

ANGUILLA ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY MARCH 9TH, 2011, 5:30 PM
ROY'S BAYSIDE GRILL

Present:

Board Members – Lisa Thomson, Suzie Donahue, Jackie Pascher, Gayle Enzel, Sally Baumwell, Judy Huzzey, Rachel Atherton, Penny Hope-Ross, Mark Baumwell and Rebecca Taillon.

Members: Joan Hill, Carol Gilbert, Althea Turner, Mary Ann & Mike Jarvis, Marguerite Bryan and Mike Gallagher.

Opening and Administration

Suzie Donahue, President, welcomed everyone to the 9th Annual Meeting of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation.

The agenda was accepted and seconded by Mark Baumwell and Gayle Enzel.

The minutes of the 8th AGM having been previously circulated to the membership were accepted with no changes or corrections by Jackie Pascher & seconded by Penny Hope- Ross.

Opening Statement from the President

Suzie gave her opening statement:

Good Evening - I am Suzie Donahue – very soon to be past president of The Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation. When I arrived on island in Sept of 2001, I had already joined AARF by mail, but was not prepared for the commitment I had signed up for!! 7 years later, after being secretary and vice president each for 3 years, in my acceptance speech as president in 2008 I said "The future looks bright for the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation – we opened our own shelter this year and have been thrilled with the volunteers that have come to join us and assist with adoptions, socialization and animal care. Our adoption program is a success and we have made great strides in education. "

Three years later, I am pleased to report that the AARF shelter continues to be a haven for the unwanted, the sick and the injured that come to us - which included a record number of surrenders last year. Of course, we would love to not have any homeless or unwanted puppies or kittens but we know that is unrealistic. Instead we view each surrender as a success that this puppy or kitten hasn't been left in the bush or by the dumpster on the side of the road and a challenge to find a good caring home.

This past August, we were able to double our shelter size when Dr. Patrick Vanterpool, owner of Morlens gave us permission to move the puppies to a separate area of the clinic –and now our felines and canines have their own rooms in the shelter. We receive no funds from the Government of Anguilla for our work in animal control and we depend solely on our fund raising and the generous contributions of many supporters both on and off island to meet our financial needs - our operating budget this year will be close to \$40K and that includes boarding, vaccinating, surgery and other medical treatments for those surrendered to AARF.

Our wonderfully supportive and caring veterinarians Dr. Rommel and Dr. Abi Umali are a huge benefit to AARF. There are very few shelters that have veterinarians and we feel very lucky to be in partnership with this capable and caring team.

As I have in the past, I feel it is important for the chairperson of each committee to share their accomplishments instead of me doing it for them. So I would like to introduce each of the AARF committee chairs that will share with you what they have done this past year.

The committee chair reports followed.

Treasurer: Rebecca

Treasurer Rebecca Taillon presented the annual report for the Foundation:

This year we had a budget in excess of US\$30,000.00. After fundraising, donations, and selling of shirts and other goods, we spent money on vet expenses, shelter supplies (such as food and minor office expenses) and after all were accounted for, we were slightly in the black.

Fund Raising: Gayle

- Yard Sales: held at Roy's every 3-4 months
- Bingo once a year
- New t-shirts with new design introduced & selling well shelter & Sea Spray
- Continue to have collection boxes at grocery stores and some restaurants.

Volunteers and Membership: Sally

Memberships

- Membership dues are an important source of fundraising for AARF.
- This past year, two membership drives held at the post office.
- Memberships solicited via email, AARF newsletters, & on the AARF website.
- Membership brochures available at the shelter, post office, & tourist office.
- AARF currently has 87 individual & family memberships.

Volunteers

- AARF couldn't exist without our volunteers.
- Volunteers work at the shelter, help at fund raisers, transport animals to/from the clinic, go to schools to talk about pet care, talk to prospective adoptive families, and do many other things to help the animals in our care.

- We appreciate all volunteers, whether they are able to be active on a regular basis or just now and then.
- All of you here are members and volunteers and I thank you so much for everything you do.

Communications: Mark

Tasks, accomplishments and notes:

- Responsible for the AARF web site (www.aarf.ai). Most common tasks are very regularly updating the main page "news" banner and "available for adoption" pictures (cropping & editing photos of animals, then uploading and deleting as needed).
- Thanks to the excellent help received from Suzie, Sally, Rebecca and others who give me photos and descriptions.
- The web site gets about 3500 visits a month (over 100/day), with a visit being one or more pages looked at by someone for anywhere up to 30 minutes.
- Other duties include fixing broken pages, links, making sure the site stays up and running, monitor for security against hackers.
- Issued Quarterly newsletters (with lots of help from Suzie, happy (tale) owners and others)
- With Suzie, work with the aarfinfo@aarf.ai email list postings is probably the most labor-intensive task after web site coding and maintenance, as something happens with the list several times a week. Work includes typing up the list posting emails (nearly always with photos), and managing postings and rejections.
- Oversee messaging (primarily for local media articles); this means keeping AARF's face and messages consistent and concise
- Monitor our Facebook identity (AARF Anguilla), doing postings (with help from Sally other posters) and doing the accompanying Facebook administration (accepting friends, declining offers of cabbage from Farmers etc.)
- Write thank you letters and emails. Transitioning that to Rebecca and Suzie.
- Help with posters and flyers.
- Write, edit newspaper articles (press releases) as needed.
- Photographer for yard sales, Bingo, etc.
- Got AARF onto the Skyviews map (now it shows the shelter and Morlens)
- Helped with the "What We do in Anguilla" ad (Sally's inspiration). That is a premiere publication all tourists see when they enter Anguilla, and our ad is on the same page as the one for Bankie Banx.
- Helped with bringing in the new logo, which is now on the web site and other places; it is now more modern and relevant and can be used on any AARF communication as well as merchandise. Thanks to Jackie Wavrunek (jacquelyngraphics.com)

Education: Penny

The visits to primary schools continued in 2010 and a new project was started: a series of articles being published in the *Anguillian* newspaper.

Newspaper articles

The Anguillian articles on pet education were written by Penny & Suzie. An article was published every second week. The article titles were:

Week	Topic
22-Mar	Distemper
05-Apr	Why neuter or spay
19-Apr	Parvo
03-May	Can goats and dogs live in harmony in Anguilla?
17-May	Erlichiosis
31-May	Fleas, ticks and mites
14-Jun	Hurricanes & Pets
28-Jun	Skin Diseases in Cats /Dogs
12-Jul	Heartworm
26-Jul	Doggy communication
09-Aug	Cat Communication
23-Aug	Dogs as pets
06-Sep	The importance of Vaccinations
20-Sep	Pet First Aid
04-Oct	Aggression between Cats
18-Oct	Black Cats - Good Luck or Bad?
01-Nov	Should you adopt a puppy /kitten or an adult dog or cat?
15-Nov	Fencing or tying dogs, keeping your dog close to home
29-Nov	Worms and your pets
13-Dec	Considering a kitten or a puppy as a Christmas present?
27-Dec	How to Handle a Cat

School visits

We continue to try and reach and teach the next generation of Anguillians that dogs and cats can be valued family members, and that they have feelings and basic needs.

One of the main and most effective ways to do this is to reach out to small children in their schools in order to teach them not to fear dogs,

but to love them – and give them needed food, water, shade and attention.

In March Carol Gilbert and Penny made a presentation to the 1st grade class of the Morris Vanterpool School and in June Penny made presentations at 3 primary schools at the end of the term:

Central Christian – Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grades
West End – 50 children
Valley Primary – Grades 2

The school presentations all take a similar format. Kindergarten and grade one students learn about doggy communication (primarily dog body language) and how they can pat a dog if it is safe to do so.

Maggie the dog usually attends the sessions so the students can put into practice what they have been taught.

Educational brochures

The Anguilla Community Foundation (ACF) gave a grant to AARF, which was used to produce a brochure and a poster, which illustrate the body language of dogs.

The ACF has given a second grant to AARF; that grant is being used to create a similar educational package for cats. We are also creating brochures for new dog and cat owners, which highlights facts they need to know as new owners. They'll be given to new adopters, as well as handed out at various events.

Hazard and Safety Fair

Suzie and Sally participated in the Hazard & Safety fair on the 25th of June and gave presentations and brochures to school children and adults regarding hurricane preparation for their pets as well as answered other questions about pet care. This is the 2nd year that AARF has been a part of the fair.

Policy and Procedures: Rachel

New to the board Rachel reported that she has spent her time working on getting a Paypal account set up for AARF as well as attempting to work with customs to get some of our supplies in duty-free.

Adoption/Shelter: Suzie

Suzie thanked Sally for all her assistance as the shelter co- manager and told the group that as Shelter Manager & Spay/Neuter chairman it

was busy & often hectic at the shelter! She also noted that the shelter doubled in size in August, which came at a good time as the shelter ended up with the largest number of surrenders at one time - 28 guests. And also announced plans to add more runs and other improvements at the shelter for the animals which will be funded by the proceeds from our recent bike and Viceroy raffles saying that lights, large runs, fans and other ventilation sources along with other ideas are on the horizon.

As a measure of the success of AARF this year, Suzie announced the following:

- 184 spay /neuter surgeries in 2010
- AARF total since she began keeping records in 2003 to 1425 spay & neuter surgeries at a cost of over \$69K US dollars.
- In 2101 AARF spent over \$25K for our shelter/veterinary fees and the expenses of operating the clinic
- Almost \$7500 was spent on boarding.
- Close to \$10K on free spay and neuter surgeries – 83% of those were AARF adoptions of which surgery is included and the remaining 17% were for those in need or requesting assistance.
- 248 adoptions of which 80 were female dogs, 63 were female cats, 54 were male dogs and 51 were male cats.
- 25 of our adoptions went to the states – Chicago, Boston, Wisconsin, NY, Maine, NH and PA.
- The shelter had 403 animals that came in this year – of those 258 were healthy and put up for adoption – sadly of that total 10 of them (4 puppies and 6 kittens) were humanely euthanized because we could not find homes for them.
- 145 (35%) that were surrendered to AARF were sick, feral or too young to survive on their own.
- Current numbers at the shelter – 18 – 5 felines (3 males and 2 females) and 13 canines (2 males and 11 females) – all who deserve a loving forever home.

Shelter Highlights

Surgery Breakdowns:

Feline Castration	31
Feline Spay	54
Canine Castration	42
Canine Spay	57
Totals	184

Thirty-one surgeries were done at no charge or reduced rates with AARF paying all of most of the fee:

cat spay	17
Dog neuter	1
Dog spay	10
Total	31

AARF Volunteer of the Year

Suzie then turned the meeting over to Sally Baumwell to present the AARF Volunteer of the Year award.

Sally's Presentation for Volunteer of the Year:

"Our Volunteer of the Year does it all. I tried to see how I could describe her without giving away her name right away, but it's tough.

She has been an active volunteer for many years even serving in the past as a board member. She helps before the yard sale, sorting and pricing and gathering boxes and providing transportation to and from the container and Roy's.

At the yard sales, she is always bustling around, making sure the merchandise is displayed to its best advantage.

She is a tireless shelter volunteer, encouraging adoptions, educating potential adoptees. And she never hesitates to do kennel cleaning duty.

She has fostered too many puppies to count over the years and was instrumental in the recent adoption of a puppy to New York — even getting a ride on a private jet for a kitten so she could also be adopted.

She has helped countless people and dogs in her neighborhood, gathering up puppies for adoption, feeding mama dogs when their people don't provide enough food for them, catching and bringing in dogs for spay and neuter surgery.

She is extremely patient and never gives up when an animal's welfare is at stake – just ask her about Lucky! She is always happy to help at membership drives and special events.

She is a joy to work with, an enthusiastic supporter with a husband willing to pitch in as well when needed. AARF has been blessed by her many, many contributions and we are very fortunate to have her as one of our very special volunteers.

I am pleased to give the Volunteer of the Year award to a great foster mom, past bingo organizer and yard sale "bull horn carrying" AARF member...Althea Turner. "

Superstar Award

Suzie presented the Superstar Award – her presentation follows:

"This year our Superstar award goes to a couple that many of you may not know. Since they are unable to be with us tonight, I would like to introduce them to you.

The winners of the award this year are Jeanette and John Giemza, who live in New Jersey and have a home at Long Bay that they visit frequently.

I met Jeanette several years ago when I was volunteering at Morlens Clinic – before we even had an actual shelter, when she gave a generous donation to AARF. And since that time

Jeanette & John have continued to support AARF with substantial donations whenever they visit (at least 4 – 5 times a year) each time with no fanfare and expecting nothing in return.

We honor this couple tonight because they are passionate about saving those that we can't find homes for – the not so cute, the older ones, the black ones, the not so lovable ones and that includes cats too – even though Jeanette is allergic to them!

Some of you may remember our first Mary – the crazy adult dog who ran amok in Sandy Ground, ate her foster mom's shoes and kept getting into things! She was just not adoptable – but Jeanette and John gave her another chance.

Then there were the unwanted cats – Izzy and his mother Liz, Phil and Minnie. And the black female puppy with the huge ears, Lucy that we could not find a home for and most recently Elizabeth the adult cat that no one wanted even though she is extremely sweet – she too headed to a new home!

The Giemzas saved them all.

In addition, this couple has also placed several others who have run out of time with friends here in Anguilla – Shelia, Sebastian, another Lucy and, just this week, the two little black kittens from the shelter Manila and Tokyo – and I am sure I have forgotten more.

They have also adopted puppies and taken them back to friends in the USA as well as transported animals belonging to neighbors or friends here in Anguilla for surgery and vaccinations – all at their own expense.

We also have to take this opportunity to thank their caretaker Donald, who lives on the property. Donald happily accepts each new addition and gives them excellent care, attention, and love as they arrive literally at his doorstep. This wouldn't work without Donald!

And, in addition to the generous and frequent donations, and the adoptions of many of our "unadoptables", and transporting of others to the states, Jeanette and John also donate items to our yard sales, buy raffle tickets, attend our Bingo nights, mail packages for AARF from the USA and bring items we need for our shelter.

And finally – they also foster when they are here if we have pups or kittens that need extra care – which they recently did in December – even paying for additional medical treatment that saved the puppy May's life.

I could add more – but I think you get the idea – AARF's Superstars for 2011 are incredibly supportive and are a shining example of what can be accomplished with a lot of caring and generosity.

So it is with much pleasure that we recognize and we thank you – Jeanette and John Giemza – AARF Superstars 2010!"

Suzie then expressed her thanks for the tremendous support she had received as AARF President for the past 3 years – and included the dedicated shelter volunteers, loyal dog walkers Reg & Alice, Mandy & Roy for their fantastic support of our projects, the wonderfully committed board, our caring veterinarians Dr Rommel and Dr Abi Umali & Dr Patrick Vanterpool who allows us to have our shelter at Morlens and our all important generous members and supporters.

In closing Suzie stated "We must all continue our work to control the cycle of unwanted kittens and puppies, educate the public on the

wonderful gifts that our companion animals can give to us and through our own example prove that we can make Anguilla a better place for the animals that live here. "

Suzie then turned over the meeting to the new President Lisa Thomson who thanked Suzie and presented her with a gift for doing such a great job as President and stated she would be "a tough act to follow"!

Board Members for 2011

Lisa then introduced the 2011 ARF Board and Committee Chair people:

Board

President:	Lisa Thomson
Vice President:	Mark Baumwell
Secretary:	Suzie Donahue
Treasurer:	Rebecca Taillon
Members at Large:	Gayle Enzel & Sally Baumwell
Trustees:	Jackie Pascher and Joseph Norris Payne

Committee Chairpersons:

Fundraising:	Gayle Enzel
Education:	Penny Hope-Ross
Volunteers and Membership:	Judy Huzzey
Policies & Procedures:	Rachael Atherton
Adoptions:	Sally Baumwell
Communications:	Mark Baumwell
Shelter /Spay and Neuter:	Suzie Donahue

Discussions/Adjournment

Lisa then opened the meeting up for discussion. There being none, Lisa thanked everyone for attending, called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Carol Gilbert and seconded by Rebecca Taillon.

The meeting was followed by socialization of members and board.