



THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ANGUILLA ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

5:00 pm

AARF and Board Members present were:

Jackie Pascher Suzie Donahue Estelle Slade Sally Baumwell Denise Bevan
Carol Gilbert Judy Huzzey Joan Hill Rick Vandervoort

Regrets were received from Mark Baumwell, Ilyas Farooqui, Penny Hope-Ross,
Rebecca Taillon, Lisa Thomson

The meeting opened with the AARF prayer.

President's Welcome: Jackie

Jackie welcomed Executive Committee and AARF members to the 2014 - 2015 Annual General Meeting. There were many changes this past year: AARF's final yard sale at Roy's, the opening of the Second Chances thrift store, Hurricane Gonzalo's damage to Second Chances, Tin Tin's leaving Morlens Clinic and Anguilla, Board Member Lisa Thomson's move back to Canada, etc. But through it all, AARF continues to receive good support and Jackie thanked everyone for all his/her work.

The agenda was accepted by Suzie, seconded by Judy, and unanimously approved.

The minutes from the April 2014 Annual General Meeting were accepted by Joan, seconded by Rick, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Estelle

- AARF pays a monthly shelter management fee to the vet employed by Morlens.
- Average monthly expenditure for the year was \$3,214.15, compared to \$3,893.83 in the prior year. A 34.8% reduction in vet's fees was reported in 2014, due largely to the spay and neuter programme, and other designated funds being used.
- Private donations to the general fund in 2014 were close to those in the previous year. Donations in general were higher, but were more usually applied to designated funds, most notably to the spay and neuter fund. (Donations to designated funds are locked specifically to the fund and are not available to AARF to be used anywhere else).

- Fundraising efforts in 2014 contributed \$14,458, compared to \$14,481 in the previous year. The Second Chances thrift shop contributed to a bit over half of that. The bingo event was not held in 2014. Roy's raffles brought in about \$2,500.
- Membership fees in 2014 generated \$771, compared to \$1,164 in the prior year.
- Sales of AARF related merchandise generated a net profit of \$6,894 in 2014, compared to \$7,657 in the prior year. However, this figure is likely to be higher (at the expense of thrift shop sales) in that some merchandise sales may have been recorded as thrift sale revenue.
- Sales of Frontline etc, generated a net profit of \$4,788 in 2014, compared to \$4,391 in the previous year. However, this revenue stream will be significantly reduced in 2015 since the vet requested that he be the supplier of all medication. As such, any AARF revenue generated will be simply the sale of existing stock.
- Not including the management fees, the costs of providing treatment for AARF animals in 2014 was \$21,072, compared to \$32,319 in the prior year, due largely to the spay and neuter programme, and other designated funds being used.
- Excluding vet fees and shelter management fees, the operating expenses incurred by AARF in 2014 were \$1,466.
- In early 2014 it was agreed that the several depleting spay and neuter funds be combined into one spay/neuter fund. This fund was supplemented by the collections from coin boxes around the island.

Committee Reports

Fund Raising: Denise/Rebecca/Suzie/Carol

Fundraising Denise

May 21st – Ladies Luncheon at Cuisinart Resort. This event can be 21st May or 18th June but I thought perhaps May would be better as more people might still be on island? Joanne Mason has kindly agreed to be the guest speaker. Suzie has been busy getting prizes for the silent auction – so far we have an original painting by Joanne and a “stick” sculpture from Paul Corfield. If anyone else can assist in getting a prize for the auction that would be great – something from a boutique perhaps? Anyone have any contacts?

Although not sure if this event is financially viable yet, we will proceed for now as everyone seems to like the idea.

11th July – Fit for Carnival at Louis Price (TBC). Rebecca to please check the date with Louis and also find out if he has a PA system there we can use, or do we need to hire?

7am – 9am, 2 hour exercise event. Cleopatra has agreed to instruct; to be honest I haven't seen another good instructor on the Island. I know one in SXM that can do great Zumba but then we would have to pay her for her time and her ticket over etc. I will check all costs for this and see if Calypso or Funtime would sponsor.

Tickets will be sold for \$5.00 each. We will need some water and healthy breakfast items included in the ticket price. I intend to ask Merchants Market, Lake's, Unique Trading etc.

I met with Rochelle Rogers from the Nutrition and Health Promotion department. They will be pleased to help promote the event via their social media, mail outs, and radio announcements. I also spoke to The Daily Herald SXM and they will provide an advertisement free of charge in the newspaper.

Movie night at Elvis — Ideally this needs to be in low season due to business levels at Elvis. So June perhaps. Dates to be looked at, and I will mail some options to Brett. We need to check them against nights when they present sporting events.

Fundraising Rebecca

PayPal — Supporters of AARF were encouraged to make electronic contributions to AARF. In addition to donations, supporters can pay for memberships, adoptions, and merchandise via PayPal. In 2014, AARF collected almost \$19,300 - the majority earmarked for Anguilla Puppy Express (APE) and the annual shelter improvement campaign.

Wells Fargo — Once again, having a US-based bank account whereby donors are able to make tax deductible donations to AARF, has proven worth the effort. In 2014, our US-based account accepted over \$56,000 (includes all PayPal monies). As noted above, much of this money has been allocated to our shelter improvement efforts, animal adoptions and transportation costs incurred by APE deliveries, as well as two other designated spay/neuter funds.

Having these two alternative donation avenues has increased our capability for getting much needed funds to support our organization.

In early 2014, AARF enrolled in the Amazon-Smile Charity program. AARC/AARF receives 1/2% of all purchases made by those individuals who have specified AARC as their charity of choice. In the period of February 2014 - February 2015, AARF received approximately \$300 from Amazon. If you aren't already selecting this option when you shop at Amazon, please change your log in to www.smile.amazon.com and select "Anguilla Animal Rescue Corporation" as your charity of choice.

Second Chances Rebecca

During Spring 2014, AARF was told to vacate the property at Anguilla Techni Sales where the yard sale container had been stored. Suzie Donahue was able to negotiate rental terms for AARF to use several of the outbuildings of the Wallblake House. After the June yard sale, Lisa Thomson and Rebecca Taillon spearheaded the moving of all remaining yard sale merchandise to the new facility.

During the next three weeks, Jim and Rebecca Taillon made the necessary repairs to secure the windows and doors of the Wallblake buildings, then designed and built eight free-standing book shelves, five portable clothing racks, and a 4x8 donation drop box to facilitate the opening of the "Second Chances Thrift Store". Special recognition to Suzie

Donahue for procuring the store sign, and Debbie Klingler, Leslie Bunch, and Rob Willsher for their assistance in constructing, painting, and installing the store fixtures. The majority of store start-up expenses were covered by a generous donation from Carita Wallgren.

Volunteers of AARF proudly opened the doors to Second Chances in July 2014.

In mid-October, Hurricane Gonzalo did a number on the store: the donation box was tossed across the parking lot, the landscaping was trashed, and the clothing building (and AARF contents) sustained considerable water damage. Again, Jim, Rebecca, and Debbie provided the majority of the clean-up effort to get the store re-opened as soon as possible (two weeks).

For the 2014 calendar year, store sales were approximately \$9,800 (just under 6 months). Even more encouraging is news that 2015 sales (Jan - mid-March) are already \$5,600.

As with any volunteer-based operation, we have had our ups and downs with staffing and support. Operating the store has been a big learning curve for all of us. Tremendous thanks to the store volunteers - those past and present for the hours, sweat, and grime in making the store the success that it is. Additional volunteers are always needed and most welcome!

Second Chances is filling a much-needed niche in the Anguillan community, providing a lower-cost option for new and gently used housewares, linens, furniture, and clothing. The store also provides a central Island retail location for new AARF merchandise (hats, T-shirts, bottle bags and "koozies"). Hours of operation are Tuesday 9-noon, Friday 9-3pm, and Saturday 9-noon.

Geraud's Sweet on AARF Week Suzie

Mel and Geraud continue to support AARF by donating a portion of their proceeds during an annual event aptly called Geraud's Sweet on AARF Week. AARF volunteers sign up for 3 hour shifts to sell AARF merchandise including t-shirts, coffee mugs, "koozies," puppy toys, and raffle tickets along with books donated by Jo-Anne Mason. These funds go toward our spay and neuter project and we are very grateful for their continued support.

Thank you to everyone who supports AARF including all the businesses that contribute prizes for our raffles and those that adopt. Without you we simply could not do what we do!

Coin Boxes Suzie

Other donations for spay/neuter, in addition to our fundraising events, come from our coin boxes which we have placed at many businesses over the island. A special thank you to all of you who put your change or small bills in our boxes, especially those at Best Buy West!

Boxes at Best Buy West continue to do very well. Carol and I printed and replaced inserts for all the existing boxes.

Roy's Raffles Carol

From December 5, 2014 through March 20, 2015, 16 raffles were held on Friday nights during Happy Hour at Roy's Bayside Bar and Grill. The 17th and final raffle of the season will take place Friday, March 27th. We started slowly and later in the year than usual, but the amount we made each week increased as time went on. We averaged around \$132 a week, with a one-time high of \$194, and as of March 20th, the raffles raised \$2,108. This compares favorably with the past several years:

2011 - 12	\$2,067
2012 - 13	\$2,225
2013 - 14	\$1,936
2014 - 15	\$2,108*

*Including the final raffle, held on March 27th, we made \$2,264 in 2014 - 15.

So many terrific volunteers, especially AARF Board members, were the key to our success. My thanks go to: Sally and Mark Baumwell, Denise Bevan, Donna Doberstein, Suzie Donahue, Illy Farooqui, Joan Hill, Penny Hope-Ross and Malcolm Ross, Judy Huzzey, Margaret "Sparkie" Sparks, Rebecca Taillon, and Jill Walker.

Not only did the volunteers sell raffle tickets and explain the good work that AARF does, they also provided wonderful prizes. These ranged from wine, champagne, and rum to beach chairs, massages, lunch for two at the Ferryboat Inn, AARF merchandise, etc. One of the regular guests at Roy's won the raffle three times!

Many thanks also go to Roy, Mandy, Claire, and Patrick for their continuing and generous support of AARF, including the raffles. Roy's has become a "home" for AARF events over the years.

I believe the raffles are worth continuing into the future. However, it was often a challenge to recruit volunteers to help. Several people, e.g., Suzie and Sally, ended up working overtime. They bailed me out on quite a few occasions! Suggestions for expanding the group of volunteers would be most welcome.

Membership/Volunteers: Judy

Membership
A membership drive was held on Friday, 21st March, 2014 outside the post office. This date was chosen because Friday is typically the day people come to the post office to collect their packages through home shopping club.

There were 4 membership renewals and one new one.

In addition to memberships, a sizable amount of AARF merchandise was sold including T-shirts, caps, visors, "koozies," mugs, keychains, earrings, and Viceroy raffle tickets. Total money collected was \$606 US.

Total monies collected for AARF memberships from January – December, 2014: \$771.25. This is \$393 less than the previous year. There were 8 new memberships and 18 renewals for 2014.

Volunteers

During 2014, my main focus for volunteers has been scheduling staff for our thrift store, which was established in July. After my return to the island at the beginning of August, I took over from Rebecca who had been doing the scheduling. The first few months, volunteers were a bit thin on the ground, but since January of this year, there has been a wealth of volunteers to be able to fully staff each shift and also to extend Friday's opening time from 12 noon until 3pm. It is anticipated that, along with the relatively low sales in this time frame and there will be fewer volunteers during the following months, the store will only be open until 12 noon.

From all accounts received from volunteers, most people have enjoyed/are enjoying working at the store.

Education: Penny

The work this year has focused on encouraging people to spay and neuter their pets. Some pet owners in Anguilla say they love puppies and kittens as a reason not to have them fixed; others just do not like the idea of the surgery. Change in attitudes toward the procedure is slowly being accepted.

AARF was fortunate enough to receive a generous donation specifically for the purpose of educating owners about the importance of spay or neutering their pets for health reasons as well as preventing the birth of unwanted kittens and puppies. A brochure was created for this purpose and distributed at the most likely public outlets including the library and the post office.

Three puppy health fairs were organised at the two community centres in the East End and one at the Youth Development Centre at Blowing Point. If a dog was known not to have been neutered the importance of spay or neutering was explained to the owner and they were given a coupon for a free spay or neuter. Joseph Vanterpool donated water to the Blowing Point event and J.W. Proctor's gave donations of discounts on pet food at the East End events. St. James Medical School students helped at all 3 events and some students from ALHCS helped at the East End events.

Articles about good pet care, parasites, etc. have been written and published by The Anguillian.



Communications: Mark

The AARF Facebook page is doing well. It's currently at 1,355 "Likes" which is a number that helps translate into how many people see postings. There are several postings each week. When people comment, share, or like a post, more people see it. For example, one recent popular post reached just about 3,330 people.

The AARFUpdate email list membership stands at 609. These list members get AARF announcement emails in their inboxes. (And this is reliable delivery so we are not dependent on them checking Facebook, or Facebook's changing the way it populates users' timelines, or the web site). They can be considered core supporters.

AARF also gains visibility as part of its affiliation with the Anguillian Pet Owners Facebook group, which is made up of people who've adopted Anguillian dogs or cats. Articles on AARF's work have been published in The Anguillian and Anguilla Life.

From a communications standpoint, Facebook and the AARFUpdate list seem to be what people like.

The AARF website (www.aarf.ai) is updated regularly with adoption photos, news, contacts and more; it's both current with the latest adoption candidates, but also is the permanent repository or travel processes, contacts, stories, links and other information.

Adoptions: Sally

We had 207 total adoptions in 2014: 153 puppies/dogs and 54 kittens/cats. Only one older puppy was euthanized due to running out of time per our guidelines, and she was not well socialized. We had fewer adoptions than in the prior year, and I credit AARF's focus on spay and neuter surgeries with keeping down the number of healthy surrenders.

Adoptions are handled at the AARF Adoption Centre & Shelter within Morlens Veterinary Clinic, either by AARF volunteers or by Morlens office staff. Advertising is done via the AARF website, AARF Facebook page, periodic flyers, and weekly emails. At times The Anguillian has included articles, photos, and ads for us at no cost, which is much appreciated.

Our international rescue program, which we have built up over the past few years with rescue partners in the United States and Canada, had a severe setback when the U.S. agencies in charge of pet importation changed their regulations. The two agencies involved are the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture - APHIS (USDA-APHIS). In August the CDC, in an effort to better control rabies in the United States, said that unless puppies are from a country that the CDC recognizes as rabies free, puppies entering the US must have had a rabies vaccination at least thirty days before arrival, and the vaccination cannot be given earlier than 12 weeks of age. While Anguilla has always been rabies free, we were not on the CDC's list. Dr. Vanterpool submitted all required documentation to the CDC in early September and we are still waiting to be recognized. Follow up requests have been made and the answer is always basically that they are too busy with more important matters.

In November, the USDA-APHIS put into effect regulations to control puppy mill dogs entering the U.S. The main thrust of the new regs is that puppies going to a rescue organization or pet store or other third party for "resale" must be at least six months old. Straight adoptions and adoptions where no money changes hands for the animal are still allowed. Both CDC regs and USDA-APHIS regs must be met.

Most of the puppies surrendered to AARF are 6-8 weeks old. We do not have the resources to be able to keep them until they are four to six months old. Even if we did, by that age they usually can't fit in a soft carrier and travel in the cabin of an airplane, so have to travel cargo. Traveling cargo is more limiting as many of the airlines do not take pets in cargo, those that do have heat and cold restrictions, we have few transport offers for dogs going cargo, and the cost is higher mainly due to the need for a crate plus the cargo fee.

Sint Maarten now requires a pet permit for animals traveling to/through SXM, even those just in transit. With the help of Dr. Swanston and his daughter Dekha, who is the office manager in his St. Maarten clinic, this process has become manageable.

Canada recognizes Anguilla as rabies free but also implemented new regulations in 2014. Outright adoption of young puppies is still allowed. However, to send a puppy to a rescue organization, you must now have a permit and the puppy must come from a certified kennel. The permit must be requested at least 30 days in advance of the travel,

and in the case of places like Anguilla, it has to be even longer than that to allow time for the government to approve the permit and mail the original permit to the traveler.

While the intent of controlling rabies and foreign puppy mills is admirable and understandable, these regulations have affected small rescue groups such as ours along with the ones they are really targeting.

We were able to send 114 puppies, dogs, cats, and kittens to the United States and Canada in 2014, the vast majority prior to implementation of these new regulations. Once the CDC puts us on their rabies free country list, we will be able to send younger puppies again, but in the meantime we are constrained. Sadly, we are having to turn down offers of transport, and our rescue partners want our puppies but we can't send them. Kittens and cats are not affected but few of our rescue partners are able to take them.

We do not have enough good homes in Anguilla for all of the puppies surrendered given historical numbers. The focus must be, and has become, spaying and neutering to prevent unwanted births.

Shelter & Spay/Neuter: Suzie

Shelter

Shelter Surrenders: In 2014 the AARF Shelter accepted at no charge & found homes for 207 dogs, puppies, cats and kittens that were homeless and /or unwanted out of a total of 378. Sadly the others were not adoptable as they were either feral, meaning they were brought in trapped so frightened or aggressive they would not be adoptable without long term socialization, or sick – testing positive for heartworm, tick fever, or skin fungus, or severely injured - all which would result in expensive medical treatment and long term care before they were ready for adoption. These were humanely euthanized to end their suffering.

Shelter Improvement Raffle

For the past few years we have sold tickets for an array of prizes to benefit the physical shelter building and the vet clinic where we are lucky enough to have our shelter and the benefit of a full time veterinarian. So many shelters in other countries or islands do not have this luxury. We do not pay rent and our space is donated to us by Dr. Patrick Vanterpool who we are most grateful for his continued support. We have a specific space for our felines and another for our canines which, for those of us who have been around for many years know, hasn't always been the case. The funds from the raffles go to make improvements at the shelter which this past year included a window and door on the surgery unit; privacy gates for Dr. Vanterpool's home, which shares space with the shelter; and most importantly electricity for the puppy room, which gave us the opportunity to install ceiling fans and lights. We have also added screens and screen doors for the front and back of the clinic.

This year our fundraiser, "Paws for a Cause," is focused on creating a puppy play yard at the shelter. The area is closed in, and we have added a wood fence and gates and now need to raise the money for a shelter from the sun, plus ground covering and other improvements. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and are available at the meeting or at the AARF shelter, Second Chances, or from board members. Please help us with

this project so our puppies will have an opportunity to get some sunshine and fresh air while waiting for their forever homes.

Spay/Neuter

With the help and expertise of the vets at Morlens Veterinary Hospital, 397 Free Spay and Neuter surgeries were completed in 2014 at a cost of almost us \$28,000! Of that total 171 were dog spays, 107 were cat spays, 64 dog neuters, and 55 cat neuters.

A free spay clinic in July resulted in 75 free surgeries for 41 female dogs, 16 female cats, 9 male dogs, and 9 male cats during Free Spay month. This successful event was made possible by a grant from "Carita's Gift", an AARF program that focuses on animal welfare, education, and the environment funded by a generous donation from a family who lives in Anguilla and Finland.

The program was extended for another month and 53 more surgeries were completed! These surgeries were sponsored by a grant from the Jiggs Richardson Fund for cats and Friends of West End Fund, including donations from supporters Benson - Cooper Foundation, Kathie & Bud from Pennsylvania (whom I also would like to thank for selling 105 t-shirts last year and another 102 so far this year to her co-workers and friends), John & Arlene from Boston, and many others.

Thanks to all the responsible pet owners who participated in this project to help stop the births of unwanted puppies and kittens.

Plans for 2015 include the continuation of our program to offer spay/neuter surgery to anyone who requests financial help.

We also require that anyone surrendering puppies or kittens to the shelter bring in the mother to be spayed. This was suggested by Dr. Swanston and has been very successful. We also plan to do another free spay month as long as we have the funds to do so.

Volunteer of the Year Award Judy

In making the decision on whom the Board selected as our volunteer of the year, one person's willingness and hard work stood above all the rest. This person was instrumental in planning and developing the layout and creating the fixtures and displays for our very successful thrift store Second Chances. Many many hours of time and labour including selecting, purchasing and assembling were needed to open our thrift store. A lot of the work involved included the creation and erection of our drop off box which allows people to leave their donations at any time. The ingenious design and attention to detail also made it possible to blend nicely with the historical nature of the Wallblake House. After being hit and destroyed by Hurricane Gonzalo the pieces of the drop box were then gathered, taken home and reused to construct it a second time.

All of this, added to the labour involved, has resulted in Second Chances being a very successful endeavor, not only as a continual source of income to AARF but also as a service to the community. We are grateful for all the hard work not only this year at Second Chances but also for the creation of the kennels and other improvements in the past which made the AARF shelter more comfortable for the puppies in our care. By unanimous decision of the Executive Committee — in recognition of all the talent, hard work, and time given we at AARF are pleased to recognize, with much gratitude, Jim

Taillon as our Volunteer of the Year for 2014. The award will be presented to Jim when he and Rebecca return to Anguilla.

Shelter Super Star Award Suzie

This year's Super Star award is presented to someone that most of you know. He has been a fixture at Morlens Clinic and the AARF shelter for 3 years now and his contributions to the shelter and to AARF are way too many to list! I, for one, can't even imagine not having him there.

Not only does he do great construction work - he has painted and tiled and certainly deep cleaned our shelter space numerous times - but he has learned so much as a "right hand" man to our veterinarians that he has become AARF's point person for anything to do with our puppies or kittens. And I might add he is one of the best puppy/cat whisperers around. The frightened and shy ones seem to know his kind heart and gentle spirit (when he isn't teasing them), and if you are at the shelter at any given time you will see him carrying around one of our little ones and giving them extra love and attention. He also makes sure that all are well cared for including their health checks, boarding, and cleaning of their temporary homes.

I have watched as our Super Star has grown in knowledge and in experience and I am so very proud of all he has accomplished and so grateful for all he continues to do for our guests each and every day.

As voted unanimously by the Executive Committee, I am pleased to announce with much gratitude that AARF's Super Star of 2014 is Jaicus Duque!

Vote for AARF Executive Committee

The proposed slate of officers was adopted unanimously:

President	Jackie Pascher
Vice President	Sally Baumwell
Treasurer	Estelle Slade
Secretary	Carol Gilbert
Board Member-at-Large	Rebecca Taillon
Board Member-at-Large	Mark Baumwell

Jackie Pascher and Suzie Donahue continue to serve as AARF Trustees.

Other Business

A short discussion period ensued.

Membership

Rick suggested that AARF memberships should all expire and be renewed on the same date — to make it easier for the Membership Chair to notify current and prospective members of the requirements and to maintain records. As it happens, the AARF Executive Committee arrived at the same conclusion at its February 10 regular meeting.

Second Chances

Rick also enquired about the possibility of opening the Second Chances thrift store on Sundays. Meeting members discussed the pros and cons. Joan said that Second Chances needs more donations, especially housewares.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise and seconded by Judy. Motion passed unanimously. Afterward, meeting members engaged in a period of socializing.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Gilbert, Secretary