



**ANGUILLA ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday April 13, 2013  
ROY'S BAYSIDE GRILL  
5:15 PM**

Present:

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

Members: Joan Hill, Carol Gilbert, Althea & Bob Turner, Carolyn Andrews, Renee Harvey and Nick Harvey

Lisa Thomson, President, welcomed everyone to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation.

The agenda was accepted Mark and seconded by Jackie.

The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> AGM having been previously circulated to the membership were accepted with no changes or corrections by Penny & seconded by Sally.

The following reports were given:

**2012 AARF Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Tailon**

Total General Donations: \$16,559

Total Designated (Rubin, Lehigh, etc.) Donations: \$10,913

Total AARF/Shelter Merchandise (T-s, hats, Frontline, collars, etc.) Sold: \$24,200

Total Income: \$59,830

Less - Total Expenses: \$37,055

- Merchandise Purchased for resale: \$16,633

2012 Profit: ~ \$6,300

In late 2011, AARF was set up as a FL Corporation (AARC). AARC was granted IRS 501.c.3 charitable status in April 2012. Total tax deductible donations for 2012: \$10,233

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.

**Volunteers and Membership: Judy**

**Memberships**

A membership drive was held outside the Anguilla Post Office on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 where, in addition to renewing two memberships and signing up one new member, a number of T-shirts, caps and bottle bags were sold. As March is a busier time for tourists, and especially as it is the schools' Spring

break in both the US and Canada, it has been decided that this year's membership drive will be held on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, also outside the Post Office. Since the email went out advertizing this membership drive, there have been several inquiries for new memberships.

Total membership dues collected from January / 2012 to December 2012 : \$950US, which is a drop over last year's numbers of just under \$400US., but close to that of 2010.

Total memberships:

Corporate : 1

Lifetime : 43

Individual : 20

Family: 32

Senior : 8

### **Volunteers**

While AARF has a fairly large number of volunteers to draw upon for our various fund raisers such as yard sales, bingos and membership drives , the number of full-time shelter volunteers is still a problem. This time last year I was reporting that we had enough volunteers to staff most days both morning and afternoon shifts, and sometimes more than one volunteer for the mornings. We still do have the occasional day where there is more than one volunteer in the mornings, but the additional staff has mainly been visitors to the island who are eager to help and the occasional high school student– which is great!

Although volunteering at the shelter may seem like the most important aspect , AARF also has wonderful people who provide an invaluable service by donating their time walking shelter dogs on a regular basis or rounding up dogs from areas such as Blowing Point that require neutering or spaying using AARF funds. Not an easy task.

**Fundraising: Gayle Enzel** – Gayle was off island. Her numerous fundraising projects including 4 yardsales, bingo, Geraud's Sweet on AARF week, Roy's Friday night raffles and the Viceroy Raffle have all made it possible for AARF to continue helping the dogs and cats on Anguilla.

**Adoptions: Sally Baumwell** - In 2012 we had a total of 194 adoptions. 146 puppies and dogs and 48 kittens and cats. 41 puppies and 2 kittens were international adoptions.

### **Communications/Webmaster: Mark Baumwell**

In 2012, Mark oversaw communications (mostly to publications), maintained and changed the AARF web site ([www.aarf.ai](http://www.aarf.ai)) as needed, and am the main administrator for our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/aarf.anguilla>).

Our email mailing list, AARF Update is a one-way announcement mechanism to a group of subscribers which number 567 as of the 2013 AGM meeting. We post items of interest, mostly highlighting pets available for adoption with photos and descriptions. We also send out short emails for lost dogs or other time sensitive news. From March to March, we posted 175 times. We block replies from going back out to the subscribers to keep the email volume down, but read every reply and act on it if needed.

Two newsletters were published.

The AARF web site takes the most effort as pets for adoption are highlighted with photos and descriptions on the main and "Available for Adoption" page, and this can change daily as new animals arrive and are adopted. The web site also has a news section which changes to promote events and significant events.

The web site's PayPal button is easy to find and use, and has been very well received.

Our Facebook presence has been greatly expanded: we put up many more postings now, and now have 4 other administrators who post often as well. We find that we are getting good responses with short news bits, photos and even short videos. As of the AGM, AARF has a bit under 700 "Likes" which is the equivalent of "Friends" if for those individuals with personal Facebook accounts (someone has to "Like" us to directly see our postings). Those 700 fans have over 250K friends, so if their settings are favorable, we can reach a lot of people (realistically, though, a post normally reaches our "Likers" plus some more; a guess would be a post can reach about 1,000 friends. But those are very good friends who care about AARF.

As an aside, to conform to FB policy, we needed to convert our page from what was a personal FB page to one that is an organization fan page. This changes our outreach ability. We can't go out and request friends under this scheme; to build our base individuals out there have to press our Like button.

We also had a small FB group as a sidekick to our personal page, but it was dormant and we deleted it after converting to a fan page.

Over the next year, the plan is to grow our Facebook presence and continue to upgrade the web site and communications tools as needed.

**Policies and Procedures: Rachel Atherton** – reported the continued success of the pay pal account that was set up last year. She continues to work on possible custom concessions.

**Education: Penny** - The visits to schools and articles published in the Anguillian continued in 2012.

The primary school presentations were mainly about dogs this year as the children really enjoy being able to pat "Maggie". Kindergarten and grade one students learn about doggy communication and how they can pat a dog if it is safe to do so.

In November and December Henry Rogers and I spoke to students at Morris Vanterpool in the East End, Island Harbour and Stoney Ground PSs

In November we went to Zenaida Haven and spoke to a group of 6 boys and 2 teachers about parasites and vaccinations. Out of this talk came the idea to produce a brochure on this topic.

In February I spoke to the kindergarten students at Valley Primary and to all the students at Teacher Gloria Omolulu School.

In March Suzie and Sally made a presentation during Community Works Week at Prophecy Pre-school to 48 students. Peter Quinn brought along his two AARF adoptees Sukie & Sammy, who were a big hit.

**Shelter/ Spay & Neuter: Suzie Donahue** – AARF is very grateful to Dr Rommel and Dr Abi Umali and kennel attendant Jaicus for all they do for AARF and thank them for their continued care and support.

A very special group of hard working, dedicated volunteers sharing many happy times as well as extremely sad ones keeps the shelter operating smoothly. Thank you Joan, Lisa, Althea, Brenda, Penny, Judy, Cathy, Catrona, Gayle, Rebecca, Sally, Jill, Gayle & Nick for always being there to give extra love, care and attention to the AARF shelter puppies and kittens. We also appreciate our visiting volunteers who give up their vacation time to spend it with our puppies or kittens!

### **Shelter Improvements:**

Viceroy Raffle proceeds paid for new runs and flooring in puppy shelter room –this year we are working on improvements to the cattery, enclosing the surgery room to save on a/c, upgraded screens, and other needed improvements. A big thanks to Nick Harvey who has been working on improvements this year at the shelter.

Thank You to Dr Vanterpool who gives us the space for our shelter which allows us to have easy access to veterinary care for our puppies and kittens.

Even tho AARF is not Anguilla animal control we have been given this responsibility by default - of which we receive no government assistance. In 2012 we had a total of 445 surrenders - 208 were sick, infants, injured or feral and unadoptable. Of the remaining we found homes for 194 and sadly could not find homes for 43 who were humanely euthanized. We spent approximately 45K for shelter expenses in 2012.

### **Spay/Neuter 2012 Surgeries – 184 (Over 13K spent)**

89 Female Dogs

41 Male Dogs

30 Female Cats

24 Male Cats

Kudos to the Dr Umali's & Jaicus who have done a great job of making appointments and getting adoptees in for their surgeries. Total surgeries since I began keeping records 10 years ago = 1823 at cost of **\$95,626.00**.

### **AWARDS:**

Rebecca Taillon presented the **AARF Appreciation Award** to Reg Lake who has continued to come in and walk the AARF shelter dogs. His care and commitment mean that many of the dogs that are in the shelter get lots of extra exercise!

Sally Baumwell presented the **AARF Best Friend Award**: Sue Heineman -

Tonight we have a special award for a very special person. It gives me great pleasure to present the first ever Friend of AARF award to Sue Heineman. We first met Sue when she and her husband Ray were planning a visit to St. Martin in December of 2010. Sue wrote to AARF and asked if we had any puppies we would like her to take home, foster, and find homes for. This was the beginning of a wonderful relationship. Those first two puppies were Savannah, a shy brindle, and Mango, a little black long-haired girl. Mark and I delivered them to Sue and Ray in St. Maarten. Off they went to New Jersey where Sue found great homes for both of them. Mango's mom calls her "the adorable one" and sends happy updates and photos.

In April of 2012 Sue and Ray planned another visit to St. Martin and another puppy rescue. One of the lucky puppies was adopted by a family who loved him so much that they later asked for another Anguillian puppy. And of course Sue was happy to deliver. On this trip, as they were going through security at the St. Maarten airport, the man behind them was being impatient about how slow Sue was. Then he saw her lift a puppy out of the carrier to take her through the metal detector. He said he couldn't figure out why Sue was being so gentle with the bag and then he saw why. He laughed out loud and told his wife to look at her too. Sue said it was funny how his whole demeanor changed when he saw that sweet little puppy face!

On a trip to Anguilla in June of last year for Sue's brother's wedding, she convinced her visiting family to transport a puppy so that they could take three along for her to foster and find homes for. By the time they arrived in New York, her brother and new sister-in-law couldn't part with one of the puppies. Fabio, who is now Bandit, goes to work with mom and dad every day at their storage facility. They call him "the closer" because when potential renters come in Bandit wins them over with his delightful personality and they sign the lease!

Since that beginning, Sue has found wonderful forever homes for 12 AARF puppies. Many of these were transported by Sue and Ray; we love it when they plan another trip to St. Martin or Anguilla. Some were transported by other AARF friends and Sue and Ray met them at the airport. And tomorrow they will be welcoming Celusa Rosie and on Saturday Rex, who we know will also have wonderful homes because of Sue.

Sue has a full time job and still manages to make time to not just save, but to find the best possible homes for our puppies. She uses petfinder to market the puppies and then takes applications. If an applicant looks good on paper, she does thorough interviews and reference checks. She follows up after each adoption, keeping in touch with all of them to make sure the puppies are doing well. All of the shelter volunteers and clinic staff enjoy seeing the photos and hearing the stories that Sue sends.

And in addition to finding furrever homes for our little ones, Sue and Ray have been very generous financial donors to AARF, making it possible to help even more puppies.

Any superlative one can think of applies to Sue. She is a guardian angel to so many puppies who I'm sure say thanks to her every day for the gift she has given them.

You wonder how anyone can do all that Sue does. After one of the puppies was adopted, she told us: "I cannot tell you how good this makes me feel and I know I don't have to try.....you all understand."

I am very pleased to present this Friend of AARF award to Sue. Mark is traveling to New York tomorrow to deliver Celusa Rosie to Sue and will present the award to her in person - and to Ray as well, who is with her every step of the way.

If you are interested in knowing more about some of the puppies for whom Sue has found homes, she wrote a great article for the second quarter 2012 newsletter, which you can find on our website.

Suzie Donahue presented the **Volunteer of the Year Award**:

We have been extremely lucky to have a volunteer at the shelter this year that is not only willing to cuddle and care for our guests, but also willing to help with fund raising projects - carrying boxes, delivering tables and putting up tents. Add to that - transporting animals to St Martin for flights to the US, picking up dogs for surgery and even doing the t-shirt inventory!! Not only has he taken on these jobs with enthusiasm, he also does great repairs and builds kennel enclosures, shelves and actually created a work of art – our soon to be completed cattery with palm trees and coconuts!!

It has been a pleasure for all of us to work with this volunteer – who is always willing to go the extra mile to help the animals of Anguilla. And it is my pleasure to present our volunteer of the year award to **Nick Harvey!!**

Lisa thanked the awardees for their dedication and commitment to AARF and announced the 2013 Executive Board:

### **2013 AARF Board**

President: Jackie Pascher  
Vice President: Rebecca Taillon  
Secretary: Lisa Thomson  
Treasurer: Penny Hope- Ross  
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: Rebecca Taillon  
Adoptions: Sally Baumwell  
Communications: Mark Baumwell  
Shelter /Spay and Neuter: Suzie Donahue

Lisa then opened the meeting up for discussion. Carolyn Andrews had question regarding our donors, and how to find more.

Lisa thanked everyone for attending and called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by and seconded by Althea Turner.

The meeting was followed by a social.

Respectfully submitted  
Suzie Donahue  
AARF unofficial Secretary