



# ANGUILLA ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012  
ROY'S BAYSIDE GRILL  
5:30 PM

Present:

Board Members - Lisa Thomson, Mark Baumwell, Suzie Donahue, Gayle Enzel, Penny Hope-Ross, Jackie Pascher & Rebecca Taillon.

Members: Joan Hill, Carol Gilbert, Althea Turner, Mary Ann & Mike Jarvis.

Lisa Thomson, President, welcomed everyone to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation.

The agenda was accepted and seconded by Gayle Enzel and Carol Gilbert.

The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> AGM having been previously circulated to the membership were accepted with no changes or corrections by Jackie Pascher & seconded by Rebecca Taillon.

☆ **Treasurer: Rebecca** – Treasurer Rebecca Taillon presented the following annual report for the Foundation:

Report of the Financial Operations of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation for 2011  
Balance Sheet, Ending December 31<sup>st</sup>

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Assets		
Current Assets	24,036	25,763
Fixed Assets	552	0
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>24,588</u>	<u>25,763</u>
Equity		
Designated Community Funds	8,854	4,648
Other Equity	15,734	21,114
<u>Total Equity</u>	<u>24,588</u>	<u>25,762</u>

Note: It is assumed that all goods purchased for sale were sold within 2011. Hence inventory is omitted

Detail of Designated Community Funds January to December, 2011

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Spending</u>	<u>Net change</u>
AARF NJ Spay & Neuter (S/N)	990	270	720
Carimar S/N	439	439	0
Education Fund	500	500	0
Gage Fund (South Hill)	504	237	267
Lehigh Fund (Animals In-Need)	3,106	2,955	151
McClaren Fund (Blowing Pt S/N)	2,000	180	1,820
Northside Fund	200	190	10
Rubin Fund (West End)	2,349	1,838	511
Shelter Fund	2,723	1,999	724
Sponsorships	400	400	0
Whiskey Fund (Sandy Ground S/N)	439	442	3
<b>Change in balances of Designated Funds</b>	<b>13,649</b>	<b>9,449</b>	<b>4,206</b>

Income and Outlay for January to December, 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Donations	8,451	5,235
Fund Raisers	16,155	13,745
Interest Income	182	223
Memberships	1,333	990
Adoptions	3,590	3,608
Profit from sales	3,727	1,285
Other income	352	0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>33,790</b>	<b>25,086</b>
<b><u>Costs</u></b>		
Contracted services	35,800	24,920
Operating Expenses	2,829	1,627
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>38,629</b>	<b>26,547</b>

Lisa thanked Rebecca for her hard work as treasurer and Penny Hope- Ross for completing the audit. She then requested that each committee chairperson share their accomplishments of the past year.

☆ **Fund Raising: Gayle** – reported that the yard sales held every 3 – 4 months continue to be a success especially the spring one as we always have plenty of volunteers. The yearly bingo also continues to bring in needed funds. We hope to have a new t-shirt design to introduce for next December. AARF also continues to have collections boxes at grocery stores and other businesses throughout the island.

☆ **Shelter: Suzie** – When the shelter opened in 2008 we agreed to take any unwanted puppies, kittens, dog or cats at no charge to the public. 2011 is the first year we have kept records of the actual number of surrenders although we do know the numbers have steadily increased. We do not charge anyone for surrendering their unwanted puppies or kittens but do strongly suggest that the mother be spayed as soon as possible and offer financial assistance to those that request help or seem reluctant to pay the surgery fees. Because there is no animal control or “pound” on the island AARF has unfortunately or maybe for the animals in need fortunately, become the place where unwanted or stray animals can be brought. In 2011 AARF had a total of 488 puppies, kittens, dogs or cats dropped at the shelter – many were surrendered by their owners because they could not take care of them or did not want them, others were found abandoned and suffering, many were injured or sick and still others were feral, & were trapped & brought to the shelter because they were a nuisance in the neighborhood. Of those, 228 were unadoptable because they were not healthy enough for adoption or became sick with parvo or other diseases that we could not afford to treat, were severely injured, infants unable to eat or survive on their own or in need of long term socialization or totally feral and they were humanely euthanized. Additionally 43 healthy animals were put to sleep because we could not find homes for them within the two week time period we have for adoptions to take place.

Spay/Neuter Surgeries: Since I began keeping records of surgeries in 2003 we have completed 1639 surgeries at a cost of almost \$83,000.

In 2011 Dr Umali completed a total of 215 surgeries for AARF - of those 79 were need based (37% with total spent \$4030.0 as some owners paid a portion of the surgery) 38 cats (30 females) & 41 dogs (33 females). In 2010 184 surgeries were completed.

We are extremely grateful and profoundly lucky to have our shelter within Morlens Clinic and we thank Dr Patrick Vanterpool for allowing us to use a large portion of his building for our shelter. We are also thankful to Dr Rommel and Dr Abi Umali for their support and vet skills and their partnership with AARF – we would not be able to accomplish nearly what we do if we did not have a veterinarian at the shelter – most shelters – especially in the Caribbean do not have this luxury.

Shelter Expenses: 2011 - Total: \$36,800 including \$13,400 in boarding fees.

Our expenses continue to increase because of the number of guests that we have. We saw an increase from 2010 – 2011 of approximately \$11,500 with boarding fees accounting for 50% of the increase.

This year we will be faced with new shelter expenses as the fees for boarding and vet services increase and we expect our shelter expenses alone to be well over \$45,000. We have stepped up our fundraising projects to try to meet these expenses but we still need more financial support.

Our goal is to increase awareness through education and prevent unwanted births with spay/neuter surgery, as much as we can with our limited finances. We will continue to do our best to provide for these dogs and cats that come to the shelter and to find homes for them where they will be loved & appreciated and not treated as expendable and easily replaced.

Finally, I would like to thank the wonderful volunteers that we have at the shelter for all their dedication and the love & care they give to these unfortunate animals that come to us. Often the 2 weeks they are with us are the best of their lives and we work hard to make sure they have at least that – but they deserve so much more.

☆ **Adoptions: Sally** – We had a total of 217 adoptions in 2012: 141 puppies & dogs and 76 kittens & cats. Of the canines, 43 were males and 98 females. This is typical for Anguilla as people who have litters tend to keep or find homes for more of the males, bringing the females to the shelter. Of the felines, 34 were males and 42 females.

37 puppies and one kitten went to forever homes in the US and Canada. This was an excellent number for international adoptions.

All of our adoptions are completed at the shelter. Those who come to the shelter to adopt are there for that purpose, so the adoption is a much more well thought out process than it used to be when we did adoptions at grocery stores and other locations. When we have large numbers of puppies or kittens, we sometimes have specials to encourage people to adopt. Advertising is done via weekly emails, radio announcements, Facebook postings, flyers, and our website. Our shelter volunteers talk with potential adopters about the animals we have available, what their home situation is, and animal care. Each adopter is given a leash, collar, an instruction pamphlet on puppy or kitten care, and information on when the next vaccinations are due.

☆ **Volunteers and Membership: Judy** – Judy reported:

**Volunteers:**

In June 2011 Suzie received a letter from Tessa Oudkerk, a teacher at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School (ALHCS) who was making inquiries on behalf of some students in order for them to volunteer some of their time at the AARF shelter. These students, who were in their final year of high school, had enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme, which was also known as the International Award Programme. Each student had to volunteer an hour of their time per week participating in community service, and AARF was lucky enough to have 7 students who helped out in the afternoons after school and on Saturday mornings. These students received their awards from the Earl of Essex when he and his wife Sophie Countess of Wessex visited Anguilla on March

5<sup>th</sup>. The programme is continuing with a new leader, Uldean Trim, and a new group of students: Paul, Elizabeth, Stephanie, Rashida and Kevon. In addition to our regular shelter volunteers we have been fortunate to have additional help from seasonal visitors and a number of others who have generously volunteered their time: Michelle, Jill, Melise. For the last couple of months the shelter has had a volunteer for both morning and afternoon shifts – sometimes more than one! However, with the summer months approaching and volunteers leaving for a few weeks or months, we know that this will not stay the same.

### **Membership:**

Total membership dues collected for January – December 2010 was \$989.85  
Total dues collected for January – December 2011 was \$1333.29, an increase of \$343.44 or 35% over the same period for 2010.

Total number of lifetime members: 43 – lifetime memberships are no longer offered.

Total number of Regular members: 28 (\$20 per annum)

Total number of Family members: 37 (\$30 per annum)

Total number of senior members: 7 (\$5 per annum)

Total number of Student members: 0 (\$5 per annum)

A membership drive was held February 8<sup>th</sup>. 2011 outside the Post Office .. In addition to new memberships it was a chance to collect renewal fees from some existing members plus some donations.

Another membership drive is to be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>. April from 9am – 3.30pm outside the Post Office and, like last year, there will be lots of AARF merchandise for sale, egg T-Shirts and hats.

### **☆ Communications (with Webmaster report): Mark –**

We continue, on an ongoing basis, to add and change content on our web site at [www.aarf.ai](http://www.aarf.ai). Ongoing changes are made on a very regular basis to our main and “Available for Adoptions” pages, mostly to feature pet thumbnail and larger photos along with descriptions of our shelter guests. The main page also features a “news” side banner, which is updated to provide timely news bits.

The rest of the website gets updates as needed. One page to highlight is our “Adopting a Pet – The Basics” page which not only stresses how easy it is to adopt from Anguilla and take to places like North America, it has checklists, airport and airline information and full descriptions of the processes involved. That page was recently updated and has just about whatever is needed to adopt a pet from Anguilla and take back to the USA or Canada.

This last quarter, the “Contact Us” page was revamped to highlight our Anguilla emergency contact phone numbers; we also added quick links to St. Martin/Sint Maarten vets (with maps and phone numbers).

We also published quarterly newsletters in 2011; those contain articles covering our accomplishments and one of our most popular features: “Happy Tales”.

We have, with our financial gurus, been working on a Paypal “Donate” button, which we think will make it easier for people to make donations. We think we are close and will put it on the website soon.

Communications have been handled by Rebecca (writing thank yous), Suzie, Penny and Carol, with lots of articles appearing in the Anguillian and tourist publications. The dog and cat brochures are also excellent communications vehicles that deliver powerful messages.

We have also been working on a “about Heartworm” comic book, which we think will simply explain how heartworm infects dogs and cats and more importantly, how easily it can be prevented. The artwork is done; all that remains is to letter in the text and then produce the comics.

☆ **Policy and Procedures: Rachel** – We incorporated an entity in the United States (Florida) called Anguilla Animal Rescue Corporation. The reason for this was so that we could have a way to have a 'donate' button (via Paypal) on the AARF website. This is a bit of a long story, but without a US bank account (which needs a US entity) we could not have accessed any funds donated via Paypal, neither could we have taken advantage of the lower transaction fee associated with charitable organisations. The good news is that we now have the donate button on the AARF website and the first donations have been received. Next steps are to maximise donations through this route, for example by making it easy to allow people to sign up for a regular donations (monthly, for example) and to achieve tax exempt status in the US.

☆ **Education: Penny** – The visits to primary schools and articles being published in the Anguillian continued in 2011. There were also talks given to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Students, a Campus A class and one to the Scout group at the Teacher Gloria Omololu School.

The primary school presentations, while all taking a similar format, were on Cats as well as dogs this year. Kindergarten and grade one students learn about doggy communication 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. The Anguilla Community Foundation (ACF) gave a grant to AARF which has been used to produce a brochure and posters which illustrate the body language of cats.

In May, Penny Hope-Ross, Maggie and Carol Gilbert went and spoke with the grade 1 student at East End Primary School and to Grades 4 & 5 at Island Harbour Primary School.

The ACF second grant to AARF as well as production a brochure on cat communication for use in schools was also used to produce information brochures for new dog and cat owners.

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

### Education Articles 2011

April 18 - Exercise & your dog.doc
May 2 Heartworm.doc
May 22 Preventing Dog Bites.doc

May 24dog symptoms for dummies.doc
June 21 - Is Your Dog Afraid of Thunderstorms.doc
July 18 pure or mix breeds.doc
July 4 Cat Attention.doc
Aug 15 Wondering how you can tell if your dog is pregnant without a vet.doc
Aug 29 - 7 Reasons Why Everyone Should Have a Cat.doc
Aug 22 Are you afraid of dogs.doc
Sept 13 - Water the Elixir of Life.doc
Sept 27 - 7 Reasons Why Everyone Should Have a Cat.doc
Nov 7 Feline Urinary Problems.doc
Dec 17 - Signs of Illness in Dogs & Cats.doc
Dec 26 Pit Bulls.doc
Jan 21 Your Dog's Basic Needs.doc
Jan - Basic dog commandsdoc.doc
Feb 3Happy Cat.doc
Feb 17 Top Behavior Problems in Dogs.doc
Mar -Cat Sex.doc
March 7 Top Mistakes by Cat Owners.doc
March 21 Top 10 Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Pet.doc

## **AWARDS:**

### **Volunteer of the Year: Ursula Galindo**

Presented by Suzie: “Our Volunteer of the Year is a happy example of “the never-ending” goodbye. We first thought Ursula was leaving last Spring and were oh so pleased when that didn’t happen. In December when we were sure she was leaving we had a goodbye ceremony and presented the Volunteer of the Year award at a volunteer appreciation event. But then came the good news that she was staying longer – we didn’t mind – she had continued to be a stand out volunteer – going to the shelter twice week in the afternoon to socialize, feed and clean plus donating & volunteering at our yard sales and other fundraising events – always supportive. Tonight is a special night because Ursula left two weeks ago to return to Mexico with Rico her French Bull dog that has a major attitude! And she is back because she really is leaving this week so not only do we get another chance to thank her for all she has done for AARF over these past 3 years but also to wish her the very best and to say goodbye! Thanks Ursula for all you have done for AARF – we wish you & Jorge much happiness.”

### **The Superstar Award: Kathie & Bud Beck**

At the AGM meeting, Suzie also presented our Superstar Award to two exceptional, long–time supporters: Kathie and Bud Beck.

Kathie and Bud have given time during their visits to Anguilla to help out at yard sales, visit the shelter, sell numerous AARF T–shirts to their coworkers in Pennsylvania and provide major financial contributions to AARF’s Rubin Fund, which provides care for animals in the West End.

Kathie and Bud's love for Anguilla and their continuing support of AARF and the animals in our care, in so many ways, over several years made them a wonderful choice for the Superstar Award 2011.

Congratulations Kathy and Bud — see you soon!

**Appreciation Award – Roy and Mandy Bossons – presented by Lisa.**

Roy and Mandy of Roy's have been supporters of AARF in so many ways over the past years – not only do they provide space for our board meetings but also for our annual general meetings and our yard sales in which they always donate coffee and water for our volunteers. The list of their support goes on and on. In appreciation we would like to present them with this award to recognize all that they do for AARF and how much we appreciate their continued support, in addition we are formally recognizing them as AARF Members with a complimentary lifetime membership award.

**2012 AARF Board**

Lisa then introduced the 2012 AARF Board and appointed Suzie Donahue as a Trustee to replace Mr. Norris Payne who is no longer involved with the foundation.

President: Lisa Thomson

Vice President: Mark Baumwell

Secretary: Donna Doberstein /Joan Hill

Treasurer: Rebecca Taillon

Members at Large: Gayle Enzel & Sally Baumwell

Trustees: Jackie Pascher & Suzie Donahue

Committee Chairpersons:

Fundraising- Gayle Enzel

Education: Penny Hope-Ross

Volunteers and Membership: Judy Huzzey

Policies & Procedures: Rachel Atherton

Adoptions: Sally Baumwell

Communications: Mark Baumwell

Shelter /Spay and Neuter: Suzie Donahue

**Viceroy Raffle:** The Viceroy Raffle drawing took place with the following winners:

First Prize – dinner, night and breakfast for 2 at Viceroy – Nancy Brower

Second Prize – original pet painting – George Sarkus

Third Prize – dinner for 2 at Veya – George Sarkus

Lisa then opened the meeting up for discussion. There being none, Lisa thanked everyone for attending and called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Mary Ann Jarvis and seconded by Althea Turner.

The meeting was followed by a social in which all enjoyed drinks and an AARF cake made by Lisa.



Respectfully submitted April 18, 2012  
Suzie Donahue  
AARF Secretary