

## AGM Report

The 12th Annual General Meeting of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation was held on March 9 at 5:30 pm at Roy's Bayside Restaurant.

AARF President, Jackie Pascher, opened the meeting with the AARF prayer and welcomed all those in attendance.

Estelle Slade, Treasurer, reported that AARF spends an average of \$4000 per month to maintain the shelter at Morlens Veterinary Clinic, receives no government support and depends solely on private donations to pay for veterinary care for unwanted dogs and cats, in addition to the expenses of a spay /neuter program and the Anguilla Puppy Express that is funded by donations specifically for that program, which sends puppies and kittens to forever homes in the United States and Canada.

Special recognition was given to Gayle Enzel, AARF's fundraising chair for her past 10 years of volunteer service to the foundation. Others that have been key in our fundraising efforts were recognized included Roy and Mandy Bosson's for their continuing support of AARF's fundraising projects that include the AARF Yard Sales and Roy's Raffles, Mel and Geraud Laekas of Geraud's who have sponsored Geraud's Sweet on AAARF for the past three years, Viceroy Resort who supports AARF's shelter improvement raffle, Pamela Miller at SeaSpray who sells AARF merchandise along with Petals at Frangipani, plus many individuals, restaurants and business's that donate prizes for our annual bingo fundraiser.

Suzie Donahue AARF Shelter Manager /Spay & Neuter Chairman reported that in 2013 AARF accepted almost 400 unwanted puppies/kittens/dogs and cats at no charge to the owner at the AARF shelter located at Morlens Veterinary Clinic. Of that total many were sick, injured or feral and therefore unadoptable and humanely euthanized at AARF's expense. 281 puppies /kittens, dog or cats were examined, vaccinated and put up for adoption at the shelter. Suzie expressed AARF's thanks to Dr Patrick Vanterpool for continuing to allow AARF to use a portion of the clinic for our shelter.

Suzie noted that AARF was also busy with their spay /neuter program with 177 free surgeries being completed in 2013. These surgeries included 80 dog spays, 42 dog neuters, 35 cat spays and 20 cat neuters of which 91 were AARF adoptions, bringing the total since AARF began keeping records to 2000 free spay/neuter surgeries in the past 10 years at a cost to AARF of over \$113,000 us dollars.

Sally Baumwell, AARF's Adoption Chairman and manager of the Anguilla Puppy Express, a program that provides transports by travelers to Anguilla with possible puppy owners in the US, noted that these adoptees are kept at the shelter for a total of 14 days and the public is welcome to come and adopt for a small fee of \$25 for puppies/dogs and \$20 for kittens/cats. This fee covers the animal's basic exam, first vaccination and deworming as well as \$10 off the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccinations - 3 are necessary to be completely protected plus free spay or neuter surgery when the animal is around 6 months old – a value of well over \$200. She reported that in 2013 of the

total 281 that were available for adoption 266 were adopted with unfortunately, 13 puppies and 5 kittens humanely euthanized when homes could not be found for them. Of those 266 adoptions, 137 were adopted in Anguilla and 129 were sent to the US or Canada, paid for by donations specifically made to the Anguilla Puppy Express for that purpose. No funds donated for any fund raising projects or donations for other funds or events were used for the Anguilla Puppy Express.

Judy Huzzey AARF volunteer and membership chairman presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Janet Finegan and also announced that Charlotte Bale was named the AARF Shelter Volunteer of the Year for all her help at the shelter. Charlotte has since returned to the UK. Both have been a huge part of the success of the shelter this year as demonstrated by their fostering of several animals that needed extra care, their time spent at the shelter, plus assisting with education projects as well as adoptions and transporting for spay/neuter surgeries.

Penny Hope- Ross AARF's education chairman reported on several visits to the schools that she had made and appealed for more help in presenting information to the students which include pet care, reproduction and other important information. Nat Hodge and staff at the Anguillian were thanked for their continued support of AARF with the educational articles they printed and Claire Devener at Anguilla Life was also thanked for her continued support of AARF with the articles printed in her magazine.

Mark Baumwell (Communications and webmaster) maintained the AARF web site ([www.aarf.ai](http://www.aarf.ai)). AARF communicates heavily via Facebook, the web site, periodic emails to the AARFUpdate email list and other communications vehicles such as newspaper/magazine/advertising editions of various marketing publications. The Facebook presence has really taken off (over 1,000 likes). It's a great way to post photos, important announcements and, of course, to have a two-way dialog with everyone. A small companion Facebook group, Anguillian Pet Owners was created by Kevin L. to complement the AARF Facebook page; it's designed for people who have adopted Anguillian dogs and cats to post photos and stories. Most of the group's members live in the USA and Canada. The AARFUpdate one-way email list was extremely active, with the showcase being a weekly summary email created by Sally Baumwell, mostly to highlight dogs and cats up for adoption. Pictures and descriptions bring the animals to life and help them to find great homes. Publications mentioning AARF included the latest version of Anguilla Life; Sally wrote a great full article that describes our adoption programs. We appear in the True Anguilla publication – which every tourist and Anguilla lover should have. The AARF shelter appears in the Skyviews maps that are all over the island. Penny, Suzie and other contributors create communications pieces for the Anguillian newspaper and other outlets. We have supporters that mention us on TripAdvisor, the Anguilla Guide Forum, the Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association and other online sites.

The board for 2014 includes  
President: Jackie Pascher

Vice – President: Mark Baumwell  
Secretary: Lisa Thomson  
Treasurer: Estelle Slade  
2 Members at Large: Sally Baumwell & Judy Huzzey  
Trustees: Jackie Pascher & Suzie Donahue

Committee Chairpersons are:  
Education: Penny Hope – Ross  
Volunteers & Membership: Judy Huzzey  
Adoptions: Sally Baumwell  
Policies and Procedures: Rebecca Taillon  
Communications: Mark Baumwell  
Shelter Manager/Spay & Neuter: Suzie Donahue

President Pascher noted that AARF is in desperate need of volunteers for education projects, at the shelter, transportation of pets for surgery and most especially a Fund Raising chair as without funding we could not accomplish what we do. In closing she thanked the general public for their support of AARF's fundraising events and encouraged those interested to contact AARF at 476- 2731 or [aarinfo@aarf.ai](mailto:aarinfo@aarf.ai) for more information regarding our 2014 spay/neuter special program.