



**MINUTES OF 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE ANGUILLA ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION  
(Covers Year 2018)**

**Thursday 4 April 2019  
Roy's Bayside Grill**

**Present**

Rebecca Taillon	Suzie Donahue	Denise Graves
Jackie Pascher	Johanna Pasila	Sarah Hicks
Sarah Trevelyan	Carole Gilbert	Jim Taillon
Mary Ann Jarvis	Mike Jarvis	Sandy Hunt
Susie Mastroianni	Chris Mastroianni	

**Apologies for absence**

Mark Baumwell

**Acceptance of the Agenda and the Minutes of the 2018 AGM.**

**Committee Reports**

**President's Report - Rebecca Taillon**

I'd like to welcome everyone to the 2019 Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation Annual General

2019 was a challenging year for AARF, as not only was each board member still struggling the physical and emotional pains of Hurricane Irma in our personal life, but the consequences of the storm affected transports, available fosters and adopters, and the number of neglected animals in Anguilla. However, with new blood on the board and the perseverance of the existing board members, AARF was able to continue its objective to promote, develop and generally to assist in the humane treatment and care of animals in Anguilla. That being said, it's time for committee reports!

## Treasurer's Report – Estelle Slade

### Key Indicators

Year Ending 31st December 2018

Donations	1st January to 31st December 2018	\$10,421.00
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2017</i>	<i>\$ 5,041.13</i>
Fund Raising	1st January to 31st December 2018	\$21,343.94
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2017</i>	<i>\$20,291.10</i>
Total Income	1st January to 31st December 2018	\$40,854.43
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2017</i>	<i>\$36,565.99</i>
Net Income	1st January to 31st December 2018	\$(8,419.34)
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2017</i>	<i>\$(4,624.24)</i>
Expenses	Average Monthly Expenses 2018	\$ 3,686.35

Total funds held by AARF are made up of what we call, “The General Fund” and “Designated Funds”. Essentially, designated funds have been created by donors for a specific project or need, and are maintained or topped up with ongoing donations from AARF supporters. Where supporters do not express a preference for the use of their donations, the money will be placed in the general fund, which is used almost entirely for the day-to-day running of the shelter, including veterinary fees and shelter maintenance and management. Fundraising revenue, including the Roy's Friday Night Raffles, the proceeds of the Second Chances Thrift Store, and money raised from one-off events, is also put into the general fund.

The amount of non-specified donations added in 2018 to the general operating fund was significantly higher than in the three previous years. This simply means that the donors were happy for the funds to be used for general shelter costs, rather than nominating one of the specific funds. Other donors prefer that the money they remit be used for one of the designated funds, and not used for general shelter maintenance and management, and of course we act upon their instructions.

Fundraising efforts in 2018 were mainly focused on the thrift store, which reopened mid way through the year and the in-season raffles at Roy's Happy Hour. Together, they brought in more than \$21,400. In fact, despite the thrift store being operational only since June, those 7 months generated more than the whole of 2016. A further \$16,200 was raised through merchandise sales, membership dues and private donations and \$3,200 was collected through the adoption of pets, the proceeds of which were applied directly to the cost of vaccinations, etc. All these collections were used for the general running of the shelter.

Income from membership dues in 2018 was slightly higher than in the prior year.

With effect from May 2013, a monthly shelter management fee has been paid to Morlens Veterinary Services. This annualised expenditure, plus some additional shelter maintenance costs represent 47% of AARF's total annual expenses for 2018, with veterinary fees relating to the treatment of AARF animals accounting for another 49%. Thus, only around 3.5% of the

total operating expenses of AARF in 2018 were for non-vet related items, and were principally spent on education, website maintenance and business licences. 2018 returned an operating loss of just over \$8,400, with some \$42,600 of non-designated funding being spent on vet fees, shelter maintenance and shelter management.

The cost of providing care for Anguilla's animals is, in fact, much greater than that the \$42,600 spent from the general fund, and it continues to be offset largely by disbursements from the spay and neuter programme, and other designated funds.

Thus, in addition to the income of \$42,600 highlighted above, used for the general running costs of the shelter, the cost of merchandise for resale, adoption expenses, etc, a further \$58,450 of income was donated by supporters to fund specific projects, such as the spay and neuter programme, the West End feeding station, the shelter improvement programme and the animals in need programme. Overall, a total of \$92,200 was disbursed from the various programmes, the details of which will be given in separate reports. Of this total disbursement, \$31,600 was raised in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Irma in 2017. It can therefore be summarised that a total of \$134,800 was spent in the calendar year 2018 directly on the treatment and care of Anguilla's rescue animals.

## **Shelter Report – Suzie Donahue**

### Adoptions

After Sally resigned last year after several years of chairing the adoptions committee, AARF was very lucky to have a newbie on the island, former vet tech and volunteer extraordinaire to agree to take over this very important task. Thank you Samantha for a very successful year not only with adoptions but in addition to the other projects you took on and made a success - specifically our AARF on the Rocks fundraiser.

Samantha can't be with us tonight but has reported the total adoptions in 2018 were 248 including 98 international.

### Shelter

Shelter Improvement:

- I reported last year at the AGM that we had finally completed the shelter improvement project which made it possible for our visitors to get to the shelter area without going into the clinic treatment rooms, past the patients and surgery area and made it easier for us to protect the possibility of spreading germs to these clients.
- But a few months later Dr Vanterpool who owns the shelter and Morlens clinic began the repairs to his home which is upstairs of the clinic. So we once again had no walkway to the shelter and again traipsed thru the treatment area and past the surgery room.
- Thankfully, I can again report that that work was completed a few months ago and the new and improved walkway and repaired shelter play yard is once again in use where the puppies really enjoy spending time outdoors as do our visitors who come to pet and play with them.

- Speaking of Shelter Volunteers: Please consider stopping by the shelter to not only visit the puppies and kittens but also enjoy the new play yard and entrance. Spend some time socializing our guests ..... 15 -30 mins means a lot – an awful lot!

#### Surrenders:

- The total surrenders in 2018 were 294 – approximately the same as the previous year.
- Months with least number of surrenders were January February, July and December all other months average between 25 – 35 per month.

#### Community Outreach

##### Spay /Neuter – 2018:

In 2003 when Mr. Payne called and asked me to organize the first ever free spay/neuter clinic I was excited and nervous about what the results might be.

That long 3-day weekend we completed a total of 96 surgeries and that was the beginning, 16 years ago, of AARF's efforts to educate and try our best to control the births of unwanted puppies and kittens on Anguilla.

We are the first to acknowledge there is so much more to be done.

In 2018 AARF sponsored two free spay/neuter months – one in March in which 65 surgeries were completed and one in October with 83 sponsored surgeries. Additionally we continued to accept any requests from pet owners for free spay/neuter surgeries throughout the year.

And this week we began our first of two planned campaigns for 2019 and hope to top our numbers of 2018.

- Since we began AARF has completed over 3600 surgeries at a cost of over \$ 223, 000.

Of those surgeries there were:

824 cats spays

1467 dog spays

638 cat neuters

702 dog neuters

Included in those numbers are the 282 free spays/neuter surgeries completed in 2018. Of that number:

73 cats spays

167 dog spays

73 cat neuters

68 dog neuters

Total spent \$26, 837.00

This long running project is supported totally by private donations to AARF's spay/neuter fund from many well-meaning and supportive people that visit and love Anguilla and choose to do something positive for the dogs and cats and their owners that live here. These include generous donations of over \$5000 from the Besson-Cooper Fund, and the William C Dowling Jr. Foundation both whose representatives have villas here in Anguilla. Another large donation in 2018 came from the Estate of Penny Hope –Ross. Penny was a long time board member and supporter of AARF. Additionally another generous sum was received after our shelter volunteer Joan Hill passed away. We have also had couples who have married in Anguilla and they have donated to AARF instead of wedding gift. Obviously we appreciate all the generosity of so many people willing to make Anguilla a better place for the dogs and cats who live here.

Vaccination Clinic – 2018:

- AARF also sponsored a free vaccination clinic in March along with a dog wash at St James School of Medicine in which 88 dogs and cats were given free exams, vaccinations and deworming by our vet Dr Goldson.
- Additionally we included free vaccinations in our October Free Spay Neuter clinic vaccinating all that were due when they came in for surgery. We had a total of 83 surgeries completed in that campaign.
- This program is sponsored by a donation to West End Fund – from Becky and Stu – who I mentioned previously that also donated to our Spay/Neuter program. Their donations make our community outreach programs possible.
- We are grateful to everyone that has supported the community outreach programs and hope to have another successful year.

## **Communications Report – Mark Baumwell**

The Communications Chair oversees AARF's messaging and tone to the world. Our messaging reflects us professionally and positively as we share our values and business ideas. We communicate adoptions news, press releases, educational topics, answers to questions and more.

We increasingly use social media and plan to add to our Facebook and web presence via other social media platforms. We plan to investigate using popular vehicles like Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat.

Many AARF members contribute articles and postings, Suzie Donahue and Samantha Jefferson, most notably over the last year.

Our Facebook page is 'AARF Anguilla', and most often has photos and information about adoptable pets. There is another page, 'Anguillian Pet Owners' that AARF pet owners all over the world use to post photos.

We have a broadcast email list, which has 587 members as of now. I'm guessing most of you reading or hearing this are on the list; please join it if not. We don't spam and only communicate things that are time sensitive and important.

Our web site has information, maps and always tries to show current pets with photos. It's the go to place to find AARF information, since FaceBook can mask and even hide postings. We would like to simplify the front page, possibly with a Wordpress type look, which our host, Pair Networks now supports. This would let us keep our available pets prominent, but also support a blog type format.

## **Fundraising Report – Rebecca Taillon**

Thrift Store - As mentioned, the store was almost a total loss from Hurricane Irma. Almost everyone around this table assisted in the remodel of the store. Thank you! The store re-opened the first week of June and has been able to be open 3 times a week ever since, thanks to the awesome work of Jean Reid. A tremendous thank you to Jean and Bernard Reid for helping remodel the store, using their pick-up for donation deliveries and going the extra mile in volunteering at the store.

AARF merchandise sales are still limited to caps and tees. It looks like there are enough re-usable cups being sold now in Anguilla. Maybe bracelets? Looking for suggestions for T-shirt designs. Tees are sold at Sea Spray and shelter. No interest yet from Limin' to be an additional retail outlet. Losing Kathie Beck's t-shirt sale income due to her retirement from Westinghouse. Thank you to Kathie for the years (and hundreds of tee shirts) you have peddled to co-workers.

Our first fundraiser with Titos, who markets itself as Vodka for Dog People, "AARF on the Rocks" was held at Waves in mid-December. Samantha and friends cooked the buffet dinner items; Waves made several Tito's-based cocktails, with proceeds to AARF. Although we didn't get the turnout we had hoped, we are looking forward to approximately \$2000 in matching funds from Titos.

Thanks to Carol Gilbert for her continued efforts with Roy's Raffles. 2018-19 was a record season for ticket sales so far. The low turn out on the final night (29 March) indicates that the raffle season from December-March is the right length.

For the 2018-19 season, we raised \$2,721.30 US + 70.98 EC + 1 € (a total of around \$2,748US).

Roy's Raffles have contributed around \$2,000 a year to AARF for the past eight years. The amounts have even increased slightly in most succeeding years:

2011 - 2012	\$2,067
2012 - 2013	\$2,225

2013 - 2014	\$1,936
2014 - 2015	\$2,108
2015 - 2016	\$2,171
2016 - 2017	\$2,306
2018*	\$2,573
2018 - 2019	\$2,747

\*Truncated season due to Hurricane Irma

Heartfelt thanks go to the wonderful volunteers (some of whom also donated prizes) who, once again, made the raffles possible: Mary Ann and Mike Jarvis (they did four raffles!), Carrol Shannon, Lisa Thompson, Caroline Davis, Johanna Pasila and family, Margaret Sparks (Sparkie), Bernadette Bird, and AARF Board Members Suzie Donahue and Denise Graves (and Chris). Thanks also go to Claire and Patrick Lynch for their continuing support of Roy's Raffles. And finally, thanks to the businesses and individuals who donated all the prizes. You all are the best!

## **Education Report – Johanna Pasila**

I enthusiastically took over as Chair of the Education Committee in October 2018.

My first big project – which was not coincidental with the timing of my acceptance of the Education Chair – was the execution of a long-time dream of my mother's (Carita Wallgren-Lindholm) to bring Malin Granroth, an expert in human-dog interaction from Finland, to Anguilla to share her experience and expertise. Malin was in Anguilla for two weeks in November, during which time she visited a total of 23 school classes in the public primary schools and kindergartens to talk about the benefits of animal care and the positive relationship between owner and pet. With her she had former and current AARF dogs that she chose and trained with for this purpose. She also visited the students at the Blossom Centre and the D.O.V.E. 2 Centre, helped out at the shelter, and gave private and group dog training classes for free to a total of about 30 dogs – many more on the waiting list. Project Malin was a success and I having now established contacts with the schools and the Education Department we are hoping to build on this and are planning a follow-up for next fall, hopefully including a return visit from Malin.

Although AARF did not have a dedicated Education Chair for the most part of last year, a lot of education related work was done, mostly to my understanding by Suzie amongst all her other hard work for AARF. For purposes of this report I would like to mention:

A pilot internship program was arranged with the private school Omololu, a girl by the name of Ella Roydon helped out at the shelter caring for our puppies and kittens. She not only cleaned and fed but also spent all that valuable time socializing. A great program that I am hoping we can do more of.

We have brochures and flyers with information on everything from spay & neuter, disease prevention and vaccinations to hurricane preparation instructions for pet owners available at the shelter and vet clinic. As part of the ongoing projects we are working on activity book brochures with basic animal care information easily packaged for our younger/future dog and cat owners to be handed out on field trips, school visits or to the many adopting families with younger children.

Suzie has also continued to submit informational articles about animal care to The Anguillian almost weekly and AARF continues to have presence in tourist brochures etc.

We also had another collaboration with the schools last school year when Mary Smith, a teacher at Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School, presented two programs to about 200 students in the public primary schools and one high school. The primary school presentations were on understanding cats and dogs. The high school presentation also touched on some aspects of diseases that affect our pets.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I want to observe the continued and tireless education work we all do in our day to day interaction – in person and online – with the people around us.

## **Policies and Procedures Report – Denise Graves**

There were no changes to policies and procedures in 2018

## **Membership Report – Jackie Pascher**

Membership in 2018 was 54. Annual membership fees were increased to \$25

## **Awards**

### **2018 AARF Volunteer of the Year - presented by Suzie Donahue**

This past year it seemed that *all of a sudden* there was an angel at the AARF shelter – a special feeling of calm, care and tranquility like never before. Not to say that we don't always try to give the best we can to what we refer to as our *AARF guests*. They are all given names and we try to have volunteers come in and spend some time with them to socialize and give them cuddles and love. But I have to admit - finding volunteers that want to be at the shelter is difficult – the one reason I get more than any is “it's just too sad” and I agree.

However, I quickly discovered that the reason for this calm and serenity was a very special & dedicated volunteer. She didn't just come in once in a while, to chat and visit. She came in every single day and she didn't just stay for an hour or so but she appeared sometimes before the shelter even opened. She jumped right in and helped clean crates and kennels, bathed puppies, got peed and pooped on, sat with and socialized with her sweet voice and loving hugs and even when they were too sick to be saved, she held and cuddled and cried over them when they journeyed to the Rainbow Bridge.

And if that wasn't enough she also organized the front office, took charge of the AARF storage room and AARF supplies and labeled everything so it could be easily found. She inventoried the AARF merchandise, took the time to create and update the office with eye catching information and arranged the file cabinet so we can actually find stuff. She kept super records of who was at the shelter, when their vet care was needed, if they seemed sick, when they were adopted and so much other necessary & important information that was often previously unavailable.

She also managed to find great homes for several of our guests including 4 at her own home!! I could go on and on sharing what a difference this person has made at the AARF shelter – not



only to the volunteers and the Morlens staff, but also and most importantly to the puppies, kittens, dog and cats in our care.

It gives me great pleasure to announce our 2018 Volunteer of the Year – Sandy Edwards-Hunt!

### **2018 AARF Super Star Award - presented by Rebecca Taillon**

The Super Star Award is presented to an individual or couple who goes above and beyond, year after year, to assist whenever and wherever needed.

From almost the inception of AARF, this couple has literally “hit the ground running” for AARF as soon as they arrive each high season, whether it be sorting in the heat of ATS for the yard sales of years’ past, participating in Friday night happy hours at Roy’s, sorting/volunteering at Second Chances, delivering spay/neuter clients to the shelter, and/or caring for many animals in the North Hill area.

You both instantly make people smile and feel welcome in your presence. You are awesome ambassadors of AARF and, dare I say, Anguilla as a whole. Mike and Mary Ann, on behalf of everyone at AARF, I say thank you for being the 2018 Super Stars!

### **New Slate of 2019 Board**

Rebecca presented the nominations for the 2019 Executive Board as follows:

President - Denise Graves

Vice President - Suzie Donahue

Secretary - Samantha Jefferson

Treasurer - Estelle Slade

At-Large (2) - Sarah Hicks and Johanna Pasila

Suzie Donahue motioned that we accept the slate. It was seconded and passed. There was no new business.