I saw the red eyes and I knew what it was. It was the chupacabra! After that, I never forgot to give the chupacabra food again... I don't want it to eat my chickens!'

Part Three

Can the chupacabra walk on two legs? My next interview was with a police officer named Manuel Rios. He said he saw the chupacabra running on four legs. Also, he saw the chupacabra near Hector Torres's home. Here is what Officer Rios said:

'I was finishing work and I was very hungry. I'm always hungry after work. I usually eat burritos, but the day I saw the

chupacabra, I wanted to eat a hamburger. The best hamburger restaurant is on the other side of Santa Maria, so I drove over there. I ate two big hamburgers, I usually eat three, but right now I'm on a diet. I was sitting in my car, finishing the second hamburger, when I saw something moving nearby.

'At first I thought it was a dog; there are a lot of wild dogs around here, you know? I ignored it and continued eating my hamburger. After I finished my burger, I felt a little tired, eating two burgers is a lot of work, so I decided to sleep for a few minutes. Then, I saw something walk out into the road.

'It was a gray creature, walking on all four legs. It had red eyes, large fangs, and an ugly tail. It was gray, a dirty gray, like the clouds on a rainy day. I knew exactly what it was. The chupacabra looked over at me and I reached for my gun. I kicked open the car door and ran into the road. I dropped down to one knee and I started firing my gun. Boom! Boom! Boom!

'The chupacabra was running now, running very fast, like a cheetah or something. I started chasing after it. I was fast too, not as fast as a cheetah, but faster than a donkey. OK, maybe I'm not faster than a donkey, but definitely faster than a cow. So I was running as fast as a cow, and the chupacabra was running as fast as a cheetah.

'I aimed my gun at the chupacabra and fired three more shots, but I missed and now I was out of bullets. The chupacabra got away, but I will never forget how ugly the creature was.'

Part Four

Officer Rios said that the chupacabra was running on four legs, but Gloria Barea said the chupacabra was standing on two legs. A teenage girl named Veronica Arroyo saw the chupacabra stand on two legs and run on all four legs. I think this means it can do both: run on four legs like a dog, and stand on two legs like a human. Interestingly, Veronica's home is only about three kilometers away from Hector's home. Here is what Veronica said:

'I was taking the trash out. I hate taking the trash out, but my brother is really lazy, and my aunt always makes me do his chores. The trash bag was really full and it smelt really bad. I walked down our driveway to the trash can. I opened the trash can and put the bag inside. I heard something growling behind me. I turned around and saw two glowing eyes. They were the same height as me. 'What do you want?' I asked, reaching for the top of the trash can, to use as a weapon or a shield.

'From the light nearby, I could see the outline of a very ugly face. The creature had sharp teeth covered in spit, and two pointy ears. It also had very sharp claws that were yellow and thick. I knew instantly it was a chupacabra. I screamed and threw the top of the trash can at the chupacabra. The creature fell to the ground and began running on all four legs.

'I yelled for my brother. He ran out of our house wearing his pajamas. 'What is it?' he asked. 'Why are you shouting?

People are trying to sleep!' I walked over to him. 'I saw a chupacabra,' I said. 'Those things aren't real,' he said. I walked past him. 'Well, if you think chupacabras aren't real, you can take the trash out from now on.'

Part Five

My final interview was with a man named Reynaldo Lopez. Reynaldo gave me a very good description of the creature. Reynaldo lives in a large house between Gloria and Hector. Here's what Reynaldo said:

'I see the chupacabra every day. There is a small river behind my house. In the morning, I usually sit on a chair near the river and listen to the running water. It is very peaceful.

'When I sit by the river, I am all alone with nature and it makes me feel very relaxed. Usually, at about 6am, I see the chupacabra come down to the water to drink. The chupacabra is the size of a very large dog. It has a long tail and its skin is gray and scaly. I am always very quiet when I see the creature. It looks very frightening in the light of the early morning sun.

'The chupacabra has long fangs and sharp claws. One time, it stopped in front of me and stood up on two legs. It started walking towards me. I stood up and picked up my chair. I hit my chair against the ground, trying to scare the creature. I was very afraid. Chupacabras are very dangerous, you know.

'The creature dropped back down onto four legs. It walked back over to the water and started drinking from the

river. It looked up at me and growled one more time. The chupacabra never comes towards me now. When it sees me now, it just drinks from the river and watches me with its bright red eyes.'

Reynaldo was the last person I interviewed. I wanted to see a chupacabra for myself, but I wasn't so lucky. However, I'll keep looking, I want to see a chupacabra, and then I will know if it is real. Wish me luck!

